

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, .  
Plaintiff, . Case Number 21-360  
vs. .  
BRITTIANY ANGELINA DILLON, . November 4, 2021  
Defendant. . 9:06 a.m.  
- - - - -

TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING HEARING  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DABNEY L. FRIEDRICH  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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for the District of Columbia  
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## P R O C E E D I N G S

(All participants present via video conference.)

COURTROOM DEPUTY: Your Honor, we are in Criminal Action 21-360, the United States of America versus Brittiany Dillon.

If I can have the parties identify themselves for the record, beginning with the United States.

MR. ROMANO: Good morning, Your Honor. Michael Romano on behalf of the United States.

THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Romano.

MR. ABBENANTE: Good morning, Your Honor. Thomas Abbenante on behalf of Ms. Dillon. Ms. Dillon is present, and Ms. Dillon agrees to proceed by video pursuant to the CARES Act.

THE COURT: All right. Good morning, Mr. Abbenante and Ms. Dillon.

And I see we have Ms. Reichler from probation as well. Thank you for joining.

PROBATION OFFICER: Good morning, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Abbenante, so that I can make the appropriate finding under the CARES Act, can you give me some specific reasons why it's appropriate to proceed and not delay this matter further without a serious harm to the interest of justice?

MR. ABBENANTE: Well, Your Honor, my client is about an hour away from the court. She currently at this point has

1 made the decision, based on her religious beliefs and other  
2 reasons, not to be vaccinated. I am -- she would be concerned  
3 having to come into the courthouse and to travel on any kind of  
4 public transportation under those circumstances. And so that  
5 is -- those are primary reasons why we're requesting to proceed  
6 in this manner.

7 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Abbenante.

8 In light of the pandemic and the numbers associated with  
9 COVID and the defendant's concerns about travel, consistent with  
10 the CARES Act and the Chief Judge's standing order relating to  
11 the pandemic, I do find it's appropriate to proceed by video  
12 today.

13 I've reviewed the final presentence report and  
14 recommendation. I've also reviewed the parties' sentencing  
15 memoranda, including both parties' supplemental filings.

16 Mr. Abbenante, have you reviewed the presentence report  
17 with Ms. Dillon?

18 MR. ABBENANTE: I have, Your Honor, and I provided her  
19 with a copy of it, too. She has it, too.

20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

21 So Ms. Dillon, have you read the presentence report and had  
22 adequate time to talk to your attorney about it?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: And have you had a chance to correct any  
25 errors in the report?

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: And Mr. Abbenante, do you have any  
3 unresolved objections to the presentence report?

4 MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor. There were just some  
5 minor things that -- concerning biographical information, and  
6 those were, you know, quickly resolved.

7 THE COURT: All right. So there are no remaining  
8 factual inaccuracies in the report?

9 MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Romano, how about the government?  
11 Does the government have any objections to the report?

12 MR. ROMANO: No objections.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Ms. Reichler, I see in paragraph 7  
14 on page 3 and I think perhaps elsewhere in the report it states  
15 that the defendant is pleading guilty to Count 4. I believe  
16 it's actually Count 1 of the superseding information.

17 Is that correct, Counsel?

18 MR. ROMANO: One moment, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: She pled, I think, to the superseding  
20 information.

21 MR. ROMANO: She did, and I'm pulling up the  
22 superseding information now. Yes, you're right, it is Count 1.  
23 When we superseded, we just included the one count.

24 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Reichler, can you make  
25 those corrections?

1           PROBATION OFFICER: Yes, Your Honor, I would be happy  
2 to.

3           THE COURT: Anything else, Mr. Abbenante?

4           MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor.

5           THE COURT: Okay. With those edits relating to the  
6 charge, I will accept the presentence report as my findings of  
7 fact pursuant to Rule 32 of the Federal Rules of Criminal  
8 Procedure.

9           As all of you know, the sentencing guidelines do not apply  
10 in this case, and that is because the offense to which  
11 Ms. Dillon has pled guilty to is a Class B misdemeanor. The  
12 guidelines don't apply pursuant to Section 1B1.9 of the  
13 sentencing guidelines.

14           Therefore, the Court will consider the factors set forth in  
15 Title 18 United States Code Section 3553(a) to decide the  
16 appropriate sentence in this case. I'm not going to state all  
17 of those factors here on the record now, but I am familiar with  
18 them, and I will consider each of them, even if I don't address  
19 them all during this hearing.

20           All right. Mr. Romano, if I can hear from the government  
21 first. The government has reserved its right to allocute fully  
22 here at sentencing. I've reviewed both your initial and your  
23 supplemental filing. You can assume I'm familiar with both.

24           Before you start, though, let me just ask you, are there  
25 any identifiable victims who seek to be heard here?

1 MR. ROMANO: No.

2 THE COURT: And is the restitution amount, the \$500  
3 restitution amount, is that the amount that the government is  
4 seeking from all January 6 Capitol defendants?

5 MR. ROMANO: Not from all, Your Honor, but I believe  
6 that is the amount that we have been seeking in misdemeanor  
7 cases. In felony cases where there -- I believe in felony  
8 cases, the amount we have been seeking generally has been  
9 \$2,000, but it may be more in instances where we have specific  
10 evidence connecting a defendant to specific property destruction  
11 rather than the general damage caused to the Capitol or to a  
12 specific assault that resulted in a sort of identifiable harm to  
13 a particular victim.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

15 MR. ROMANO: All right. Your Honor, I want to start  
16 by addressing what I think was the motivating question behind  
17 the Court's request for us to file a supplemental pleading on  
18 Monday, which was a question about disparities in sentencing  
19 between different defendants in connection with the Capitol  
20 riot.

21 As I'm sure the Court knows, the rioters' conduct, when  
22 looking at the riot on January 6 writ large, covers a fairly  
23 broad spectrum. There are more than 600 defendants that have  
24 been charged. Those charges range from misdemeanors to violent  
25 felonies. There's certainly a large spectrum of conduct when

1 looking at the defendants altogether.

2 But even among misdemeanor defendants, there are certainly  
3 differences, differences in whether people entered the Capitol,  
4 how long they were in the Capitol for, when they entered,  
5 conduct within or outside.

6 And there's a fairly small pool of cases that have gone to  
7 sentencing so far. In the chart that we appended to our  
8 submission, I believe there were 23 cases that we've identified  
9 that have gone to sentencing. 22 of those are cases resolved  
10 with misdemeanor charges. And even looking at those cases, when  
11 we look at specific factors and Ms. Dillon's conduct, the pool  
12 of comparable cases, I think, shrinks even beyond that, as we  
13 discussed in our submissions.

14 Looking at the conduct in this case and the factors in this  
15 case, the government submits that there are really two things  
16 that are especially significant. One is an attempt to enter the  
17 Capitol at a time when there was a crowd that was seeking to  
18 move past that police line as opposed to an attempt to enter the  
19 Capitol, for instance, after a point of access had already been  
20 breached, and second, the text messages that Ms. Dillon sent to  
21 somebody else who went to the riot on January 6.

