

MURPHY ORLANDO LLC
Attorneys at Law

30 MONTGOMERY STREET • 11TH FLOOR • JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302

tel 201.451.5000 • fax 201.451.5000

WWW.MURPHYORLANDO.COM

April 1, 2020

Via ECF

Hon. Kevin McNulty, U.S.D.J.
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Bldg. & U.S. Courthouse
50 Walnut Street
Courtroom P.O. 3
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: United States v. Melvin Feliz, 0312 2:15CR00421-1

Release of Mr. Feliz pending sentencing due to COVID-19

Dear Judge McNulty:

Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act, the undersigned represents the Defendant, Melvin Feliz, in the above-referenced matter (the "Fraud Case"). Please accept this letter *in lieu* of a formal motion for the compassionate release of Mr. Feliz, pending his sentencing, due to COVID-19.

Mr. Feliz, a 54 year-old man, is currently incarcerated at Essex County Correctional Facility, pending sentencing. We are attempting to schedule a sentencing for late May, 2020, before the Hon. Kevin McNulty, U.S.D.J. Mr. Feliz has been incarcerated at ECCF since December of 2014.

Mr. Feliz is a non-violent offender with no history of violence. As a 54 year-old male, Mr. Feliz is at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19 than most of the other inmates and corrections officers at ECCF. In addition, Mr. Feliz has indicated that in recent years he has experienced pulmonary issues related to a persistent cough. Indeed, in 2014, prior to his incarceration, while he was on electronic monitoring, Mr. Feliz consulted with a pulmonologist concerning a persistent cough. It is my understanding that this visit was cleared and confirmed by Pretrial at the time.

Mr. Feliz has presented a bail package to Pretrial that includes a third-party custodian, a co-signer, a place to live, and home detention/incarceration. It is my understanding that Pretrial Officer David Hernandez has reviewed this package and



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has approved the proposed custodian and co-signer. Officer Hernandez is cc'd on this submission as is AUSA Andrew Kogan.

As this is a time-sensitive request, I am available at the Court's convenience for a hearing or to provide additional information.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

MURPHY ORLANDO, LLC

s/ Jason F. Orlando
Jason F. Orlando, Esq.

cc: AUSA Andrew Kogan (via email)
Pretrial Officer David Hernandez (via email)
Patrick Joyce, Esq. (via email)