

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FILED

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

NOV 30 2022

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

FRANCISCO NUNEZ CARRILLO,

No. 22-15797

Petitioner-Appellant,

D.C. No. 2:21-cv-01742-ROS

v.

District of Arizona,
Phoenix

DAVID SHINN, Director; ATTORNEY
GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF
ARIZONA,

ORDER

Respondents-Appellees.

Before: WATFORD and FRIEDLAND, Circuit Judges.

The request for a certificate of appealability is denied because appellant has not made a “substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2); *see also Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 327 (2003).

Any pending motions are denied as moot.

DENIED.

“APPENDIX G”

1 WO

2
3
4
5
6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
8

9 Francisco Nunez Carrillo,
10 Petitioner,

11 v.

12 David Shinn, et al.,
13 Respondents.
14

No. CV-21-01742-PHX-ROS

ORDER

15 Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus based on alleged errors during his trial and
16 convictions in state court. The Report and Recommendation ("R&R") concludes
17 Petitioner's claims lack merit and recommends the petition be denied and dismissed with
18 prejudice. (Doc. 15). Petitioner filed objections to which Respondents filed a reply. (Doc.
19 16, 17). The R&R is correct and will be adopted in full.

20 Neither party objects to the factual background contained in the R&R. In brief,
21 Petitioner was accused of shooting one person in the stomach. After a jury trial, Petitioner
22 was convicted of two counts of aggravated assault and one count of unlawful discharge of
23 a firearm. Petitioner was sentenced to 24 years on each aggravated-assault count and 3.75
24 years on the unlawful discharge count, with all three sentences to run concurrently.

25 On direct appeal, the Arizona Court of Appeals concluded the two convictions for
26 aggravated assault were multiplicitous. (Doc. 12-1 at 123). That court explained
27 Petitioner's "two aggravated-assault charges stemmed from only one act—shooting [the
28 victim]." (Doc. 12-1 at 123). Based on that, Petitioner "committed only one act of

1 aggravated assault.” In deciding the appropriate remedy, the court determined “both
 2 aggravated-assault convictions, in this case, carry identical sentences.” If there had been
 3 any indication the trial court intended to impose different sentences on the two aggravated-
 4 assault counts, the court would have remanded for the trial court “to determine which
 5 conviction should be vacated.” But the court of appeals believed that was unnecessary and
 6 opted to vacate one of the aggravated assault convictions. The Court of Appeals’ decision
 7 to vacate one of those charges provided no meaningful relief to Petitioner. After the
 8 appellate decision, Petitioner was left with a conviction for aggravated assault that required
 9 he spend 24 years in prison as well as the conviction for unlawful discharge.

10 In October 2021, Petitioner filed the present habeas petition presenting a variety of
 11 claims. As correctly explained by the R&R, those “claims, read together, raise one issue,
 12 and that is a purported double jeopardy violation due to . . . multiplicitous” convictions.
 13 (Doc. 15 at 8). While not clear from his filings, Petitioner’s argument appears to be that
 14 the constitutionally required remedy for two multiplicitous convictions is to vacate both.
 15 Thus, when the Arizona Court of Appeals chose to vacate only one of the aggravated
 16 assault counts, Petitioner believes that violated his rights under the Fifth Amendment’s
 17 Double Jeopardy Clause.

18 Respondents conceded Petitioner’s claim was timely and exhausted but they argued
 19 the claim failed on the merits. The R&R agreed and found the Arizona Court of Appeals’
 20 remedy regarding the two aggravated assault convictions was not contrary to, or an
 21 unreasonable application of clearly established federal law. (Doc. 15 at 10). Having
 22 reviewed that issue de novo, the R&R is correct. Petitioner has not cited any Supreme
 23 Court authority requiring all multiplicitous counts be vacated.¹ The well-established rule

24
 25 ¹ At times, Petitioner seems to argue the aggravated assault convictions and the unlawful
 26 discharge convictions were all multiplicitous such that, of the three convictions, only one
 27 could remain in place. Under this theory, Petitioner claims he should only have to serve
 28 the sentence attributed to the unlawful discharge conviction. Petitioner does not develop
 this argument in any detail and it does not appear Arizona’s aggravated assault and
 unlawful discharge crimes are multiplicitous. Those two crimes each “requires proof of an
 additional fact which the other does not.” *Blockburger v. United States*, 284 U.S. 299, 304
 (1932).

1 is that when two convictions are deemed multiplicitous, the proper remedy is to vacate one
2 of the convictions, leaving the other conviction in place. *See, e.g., United States v. Zalapa,*
3 509 F.3d 1060, 1065 (9th Cir. 2007). That is what the Arizona Court of Appeals did in
4 Petitioner's case. There was no violation of clearly established federal law.


5 Accordingly,

6 **IT IS ORDERED** the Report and Recommendation (Doc. 15) is **ADOPTED**. The
7 petition for writ of habeas corpus (Doc. 6) is **DENIED** and **DISMISSED WITH**
8 **PREJUDICE**.

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** a Certificate of Appealability and leave to proceed
10 in forma pauperis on appeal are **DENIED** because the dismissal of the petition is justified
11 as the Petitioner has not demonstrated a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional
12 right.

13 Dated this 17th day of May, 2022.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28



Honorable Roslyn O. Silver
Senior United States District Judge

MIME-Version:1.0 From:azddb_responses@azd.uscourts.gov To:azddb_nefs@localhost.localdomain
Message-Id: Subject:Activity in Case 2:21-cv-01742-ROS Carrillo v. Shinn et al Clerks Judgment
Content-Type: text/html

This is an automatic e-mail message generated by the CM/ECF system. Please DO NOT RESPOND to this e-mail because the mail box is unattended.

*****NOTE TO PUBLIC ACCESS USERS***** Judicial Conference of the United States policy permits attorneys of record and parties in a case (including pro se litigants) to receive one free electronic copy of all documents filed electronically, if receipt is required by law or directed by the filer. PACER access fees apply to all other users. To avoid later charges, download a copy of each document during this first viewing. However, if the referenced document is a transcript, the free copy and 30 page limit do not apply.

U.S. District Court

DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered on 5/18/2022 at 8:15 AM MST and filed on 5/18/2022

Case Name: Carrillo v. Shinn et al

Case Number: 2:21-cv-01742-ROS

Filer:

**WARNING: CASE CLOSED on
05/18/2022**

Document Number: 20

Docket Text:

CLERK'S JUDGMENT – Adopting the Report and Recommendation of the Magistrate Judge as the order of this Court. Petitioner's Amended Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 is denied and this action is hereby dismissed with prejudice. (DXD)

2:21-cv-01742-ROS Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Alexander Michael Taber Alexander.Taber@azag.gov, CAcket@azag.gov, Yvonne.Garcia@azag.gov

2:21-cv-01742-ROS Notice will be sent by other means to those listed below if they are affected by this filing:

Francisco Nunez Carrillo
141543
ELOY-AZ-RED ROCK-CC
RED ROCK CORRECTIONAL CENTER
1752 E ARICA RD.
ELOY, AZ 85131

The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:

Document description:Main Document

Original filename:n/a

Electronic document Stamp:

1
2
3
4
5
6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**
8

9 Francisco Nunez Carrillo,

10 Petitioner,

11 v.

12 David Shinn, et al.,

13 Respondents.
14

NO. CV-21-01742-PHX-ROS

JUDGMENT IN A CIVIL CASE

15 **Decision by Court.** This action came for consideration before the Court. The
16 issues have been considered and a decision has been rendered.

17 IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED adopting the Report and Recommendation
18 of the Magistrate Judge as the order of this Court. Petitioner's Amended Petition for Writ
19 of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 is denied and this action is hereby
20 dismissed with prejudice.

21 Debra D. Lucas

District Court Executive/Clerk of Court

22
23 May 18, 2022

24 s/ D. Draper

By Deputy Clerk
25
26
27
28

1 WO

2
3
4
5
6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
8

9 Francisco Nunez Carrillo,

10 Petitioner,

11 v.

12 David Shinn, et al.,

13 Respondents.
14

No. CV-21-01742-PHX-ROS (MHB)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

15 TO THE HONORABLE ROSLYN O. SILVER, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
16 JUDGE:

17 On October 5, 2021, Petitioner Francisco Nunez Carrillo, who is confined in the
18 Arizona State Prison, Redrock Correctional Center, Eloy, Arizona, filed a pro se Petition
19 for Writ of Habeas Corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (hereinafter “habeas petition”).¹
20 (Doc. 1.) The Court dismissed that petition without prejudice and with leave to amend
21 because Petitioner did not allege any supporting facts. (Doc. 5.) On November 2, 2021,
22 Petitioner filed an amended habeas petition. (Doc. 6.) On February 11, 2022, Respondents
23 filed an Answer, to which Petitioner has replied. (Docs. 12, 14.)

24 **PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

25 On October 1, 2018, Petitioner was indicted by a State of Arizona grand jury on two
26

27 ¹ This Court will consider Petitioner’s filings as having been filed on the date on which he
28 signed and delivered the document to the prison authorities for filing, not the date on which
the Court accepted the document for filing. See, Huizar v. Cary, 273 F.3d 1220, 1223 (9th
Cir. 2001) (applying “prison mailbox rule” in construing filing date); Butler v. Long, 752
F.3d 1177, 1178 n. 1 (9th Cir. 2014).

1 counts of aggravated assault, class 3 felony dangerous offenses (counts one and two), one
2 count of unlawful discharge of firearm (count three), a class 6 dangerous felony, and one
3 count misconduct involving weapons (count 4), a class 4 felony. (Doc. 12, Exh. C.) Counts
4 one and two charged, in pertinent part:

5 Count One: [Petitioner], on or about September 21, 2008, using a handgun,
6 a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, intentionally, knowingly or
7 recklessly did cause a physical injury to [P.O.].

8 Count Two: [Petitioner], on or about September 21, 2018, intentionally,
9 knowingly or recklessly did cause a serious physical injury to [P.O.].

10 Petitioner proceeded to trial and was convicted after six days of trial of both counts
11 of aggravated assault, and one count of unlawful discharge of a firearm.² (Doc. 12, Exh. K
12 at 17-20.) After the aggravation and dangerousness phase of the trial, the jury found all
13 three counts to be dangerous offenses, and found as to count one the following aggravating
14 factors: (1) the way the defendant assaulted or attacked the victim caused severe or extreme
15 pain, and (2) the offenses caused physical, emotional, or financial harm to the victim. (*Id.*)
16 As to count two, the jury found the following aggravating factors: (1) the offense involved
17 the use, threatened use or possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument, and (2)
18 the offense caused physical, emotional, or financial harm to the victim. (*Id.*)

19 On August 26, 2019, Petitioner appeared for sentencing. (Doc. 12, Exh. P.) The
20 Court, having found that Petitioner had five prior felony convictions, sentenced Petitioner
21 to a less than maximum sentence of 24 years on counts one and two, and a presumptive
22 sentence of 3.75 years on count three, with the sentences on all three counts ordered to be
23 served concurrently. (*Id.*)

24 Petitioner appealed his convictions and sentences to the Arizona Court of Appeals.
25 (Doc. 12, Exh. Q.) Appointed counsel filed an opening brief in which he indicated that
26 despite having searched the record on appeal in compliance with Anders v. California, 386
27

28 ² The court granted the state's later motion to dismiss the charge of misconduct involving
weapons. (Doc. 12, Exh. O.)

1 U.S. 738 (1967), he could find “no arguable nonfrivolous issues to raise on direct review.”
2 (Id., Exh. R.) The appellate court granted Petitioner time to file a supplemental brief in
3 *propria persona*, but Petitioner did not do so. (Id., Exhs. S, T, V.)

4 In its Memorandum Decision issued on July 16, 2020, the Arizona Court of Appeals
5 indicated it had reviewed the record for arguable issues, determined Petitioner’s two
6 aggravated assault convictions to be multiplicitous and vacated Petitioner’s second
7 conviction and sentence for aggravated assault. (Doc. 12, Exh. V.) In its decision the court
8 set forth the pertinent facts as follows:

9 On September 21, 2028, Carrillo, Carrillo’s sister (Z.C.), and her
10 husband (P.O.), were gathered at Carrillo’s aunt’s apartment. Z.C. and P.O.
11 began to argue, and Z.C. left the apartment in the couple’s car. Unwilling to
12 walk home, P.O. walked to a nearby convenience store to purchase alcohol.
13 When he returned to the apartment, P.O. noticed his phone battery was nearly
14 dead, so he went into a bedroom to charge his phone. As P.O. did so, Carrillo
15 entered the bedroom with a handgun and shot him. The bullet penetrated
16 through P.O.’s abdomen, burying itself into the drywall behind him. Carrillo
17 attempted to fire the gun again, but it jammed.

18 When police arrived at the scene, they arrested Carrillo nearby and
19 found the handgun, its slide still jammed open, lying on the concrete outside
20 the open apartment door. Inside the apartment, officers discovered P.O. in
21 the bedroom in severe medical distress and sent him to a hospital for
22 emergency treatment. Officers photographed the scene, recovered the bullet
23 that had struck P.O. from the drywall, and found a spent casing and a box of
24 ammunition. The ammunition in the box and within the handgun was the
25 same caliber and brand as the spent casing and bullet that struck P.O.

26 At the police station, Carrillo consented to an interview with Detective
27 David Thompson after receiving Miranda [] warnings. During the interview
28 Carrillo initially claimed that P.O. shot himself. Eventually, Carrillo admitted
that he had shot P.O.

P.O. underwent emergency surgery. Due to the damage caused by the
gunshot, doctors removed P.O.’s kidneys, adrenal glands, spleen and
gallbladder, as well as a portion of his liver. P.O. also suffered a spinal
fracture that required neurosurgery. Although P.O. survived the surgeries, his
treating physicians believed there was a genuine risk that he would die from
his injuries. Around a week later – when P.O. had recovered enough to speak
– Detective Thompson interviewed him about the shooting. P.O. claimed he
did not know who shot him.

1 * * *

2 In February 2019, while Carrillo's trial was still pending, P.O.
3 contacted Detective Thompson and requested to make a statement. During
4 the second interview, P.O. admitted he had lied in the first interview and then
5 identified Carrillo as the shooter.

6 The court held a six-day jury trial in May and June 2019. During the
7 trial, the State called P.O., the law-enforcement officers who investigated the
8 shooting, and P.O.'s treating physicians to testify about the circumstances
9 surrounding the crimes and the extent of P.O.'s injuries. When questioned
10 about changing his statement to the police, P.O. explained that he initially
11 refused to identify Carrillo to avoid betraying his wife and to protect her
12 family. When his wife failed to support him in the wake of the assault,
13 however, P.O. decided to come forward and identify Carrillo as the shooter.
14 P.O. also testified that, because of his injuries, he was unable to work, could
15 not drive or play sports, and would be forced to undergo regular medical
16 treatments for the rest of his life. After the State's case, Carrillo declined to
17 testify or present evidence in his defense.

18 (Id. at 2-3.)

19 The appellate court found that Petitioner's two convictions for aggravated assault
20 were multiplicitous, as they were two charges for "a single offense" in violation of the
21 double jeopardy clause of the United States Constitution. (Doc. 12, Exh. V at 5.)
22 Petitioner's two aggravated assault charges "stemmed from only one act – shooting P.O."
23 (Id.) The appellate court vacated the second aggravated assault conviction, as "the court
24 sentenced [Carrillo] under the same sentencing scheme" for both counts. (Id.)

25 Petitioner filed a pro se petition for review in the Arizona Supreme Court asserting
26 that review should be granted as the "multiplicitous prosecution violates the double
27 jeopardy [clause] of the United States Constitution," and that the court of appeals had found
28 the aggravated assault counts to be multiplicitous. (Doc. 12, Exh. Y.) The Arizona Supreme
29 Court denied review on March 4, 2021. (Id., Exh. Z.)

30 On July 23, 2020, Petitioner filed a notice of post-conviction relief ("PCR") in the
31 trial court, in which he indicated that he would be raising a claim that "[n]ewly discovered
32 material facts probably exist, and those facts probably would have changed the judgment
33 or sentence." (Doc. 12, Exh. BB.) The trial court appointed counsel to represent him, but

1 counsel was “unable to find a colorable issue to submit to the court,” and filed a Notice of
2 Completion of the Post-Conviction Review by Counsel indicating as such. (Id., Exh. DD.)
3 Although the trial court gave Petitioner until December 21, 2020, to file a pro se petition,
4 Petitioner filed a PCR petition on October 25, 2020, raising the following claims.

