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8
9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **WESTERN DIVISION**
12

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
14 Plaintiff,
15 v.
16 RUSSELL GOMEZ DZUL,
17 Defendant,

Case No. 25-CR-00503-MAA

**DEFENDANT RUSSELL GOMEZ
DZUL'S MOTION TO COMPEL
PRODUCTION OF GRAND JURY
TRANSCRIPTS; DECLARATION
OF COUNSEL**

Hearing: November 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

18
19 Defendant Russell Gomez Dzul, through undersigned counsel, hereby files this
20 motion to compel grand jury testimony transcript(s).
21

22 Respectfully submitted,

23 CUAUHTEMOC ORTEGA
Federal Public Defender
24

25 DATED: October 2, 2025

By */s/ James S. Threatt*

26 JAMES S. THREATT
27 HANNAH A. BOGEN
Deputy Federal Public Defenders
Attorneys for Russell Gomez Dzul
28

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6 36 F. Supp. 2d 1196 (C.D. Cal. 1999).....7

7 **Federal Rules & Statutes**

8 Fed. Rule Crim. of Proc. 6(e)4

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1 **I.INTRODUCTION**

2 Prior government counsel responsible for this matter indicated that the case
3 would be presented to the grand jury on June 18, 2025. Mr. Gomez Dzul had been
4 arrested on Monday, June 9 and ordered detained. This meant that Monday, June 23
5 was the final day for the government to obtain an indictment. As a practical matter,
6 however, June 18 was the last day because the following day, Thursday, June 19 was a
7 federal holiday and, due to the holiday, the grand jury also would not sit on Friday,
8 June 20. (Declaration of James S. Threatt (“Threatt Decl.”) ¶ 2.) The AUSA then
9 handling the matter specifically told defense counsel that she would go to the grand
10 jury on Wednesday, June 18 to obtain an indictment. (*Id.*) Towards the end of the day
11 on June 18, instead of an indictment, defense counsel was informed that Mr. Gomez
12 had been charged with a Class A misdemeanor by way of information. (*Id.* ¶ 3.)

13 The government has since declined to confirm that a presentation to the grand
14 jury was made. (*Id.* ¶ 4.) According to press reports (and defense counsel’s knowledge
15 from other cases being handled by the Office of the Federal Public Defender), a number
16 of presentations to the grand jury have resulted in grand jurors declining to indict the
17 accused.¹ This is especially salient here because, as set out in Mr. Gomez Dzul’s
18 accompanying motion to suppress, he was essentially arrested for riding his bicycle as a
19 Hispanic man.

20 Witness testimony before a grand jury, especially if said testimony contributed to
21 the grand jury declining to return an indictment, is highly relevant to Mr. Gomez Dzul’s
22 defense under *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and *Giglio v. United States*, 405
23 U.S. 150 (1972). The defense respectfully asks the Court to order the government to
24 produce any transcripts of grand jury proceedings in this matter.

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¹ See, e.g., “Top L.A. Federal Prosecutor Struggles to Secure Protestor
Indictments,” July 23, 2025, available at
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-07-23/protester-charges-essayli>

1 **II.BACKGROUND**

2 On June 7, 2025, Mr. Gomez Dzul was arrested while riding his bicycle when he
3 was racially profiled and arrested by at least two U.S. Border Patrol Agents. He was
4 initially charged on a felony complaint for assaulting a federal officer. (See Exhibit A,
5 Criminal Complaint, 2:25-mj-3509-DUTY.)

6 According to the complaint, CBP officers O.I. and L.M. were “patrolling their
7 assigned area in Los Angeles, California.” (Ex. A ¶ 5.) “At approximately 12:55 p.m.,
8 Agents O.I. and L.M. were on foot in a parking lot attempting to pursue an unidentified
9 individual suspected of criminal activity, when they observed a male subject, later
10 identified as [Mr. Gomez Dzul], on a passing bicycle.” (Ex. A ¶ 6.)

11 The complaint’s affidavit was sworn by Special Agent Steve Yoon, who based
12 his allegations on “publicly available video footage [from social media] and
13 conversations with Agent O.I.” (Ex. A ¶ 9.) “It appears that in attempting to exit the
14 area, Agent L.M. opened the rear passenger door of the Border Patrol vehicle where
15 [Mr. Gomez Dzul] was seated. The instant the door opened, [Mr. Gomez Dzul] pushed
16 his weight against the door, moved his feet out of the vehicle, and attempted to get out
17 of the vehicle. Agent O.I. physically blocked [Mr. Gomez Dzul’s] exit and used his
18 hands to restrain [Mr. Gomez Dzul] while still holding the pepper spray cannister in his
19 left hand.” (Ex. A ¶ 9.)

20 Agent Yoon continues: “While [Mr. Gomez Dzul] was physically trying to force
21 his way out of the Border Patrol vehicle, Agent O.I. attempted to push [Mr. Gomez
22 Dzul] back into the vehicle, while simultaneously facing the crowd and with his back
23 turned to [Mr. Gomez Dzul]. According to Agent O.I., he felt a shove on his hip from
24 [Mr. Gomez Dzul] from behind in [Mr. Gomez Dzul’s] attempt to get out of the
25 vehicle. Based on my review of video footage, [Mr. Gomez Dzul] then wrapped his
26 legs around Agent O.I.’s body and pulled his foot on Agent O.I.’s groin while [Mr.
27 Gomez Dzul] was still fighting to get out of the door.” (Ex. A ¶ 10.)
28

1 “Within minutes, Agent L.M. went to the driver’s side passenger door of the
2 Border Patrol vehicle and pulled [Mr. Gomez Dzul] back into the vehicle and away
3 from Agent O.I. Agents O.I. and L.M. subsequently secured [Mr. Gomez Dzul] in the
4 vehicle again, entered the vehicle, and drove to a Customs and Border Protection
5 (“CBP”) location in El Segundo, California.” (Ex. A ¶ 11.)

6 Notably, the government has only produced a single eight-minute segment of
7 footage from any of the body cameras worn by any of the three officers.² That video
8 footage only captures the initial arrest of Mr. Gomez Dzul and a few minutes of an un-
9 *Mirandized* interrogation in a CBP patrol car. In other words, none of the subsequent
10 events, which includes the alleged assault, is captured in the body camera footage that
11 has been produced by the government. The government has produced two video clips
12 that were uploaded to social media. However, those clips are woefully incomplete and
13 lack important context, including the opening of the car door and, most critically, the
14 initiation of contact between Mr. Gomez Dzul and Agent O.I., which is apparently
15 when the alleged assault occurred. In the Complaint, Agent Yoon also confirms that
16 much of the details he provides comes from speaking with the individual officers.

17 The bulk of these allegations, therefore, must depend on the oral statements of
18 individual officers. This makes the transcripts of witness testimony before the grand
19 jury all the more critical, especially because no indictment was returned. The Court
20 should order the government to either produce all transcripts of the grand jury
21 proceedings, or else confirm in writing and under penalty of perjury that no
22 presentation was ever made to the grand jury regarding this case.

23 III.ARGUMENT

24 Disclosure of grand jury materials under Fed. Crim. Rule of Proc. 6(e) is
25 generally permitted upon a defendant’s showing of a “particularized need.” *See*
26 *Douglas Oil Co. v. Petrol Stops Northwest*, 441 U.S. 211, 221–22 (1979); *United States*

27
28 ² This entire body camera clip has been lodged with the Court in connection with
Mr. Gomez-Dzul’s motion to suppress evidence and statements. (Dkts. 42–43.)

1 *v. Sells Eng 'g*, 463 U.S. 418, 442–443 (1983). This showing of “particularized need”
2 requires that the party requesting disclosure show that the material sought is necessary
3 to “avoid possible injustice in another judicial proceeding, that the need for disclosure
4 is greater than the need for continued secrecy, and that their request is structured to
5 cover only material so needed.” *Sells Eng 'g*, 463 U.S. at 443.

6 **A. The grand jury transcripts include *Brady/Giglio* evidence.**

7 The prosecutor in a criminal case must disclose evidence favorable to the
8 accused. The Supreme Court has stated that suppression by the prosecution of evidence
9 favorable to an accused upon request violates due process where the evidence is
10 material either to guilt or to punishment, irrespective of the good faith or bad faith of
11 the prosecution. *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, 87 (1963). *Brady* also requires the
12 disclosure of evidence impeaching the testimony of a government witness when the
13 reliability of that witness may be determinative of a criminal defendant’s guilt or
14 innocence. *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972); *see also* *Bagley*, 473 U.S. 667
15 (1985).

16 The mandates of *Brady* and *Giglio* override the requirements of the Jencks Act.
17 *See e.g., Chavis v. State of N.C.*, 637 F.2d 213, 223 (4th Cir. 1980) (*Brady* is broader
18 than Jencks and may be violated when government fails to disclose material that
19 otherwise is not discoverable under Jencks); *United States v. Campagnuolo*, 592 F.2d
20 852, 860 (5th Cir.1979) (stating without deciding that *Brady* would override Jencks Act
21 when failure to order pretrial discovery would result in denial of defendant's due
22 process rights); *United States v. Tarantino*, 846 F.2d 1384, 1414 n.11 (D.C. Cir. 1988)
23 (government's *Brady* obligations are in no way lessened by the Jencks Act limitations).

24 The government must make a “reasonable effort” to aid the defense in obtaining
25 favorable evidence and witnesses. *United States v. Henao*, 652 F.2d 591, 592 (5th Cir.
26 1981); *United States v. Hernandez Gonzalez*, 608 F.2d 1240, 1246 (9th Cir. 1979).
27 Furthermore, the government must disclose *Brady* material at a time that permits the
28 defense to use these materials for trial preparation. *See, e.g., United States v. Elmore*,

1 423 F.2d 775, 779 (4th Cir. 1970); *United States v. Davenport*, 753 F.2d 1460, 1462
2 (9th Cir. 1985).

3 Here, the fact that no indictment was obtained against Mr. Gomez Dzul despite
4 the government's stated intention to obtain an indictment from a grand jury (Threatt
5 Decl. ¶ 2.), raises a valid inference that any grand jury transcripts are unfavorable to the
6 government and favorable to the defense. Moreover, they may impeach trial witnesses
7 if trial witness testimony differs in any respect from the testimony provided to the
8 grand jury.

9 **B. There is little interest in protecting the secrecy of the grand jury**
10 **proceedings.**

11 There is little interest in secrecy at this point in the proceedings. Ordinarily,
12 courts weigh the need for disclosure against the traditional policies underlying grand
13 jury secrecy:

- 14 (1) To prevent the escape of those whose indictment may be contemplated;
15 (2) to ensure the utmost freedom to the grand jury in its deliberations, and to
16 prevent persons subject to indictment of their friends from importuning the grand
17 jurors;
18 (3) to prevent subornation of perjury or tampering with the witnesses who may
19 testify before the grand jury and later appear at [t]he trial of those indicted by it;
20 (4) to encourage free and untrammelled disclosures by persons who have
21 information with respect to the commission of crimes; (5) to protect the innocent
22 accused who is exonerated from disclosure of the fact that he has been under
23 investigation

24 *See U.S. Indus, Inc. v. U.S. Dist. Court for the Southern Dist. of Cal., Central Division*,
25 345 F.2d 18, 21 (9th Cir. 1965).

26 None of those considerations apply here. Mr. Gomez Dzul has already been
27 charged; there is no further grand jury deliberation to be had. There is no threat of
28 witness intimidation, particularly since the witnesses are law enforcement, not lay

1 persons. Indeed, once a grand jury’s investigation has terminated, most of the reasons
2 for grand jury secrecy are no longer applicable and the others are less than compelling.

3 **IV. CONCLUSION**

4 For these reasons, Mr. Gomez Dzul requests the Court compel the government
5 to produce any grand jury testimony transcript(s) to the defense.

6
7 Respectfully submitted,
8 CUAUHTEMOC ORTEGA
9 Federal Public Defender

10 DATED: October 2, 2025

11 By */s/ James S. Threatt*
12 _____
13 JAMES S. THREATT
14 HANNAH A. BOGEN
15 Deputy Federal Public Defenders
16 Attorneys for Russell Gomez Dzul
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DECLARATION OF JAMES S. THREATT

I, James S. Threatt, declare:

1. I am an attorney with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Central District of California. I am licensed to practice law in the State of California and I am admitted to practice in this Court. I am appointed to represent Russell Gomez Dzul in this matter.

2. The initial Assistant United States Attorney who handled this matter indicated that the government would go to the grand jury to obtain an indictment on June 18, 2025. The reason for going to the grand jury before the two week deadline to return an indictment against Mr. Gomez-Dzul was that the grand jury would not convene on either June 19 or June 20 because June 19 was a federal holiday.

3. In the afternoon of June 18, 2025, I received a phone call from that Assistant United States Attorney indicating that Mr. Gomez-Dzul had been charged by information with a Class A Misdemeanor instead of with a felony assault charge by indictment.

4. The government has declined to confirm whether or not a presentation to the grand jury was made.

5. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the Complaint in this matter.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on October 2, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

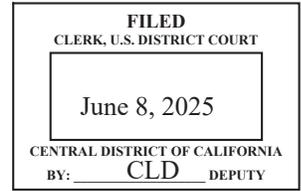
/s/ James S. Threatt.
James S. Threatt

EXHIBIT A

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Central District of California



United States of America

v.

Russell Gomez Dzul,

Defendant

Case No.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS

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 of June 7, 2025 in the county of Los Angeles in the Central District of California, the defendant violated:

Code Section

18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1)

Offense Description

Assaulting, Resisting, or Impeding Officers

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Please see attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet.

/s/ Steve Yoon

Complainant's signature

Steve Yoon, Special Agent

Printed name and title

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

Date: June 8, 2025 at 4:04 p.m.

Jacqueline Chooljian Judge's signature

City and state: Los Angeles, California

Hon. Jacqueline Chooljian, U.S. Magistrate Judge Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

I, Steve Yoon, being duly sworn, declare and state as follows:

I. PURPOSE OF AFFIDAVIT

1. This affidavit is made in support of a criminal complaint and arrest warrant against Russell GOMEZ DZUL ("GOMEZ") for a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1): assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers or employees.

2. The facts set forth in this affidavit are based upon my personal observations; my training and experience; video footage, and information obtained from various law enforcement personnel and witnesses. This affidavit is intended to show merely that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested complaint and arrest warrant and does not purport to set forth all my knowledge of or investigation into this matter. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all conversations and statements described in this affidavit are related in substance and part only.

II. BACKGROUND OF AFFIANT

3. I am a Special Agent ("SA") with Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), Department of Homeland Security, and have been so employed since December 2022. Prior to my appointment with HSI, I was a SA for Diplomatic Security Service ("DSS"), U.S. Department of State, for three years, a Counterintelligence SA for Department of Defense for two years, and a U.S. Army active-duty Soldier, for four years. My relevant training includes the Criminal Investigator Training Program,

HSI Special Agent Training course, DSS Basic Special Agent Course, DoD Counterintelligence Agent Course, and U.S. Army Interrogator training. My duty as a HSI SA is to investigate various crimes of federal law. I am currently assigned to the HSI Los Angeles International Airport Group and have training and experience investigating assaults on federal officers. As part of my law enforcement training and experience, I have participated in the execution of search/arrest warrants and participated in the seizure of evidence.

III. STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

4. Based on my review of law enforcement reports, videos of the incident, and conversations with other law enforcement agents, and my own knowledge of the investigation, I am aware of the following:

A. GOMEZ Assaulted an Agent in the Process of Attempting to Flee From Arrest

5. On June 7, 2025, U.S. Border Patrol ("Border Patrol") Agents O.I. and L.M. were patrolling their assigned area in Los Angeles, California. Agents O.I. and L.M. were in uniforms that displayed their Border Patrol and police badges on their vests.

6. At approximately 12:55 p.m., Agents O.I. and L.M. were on foot in a parking lot attempting to pursue an unidentified individual suspected of criminal activity, when they observed a male subject, later identified as GOMEZ, on a passing bicycle. According to Agent O.I., GOMEZ appeared startled and nervous when he saw the agents, and GOMEZ abruptly changed course, moving away from the agents at accelerating speeds. Based on

GOMEZ's reaction and movements, Agent O.I. perceived GOMEZ to be attempting to evade the agents, and suspected GOMEZ of being in the U.S. illegally.

7. Agent L.M. ordered GOMEZ to stop. GOMEZ did not comply, abandoned his bicycle, and fled on foot. Body-worn camera ("BWC") footage shows that Agents O.I. and L.M. pursued GOMEZ for several blocks and that GOMEZ attempted to conceal himself behind a parked vehicle. Agent L.M. ordered GOMEZ to surrender, but GOMEZ did not comply. When officers approached GOMEZ and attempted to arrest him, GOMEZ physically resisted arrest by forcefully pulling his arms away from the agents' grips. Agents O.I. and L.M. successfully placed GOMEZ into handcuffs, arrested him, and secured him into a marked Border Patrol vehicle in the rear passenger seat.

8. Agents O.I. and L.M. remained on foot outside the Border Patrol vehicle when a group of protesters, comprised of approximately 5 to 15 people, confronted the agents and told them to "get the fuck out of here." Agents O.I. and L.M. ordered the crowd back and away from them, but the crowd did not comply. Based on my review of publicly available video footage of the incident, protesters were filming on their cell phones, yelling obscenities at the agents, and throwing items at the agents, including rocks. Agents O.I. and L.M. unholstered their oleoresin capsicum spray (commonly referred to as "pepper spray") but did not discharge the spray on the crowd. Specifically, Agent O.I. had his pepper spray cannister in his left hand.

9. Based on my review of publicly available video footage and conversations with Agent O.I., it appears that in attempting to exit the area, Agent L.M. opened the rear passenger door of the Border Patrol vehicle where GOMEZ was seated. The instant the door opened, GOMEZ pushed his weight against the door, moved his feet out of the vehicle, and attempted to get out of the vehicle. Agent O.I. physically blocked GOMEZ's exit and used his hands to restrain GOMEZ while still holding the pepper spray canister in his left hand.

10. While GOMEZ was physically trying to force his way out of the Border Patrol vehicle, Agent O.I. attempted to push GOMEZ back into the vehicle, while simultaneously facing the crowd and with his back turned to GOMEZ. According to Agent O.I., he felt a shove on his hip from GOMEZ from behind in GOMEZ's attempt to get out of the vehicle. Based on my review of video footage, GOMEZ then wrapped his legs around Agent O.I.'s body and pulled his foot on Agent O.I.'s groin while GOMEZ was still fighting to get out of the door.¹

11. Within minutes, Agent L.M. went to the driver's side passenger door of the Border Patrol vehicle and pulled GOMEZ back into the vehicle and away from Agent O.I.. Agents O.I. and

¹ During the struggle to prevent GOMEZ from fleeing, Agent O.I. tried to use both hands to restrain GOMEZ, while still holding his pepper spray in his left hand. Agents later discovered that during this physical struggle, there was an accidental discharge of a small drop of pepper spray on GOMEZ's right cheek as well as Agent O.I.'s left hand. Agents did not observe any physical symptoms or irritation on GOMEZ as a result of the accidental discharge. Later, at approximately at 6:30 p.m., when HSI agents attempted to interview GOMEZ, I asked him if he needed any medical attention, had any medical issues, or required any medicine. GOMEZ declined all the foregoing.

L.M. subsequently secured GOMEZ in the vehicle again, entered the vehicle, and drove to a Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") location in El Segundo, California.

B. GOMEZ's Statements

12. On the same day, June 7, 2025, at approximately 3:12 p.m., while in CBP custody, Border Patrol Agent S.G. conducted an interview of GOMEZ in the Spanish Language. Agent S.G. provided GOMEZ his Miranda rights in the Spanish Language.

13. Based on my conversations with Agent S.G., GOMEZ acknowledged he understood his rights and agreed to speak with Agent S.G.. During the interview, GOMEZ claimed he ran away from Agents O.I. and L.M. on instinct when he saw the "cop car." GOMEZ admitted that he trying to get out of the Border Patrol vehicle but that he could not because an agent was blocking the doorway. GOMEZ did not indicate whether he struck the agent or had any physical contact with the agent.

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IV. CONCLUSION

14. For all of the reasons described above, there is probable cause to believe that Russell GOMEZ DZUL has committed a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 111(a)(1).

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone on this 8th day of June 2025 at 4:04 p.m.


THE HONORABLE JACQUELINE CHOLJIAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE