

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, UNION COUNTY, OHIO

State of Ohio

-vs-

Case No. 20-CR-0099

Steffen Evan Baldwin,

Judge Daniel T. Hogan

Defendant.

**JOURNAL ENTRY OF SENTENCE**

On January 8, 2024, a bench trial commenced.

Defendant appeared in open court represented by his attorneys, Joshua A. Peistrup & Perry R. Parsons. The State was represented by Assistant Union County Prosecutor Melissa A. Chase & Courtland A. Perry.

Upon presentation of evidence, the Court found the defendant guilty of the following:

Count 1, the offense of Bribery, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2921.02(B),(E), a felony of the third degree,

Count 2, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(B),(C), a felony of the fourth degree,

Count 3, the offense of Tampering with Records, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.42(A)(1),(B)(4), a felony of the third degree,

Count 4, the offense of Tampering with Records, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.42(A)(2),(B)(4), a felony of the third degree,

Count 5, the offense of Tampering with Records, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.42(A)(1),(B)(4), a felony of the third degree,

Count 6, the offense of Tampering with Records, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.42(A)(2),(B)(4), a felony of the third degree,

Count 8, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(E)(1), 959.99(E)(4), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 9, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(B),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 10, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 11, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 12, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(E)(1), 959.99(E)(4), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 13, the offense of Grand Theft When the Property is a Firearm or Dangerous Ordnance, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.02(A)(1), 2913.02(B)(4), a felony of the third degree,

Count 17, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 21, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 22, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 26, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 28, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 37, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 38, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(C), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 39, the offense of Grand Theft, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.02(A)(3),(B)(2), a felony of the fourth degree,

Count 40, the offense of Telecommunications Fraud, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.05(A),(B),(C), a felony of the third degree,

Count 41, the offense of Grand Theft, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2913.02(A)(2),(B)(2), a felony of the fourth degree,

Count 42, the offense of Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 2923.32(A)(1),(B)(1), a felony of the first degree,

Count 45, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1), 959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 46, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals,  
in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1),  
959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 47, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals,  
in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1),  
959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 48, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals,  
in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1),  
959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 49, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals,  
in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1),  
959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 50, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals,  
in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1),  
959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 51, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals,  
in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1),  
959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 52, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1), 959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

Count 53, the offense of Cruelty to Companion Animals, in violation of Ohio Revised Code 959.131(D)(1), 959.99(E)(3), a felony of the fifth degree,

On March 13, 2025, the matter came on for sentencing, a PSI having been completed. The same parties were present.

The Defendant was given the opportunity to speak and to present witnesses, and afforded all rights pursuant to Crim. R. 32.

The Court has considered the record, oral statements, the presentence investigation report, the arguments of counsel, the victim impact statements, the State's sentencing memorandum, the Defendant's sentencing memorandum, the need for deterrence, incapacitation, rehabilitation and restitution, the principles and purposes of sentencing under R.C. 2929.11, and has

balanced the seriousness and recidivism factors under R.C. 2929.12.

The Court further finds the following factors apply regarding the offender, the offense or the victim, pursuant to R.C. 2929.12(B), (C), (D), (E) & (F):

**2929.12(B)** All of the following apply regarding the offender, the offense, or the victim, and any other relevant factors, as indicating that the offender's conduct is **more serious** than conduct normally constituting the offense:

(1) The physical or mental injury suffered by the victim of the offense due to the conduct of the offender was exacerbated because of the physical or mental condition or age of the victim.

(2) The victim of the offense suffered serious physical, psychological, or economic harm as a result of the offense.

(3) The offender held a public office or position of trust in the community, and the offense related to that office or position.

(4) The offender's occupation, elected office, or profession obliged the offender to prevent the offense or bring others committing it to justice.

(5) The offender's professional reputation or occupation, elected office, or profession was used to facilitate the offense or is likely to influence the future conduct of others.

(6) The offender's relationship with the victim facilitated the offense.

(7) The offender committed the offense for



hire or as a part of an organized criminal activity.

\_\_\_\_(8) In committing the offense, the offender was motivated by prejudice based on race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, or religion.

\_\_\_\_(9) The offense is a violation of section 2919.25 or a violation of section 2903.11, 2903.12, or 2903.13 of the Revised Code involving a person who was a family or household member at the time of the violation, and the offender committed the offense in the vicinity of one or more children who are not victims of the offense, and the offender or the victim of the offense is a parent, guardian, custodian, or person in loco parentis of one or more of those children.

**2929.12(C)** All of the following that apply regarding the offender, the offense, or the victim, and any other relevant factors, as indicating that the offender's conduct is **less serious** than conduct normally constituting the offense:

\_\_\_\_(1) The victim induced or facilitated the offense.

\_\_\_\_(2) In committing the offense, the offender acted under strong provocation.

\_\_\_\_(3) In committing the offense, the offender did not cause or expect to cause physical harm to any person or property.

\_\_\_\_(4) There are substantial grounds to mitigate the offender's conduct, although the grounds are not enough to constitute a defense.

**2929.12(D)** All of the following that apply regarding the offender, and any other relevant factors, as factors indicating that the offender is **likely to commit future crimes**:

\_\_\_\_(1) At the time of committing the offense, the offender was under release from confinement before trial or sentencing, under a sanction imposed pursuant

to section 2929.16, 2929.17, or 2929.18 of the Revised Code, or under post-release control pursuant to section 2967.28 or any other provision of the Revised Code for an earlier offense or had been unfavorably terminated from post-release control for a prior offense pursuant to division (B) of section 2967.16 or section 2929.141 of the Revised Code.

\_\_\_\_(2) The offender previously was adjudicated a delinquent child pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code prior to January 1, 2002, or pursuant to Chapter 2152. of the Revised Code, or the offender has a history of criminal convictions.

\_\_\_\_(3) The offender has not been rehabilitated to a satisfactory degree after previously being adjudicated a delinquent child pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code prior to January 1, 2002, or pursuant to Chapter 2152. of the Revised Code, or the offender has not responded favorably to sanctions previously imposed for criminal convictions.

\_\_\_\_(4) The offender has demonstrated a pattern of drug or alcohol abuse that is related to the offense, and the offender refuses to acknowledge that the offender has demonstrated that pattern, or the offender refuses treatment for the drug or alcohol abuse.

\_\_\_\_(5) The offender shows no genuine remorse for the offense.

**2929.12(E)** All of the following that apply regarding the offender, and any other relevant factors, as factors indicating that the offender is **not likely to commit future crimes:**

\_\_\_\_(1) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had not been adjudicated a delinquent child.

\_\_\_\_(2) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense.

\_\_\_\_(3) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had led a law-abiding life for a significant number of years.

\_\_\_\_(4) The offense was committed under circumstances not likely to recur.

\_\_\_\_(5) The offender shows genuine remorse for the offense.

**2929.12(F)** The Court considers the offender's military service record or lack thereof, and whether the offender has an emotional, mental, or physical condition that is traceable to the offender's service in the armed forces of the United States and that was a contributing factor in the offender's commission of the offense or offenses.

The Court finds no factors related to the Defendant's military service.

The Defendant is 44 years old (DOB 10/19/1980).

The Court finds that Regan Tokes Law is not applicable because all of the predicate crimes were committed prior to the enactment of that statute.

The Court finds that the shortest prison term would demean the seriousness of the offense and would not protect the public.

The Court further finds that consecutive sentences are necessary to protect the public from future crime and to punish the Defendant and that consecutive sentences are not disproportionate to the seriousness of the Defendant's conduct and to the danger the Defendant poses to the public.

The Court further finds that at least two of the multiple offenses were committed as part of one or more courses of conduct, and the harm caused by two or more of the multiple offenses so committed was so great or unusual that no single prison term for any of the offenses committed as part of any of the courses of conduct adequately reflects the seriousness of the offender's conduct.

The Court further finds that Count 3 and Count 4 merge. The State has elected sentencing on Count 3 and Count 5.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND  
DECREED THAT THE DEFENDANT IS SENTENCED TO THE  
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND**

**CORRECTION FOR 186 MONTHS, CALCULATED AS**

**FOLLOWS:**

**On Count 1, Defendant is sentenced to 30 months in prison.**

**On Count 2, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 3, Defendant is sentenced to 12 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 5, Defendant is sentenced to 12 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Count 1.**

**On Count 8, Defendant is sentenced to 9 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1 & 5.**

**On Count 9, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 10, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, & 8.**

**On Count 11, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 12, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, & 10.**

**On Count 13, Defendant is sentenced to 9 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, & 12.**

**On Count 17, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, & 13.**

**On Count 21, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, & 12, 13, & 17.**

**On Count 22, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 26, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 28, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 37, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, & 21.**

**On Count 38, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, & 37.**

**On Count 39, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 40, Defendant is sentenced to 9 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 41, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 42, Defendant is sentenced to 4 years in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, & 38.**

**On Count 45, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, & 42.**

**On Count 46, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, 42, & 45.**

**On Count 47, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, 42, 45, & 46.**

**On Count 48, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**



**On Count 49, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, 42, 45, 46, & 47.**

**On Count 50, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, 42, 45, 46, 47, & 49.**

**On Count 51, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONCURRENT TO ALL OTHER COUNTS.**

**On Count 52, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, 42, 45, 46, 47, 49, & 50.**

**On Count 53, Defendant is sentenced to 6 months in prison, to run CONSECUTIVE to Counts 1, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 17, 21, 37, 38, 42, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, & 52.**

The aggregate prison term herein imposed is 186 months = 15.5 years.

The defendant is entitled to 23 days jail time credit as of March 13, 2025, because of time spent in custody in this

case prior to sentence, together with future custody days while defendant awaits transportation to the appropriate institution.

**It is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that:**

1. Pursuant to R.C. 959.99 (E)(6)(A), the Court orders that the Defendant is prohibited from owning or caring for any companion animals for life.
2. Defendant is found to be indigent for purposes of paying fines and court costs;
3. Defendant is advised that if he serves his entire sentence, he will be subject to a period of post-release control for a period of up to five years, but no less than two years, which will commence upon his actual release from prison;
4. Defendant is further advised that during any period that Defendant is on post-release control, Defendant is precluded from leaving the state

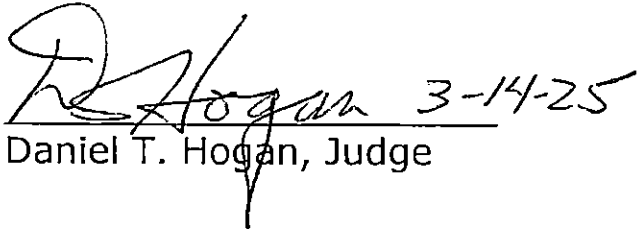
without permission of the court or his parole officer and is required to abide by the law;

5. Defendant is further advised that if he violates the terms and conditions of post-release control, the Adult Parole Authority may impose a more restrictive sanction, may increase the term of post release control up to the maximum of eight years, or impose a prison term upon the Defendant as a sanction, not to exceed nine months at a time, with the total cumulative prison sanctions in increments of nine months, not to exceed 50% of the stated prison term originally imposed as part of the sentence.

Defendant is further advised that if he commits a new felony while under post-release control, he may receive a prison sentence for both the new felony and any post-release control violation, which shall be served consecutively, and that he may be subject to sanctions under R.C. 2929.141;

6. Defendant shall not ingest or be injected with a drug of abuse and shall submit to random drug testing as the supervising authority shall determine and order, the results of which shall indicate that the Defendant did not ingest or was not injected with a drug of abuse;
7. Defendant shall provide a DNA sample and fingerprints to the Union County Sheriff for forwarding to BCI;
8. Pursuant to R.C. 2923.13, Defendant is prohibited from acquiring, having, carrying, or using a firearm or dangerous ordnance.
9. Defendant has 30 days from this date in which to appeal the proceedings herein;
10. Bond is released; and
11. The Union County Sheriff shall transport the Defendant to the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation

and Correction, Correctional Reception Center,  
Orient, Ohio, for execution of sentence.

  
Daniel T. Hogan, Judge

copies to:

Union County Prosecuting Attorney  
Defendant  
Joshua A. Peistrup, Esq., Attorney for Defendant  
Perry R. Parsons, Esq., Attorney for Defendant  
Union County Sheriff's Office