- 5 • He was denied the effective assistance of counsel;
- 6 • The State “used a coerced confession at trial” and the State “suppressed favorable
7 evidence”;
- 8 • The State used “perjured testimony”;
- 9 • The State violated his right “not to be placed twice in jeopardy for the same offense
10 or punished twice for the same act”;
- 11 • The State “used a prior conviction that was obtained in violation of the United States
12 and Arizona Constitution;
- 13 • The existence of a new constitutional right not recognized as existing at the time of
14 trial;
- 15 • Newly discovered material facts that probably would change the judgment or
16 sentence.

17 Petitioner essentially checked the boxes on the PCR form relating to these various
18 claims, without providing any additional facts or law in support, except with respect to his
19 claim of newly discovered evidence. As to this claim, Petitioner wrote that his trial counsel
20 “never interviewed witnesses on his behalf” and “[n]ever objected when prosecutor
21 sanitized victim record.” (Doc. 12, Exh. DD.) On November 23, 2020, Petitioner filed a
22 second PCR petition, again claiming ineffective assistance of counsel. (Id., Exh. HH.)
23 Specifically, Petitioner alleged:

24 Trial counsel [] failed to prepare on my behalf, never interviewed
25 witnesses on my behalf, failed to object, argues that victim shot himself when
26 claimed self defense, jury wanted to know why was [V] or [Z] not brought
27 in for trial. It’s clear on record that trial counsel fell below an objective
28 standard or reasonableness and that there is a reasonable probability that but
for counsels unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have
been different. Not only that was charged twice for one act which violates

1 the United States constitution even when court imposes concurrent sentence.
2 Also trial court counsel used report from 2010. I feel he wasn't competent
3 and ask that you may grant petition and review record. . . . My trial lawyer
4 should've challenged that a person can't be charged twice and filed motion
5 and had case dismissed, but he didn't; feel he sided with the judge and
6 prosecutor. So with all that behind, I'm sentence to 24 years with a self
7 incriminating statement, "trial lawyer with." The act or omission, neglected
8 my case, then says he's retired is coming soon. There were neighbors who
9 heard commotion or fighting they were never in trial jury deserved to hear
10 truth, victim lied on stand, detective interviewed me didn't smell liquor on
11 my breath I was at a legally place legally allowed to be at.

12 Finally, direct appeal lawyer also never scrutinize the record like he
13 said he would. Then come to find out appeals court found these errors. There
14 might even be more errors.

15 (Id., Exh. HH)

16 The trial court denied relief on March 24, 2021. (Doc. 12, Exh. LL.) As to
17 Petitioner's claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, the trial court found that Petitioner
18 "fails to set forth any facts or law that would support that any of those acts were deficient
19 performance or that those acts prejudiced the defendant." (Id. at 2.) As to appellate
20 counsel's purported failure to raise double jeopardy on appeal, the trial court found that
21 Petitioner "failed to state why he was prejudiced as the Court of Appeals has vacated the
22 second conviction." (Id.) The trial court also found Petitioner precluded from relief
23 pursuant to Arizona Rule of Criminal Procedure 32.2(a)(2) on his double jeopardy claim,
24 as the argument was "addressed on appeal and the second conviction for aggravated assault
25 was vacated." (Id.)

26 On the remaining issues raised by Petitioner in his PCR petition, the trial court held
27 that Petitioner "merely checked a box on a form and did not allege any facts or law to
28 support the remaining issues" and therefore "failed to state a colorable claim." (Doc. 12,
Exh. LL at 3.) Petitioner filed a petition for review of the trial court's decision regarding
his claims of double jeopardy, newly discovered evidence, new material facts that would
change the judgment or sentence, and ineffective assistance of counsel. (Id., Exh. NN.) The
Arizona Court of Appeals granted review but denied relief on September 23, 2021, finding

1 that, after reviewing the record in the matter, Petitioner had not carried his burden of
2 demonstrating that the trial court abused its discretion. (Id., Exh. OO.)

3 In Petitioner's habeas petition, he raises the following claims:

4 Ground One: a conviction and sentence that violate the United States
5 or other federal laws.

6 Ground Two: conviction that was obtained, or sentence imposed, in
7 violation of the United States or Arizona Constitutions.

8 Ground Three: newly discovered evidence and a double jeopardy
9 violation due to a multiplicitous prosecution.

10 Ground Four: unlawful sentence due to being tried twice for the same
11 offense.

12 (Doc. 6.)

13 Respondents assert that Petitioner's four claims, read together are in reality just one
14 claim that aggravated assault convictions were multiplicitous, and that Petitioner's claim
15 should be denied on its merits.

16 **MERITS**

17 Pursuant to the AEDPA, a federal court "shall not" grant habeas relief with respect
18 to "any claim that was adjudicated on the merits in State court proceedings" unless the state
19 court decision was (1) contrary to, or an unreasonable application of, clearly established
20 federal law as determined by the United States Supreme Court; or (2) based on an
21 unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence presented in the state court
22 proceeding. See 28 U.S.C. § 2254(d); Williams v. Taylor, 529 U.S. 362, 412-13 (2000)
23 (O'Connor, J., concurring and delivering the opinion of the Court as to the AEDPA
24 standard of review). This standard is "difficult to meet." Harrington v. Richter, 562 U.S.
25 86, 102 (2011). It is also a "highly deferential standard for evaluating state court rulings,
26 which demands that state court decisions be given the benefit of the doubt." Woodford v.
27 Visciotti, 537 U.S. 19, 24 (2002) (per curiam) (citation and internal quotation marks
28

omitted). “When applying these standards, the federal court should review the ‘last reasoned decision’ by a state court” Robinson v. Ignacio, 360 F.3d 1044, 1055 (9th Cir. 2004).

A state court’s decision is “contrary to” clearly established precedent if (1) “the state court applies a rule that contradicts the governing law set forth in [Supreme Court] cases,” or (2) “if the state court confronts a set of facts that are materially indistinguishable from a decision of [the Supreme Court] and nevertheless arrives at a result different from [its] precedent.” Williams, 529 U.S. at 404-05. “A state court’s decision can involve an ‘unreasonable application’ of Federal law if it either 1) correctly identifies the governing rule but then applies it to a new set of facts in a way that is objectively unreasonable, or 2) extends or fails to extend a clearly established legal principle to a new context in a way that is objectively unreasonable.” Hernandez v. Small, 282 F.3d 1132, 1142 (9th Cir. 2002).

DISCUSSION

This Court agrees with Respondents that Petitioner’s habeas claims, read together, raise one issue, and that is a purported double jeopardy violation due to a multiplicitous indictment. At the outset, Respondents state that Petitioner did not raise this claim on direct review to the Arizona Court of Appeals and thus has not exhausted his claim. See Swoopes v. Sublett, 196 F.3d 1008, 1010 (9th Cir. 1999) (In Arizona, “claims of Arizona state prisoners are exhausted for purposes of federal habeas once the Arizona Court of Appeals has ruled on them.”). However, Respondents assert that the claim is nonetheless considered exhausted, as the Arizona Court of Appeals raised the multiplicity issue *sua sponte*. In support of their argument, Respondents cite Walton v. Caspari, 916 F.2d 1352 (8th Cir. 1990). The court in Walton concluded that although a habeas petitioner may not have raised a claim in a state proceeding, it is nonetheless exhausted “if a state court with the authority to make final adjudications actually undertook to decide the claim on its merits.” Id. at 1356 (citation omitted). In Petitioner’s case, the court of appeals reviewed the trial record for error and *sua sponte* addressed the question of whether Petitioner’s two aggravated assault charges and convictions were multiplicitous. This Court agrees that the authority

1 cited by Respondents supports a finding that Petitioner's claim is exhausted.

2 Respondents then address the merits of Petitioner's claim. They argue that the
3 Arizona Court of Appeals' decision that Petitioner's aggravated assault charges and
4 convictions were multiplicitous and that the proper remedy was the dismissal of the second
5 count was not contrary to, or an unreasonable application of clearly established federal law,
6 or an unreasonable determination of the facts developed in state court proceedings.
7 Petitioner argues the appellate court erred because the proper remedy is dismissal of both
8 counts.

9 Petitioner and Respondents both cite Ball v. United States, 470 U.S. 856 (1985) in
10 arguing their positions. The United States Supreme Court in Ball indicated that it had "long
11 acknowledged the Government's broad discretion to conduct criminal prosecutions,
12 including its power to select charges to be brought in a particular case." Id., at 859.
13 Although the government may charge one criminal offense utilizing two theories of guilt,
14 "an accused may not suffer two convictions or sentences on that indictment." Id., at 865.
15 In that case, "the only remedy" is for the trial court "to exercise its discretion to vacate one
16 of the underlying convictions." Id., at 864.

17 The Ninth Circuit has interpreted Ball to require that the trial court vacate one of the
18 two statutory offenses as the remedy for multiplicity. See, United States v. Zalapa, 509
19 F.3d 1060, 1063 (9th Cir. (2007) ("In accordance with Ball, we therefore remand to the
20 district court with instructions to vacate the multiplicitous conviction, sentence, and [] for
21 one of the two counts."); see also, United States v. Burns, 990 F.2d 1426, 1438 (4th Cir.
22 1993) ("Even where the defendant has suffered multiple convictions and faces multiple
23 sentences, the appropriate remedy is to vacate all but one."), citing Ball, 470 U.S. at 864-
24 65. Other Circuits have ordered the merger of multiplicitous counts into one as the proper
25 remedy. See, United States v. Platter, 514 F.3d 782, 787 (8th Cir. 2008) (proper remedy
26 for multiplicitous charges is merger of charges into one). Petitioner cites no authority to
27 support an argument that the proper remedy is to dismiss both counts that are
28 multiplicitous.

1 The Arizona Court of Appeals in its decision noted that “aggravated assault, as
 2 defined in A.R.S. § 13-1204(A), constitutes a single offense that may be committed in
 3 several ways,” such that a defendant “cannot be convicted twice of aggravated assault
 4 arising from a single act.” (Doc. 12, Exh. V.) As Petitioner’s two assault charges arose
 5 from a single act – the shooting of P.O. – the court concluded that the aggravated assault
 6 charges were multiplicitous. (*Id.*) The court then vacated Petitioner’s second aggravated
 7 assault conviction and sentence. The court’s conclusion that Petitioner’s aggravated assault
 8 charges were multiplicitous, and that the proper remedy was to vacate the conviction and
 9 sentence on count two was not contrary to, or an unreasonable application of clearly
 10 established federal law as determined by the United States Supreme Court.

11 **CONCLUSION**

12 Having determined that Petitioner’s claims in his amended habeas petition lack
 13 merit, the Court will recommend the petition be denied and dismissed with prejudice.

14 **IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED** that Petitioner’s amended Petition for
 15 Writ of Habeas Corpus (Doc. 6) **DENIED and DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**;

16 **IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED** that a Certificate of Appealability and leave
 17 to proceed *in forma pauperis* on appeal be **DENIED** because the dismissal of the Petition
 18 is justified as the Petitioner has not demonstrated a substantial showing of the denial of a
 19 constitutional right.

20 This recommendation is not an order that is immediately appealable to the Ninth
 21 Circuit Court of Appeals. Any notice of appeal pursuant to Rule 4(a)(1), Federal Rules of
 22 Appellate Procedure, should not be filed until entry of the district court’s judgment. The
 23 parties shall have fourteen days from the date of service of a copy of this recommendation
 24 within which to file specific written objections with the Court. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1);
 25 Rules 72, 6(a), 6(b), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Thereafter, the parties have fourteen
 26 days within which to file a response to the objections. Pursuant to Rule 7.2, Local Rules of
 27 Civil Procedure for the United States District Court for the District of Arizona, objections
 28 to the Report and Recommendation may not exceed seventeen (17) pages in length. Failure

1 timely to file objections to the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation may result
2 in the acceptance of the Report and Recommendation by the district court without further
3 review. See United States v. Reyna-Tapia, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). Failure
4 timely to file objections to any factual determinations of the Magistrate Judge will be
5 considered a waiver of a party's right to appellate review of the findings of fact in an order
6 or judgment entered pursuant to the Magistrate Judge's recommendation. See Rule 72,
7 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

8 Dated this 25th day of March, 2022.

9
10 

11 _____
12 Honorable Michelle H. Burns
13 United States Magistrate Judge
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FILED

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

JAN 13 2023

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

FRANCISCO NUNEZ CARRILLO,

Petitioner-Appellant,

v.

DAVID SHINN, Director; ATTORNEY
GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF
ARIZONA,

Respondents-Appellees.

No. 22-15797

D.C. No. 2:21-cv-01742-ROS
District of Arizona,
Phoenix

ORDER

Before: CANBY and BERZON, Circuit Judges.

Appellant's motion for reconsideration (Docket Entry No. 6) is denied. *See*
9th Cir. R. 27-10.

No further filings will be entertained in this closed case.

"APPENDIX H"