

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	
	)	
v.	)	Criminal No. 23-CR-10223-RGS
	)	
CRIAG CLAYTON,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**PRELIMINARY ORDER OF FORFEITURE**

**STEARNS, D.J.**

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2023, the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts filed a two-count Information, charging defendant Craig Clayton (the “Defendant”), with Conspiracy to Commit Money Laundering, in violation of [18 U.S.C. § 1956\(h\)](#) (Count One); and Obstruction of Justice, in violation of [18 U.S.C. § 1512\(c\)\(2\)](#) (Count Two).

WHEREAS, the Information also included a forfeiture allegation, pursuant to [18 U.S.C. § 982\(a\)\(1\)](#), which provided notice that the United States intended to seek the forfeiture, upon conviction of the Defendant of the offense alleged in Count One of the Information of any property, real or personal, involved in such offenses, and any property traceable to such property. Such property specifically included, without limitation:

- (a) \$96,000 in United States currency, to be entered in the form of an Order of Forfeiture (Money Judgment);
- (b) A 2016 Mercedes Benz VIN WDC0G4KB9GF085486, seized on February 23, 2023, at 52 Parkside Drive, Cranston, RI;
- (c) \$138,773.01 U.S. Currency from Navigant Credit Union account ending 9165, seized on March 1, 2023;

- (d) \$72,597.50 U.S. Currency from Navigant Credit Union account ending 4961, seized on March 1, 2023;
- (e) \$20,260.96 U.S. Currency from Navigant Credit Union account ending 8962, seized on March 1, 2023;
- (f) \$1,584.98 U.S. Currency from Navigant Credit Union account ending 5711, seized on March 1, 2023; and
- (g) \$990.00 U.S. Currency seized on February 23, 2023, at 52 Parkside Drive, Cranston, RI.

(collectively, the assets listed in the Information b.-g. are the “Properties”).

WHEREAS, the Information further provided that, if any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission by the Defendant, (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty, the United States is entitled to seek forfeiture of any other property of the Defendant, up to the value of such assets, pursuant to [21 U.S.C. § 853\(p\)](#), as incorporated by [18 U.S.C. § 982\(b\)](#).

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2025, at a hearing pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Defendant pled guilty to Count One of the Information;

WHEREAS, in Section 7 of the plea agreement, the Defendant admitted that the Properties are subject to forfeiture because they were involved in the Defendant’s offense charged in Count One of the Information;

WHEREAS, based on the Defendant’s guilty plea, the United States has established the requisite nexus between the Properties and the offenses of which the Defendant pled guilty, and,

accordingly, the Properties are subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1);

WHEREAS, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) and Rule 32.2(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States is now entitled to a Preliminary Order of Forfeiture against the Properties.

ACCORDINGLY, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that:

1. The Court finds, based upon the Defendant's guilty plea, that the government has established the requisite nexus between the Properties and the offenses to which the Defendant has pled guilty.

2. The Court shall retain jurisdiction for purposes of enforcing this Order.

3. Accordingly, all of Defendant's interests in the Properties are hereby forfeited to the United States of America for disposition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1).

4. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States is hereby authorized to seize the Properties and maintain them in its secure custody and control.

5. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), the United States shall publish, for thirty (30) consecutive calendar days on the government forfeiture website www.forfeiture.gov, notice of the Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and notice of the United States' intent to dispose of the Properties.

6. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), the United States shall give to the extent practicable, direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the Properties to be forfeited.

7. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2) and (3), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), the notice referred to above shall state: (a) that any person, other than the Defendant asserting a

legal interest in the Properties, shall, within sixty (60) days after the first day of publication on the government forfeiture website or within thirty (30) days after receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier, file a petition with the United States District Court in Boston, Massachusetts, requesting a hearing to adjudicate the validity of his or her interest in the Properties; and (b) that the petition shall be signed by the petitioner under the penalty of perjury and shall set forth the nature and extent of the petitioner's right, title, or interest in the Properties, the time and circumstances of the petitioner's acquisition of the right, title, or interest in the Properties, any additional facts supporting the petitioner's claim, and the relief sought.

8. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(7), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 982(b), following the Court's disposition of all petitions filed under 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(6), or if no such petitions are filed following the expiration of the period provided in 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(2) for the filing of such petitions, the United States of America shall have clear title to the Properties.

9. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 982(a)(1) and Rule 32.2(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in which all interests will be addressed.

10. Pursuant to Rule 32.2(b)(4) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, this Preliminary Order of Forfeiture will become final as to the Defendant at the time of his sentencing, will be part of the Defendant's criminal sentence, and will be included in the criminal judgment entered by this Court against him.

Dated: 9/17/2025

/s/ Richard G. Stearns  
**RICHARD G. STEARNS**  
United States District Judge