

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
District of Columbia

United States of America
v.

Thomas Paul Conover
DOB: XXXXXX

Defendant(s)

Case: 1:21-mj-00677
Assigned To : Harvey, G. Michael
Assign. Date : 12/3/2021
Description: COMPLAINT W/ ARREST WARRANT

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of January 6, 2021 in the county of in the
in the District of Columbia, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

- 18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1)—Entering and Remaining in a Restricted Building or Grounds
18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2)—Disorderly and Disruptive Conduct in a Restricted Building or Grounds
40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D)—Disorderly Conduct in a Capitol Building
40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G)—Parading, Demonstrating, or Picketing in a Capitol Building

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached statement of facts.

Continued on the attached sheet.



Special Agent
Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant by telephone in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1.

Date: December 3, 2021

Judge's signature

Digitally signed by
G. Michael Harvey

City and state: Washington, D.C.

G. Michael Harvey, U.S. Magistrate Judge
Printed name and title

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Your affiant, [REDACTED] is a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) and I am assigned to the Dallas field office. Currently, I am tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021. As a Special Agent, I am authorized by law or by a Government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detention, investigation, or prosecution of violations of Federal criminal laws.

The U.S. Capitol is secured twenty-four hours a day by Capitol Police. Restrictions around the Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by USCP. Only authorized people with appropriate identification were allowed access inside the Capitol. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the Capitol was also closed to members of the public.

On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the Capitol, which is located at First Street, SE, in Washington, D.C. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which had taken place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The Joint Session began at approximately 1:00 PM. Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 PM, the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Mike Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the Capitol. As noted above, barricades—both temporary and permanent—were in place around the exterior of the Capitol, and USCP were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol and the proceedings underway inside.

At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway, and the exterior doors and windows of the Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of the USCP attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol. Shortly after 2:00 PM, however, individuals in the crowd forced entry into the Capitol using unlawful methods that included breaking windows and assaulting USCP officers. Others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts.

Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 PM, members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Pence, were instructed to and did evacuate the chambers. Accordingly, the Joint Session of Congress was effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 PM. Vice President Pence remained in the Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the sessions resumed.

During national news coverage of the attack on the Capitol, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the Capitol without permission or authority. One such individual is the defendant, THOMAS PAUL CONOVER.

## **Thomas Paul Conover's Involvement in the January 6 Attack on the Capitol**

Thomas Paul Conover is a resident of Tarrant County, Texas, who appears to go by the name Paul Conover. On Tuesday, January 5, 2021, Conover flew from Dallas, Texas, to Washington, D.C. with a return flight scheduled for Thursday, January 7, 2021. Conover maintains a Facebook account under the name of Paul Conover. A Grand Jury subpoena issued to Facebook confirmed that the Facebook account with the name Paul Conover is in fact owned by an individual known as Paul Conover.

Facebook further confirmed that the telephone number associated with the account is a telephone number—the entirety of which is known to the FBI—that ends in 0510. Records obtained from AT&T for the telephone number ending in 0510 identify the subscriber of said number as Paul Conover. The street address listed on the account—the entirety of which is known to the FBI—is in Keller, Texas. FBI agents searched a law enforcement database and confirmed that the owner of the property at that address in Keller, Texas, is Thomas Paul Conover.

Prior to January 6, 2021, Conover wrote or posted the following statements, in sum and substance, on Facebook:

*December 12, 2020*

**BLAKELY<sup>1</sup>:** NO DON'T TAR AND FEATHER GO TO WASHINGTON ON THE 6TH OF JANUARY AND TAKE OUR COUNTRY BACK, BUT LIKE MOST YOU WILL PROBABLY STAY ON YOUR COUCH. I'M PLANNING ON FLYING IN ON THE 5TH AND RETURNING IN THE 7TH HOPEFULLY!!