22 The attempt to enter with other people is significant,  
23 because there are certainly other defendants who, while they --  
24 when they entered, they would have seen broken glass, they would  
25 have seen overturned police barriers, there wasn't police

1 resistance at the point of entry as there was here.

2 And now, I want to stress, we don't have any evidence to  
3 show that Ms. Dillon assaulted or physically resisted police,  
4 but there were people around who were trying to get in through  
5 that door. And the video evidence shows that Ms. Dillon worked  
6 her way through the crowds in an effort to get to that door.  
7 This was not a case where she was carried across the threshold  
8 by a group of people. This was not a case where there was a  
9 sort of delayed entry where she was unable to see what was  
10 happening at the front. There were people that were near her  
11 who were jockeying with police officers. And I believe although  
12 the view is somewhat obstructed, that there were police officers  
13 outside the door who were engaging with other rioters, who were  
14 deploying pepper spray. I think that's how Ms. Dillon got  
15 pepper spray in her eyes, as she reported.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Romano, sorry to interrupt, but has  
17 the government provided this video, or are you just speaking  
18 about what you've reviewed yourself? I don't see it -- it's not  
19 on the docket.

20 MR. ROMANO: I'm speaking about what I've reviewed. I  
21 realized I hadn't provided that video, and I'm happy to share my  
22 screen and play it. The clips are only about one minute long,  
23 and there are two cameras that are relevant.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Abbenante, what's your position on  
25 that?



1 MR. ABBENANTE: Your Honor, Mr. Romano has been  
2 completely open with discovery. We've seen it, and Ms. Dillon  
3 has seen it. And in fact, initially when we were discussing a  
4 resolution of this case, I pointed out to Mr. Romano that the  
5 evidence, at least from my point of view and also Ms. Dillon's  
6 point of view, that she never actually crossed the threshold of  
7 the building.

8 So yes, we've seen it, and I don't have any objection to  
9 you seeing it.

10 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Romano -- sorry?

11 MR. ABBENANTE: It's not that long, Judge.

12 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Romano, I imagine there  
13 are folks listening in who can't view the video, and since the  
14 government hasn't, can it upload it to whatever system it has  
15 been placing such videos in so that the public can have access  
16 to it?

17 MR. ROMANO: I certainly can, and we do not object to  
18 making public these two videos.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Abbenante?

20 MR. ABBENANTE: I really don't have an objection to  
21 the video, but my client is always concerned that the more stuff  
22 that's out there associated with her name continues to cause  
23 problems for her and her family. I don't have any problem with  
24 the posting of the video if there's some way to redact  
25 Ms. Dillon's name from the video. I don't know --

1 MR. ROMANO: The video itself doesn't contain her  
2 name. I mean, certainly, videos disseminated in connection with  
3 this case, people who are observing the case or trying to  
4 research it might note the connection, but the video doesn't  
5 show the names of any people.

6 MR. ABBENANTE: As I said before, Judge, if you want  
7 to see it, I have no problem. Mr. Romano has accurately  
8 described the video here today and also in the pleadings, but if  
9 Your Honor wants to see it, no problem.

10 THE COURT: All right. And also, you don't object to  
11 it being made available to the public?

12 MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Romano, I think it might be  
14 helpful for me to see it, because it wasn't clear to me -- from  
15 what the parties wrote, it wasn't clear to me whether Ms. Dillon  
16 actually was sprayed with pepper spray, and it wasn't clear to  
17 me -- I know that the government has not alleged that she  
18 assaulted any officers, but it was hard for me to understand if  
19 she was pushing back against the officers.

20 There was contact, correct, between the two?

21 MR. ROMANO: I am not 100 percent sure from my review  
22 of the video if there was contact. She sort of fell at the  
23 threshold of the building and stood back up, and there certainly  
24 could have been contact there. But as she then tried to get in,  
25 there were other rioters who the police were trying to get out

1 of the building. And so as that crowd moves forward, there's  
2 some officers that kind of step out of the threshold, there's  
3 some rioters that step out of the threshold, and there was  
4 certainly contact between Ms. Dillon and other members of that  
5 group. It is just hard to say with certainty that the contact  
6 is between her and a police officer.

7 THE COURT: So what makes her eventually turn away?  
8 Does she do it on her own, or is she prevented from entering  
9 and, therefore, gives up? What's the government's -- I want to  
10 see the video, but what is your position on that?

11 MR. ROMANO: Well, I don't know that I can assess for  
12 certain. In her text messages, she reported getting pepper  
13 sprayed and being unable to see for a period of time. And based  
14 on the video, it does appear there's some engagement with police  
15 officers and other rioters outside the building. So it is  
16 certainly possible that she was pepper sprayed.

17 What I would submit as the most likely explanation is the  
18 combination of falling to the ground and pepper spray in the air  
19 made her decide to leave.

20 THE COURT: And I think she also alleged, at least in  
21 text messages, that she was tear gassed? Am I remembering that  
22 correctly? Pepper sprayed and tear gassed?

23 MR. ROMANO: I think that it's probably just the one,  
24 and it was probably spray and not tear gas. Based on the  
25 staircase and the position in the Capitol, I don't think this

1 was an area where the police deployed, say, a tear gas grenade.

2 THE COURT: I understand that, but did she not say in  
3 her text messages that she was pepper sprayed in the eyes and  
4 tear gassed three times?

5 MR. ROMANO: I think that's right.

6 THE COURT: And that the officers tried to beat her  
7 with batons?

8 MR. ROMANO: She did say that. I'm skeptical about  
9 whether that's accurate.

10 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Romano, yes, it would be  
11 helpful to see the video clip.

12 MR. ROMANO: All right. Bear with me for just a  
13 moment, Your Honor. As I am looking at sharing my screen, there  
14 are a few too many windows open for the video to pop up as an  
15 option. I'm just closing some other things.

16 Okay. Your Honor, can you see this video?

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MR. ROMANO: All right. I'm going to hit play. Just  
19 to orient you before we start, you will see Ms. Dillon approach  
20 the middle of the doorway, and then it appears she falls to the  
21 ground.

22 (Video recording played.)

23 MR. ROMANO: And there she is. She's fallen.

24 I'm sorry. Were you asking me to pause, Your Honor?

25 THE COURT: I had a hard time spotting her.

1 MR. ROMANO: Okay. I'm going to back up a few  
2 seconds. Now we're at 18 seconds. She is the figure, the  
3 blonde woman a little bit shorter than other members of the  
4 crowd who right now is kind of in the middle of the crowd near  
5 the door. Her head is near the American flag that's off to the  
6 right-hand side of the door.

7 THE COURT: It's in between the flag and the red --  
8 the individual with the red hat?

9 MR. ROMANO: Yes.

10 (Video recording played.)

11 MR. ROMANO: And there she's fallen. And there it  
12 looks like she's trying to maintain her position or move  
13 forward. There's a crowd of other people are funneled out of  
14 the door.

15 I'm pausing, too, Your Honor. This was somewhat obstructed  
16 by the left-hand door that you can see police trying to close,  
17 but on the outside past the door, you can see officers in riot  
18 gear, one with a protective face shield, who just came into view  
19 and before the door closed. I'll back it up slightly. And  
20 those -- that officer and some others just out of view, I  
21 believe, were engaging with other rioters who were outside.

22 (Video recording played.)

23 THE COURT: So did the officer to the left have a  
24 baton?

25 MR. ROMANO: I'm not sure, Your Honor. It would not

1 surprise me if he did.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 MR. ROMANO: And there's another video from outside  
4 that I can play. It's from the outside looking in the same  
5 door.

6 (Video recording played.)

7 MR. ROMANO: So now you can see Ms. Dillon just enter  
8 the bottom of the frame and move toward the door.

9 THE COURT: It's difficult to see much with the flag.

10 MR. ROMANO: Right.

11 MR. ABBENANTE: You just saw her fall there, Your  
12 Honor.

13 THE COURT: I wish I could see it. I take your word  
14 for it. It's very difficult to see much from this angle.

15 MR. ABBENANTE: Mike, can you point to her? There's  
16 her head in the middle. Do you see it?

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 MR. ROMANO: I will back up just a little bit.

19 Yes, you can definitely see her head in the middle right  
20 there, the blonde hair kind of right in front of the break  
21 between the two -- the closed door and where the other door was  
22 closed.

23 And over to the right again blocked by the pillar, you can  
24 see what looks like a police officer in a gas mask, although  
25 that could be another rioter.

1 THE COURT: All right.

2 MR. ROMANO: So it is difficult from the angles of the  
3 camera to get a good view on what the police did, as you can  
4 see, Your Honor, and to get a good view on exactly the level of  
5 police engagement with the rest of the crowd, when pepper spray  
6 or tear gas, as Ms. Dillon put it, may have been deployed, or  
7 when batons may have been used against members of the crowd.

8 THE COURT: Regardless, she was very much engaged,  
9 both verbally and physically, whether she assaulted them or not.

10 MR. ROMANO: Right. It's not clear from the evidence  
11 that any sort of assault happened, but it is clear that she was  
12 trying to enter the building and that she was trying to at the  
13 very least maintain her position as the -- as people were  
14 leaving the Capitol and as the crowd was surging and trying to  
15 get into the building.

16 So that is definitely an important piece of the conduct,  
17 Your Honor, that the government submits makes Ms. Dillon's case  
18 more comparable to other cases where misdemeanor defendants,  
19 although they may not personally have committed assaults or  
20 property destruction, nonetheless were a part of a crowd that  
21 overwhelmed a police line elsewhere in the Capitol. This police  
22 line here was not overwhelmed, probably in part due to the tight  
23 nature of the access point -- there wasn't really a lot of room  
24 for a crowd to gather around the door -- and probably in part  
25 due to police engaging with rioters on the outside.

1           We also submit that the text messages that we highlighted  
2           in our sentencing submissions make this case somewhat different  
3           from other cases. We look at these text messages both to assess  
4           the seriousness of the conduct, to give us some sense of why a  
5           defendant was at the Capitol, why they carried out the conduct  
6           that they did, but also to look at the possibility of recidivism  
7           and the need for deterrence.

8           And what we can see here is that even if Ms. Dillon did not  
9           stay beyond the point where this video was taken, left shortly  
10          thereafter, even if she was dissuaded from further conduct by  
11          the presence of some type of chemical or possibly getting hit or  
12          made contact with as the crowd was surging against police, she  
13          anticipated that this day, January 6, and the certification of  
14          the Electoral College vote was connected with what she saw to be  
15          some kind of violent showdown between the two different forces  
16          in American life.

17          And she talked about the government being infiltrated by  
18          Congress. She talked about a civil war. She talked about the  
19          coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions put on people as a way  
20          to prep her side for lockdowns, restrictions, disruptions in  
21          supply.

22          And this is the sort of thing that is troubling as it  
23          speaks to her conduct, but also troubling as far as looking  
24          ahead to whether there is a possibility of further participation  
25          in an event like this.



1           In our sentencing submission, Your Honor, we stress that  
2       this riot is a sui generis one-of-a-kind case, and it certainly  
3       is when compared to other cases we prosecute. But that doesn't  
4       mean that the danger of the riot has passed just because  
5       January 6 has passed. The danger, the government submits, is  
6       ongoing and can recur, especially if there is inadequate  
7       deterrence when events like this come up again, when there are  
8       further elections, when there are further certifications of the  
9       votes. The danger --

10           THE COURT: So along those lines, Mr. Romano, why is  
11       the government in this case only seeking probation for three  
12       years as opposed to a longer period past, for example, the next  
13       election?

14           MR. ROMANO: Well, given the sentences that we have  
15       requested in other cases and the -- that much time of  
16       supervision represents, we think that three years is a  
17       reasonable sentence for the Court to impose. If the Court  
18       wanted to impose a sentence of probation until the next  
19       election, I think that's certainly the Court's prerogative, and  
20       we would not necessarily object to that.

21           THE COURT: Mr. Romano, help me understand the  
22       government's position. As it appears to the Court based on your  
23       submission, it seems like the government has kind of a standard  
24       recommendation it's making in these misdemeanor cases in which  
25       there is not clear evidence of an assault or property damage,

1 and that is, the government is recommending three years'  
2 probation, some period of community service, some period of home  
3 confinement, and \$500 in restitution. Is that fair?

4 MR. ROMANO: That's generally fair, yes. I think  
5 that's been a fairly consistent recommendation in a number of  
6 these cases.

7 THE COURT: And yet, you do -- despite the  
8 recommendations you've made in other cases, you do distinguish  
9 this from the Bustle case, for example. You compare it to  
10 Bennett and Vinson and argue that in some ways this case is more  
11 aggravated, in other ways less. So I'm just kind of curious.  
12 The government's sort of taking a broad approach with these  
13 nonassault, nonproperty damage misdemeanor cases, correct, and  
14 just kind of an even approach across the board even though  
15 you're arguing in your sentencing memoranda that the Court  
16 should distinguish in certain ways from these cases in which the  
17 government's made the same recommendation.

18 MR. ROMANO: I don't think our recommendation has  
19 always been the same, and I would note, too, that there are --  
20 on the third page, the cases where we've recommended some period  
21 of incarceration, all but one of those cases are misdemeanor  
22 cases as well. There's the Hodgkins case, which Mr. Hodgkins, I  
23 believe, made it into the Senate floor, was in the building for  
24 a prolonged period of time, and was charged with intent to  
25 obstruct Congress.

1 But the other cases on that list are cases where we were  
2 recommending some period of incarceration even for a misdemeanor  
3 defendant. Some of those are -- I'm sorry, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: I just want to understand, is it -- am I  
5 correct that the cases that the government thinks this case is  
6 most analogous to would include the Bustle case in which you've  
7 argued here the facts are more aggravated, the Vinson cases, and  
8 Bennett? Are those the primary ones?

9 MR. ROMANO: Yes, that's fair.

10 THE COURT: Okay. And, you know, in Bustle, am I  
11 correct, you made the same recommendation as you're making here?

12 MR. ROMANO: For Jessica Bustle, yes, not for her  
13 husband. Her husband, we recommended one month of home  
14 detention.

15 THE COURT: Okay. And the Bustle case, I think, was  
16 the Hogan case; correct?

17 MR. ROMANO: Yes, Judge Hogan presided over that one.

18 I would add, too, Your Honor, that the sentence in Bustle  
19 was handed down before we drafted our sentencing memorandum  
20 here. So I'm not saying definitively that the recommendation  
21 might have changed if the sentence in Bustle had changed, but  
22 certainly seeing what Judge Hogan did in Bustle and what was  
23 done in other cases has informed our thinking on this case and  
24 other cases that came after that one.

25 THE COURT: All right. And in Bennett, I believe

1 Judge Boasberg imposed a sentence of 24 months' probation, as  
2 did Judge Hogan in Bustle; correct?

3 MR. ROMANO: I believe that's right, yes.

4 THE COURT: And both of them imposed some period of  
5 home detention or home incarceration?

6 MR. ROMANO: Yes.

7 THE COURT: And then in the Vinson cases, I think  
8 Judge Walton imposed five years' probation; is that right?

9 MR. ROMANO: Yes, and also a pretty substantial fine,  
10 I believe.

11 THE COURT: Right, a fine. But in this case no one  
12 disputes Ms. Dillon doesn't have the financial resources to pay  
13 a fine?

14 MR. ROMANO: Right.

15 THE COURT: Walton did impose five years' probation  
16 but no period of home incarceration or home detention; correct?

17 MR. ROMANO: That's right.

18 THE COURT: All right. Okay. Thank you. I just  
19 wanted to make sure I was accurately understanding your position  
20 in this case relative to those other cases. You think it  
21 falls -- it's most analogous to those three cases, and it's more  
22 egregious than the Bustle case?

23 MR. ROMANO: That's right. And also, just as I  
24 distinguished Jessica Bustle's sentence from Joshua Bustle's  
25 sentence, I think it's also important to point out, as I'm sure

1 the Court noticed, that we think this case is more comparable to  
2 Thomas than Lori Vinson. Thomas Vinson was the defendant for  
3 whom we recommended probation with a period of home confinement.  
4 Lori Vinson's conduct was substantially different in that she  
5 submitted to a number of news interviews where she talked about  
6 being in the crowd participating in the riot and that she would  
7 do it again. We thought that conduct was more egregious and  
8 merited a sentence of incarceration. Obviously, Judge Walton  
9 imposed a different sentence than what we recommended there, but  
10 we are specifically comparing this case to Thomas Vinson's case.

11 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Go ahead, Mr. Romano.  
12 I didn't mean to cut you off.

13 MR. ROMANO: No, that's completely fine.

14 So Your Honor, I was nearing the end of my argument anyway.  
15 For all those reasons and the reasons that we stated in our  
16 memorandum, we submit that a sentence of three years of  
17 probation with a three-month period of home confinement and the  
18 other conditions we have laid out balances the different 3553(a)  
19 factors and represents a sentence that will reflect the nature  
20 and seriousness of the offense for deterrence, will take into  
21 account the history and characteristics of this defendant, and  
22 also promote a -- promote respect for the law and provide just  
23 punishment.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Romano. Let me  
25 ask you one last question.

1 MR. ROMANO: Certainly.

2 THE COURT: In the interview that Ms. Dillon had with  
3 law enforcement officers following her plea in this case, I  
4 think she was asked about her -- well, wait. I'm not sure  
5 whether this was in the texts she had with the other individual  
6 who was involved in the Capitol attack or whether this was  
7 actually in the interview. I thought it was in the interview.  
8 But she talked about deleting her Instagram account because  
9 other online accounts of hers had been hacked?

10 MR. ROMANO: Yes.

11 THE COURT: Can you shed any light on that? Do you  
12 have any evidence to that other than her own statement?

13 MR. ROMANO: We knew before the fact that her  
14 Instagram account had been deleted. I don't have other evidence  
15 about other accounts being hacked. She was speaking about bank  
16 accounts specifically there. And I didn't want to go into a lot  
17 of detail about that, but she was not talking about social media  
18 accounts being hacked. She was talking about bank accounts and  
19 other apps on her phone, I believe. And so she also, according  
20 to her, decided to take down her Instagram account.

21 THE COURT: And that was the day after January 6?

22 MR. ROMANO: I don't know that it was the day after  
23 January 6. It was shortly after January 6.

24 THE COURT: Okay. But the government doesn't have any  
25 independent evidence, aside from her own statements, to support

1 that?

2 MR. ROMANO: To support why she took down the  
3 accounts? No.

4 THE COURT: And the hacking of bank accounts and other  
5 social media accounts.

6 MR. ROMANO: Correct.

7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Mr. Abbenante, I've  
8 also reviewed your filings, and I do want to give Ms. Dillon an  
9 opportunity to make a statement after I hear from you first if  
10 she desires to do so.

11 But as I mentioned during our last status hearing, our  
12 telephonic hearing that we held before I decided to continue the  
13 sentencing hearing in order to get more information from both  
14 sides, as I mentioned before, I am troubled by the statements  
15 Ms. Dillon made both before the Capitol attack and shortly after  
16 and then even later after she pled guilty in this case in her  
17 interview with law enforcement agents, her statements before  
18 January 6 about the new administration stealing the election,  
19 about the Democrats shutting the country down and letting the  
20 U.N. and China take over, her statements just after the attack  
21 calling the officers who defended the Capitol devils, her later  
22 statements in the post-plea interview in which she stated that  
23 she stayed at the Capitol so that the United States would not  
24 end up without free speech like China.

25 She also said she didn't talk to the other rioter about the

1 presidential election, which her texts show clearly isn't true.  
2 She also said she tried to keep the conversation silly and  
3 lighthearted with him.

4 None of this rings true to me, and it does make me wonder  
5 whether there's a real risk that she will continue to engage in  
6 this kind of unlawful conduct in the future.

7 So can you speak to that, and can you also tell me what she  
8 meant when she said during her post-plea interview with law  
9 enforcement agents that she only supported violence in extreme  
10 circumstances, like the Revolutionary War, and sort of the  
11 implication being this was that, January 6 was that. All of  
12 those statements give me great concern.

13 MR. ABBENANTE: Your Honor, I don't -- there's really  
14 no defense to any of those statements. They're her -- the  
15 statements that she made concerning the election, the statements  
16 that she made concerning China, many people still believe those  
17 facts, that those are true facts. After a recent rally that  
18 former President Trump had, two people, I saw on the news, were  
19 interviewed, and I was sort of shocked because they said the  
20 exact same things that Ms. Dillon said.

21 THE COURT: She is certainly entitled to her views,  
22 but here, she took those views, and she engaged in violent  
23 conduct and unlawful conduct, and that combination is extremely  
24 concerning.

25 MR. ABBENANTE: I understand that, and Ms. Dillon



1 understands that. She is entitled to her views, but she is not  
2 entitled to do what she did in this case. And she regrets it.

3 I've been doing this for over 40 years, and I think that I  
4 have a pretty good sense in dealing with my particular clients  
5 to determine whether or not someone is just trying to get over  
6 on the Court or get over on the Probation Department or the  
7 government and whether or not they're truly sorry for what they  
8 did.

9 Ms. Dillon truly is sorry for what she did here. She  
10 regrets saying those things. She regrets even coming to the  
11 Capitol. As the government pointed out, she didn't come here  
12 with any weapons. I think she just got caught up in the entire  
13 speeches and went up to the Capitol --

14 THE COURT: But you say that, Mr. Abbenante, and you  
15 said that in your filing as well, that she, you know, quote, got  
16 caught up in the moment. But as Mr. Romano has pointed out, her  
17 text messages suggest that she went to D.C. clearly anticipating  
18 violence and clearly willing and interested in becoming a part  
19 of that violence, and in fact, her actions bear that out.

20 So I view her case differently than those who decided to  
21 attend the rally and then also decided to walk down to the  
22 Capitol. It seems to me, based on her texts before this event,  
23 that she clearly anticipated something very different, and this  
24 was not a surprise to her, and this was really what she went to  
25 D.C. to do.

1 MR. ABBENANTE: Well, she says that that's not the  
2 case, and then I have to just rely on what she says. And she  
3 will tell you -- when she makes her statement to the Court, she  
4 will explain what was going through her mind at that time.

5 But I can't defend her text messages, and all I can say  
6 about them is that they were thoroughly vetted by the  
7 government. As I explained in my memoranda, the individual that  
8 she was texting with came into her church, befriended her and  
9 her father. Both of them exchanged text messages with this  
10 individual. We don't deny it. We don't deny anything the  
11 government is saying concerning the content of those messages.

12 But once they were -- the father was interviewed about  
13 those text messages, and no other charges were brought against  
14 the father or Ms. Dillon.

15 THE COURT: And just to be clear, Mr. Abbenante, I'm  
16 not suggesting here by my questions that additional charges  
17 should be brought based on her pre-offense texts. What they do,  
18 though, is they inform her intent with these actions. And, you  
19 know, arguably, what she said to law enforcement agents could be  
20 prosecuted as false statements. I don't find that the  
21 statements that she made to them ring true in light of the text  
22 messages that the government has represented were made. But the  
23 government has not made a decision to charge those.

24 It's just, in assessing her degree of remorse, this is  
25 after arrest, this is after plea. In an interview with law

1 enforcement, even at that time her statements seem very much  
2 separated from reality and her own conduct, and that too  
3 troubles me.

4 MR. ABBENANTE: Well, I can't argue with that, because  
5 they do seem to be that way. All I can tell you is that from my  
6 observations and my discussions with Ms. Dillon and when she was  
7 interviewed by the Probation Department, I truly believe that  
8 she is sorry for what she did and that this is not going to ever  
9 happen again.

10 THE COURT: All right.

11 MR. ABBENANTE: And -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

12 THE COURT: Mr. Abbenante, you are suggesting that the  
13 Court impose probation without any conditions, and if I were to  
14 impose any conditions, that they be restricted to community  
15 service.

16 In light of what's on Ms. Dillon's plate in terms of caring  
17 for her daughter, her disabled uncle, her husband's grandfather,  
18 her -- I think it's her nephew who has disabilities, to me that  
19 doesn't make a lot of sense. That's not what she needs. She  
20 may need part-time work, and to the extent she has extra hours,  
21 it seems to me her efforts would be better directed in that way,  
22 seeking employment, than community service, although I certainly  
23 value community service. But I'm just concerned, given what she  
24 has on her plate, that she may not be able to do both, and it  
25 seems like a job would be helpful to her.

1 MR. ABBENANTE: Well, Your Honor, I can tell you this:  
2 Ms. Dillon is the one who suggested that I make that  
3 recommendation to the Court in terms of the hours of community  
4 service, because she feels that that would demonstrate how sorry  
5 she is about this. And although it may be a hardship to her,  
6 over a period of two years' or three years' probation or  
7 whatever if Your Honor were to go that way, she thinks she could  
8 do that on weekends, on one weekend day a week.

9 THE COURT: Is she also continuing to pursue  
10 employment?

11 MR. ABBENANTE: She is trying to pursue part-time  
12 employment, as she has in the past. She periodically has had  
13 part-time employment, and there have been no issues with that.  
14 At this point in time while this case has been pending, she has  
15 been reluctant to actually apply for jobs because most of them  
16 ask whether or not you've got a conviction or whether or not  
17 you've got any kind of cases pending and things of that nature.  
18 So she hasn't pursued that type of, you know, regular employment  
19 while this case is pending.

20 But as her prior record of employment indicates, this is  
21 not a woman who doesn't want to work. She's just decided that  
22 while this case is pending it's best that she just basically lay  
23 low and just wait until this case is resolved.

24 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Abbenante, I also want to  
25 flag for you, to the extent you want to respond, I am

1 considering, based on the presentence report and, in particular,  
2 paragraph 48, a special treatment condition.

3 MR. ABBENANTE: I talked to her about that, and she,  
4 you know, feels that she's been able to deal with the various  
5 issues through her interaction with her church and the people  
6 that support her there. But I certainly don't have an objection  
7 if Your Honor deems it appropriate to order any kind of special  
8 treatment. She may very well benefit from this because this has  
9 been a traumatic experience for her. And I don't really  
10 think -- I mean, I know it's set in, but I don't think that's a  
11 bad suggestion.

12 Again, I'm not trying to make it personal, because it's not  
13 personal to me, but what I can say is this: You know, when I  
14 started practicing, I started as a student attorney. I  
15 represented a lot of people in disorderly conduct cases. And  
16 then when I started my practice in Superior Court, I've done so  
17 many diversion cases. And even through the federal -- while  
18 I've been practicing more recently in the federal court than the  
19 state court, I've seen cases like this where people like  
20 Ms. Dillon who have no prior record, where the Probation  
21 Department is recommending probation, where the government is  
22 recommending probation, we're in agreement with that. The only  
23 thing that we were in sort of disagreement or not in step with  
24 was the conditions of probation.

25 I understand Mr. Romano's argument. I understand what

1 Judge Hogan and the other judges did when they imposed a period  
2 of home confinement. I just feel that that is -- that's all  
3 right, I get it, but I thought that the community service would  
4 be a way for Ms. Dillon to demonstrate how sorry she is for what  
5 she's done.

6 And when I cited the Bustle case, at that time it was the  
7 closest case that I could find that sort of mirrored her  
8 conduct. But when Mister -- and the other ones that I cited, I  
9 thought that those were sort of worse than Ms. Dillon. But the  
10 ones that Mr. Romano pointed out in his memorandum I think even  
11 further support why Ms. Dillon is a good candidate for probation  
12 and that the recommendation is in step with other cases.

13 THE COURT: So, Mr. Abbenante, to be clear, if I  
14 impose a home confinement-like condition, I would be imposing  
15 something like home detention where I would expect that she  
16 would be out and about trying to find employment to the extent  
17 she couldn't perform community service.

18 But given the demands on her with her family, I agree with  
19 you, I think being locked down in the home is not necessarily  
20 productive, assuming, of course, she's engaged in other  
21 constructive things. But when she's not, it seems to me there  
22 should be a period of time when she's in the home but for those  
23 constructive things.

24 MR. ABBENANTE: I really don't have any problem with  
25 that. I just think Your Honor sees from the report that what

1 she -- as long as she's allowed to attend church, as long as she  
2 is allowed to pick up her nephew from school --

3 THE COURT: Seek treatment, et cetera, yes.

4 MR. ABBENANTE: -- and also, you know, go grocery  
5 shopping for her family and take care of her grand -- I think  
6 sometimes she has to take either the uncle or the grandfather to  
7 medical appointments. As long as those things are unrestricted,  
8 again, we don't have any objection to it.

9 THE COURT: Well, it's not that they would be  
10 completely unrestricted. It's just that probation would be  
11 aware of what she's doing and approve what she's doing.

12 MR. ABBENANTE: And as the Pretrial Services has  
13 indicated, as Ms. Dillon has shown, she's been completely  
14 compliant with all the conditions that Pretrial has placed on  
15 her. And many times, she was traveling from her house to  
16 Baltimore to meet in person with the Probation Department, and  
17 she met all those appointments. She did it all.

18 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Abbenante, anything else?

19 MR. ABBENANTE: No, no, Your Honor, but I do think  
20 that Ms. Dillon has something that she would like to say.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

22 So Ms. Dillon, this is your opportunity to make a statement  
23 today if you choose. You don't have to, but you have the right  
24 to make a statement if you would like to.

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor, and I thank you so

1 much for -- everyone here, the dignity I've been treated with  
2 and the fairness.

3 This day was the worst day of my life. This does not line  
4 up with the rest of my life, you know. I admit, I have strong  
5 beliefs, most definitely, but what I did was inexcusable and  
6 unacceptable. I don't like upsetting people. I don't like -- I  
7 have expressed before, I'm very private, and I don't like seeing  
8 people in pain. I don't like seeing people hurt. I admit that  
9 I was really passionate in the lead-up to that.

10 And there is no excuse for my actions by any means. I was  
11 going through an incredibly difficult time with a loss. And I  
12 tell you, my world view has changed so much. Just since, I  
13 mean, even since July, I've experienced two more losses, and  
14 that's really shaped the way I see things because life is just  
15 so precious.

16 And just I do not want to do anything to create any misery  
17 or any unhappiness for any person ever, and I am so truly sorry  
18 for my choices. So much of that day just comes in flashes, and  
19 it was just so -- emotions and everything going on around me in  
20 my personal life and then what was happening in the country and  
21 things, it was so overwhelming. And it's a lot of times even  
22 very hard to remember, because it's just painful and traumatic.

23 I never want to set foot in Washington, D.C., again, and I  
24 love that city, and I have beautiful memories with my family in  
25 that city, and I will never step foot in it again because I do



1 not -- I don't want to think about that day. It's horrible.  
2 And I just don't want to -- I am so -- I wake up in a panic some  
3 mornings because I'm so troubled about what I did, thinking of  
4 like what this would mean for my family, what this would mean  
5 for me in my future. Because I don't have a college education,  
6 and I don't have those things, that it's like I just blew my  
7 whole life, I just blew my whole future. And it takes a lot to  
8 even calm down when I think about it, you know, because it's  
9 just so much.

10 And I -- this moment has just -- this moment right now has  
11 played in my head because I'm not very good at explaining my  
12 thoughts and my feelings sometimes, and I am just so truly sorry  
13 to be a burden and create this problem for anybody. I don't  
14 want to ever do anything again. I want to obey the law, and  
15 I've shown that before, and I would like to continue being that  
16 person I was before January 6, which was never breaking the law.

17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you for your remarks,  
18 Ms. Dillon. I can imagine that this has been a traumatic event  
19 for you, and I hope, genuinely hope that you will take advantage  
20 of the kind of treatment services that will be offered to you  
21 while you are on probation.

22 I am inclined to impose a sentence of probation in this  
23 case with a period of home detention and require you to seek  
24 employment and to the extent you're unable to obtain it, do  
25 community service.

1 But there are many lawful and productive ways to channel  
2 your frustration over the government and what's going on in this  
3 country, and you have lived an otherwise lawful and law-abiding  
4 life here. This one mistake doesn't have to define you, but  
5 perhaps the way in which you respond to this mistake can define  
6 you.

7 So again, I am going to encourage you to learn from this  
8 and take advantage of the services that will be offered to you  
9 as a part of your conditions of probation.

10 Counsel for the government, for both sides, is there any  
11 reason why sentence should not be imposed at this time?

12 MR. ROMANO: No, Your Honor.

13 MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. As I've already noted, I'm  
15 required to consider the various factors outlined in Title 18  
16 United States Code Section 3553(a). Again, I'm familiar with  
17 those factors, and I'm considering them all here.

18 Beginning first with the nature and circumstances of this  
19 offense, although this is a misdemeanor offense, it is  
20 nonetheless a very serious one. Ms. Dillon has admitted that  
21 she was a part of a large crowd that breached the U.S. Capitol  
22 on January 6 of this year. At that time members of Congress had  
23 gathered to certify the vote count of the Electoral College for  
24 the 2020 presidential election, as had the vice president.

25 Despite the presence that day of many Capitol police

1 officers and barricades around the exterior of the Capitol  
2 building, a crowd of hundreds, including Ms. Dillon, forced its  
3 way through barricades and through Capitol police. Although  
4 Ms. Dillon did not enter the building, many did through locked  
5 doors and windows of the Capitol building. As a result, members  
6 of Congress, as well as Vice President Pence who was present,  
7 were forced to evacuate the Senate and House chambers.

8 It's estimated that on that day there was more than  
9 \$1.4 million in property damage done to the Capitol building.  
10 Although there's no evidence in the record that Ms. Dillon  
11 herself damaged property or injured any Capitol police officers  
12 or others, she was very much a part, as the government has  
13 described and the videos have shown, of the initial and violent  
14 crowd. Her actions that day contributed both directly and  
15 indirectly to the violence and destruction of that day.

16 Ms. Dillon tried to enter the Capitol through the Senate  
17 carriage door, and in doing so, as the video illustrates, she  
18 pushed through a crowd before eventually falling near the  
19 entrance. After she fell down, she got up, seemed to engage  
20 with law enforcement officers, verbally if not physically, but  
21 she ultimately left the area, perhaps due to pepper spray or  
22 some other chemical agent.

23 As we've discussed here, the evidence suggests that  
24 Ms. Dillon went to D.C. that day expecting there to be violence  
25 and intent on doing her part to stop Congress from fulfilling

1 its constitutional duty. The attack in which she participated  
2 was an attack on our institutions of government, the rule of  
3 law, and our democratic process.

4 When she tried to enter the Capitol, she knew full well she  
5 didn't have any authority to enter the building. She was, by  
6 her actions, in no way exercising her First Amendment rights.  
7 She was clearly trespassing. And she not only violated the law,  
8 she subjected career law enforcement officers whose job it is to  
9 protect the Capitol, members of Congress, and others who were  
10 present inside the Capitol that day, she subjected those  
11 officers to great, great risk. Though she didn't injure anyone,  
12 the evidence before the Court is that more than 100 law  
13 enforcement officers were injured that day as a result of this  
14 violent attack.

15 As I've stated, Ms. Dillon's online statements before and  
16 after the attack, as well as her statements to law enforcement  
17 agents after her plea are concerning to the Court.

18 Considering next her history and characteristics, as found  
19 by the probation officer, Ms. Dillon has no prior criminal  
20 record. She did, to her credit, accept responsibility early,  
21 and by pleading guilty early, she saved the government and the  
22 court resources.

23 Ms. Dillon currently cares for her child and her husband's  
24 disabled 64-year-old uncle and his 90-year-old grandfather. All  
25 of these individuals reside in the home with her and her

1 husband. She also assists her sister-in-law in the care of her  
2 autistic child.

3 Though Ms. Dillon is not working outside the home at the  
4 moment, she has worked on and off consistently since her teenage  
5 years.

6 Ms. Dillon has no history of drug or alcohol abuse. She  
7 has a number of health issues which are documented in detail in  
8 the presentence report.

9 Looking at the range of sentences available here, this  
10 petty offense has a maximum penalty of six months in prison, up  
11 to five years' probation, a maximum fine of \$5,000, and is  
12 subject to a \$10 special assessment. As I've said, I don't  
13 find, given Ms. Dillon's limited resources, that she has the  
14 ability to pay a fine in this case.

15 We also discussed restitution, which Ms. Dillon has agreed  
16 to pay, consistent with other similarly situated defendants.  
17 She has agreed to pay \$500 to defray some of the costs  
18 associated with the January 6 damage to the Capitol.

19 Considering the need to avoid unwarranted sentencing  
20 disparities, while it's certainly important to sentence  
21 Ms. Dillon based on her individual conduct, Section 3553(a) does  
22 require this Court to take into account the need to avoid  
23 unwarranted sentencing disparities, and the guidelines  
24 themselves usually aid judges in doing that, but those don't  
25 apply here. So the defense has provided the Court with

1 information relating to other similar Capitol cases in this  
2 court, and I asked the government for the same information.  
3 I've considered the aggravating and mitigating facts of this  
4 case and compared them with the facts of those other cases, and  
5 I've taken into account the sentences imposed by my colleagues  
6 in those cases.

7 While no two cases are alike, several do have similar  
8 facts. The defendants in those cases were sentenced to  
9 probation, some with community service. Some received home  
10 confinement. Most of the cases cited by the government, or I  
11 think all that are analogous to this case, the government has  
12 made the same sentencing recommendation in each, and that is  
13 that the defendant serve three years' probation with community  
14 service and a short period of home confinement, plus pay  
15 restitution.

16 I do agree with the government that what makes this case  
17 aggravated compared to some of the other similar cases is the  
18 fact that Ms. Dillon was clearly anticipating violence when she  
19 arrived at the Capitol or in D.C. on January 6, and her  
20 statements after the attack as well give the Court concern. She  
21 was also a part of the initial crowd that tried to enter the  
22 building. She seemed intent on, if not herself, supporting  
23 those who were trying to halt the certification of the Electoral  
24 College vote.

25 To her credit, as I've said, there's no evidence that she

1 injured any officers or that she committed any property damage.  
2 Nonetheless, she did engage, it appears, physically and verbally  
3 with the officers.

4 The defense has argued the facts of this case are  
5 comparable in some ways to the case of U.S. v. Bustle, a case in  
6 which Judge Hogan sentenced the defendant to 24 months'  
7 probation with two months of home detention and 40 hours of  
8 community service and \$500 in restitution.

9 Again, I think this case is different in the respects that  
10 have been noted. Namely, Ms. Dillon anticipated violence ahead  
11 of time, and her text messages before and since have been  
12 disturbing. She's also an early rioter who fought hard to get  
13 in the Capitol.

14 The defense's comparison to Doyle and Ehrke is less  
15 persuasive.

16 The government argues this case is like U.S. v. Bennett and  
17 U.S. v. Vinson, at least one, Lori Vinson, I believe. In  
18 Bennett, Judge Boasberg imposed a sentence of 24 months'  
19 probation and \$500 of restitution. In the Vinson case, the  
20 government analogizes this to Judge Walton, who imposed five  
21 years' probation, a \$5,000 fine, and \$500 in restitution.

22 I think before imposing sentence, I think it is worth  
23 emphasizing what Judge Hogan and other judges of this court have  
24 made clear, and that is that defendants in these Capitol cases  
25 should not presume that probation is a default sentence, given

1 the seriousness of the offense, and that is especially true for  
2 those who committed assaults on officers and property damage.

3 But consistent with the sentences of other judges on this  
4 court in similar cases and as recommended by probation, as I've  
5 said, I think a sentence of probation is warranted in this case.  
6 But given the aggravated circumstances of Ms. Dillon's conduct,  
7 I do think a substantial length of probation is warranted, and  
8 therefore, I will impose a three-year sentence of probation,  
9 coupled with a two-month period of home detention. I do believe  
10 that's sufficient but not greater than necessary to achieve the  
11 purposes of punishment.

12 Ms. Dillon is certainly not among the least culpable in  
13 this large group of Capitol offenders, but she is certainly not  
14 the most either. I'm encouraged by Ms. Dillon's remarks here  
15 that at least now she does appreciate the serious severity of  
16 her offense. I credit her acceptance of responsibility and her  
17 clean criminal record to date. It does appear that this is an  
18 aberrant event in her otherwise law-abiding life.

19 Even so, I do find, consistent with Section 3553(a), that a  
20 three-year term of probation coupled with a 60-day period of  
21 home detention is sufficient to address the goals of sentencing,  
22 considering the nature of the offense and the other relevant  
23 factors. I believe that this is adequate to protect the  
24 community and to fulfill the goals of deterrence, both specific  
25 and general, as well as punishment. I don't believe that



1 imprisonment is necessary to provide specific deterrence or  
2 respect for the law.

3 As I've mentioned, I'm not going to impose a community  
4 service condition, given Ms. Dillon's other family obligations,  
5 but I do expect her to seek and find employment, at least  
6 part-time employment.

7 I do expect her to participate in mental health treatment  
8 and undergo the mandatory drug tests. At this time I don't see  
9 the need for substance abuse treatment, but I will order, based  
10 on what's stated in the presentence report and Ms. Dillon's  
11 actions here, the mental health treatment.

12 So I'm now formally going to read the sentence. Is there  
13 any reason either side at this point has to object?

14 MR. ROMANO: No, Your Honor.

15 MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. Pursuant to the Sentencing  
17 Reform Act of 1984 and in consideration of the provisions of  
18 Title 18 United States Code Section 3553 as well, it is the  
19 judgment of the Court that you, Brittiany Angelina Dillon, are  
20 hereby sentenced to a term of three years' probation as to  
21 Count 1. In addition, you are to serve two months, or 60 days,  
22 of home detention. And I will go over the conditions of that in  
23 a moment.

24 You are also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$10 in  
25 accordance with Title 18 United States Code Section 3013.

1           While on supervision, you shall abide by the following  
2       mandatory conditions, as well as the standard conditions of  
3       supervision, which are imposed to establish the basic  
4       expectations for your conduct while on supervision. The  
5       mandatory conditions include not committing another federal,  
6       state, or local crime, not unlawfully possessing a controlled  
7       substance, refraining from any unlawful use of a controlled  
8       substance, submitting to one drug test within 15 days of  
9       placement on supervision, and at least two periodic drug tests  
10      thereafter as determined by the Court.

11           You must make restitution in accordance with Title 18  
12      United States Code Section 3663 and 3663(a).

13           And you shall comply with the following special conditions:  
14      That is, participating in a mental health treatment program and  
15      following the rules and regulations of that program. The  
16      probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider,  
17      will supervise your participation in the program.

18           With respect to home detention, you will be monitored by  
19      the form of location monitoring technology for a period of 60  
20      days, and you must follow the rules and regulations of the  
21      location monitoring program. The costs of the program will be  
22      waived. Location monitoring technology at the discretion of the  
23      probation officer, including SmartLINK or any other technology  
24      in the discretion of the probation officer. This form of  
25      technology will be used to monitor following restrictions on

1 your movement in the community. You're restricted to your  
2 residence at all times except for employment or seeking  
3 employment opportunities, education, religious services, medical  
4 or mental health treatment, attorney visits, court appearances,  
5 court-ordered obligations, community service activities, or any  
6 other activities as preapproved by the probation officer.

7 In addition, you must seek and maintain at least part-time  
8 employment. You will advise the probation officer of your  
9 employment and notify the probation officer of any changes to  
10 your employment status.

11 As I've said, I find you don't have the ability to pay a  
12 fine. Therefore, I waive imposition of a fine in this case.  
13 You are ordered to make restitution to the Architect of the  
14 Capitol in the amount of \$500. I've determined that you do not  
15 have the ability to pay interest and, therefore, waive any  
16 interest or penalties that may accrue on the balance. The  
17 restitution shall be made to the Clerk of Court for the U.S.  
18 District Court to the Architect of the Capitol, and you must pay  
19 the balance of any restitution owed at a rate of no less than  
20 \$50 each month. The financial obligations are immediately  
21 payable to the Clerk of Court. You shall notify the Clerk of  
22 Court of any change of address.

23 The Probation Office shall release the presentence  
24 investigation report to all appropriate agencies in order to  
25 execute the sentence of the Court.

1 All right. Ms. Dillon, you do have the right to appeal  
2 your conviction and sentence except to the extent you may have  
3 validly waived that right as a part of your plea agreement. If  
4 you do choose to appeal, your notice of appeal must be filed  
5 within 14 days after the Court enters judgment. If you're  
6 unable to pay the cost of an appeal, you may apply for leave to  
7 file in forma pauperis, which simply means that the Court costs  
8 such as filing fees will be waived.

9 The same holds true for your right to challenge the  
10 conviction entered or the sentence imposed under 28 United  
11 States Code Section 2255 if new and currently unavailable  
12 information becomes available to you or on a claim that you  
13 received ineffective assistance of counsel in entering a plea of  
14 guilty to the offense of conviction or in connection with this  
15 sentencing.

16 All right. Are there any objections to the sentence?

17 MR. ROMANO: No, Your Honor.

18 MR. ABBENANTE: Your Honor, I don't have any  
19 objections, but I would ask Your Honor to include her ability to  
20 take her -- I know you mentioned medical appointments, but I  
21 think that that applied to only Ms. Dillon. I would ask that  
22 you allow her to transfer or transport her husband's grandfather  
23 and uncle to their medical appointments as she has been doing,  
24 as well as picking up and taking her nephew, who is autistic.

25 THE COURT: All right. I don't disagree with you,

1 Mr. Abbenante. I just think that these fall into the other  
2 activities preapproved by the probation officer, and I certainly  
3 think that medical appointments for herself or family members  
4 would be included in that.

5 MR. ABBENANTE: All right.

6 THE COURT: Are you concerned that the probation  
7 officer -- I can say medical appointments for Ms. Dillon or her  
8 family. Does that take care of your concern? I'm reluctant to,  
9 you know, delineate, because I'm sure there are many other  
10 things that would fall into this category, carpool and other  
11 things, and I just feel like probation should be able to work it  
12 out with Ms. Dillon. If they can't, I'm certainly here to hear  
13 any objections that you have.

14 MR. ABBENANTE: All right. That's fine, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Reichler, do you have any  
16 concerns, corrections, additions to make to the sentence  
17 imposed?

18 PROBATION OFFICER: Not at this time, Your Honor. I  
19 just ask that Ms. Dillon hang on the line so that I can read her  
20 the probation conditions.

21 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Romano, anything else?

22 MR. ROMANO: Nothing for me, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 MR. ABBENANTE: Your Honor, I know that we filed a  
25 superseding information, but does that require the government to

1 move to dismiss the other charges, I believe?

2 MR. ROMANO: Yes, thank you. The government does at  
3 this time move to dismiss the charges in the original  
4 information.

5 THE COURT: All right. The motion is granted.  
6 Is there anything else?

7 MR. ABBENANTE: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.  
9 Ms. Dillon, I wish you the best.

10 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you. Thank you so much.

11 THE COURT: Thank you all.

12 (Proceedings adjourned at 10:17 a.m.)  
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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

2  
3 I, Sara A. Wick, certify that the foregoing is a  
4 correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the  
5 above-entitled matter.  
6

7 Please Note: This hearing occurred during the  
8 COVID-19 pandemic and is, therefore, subject to the  
9 technological limitations of court reporting remotely.  
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11  
12 /s/ Sara A. Wick

November 10, 2021

13 SIGNATURE OF COURT REPORTER

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