

FILED

AUG 23 2018

Clerk, U.S. District Court
District Of Montana
Great Falls

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MONTANA
GREAT FALLS DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER
LAIRD,

Defendant.

CR-18-48-GF-BMM-JTJ

FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA

The Defendant, by consent, has appeared before me under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11 and has entered a plea of guilty to one count of Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine (Count I), as set forth in the SUPERSEDING INFORMATION. In exchange for Defendant's plea, the United States has agreed to dismiss the INDICTMENTS in CR-18-39-GF-BMM and CR-18-48-GF-BMM.

After examining the Defendant under oath, I have made the following determinations:

1. That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed and voluntary plea,
2. That the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charge against him and consequences of pleading guilty to the charge in Count I of the Superseding

Information,

3. That the Defendant fully understands his constitutional rights, and the extent to which he is waiving those rights by pleading guilty, and
4. That the plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea, supported by an independent basis in fact sufficient to prove each of the essential elements of the count charged in Count I of the Superseding Information.

The Court further concludes that the Defendant had adequate time to review the Plea Agreement with counsel, that he fully understands each and every provision of the agreement and that all of the statements in the Plea Agreement are true. Therefore, I recommend that the Defendant be adjudged guilty of Count I of the SUPERSEDING INFORMATION, and that sentence be imposed. I further recommend that the INDICTMENTS in CR-18-39-GF-BMM and CR-18-48-GF-BMM be dismissed.

This report is forwarded with the recommendation that the Court defer a decision regarding acceptance until the Court has reviewed the Plea Agreement and the presentence report.

DATED this 23rd day of August, 2018.



John Johnston
United States Magistrate Judge