**CONOVER:** I'LL GO. WHERE WE STAYING

**BLAKELY:** I'M BOOKING MY FLIGHT THIS EVENING I'LL LOOK FOR ACCOMMODATIONS

**CONOVER:** IS THAT THE ONE YOUR TAKING I'LL BOOK THE SAME WE CAN SHARE A RENT CAR OR DO WE EVEN NEED ONE

**BLAKELY:** SUBWAY AND CITY BIKES

**CONOVER:** OK TOLD THE WIFE I'M IN I BET BRANDON PETERSON WILL GO

**BLAKELY:** PAUL WHAT AIRPORT I'LL BY THAT

**CONOVER:** THAT IS YOUR FLIGHT ON EXPEDIA. DID U BOOK IT?

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<sup>1</sup> "Blakely" likely refers to Kevin Sam Blakely (21-CR-356 (EGS)), a separately apprehended Capitol riot defendant from Collin County, Texas. Blakely and Conover appear together in USCP surveillance video.

*December 24, 2020*

GOING TO WASHINGTON DC WITH BLAKEY [SIC] TO JOIN THE MOB JAN 5TH CMON JOIN US.

*December 26, 2020*

I'LL BE THERE ON THE 6TH

*January 5, 2021*

SHIT STORM IS COMING BUT THAT'S WHAT THE DEMOCRATS WANT

*January 6, 2021*

GREETINGS FROM WASHINGTON DC

WE TOOK THE CAPITAL

*After January 6, 2021*

PEOPLE I HATE TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE BUT THE CAPITAL WAS NOT STORMED THE PEOPLE WALKED IN

I WAS THERE I SAW THE TRUTH

NOTHING INSIDE I WANT SHARED

LET ME EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO YOUR DUMB ASS THE PEOPLE DIDN'T GO TO THE CAPITOL TO OVERTURN AN ELECTION YOU STUPID TWAT THEY WENT THERE TO LET CONGRESS KNOW WE ARE TIRED OF THERE SHIT AND TO OVERTURN THEM, BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE SO FUCKING ARROGANT THEY CHANGEDTHE NARRATIVE

YOU CAN BET YOUR ASS CONGRESS WILL BUILD A WALL NOW

FUN FACT: THE CAPITOL WAS BREACHED BEFORE THE PRESIDENT WAS FINISHED SPEAKING.



**Photos Posted to Conover's Facebook Profile**



***IMAGE 1 and IMAGE 2 (l to r)—Conover holding what appears to be a Starbucks coffee cup and an empty can of Coors Light while standing in the north east plaza of the Capitol grounds; and Conover posing for a picture on Capitol grounds while standing behind a green fence that has a sign attached which reads: AREA CLOSED – BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE BOARD.***

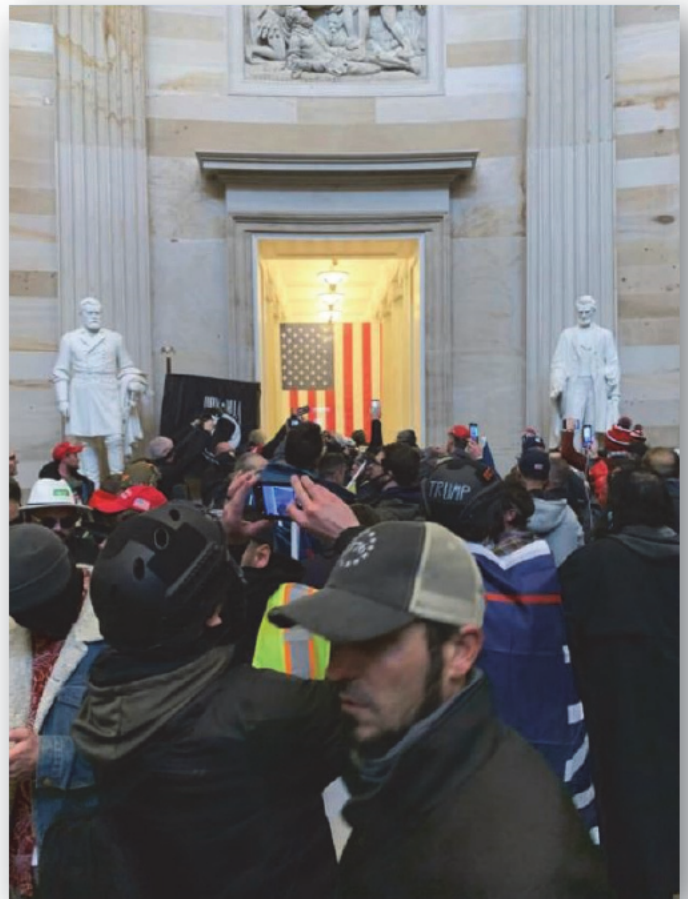


**IMAGE 3** and **IMAGE 4** (l to r)—While USCP officers struggled to keep rioters out of the East Rotunda Doors<sup>2</sup>, an entry which leads directly into the Rotunda and the center of the Capitol, Conover took a selfie with an officer in the background and posted it to social media; and Conover flashing a thumbs up while holding the same can of Coors Light while standing in front of John Trumbull's 1826 oil painting, Declaration of Independence<sup>3</sup>, while wearing a hooded sweatshirt that has the text 1776 FOREVER FREE on the front and FREEDOM across the back.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/art/columbus-doors>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/art/declaration-independence>





**IMAGE 5** and **IMAGE 6** (l to r)—Conover snapping a selfie in front of Trumbull's Declaration of Independence (see above); and a photograph that Conover posted to Facebook showing the west exit of the Rotunda, with Franklin Simmons' 1899 statue of Ulysses S. Grant<sup>4</sup> and Vinnie Ream's 1871 statue of Abraham Lincoln<sup>5</sup> seen just over the heads of the rioters.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/art/ulysses-s-grant-statue>

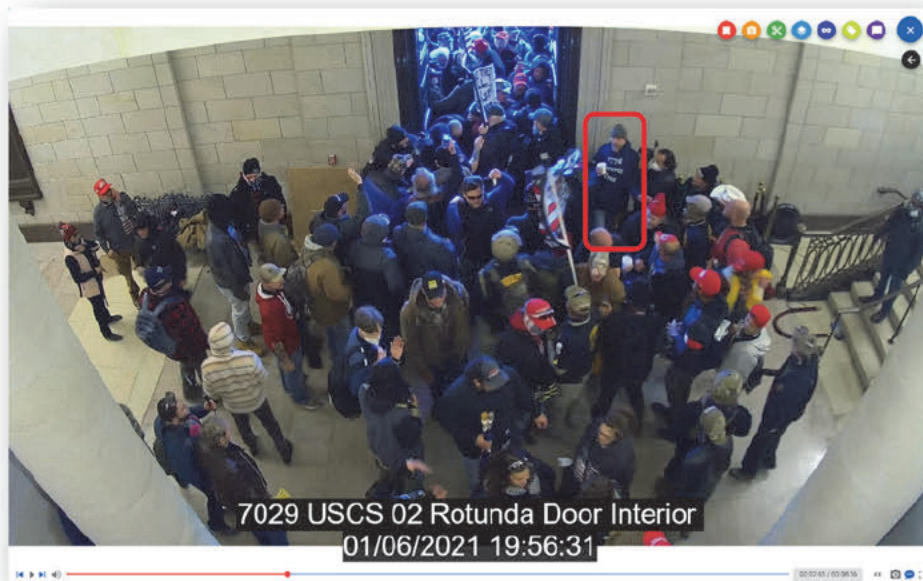
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.aoc.gov/explore-capitol-campus/art/abraham-lincoln>



*IMAGE 7 and IMAGE 8—A photograph posted to Conover’s Facebook profile that shows a television screen, and on it an individual that appears to be Conover as part of an MSNBC news report covering the riot that took place on January 6, 2021; and Conover sitting on the steps of the Capitol with a can of Coors Light.*



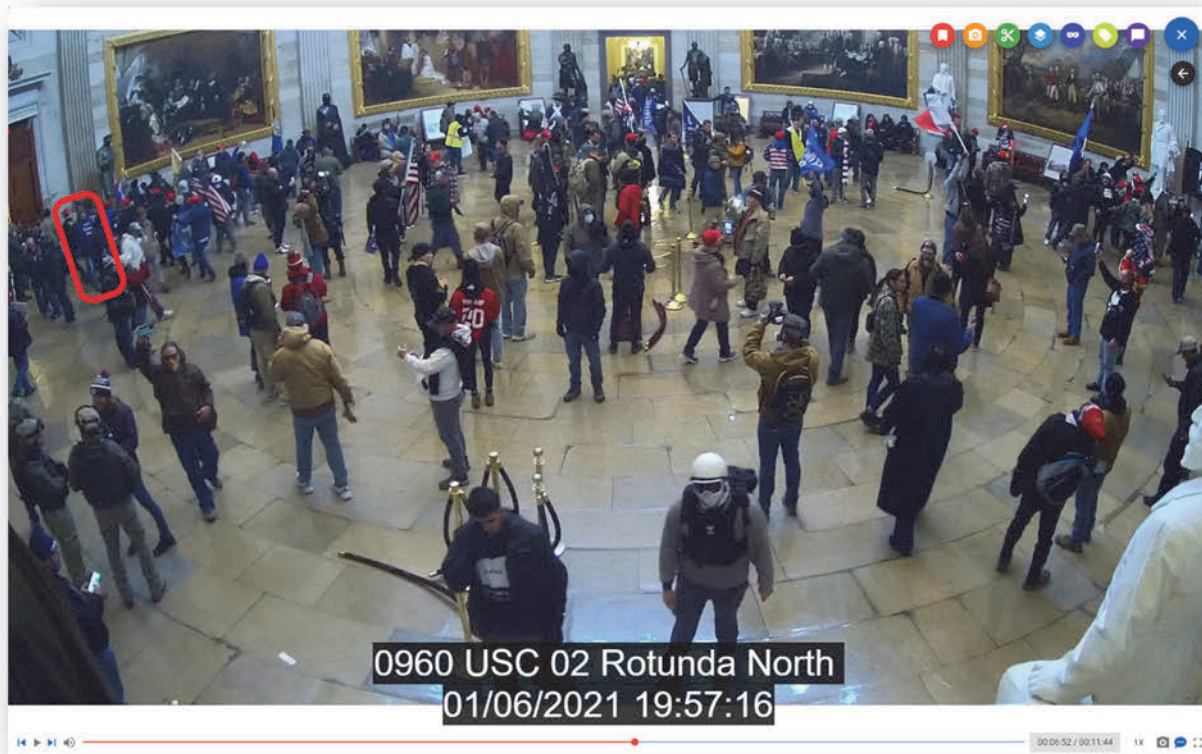
## Conover's Known Activities While Inside the Capitol<sup>6 7</sup>



*IMAGE 9 and IMAGE 10 (top to bottom)—Conover enters the Capitol for the first known time via the Capitol's East Rotunda Doors on January 6, 2021, at approximately 2:56 PM.*

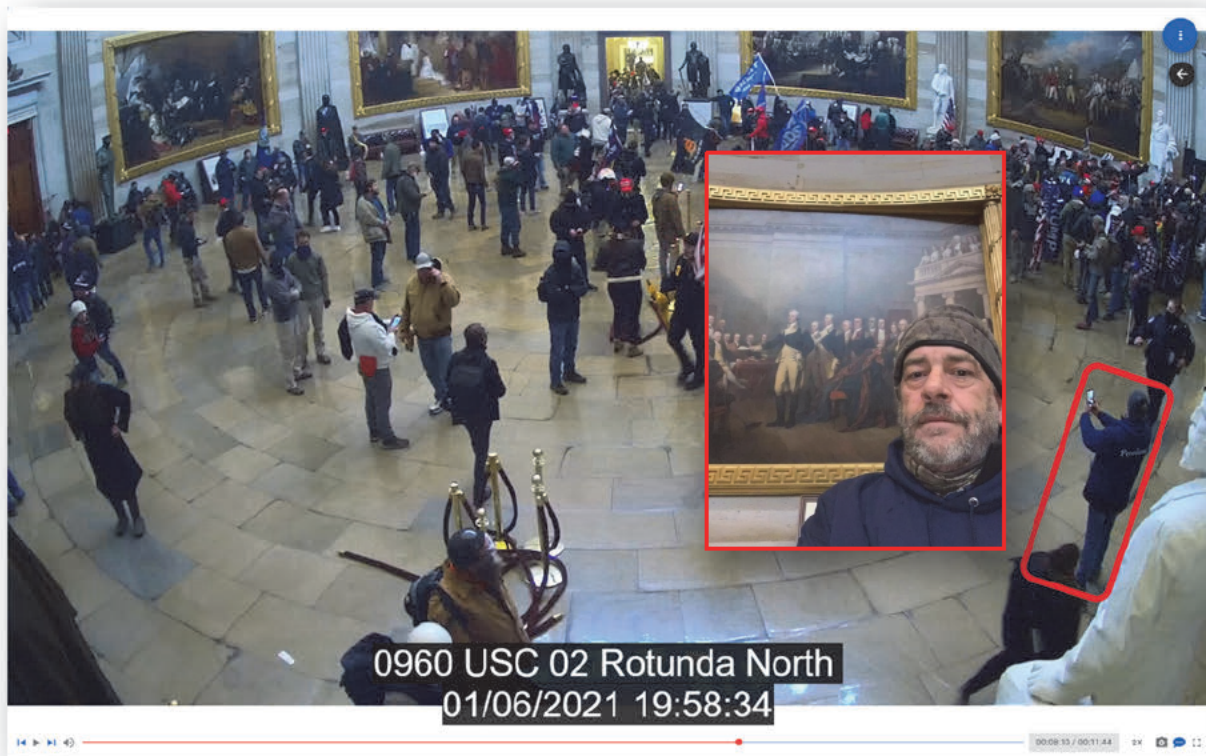
<sup>6</sup> The red rounded squares are not part of the original surveillance footage. They were added during the investigative process to assist anyone who reads the document in quickly finding Conover amongst the sea of rioters.

<sup>7</sup> To the extent they are shown, the timestamps are in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), which on January 6, 2021, was five hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST). For example, a timestamp of 19:00 UTC would indicate an EST of 14:00, or 2:00 PM.



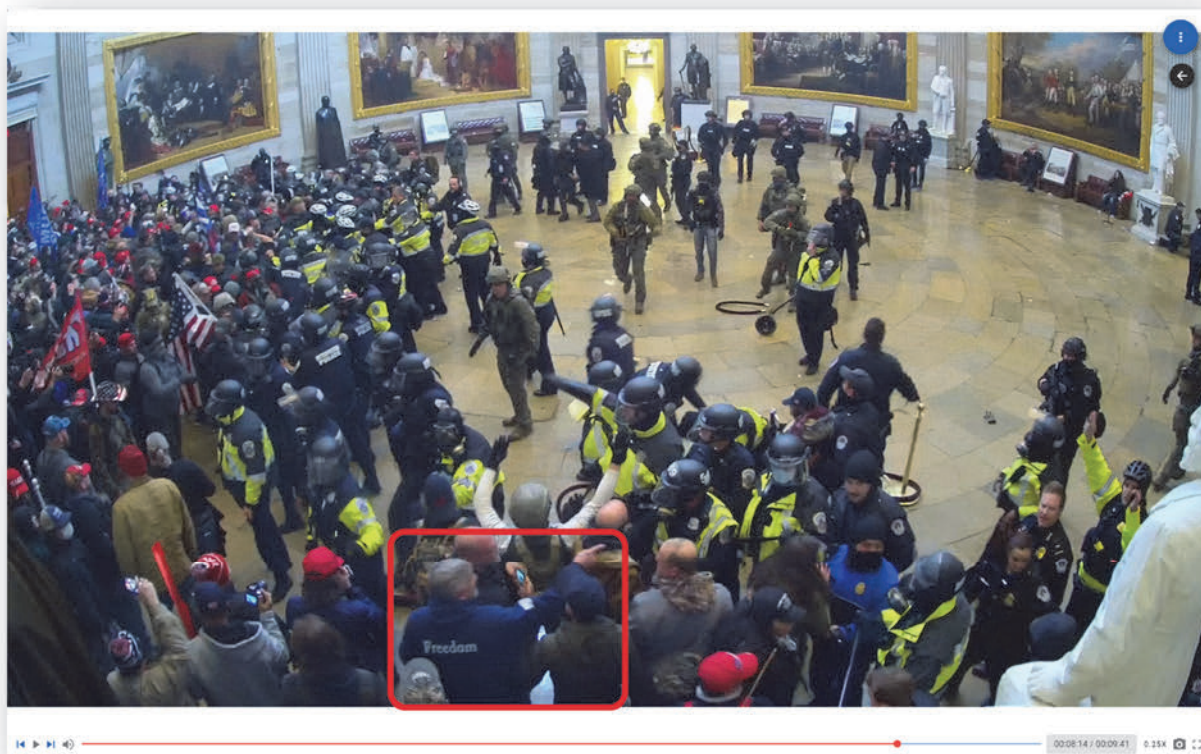
**IMAGE 11** and **IMAGE 12** (top to bottom)—Conover enters the Capitol Rotunda via the Rotunda’s eastern door at approximately 2:57 PM.





*IMAGE 13 and IMAGE 14 (top to bottom)—Conover spends most of the next ten minutes wandering around the Rotunda taking selfies and posing for pictures with his empty can of beer.*





**IMAGE 15** and **IMAGE 16** (top to bottom)—At approximately 3:10 PM, Metropolitan Police Department officers arrived to assist in clearing the Rotunda of rioters. Conover and his acquaintance, Blakely (see above), engaged in several verbal confrontations with MPD officers before leaving.





*IMAGE 17 and IMAGE 18 (top to bottom)—At approximately 3:18 PM, Conover left the Capitol through the East Rotunda Doors.*

### Conover's iCloud Storage

Pursuant to a federally issued search warrant, I received and reviewed relevant content from Conover's iCloud storage account. Conover's iCloud storage account includes photographs and videos that defendant appears to have taken on January 6, 2021. Conover can be seen taking some of the pictures and recording some of the video on USCP surveillance.

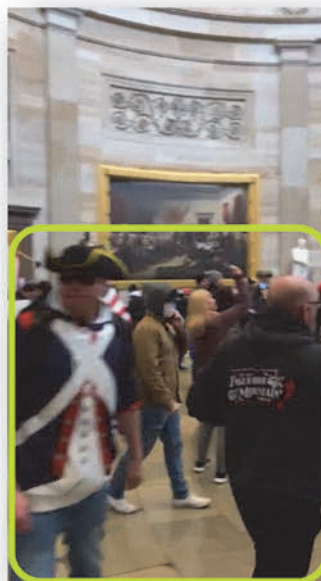


*IMAGE 19—Conover poses with an unidentified individual dressed as President-Elect Joe Biden holding a bag that says BALLOTS on it.*

While inside the Capitol, Conover recorded several videos, including one where he pans around the interior of the Rotunda while giving the following narration, in sum and substance:

THIS IS IT, BOYS AND GIRLS. THIS IS THE CAPITOL. APPARENTLY, THERE'S SOME CRAZY SHIT GOING ON IN THE SENATE TODAY AND THE CERTIFICATION. THEY'VE HAD ENOUGH. WELL, UH, HERE WE ARE! HA HA HA HA!

I PRAY TO GOD THAT NOBODY DOES ANY DAMAGE TO THE STUFF IN HERE, 'CAUSE I'M NOT DOWN WITH THAT. BUT I'M KIND OF, KIND OF PROUD OF THE PEOPLE THAT STOOD UP AND SAID YOU KNOW WHAT? ENOUGH. YOU DON'T SEE PEOPLE SPRAY PAINTING SHIT OR BURNING SHIT DOWN. IT'S REALLY KIND OF COOL. I'M GLAD I CAME.



*IMAGE 20 and IMAGE 21 (l to r)—A screenshot from USCP surveillance and a screenshot from a video filmed by Conover (recovered from Conover's iCloud storage) that show approximately the same moment in time from different angles. Conover is circled in red and the two individuals shown in Conover's video—including the separately apprehended Blakely at right—are circled in light green.*



After leaving the Capitol, Conover continued taking selfies and posing for photos with his empty beer can. While filming one such video, Conover stated in sum and substance: I DON'T ALWAYS STORM THE CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. BUT WHEN I DO, I PREFER COORS LIGHT.



*IMAGE 22—A screenshot from one of two selfie-style videos that Conover filmed of himself. In both videos, Conover stated in sum and substance: I DON'T ALWAYS STORM THE CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. BUT WHEN I DO, I PREFER COORS LIGHT. There is no indication that Conover drank from the can while inside the Capitol.*

### Identification of Conover (WITNESS 1)

On or about February 7, 2021, the FBI received an online tip from an individual whose identity is known to the FBI (WITNESS 1). This individual claimed to know Conover and sent the FBI screenshots of what appear to be Conover bragging on social media about “[having] a beer in the capital [sic] today.”



*IMAGE 23—A screenshot of an apparent conversation on social media between WITNESS 1 and Conover in which WITNESS 1 tells Conover to “Behave..I don’t want to spend my \$2000 to get you out of jail. Conover later responded by boasting that he “had a beer in the capital [sic] today.”*

**Identification of Conover (WITNESS 2)**

On February 22, 2021, FBI Dallas received a letter from a second individual (WITNESS 2) who claimed to be a customer of Conover, the owner of a business known as Dent Texas. WITNESS 2's letter contained screenshots from an MSNBC news segment that captured video of Conover inside the Capitol. WITNESS 2 stated that Conover posted pictures of his time inside the Capitol on his Facebook profile and further stated that Conover can be seen wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt with the word FREEDOM across the back.

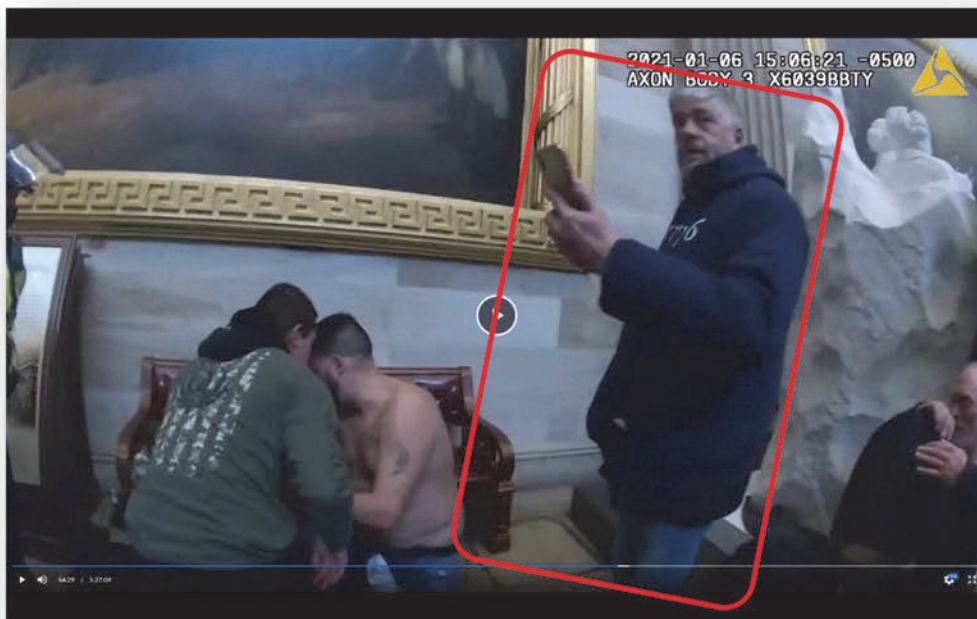


*IMAGE 24—A scan of a picture that was included in the letter from WITNESS 2. The picture appears to be a screenshot of a news report where an individual (identified by WITNESS 2 as Conover) can be seen wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt with FREEDOM written across the back.*



### Images of Conover Inside Capitol from MPD Body Worn Camera

I have reviewed recordings from body worn cameras worn by Metropolitan Police Department officers defending the interior of the Capitol. Screenshots from the body worn camera footage are shown below, with Conover circled in red.



*IMAGE 25—A screenshot from a MPD officer’s body worn camera showing Conover inside the Capitol Rotunda.*



*IMAGE 26 and IMAGE 27 (top to bottom)—Two screenshots from separate MPD officers' body worn camera showing Conover inside the Capitol Rotunda. Image 25 appears to capture approximately the same period in time as Image 16, above.*

**Additional Confirmation of Conover's Identity**

The FBI obtained a copy of the THOMAS PAUL CONOVER's Texas driver's license. The individual in the driver's license photo matches the individual seen in the various images inside of the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Moreover, the Texas driver's license records for Conover list as Conover's the Keller, Texas street address and the telephone number ending in 0510.

**Probable Cause to Issue Arrest Warrant for Thomas Paul Conover**

Based on the foregoing, your affiant submits that there is probable cause to believe that THOMAS PAUL CONOVER violated **18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(1)**—which makes it a crime to knowingly enter or remain in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do; and **18 U.S.C. § 1752(a)(2)**— which makes it a crime to knowingly, and with intent to impede or disrupt the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions, engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct in, or within such proximity to, any restricted building or grounds when, or so that, such conduct, in fact, impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of Government business or official functions; or attempts or conspires to do so.

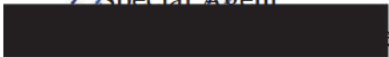
For purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 1752, a “restricted building” includes a posted, cordoned off, or otherwise restricted area of a building or grounds where the President or other person protected by the Secret Service, including the Vice President, is or will be temporarily visiting; or any building or grounds so restricted in conjunction with an event designated as a special event of national significance.

**[THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]**

Your affiant further submits there is also probable cause to believe that THOMAS PAUL CONOVER violated **40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(D)**—which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly utter loud, threatening, or abusive language, or engage in disorderly or disruptive conduct, at any place in the Grounds or in any of the Capitol Buildings with the intent to impede, disrupt, or disturb the orderly conduct of a session of Congress or either House of Congress, or the orderly conduct in that building of a hearing before, or any deliberations of, a committee of Congress or either House of Congress; and, **40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2)(G)**—which makes it a crime to willfully and knowingly parade, demonstrate, or picket in any of the Capitol Buildings



Special Agent



Investigation

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone, this 3rd day of December 2021.

Handwritten signature of G. Michael Harvey in blue ink.

Digitally signed by  
G. Michael Harvey  
Date: 2021.12.03  
11:08:07 -05'00'

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HON. G. MICHAEL HARVEY  
U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE