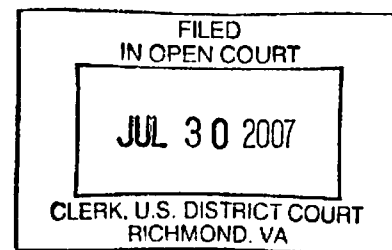


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Richmond Division



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
 v.) CRIMINAL NO. 3:07CR274
)
 TONY TAYLOR,)
 a/k/a "T,")
)
 Defendant.)

SUMMARY OF THE FACTS

If this matter were to proceed to trial, the Government would prove the following facts beyond a reasonable doubt:

1. Beginning in or about early 2001 and continuing through in or about September 2004, in the Eastern District of Virginia and elsewhere, defendant TONY TAYLOR, also known as "T," knowingly and unlawfully combined, conspired, confederated and agreed with PURNELL A. PEACE, also known as "P-Funk" and "Funk," QUANIS L. PHILLIPS, also known as "Q," MICHAEL VICK, also known as "Ookie," and with other known and unknown persons, to commit the following offenses against the United States, to wit:

a. traveling in interstate commerce and using the mail or any facility in interstate commerce with intent to commit any crime of violence to further any unlawful activity and to promote, manage, establish, carry on, and facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, and carrying on of an unlawful activity, to wit: a business enterprise involving gambling in violation of Virginia Code Annotated Sections 3.1-796.124(A)(2), 18.2-326, and 18.2-328, and thereafter performing and attempting to perform acts to commit any crime of

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violence to further any unlawful activity and to promote, manage, establish, and carry on, and to facilitate the promotion, management, establishment, and carrying on of the unlawful activity, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1952;

b. knowingly sponsoring and exhibiting an animal in an animal fighting venture, if any animal in the venture has moved in interstate commerce, in violation of Title 7, United States Code, Section 2156(a)(1); and

c. knowingly buying, transporting, delivering, and receiving for purposes of transportation, in interstate commerce, any dog for purposes of having the dog participate in an animal fighting venture, in violation of Title 7, United States Code, Section 2156(b).

TAYLOR agrees that he entered into the conspiracy willfully and with the intent to further the conspiracy's unlawful purposes.

2. As part of this conspiracy, TAYLOR and his co-conspirators would and did purchase and develop a parcel of property to serve as the main staging area for housing and training pit bulls involved in the animal fighting venture and for hosting dog fights; establish a kennel name to represent the animal fighting venture in dog fighting competitions; purchase pit bulls for use in dog fighting competitions; train and breed pit bulls for participation in dog fighting competitions; travel to other locations in interstate commerce to participate in dog fighting competitions; sponsor and exhibit dogs in animal fighting competitions in interstate commerce involving dogs that have moved across state lines; provide funding for the expenses associated with the ongoing animal fighting venture, including improvements on the property, dog food, medicine, travel expenses, and purse fees for dog fighting competitions; and develop the animal fighting venture's pool of pit bulls by testing the fighting prowess of dogs within the venture, providing veterinary treatment for injured dogs slated to stay with the kennel, and

destroying or otherwise disposing of dogs not selected to stay with the ongoing animal fighting venture.

3. As described in greater detail below, TAYLOR, his co-defendants, and others sponsored dog fights at 1915 Moonlight Road, Smithfield Virginia. They also participated in dog fights in other states. In connection with the vast majority of these fights, the co-conspirators and other participants in the dog fights traveled in interstate commerce and then committed multiple acts in furtherance of committing, promoting, managing, establishing, and carrying on the unlawful activities described in the indictment. TAYLOR and the co-conspirators operated "Bad Newz Kennels" for the dog fighting venture. TAYLOR agrees that "Bad Newz Kennels" qualifies as a "business enterprise" that engaged in a continuous course of conduct and series of transactions in furtherance of the dog fighting operation from the time of its creation to his departure in September 2004.

4. TAYLOR agrees that the "Bad Newz Kennels" business enterprise involved gambling activities in violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia as set forth in the indictment. In general, only those accompanying the opposing kennels and "Bad Newz Kennels" associates were allowed to attend the fights. For a particular dog fight, the opponents would establish a purse or wager for the winning side, ranging from the 100's up to 1,000's of dollars. The purse was contingent and dependent on the uncertain outcome of the dog fight, with the winner taking all of the purse at the conclusion of the fight. Participants and spectators would also routinely place side-bets on the fight, dependant on the ultimate outcome or certain events occurring during the course of the dog fight. The "Bad Newz Kennels" operation and gambling monies were almost exclusively funded by VICK. When "Bad Newz Kennels" won a particular fight, the gambling proceeds were generally split by TAYLOR, PHILLIPS, and,

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sometimes, PEACE. TAYLOR used a large portion of his money for living expenses, due to the fact that during a large portion of the conspiracy he devoted his time to taking care of and training the pit bull dogs involved in the dog fighting venture. TAYLOR and the others also funneled a portion of the gambling proceeds back into the dog fighting operation, to pay for dog food, medicine, and other supplies.

5. On or about the dates set forth below, TAYLOR agrees and stipulates that in furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed by TAYLOR and other conspirators in the Eastern District of Virginia and elsewhere:

2001-2002: Establishment of "Bad Newz Kennels" at 1915 Moonlight Road, Smithfield, Virginia:

6. At some point in or about early 2001, TAYLOR, PHILLIPS, and VICK decided to start a venture aimed at sponsoring American Pit Bull Terriers in dog fighting competitions. Later that same year, PEACE joined the venture.

7. In or about May 2001, TAYLOR identified the property at 1915 Moonlight Road, Smithfield, Virginia, as being a suitable location for housing and training pit bulls for fighting.

8. In or about June 2001, VICK paid over \$30,000 for the purchase of property located at 1915 Moonlight Road, Smithfield, Virginia. From this point forward, the defendants and others used this property as the main staging area for housing and training the pit bulls involved in the dog fighting venture and hosting dog fights.

9. In or about 2001, the exact dates being unknown to the Grand Jury, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK started acquiring pit bulls for the fighting operation from various locations inside and outside of Virginia, including the purchasing approximately 4 dogs

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from an individual in North Carolina, approximately 1 dog from an individual in New York, approximately 6 dogs and 6 puppies from an individual in Richmond, Virginia, and a female pit bull named "Jane" from an individual in Williamsburg, Virginia.

10. On or about September 11, 2001, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK purchased approximately 4 pit bull puppies for approximately \$1,000 from an individual in Williamsburg, Virginia. One of these puppies was a male pit bull named "Magic."

11. In or about early 2002, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK established a dog fighting business enterprise known as "Bad Newz Kennels." At one point, the defendants obtained shirts and headbands representing and promoting their affiliation with "Bad Newz Kennels."

12. Beginning in 2002 and continuing through TAYLOR's departure from the venture in September 2004, "Bad Newz Kennels" members, aided and assisted by others known and unknown to the Grand Jury, continued to develop the 1915 Moonlight Road property for the ongoing dog fighting venture, including building: a fence to shield the rear portion of the compound from public view; multiple sheds used at various times to house training equipment, injured dogs, and organized fights; a house to be occupied by the defendants and others associated with maintaining the property; and kennels and buried car axles with chains for the pit bulls. The buried car axles allow the dog chains to pivot, allowing the pit bulls to avoid getting tangled in the chains.

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2002: Execution of “Bad Newz Kennels” Pit Bulls that Performed Poorly in “Testing” Sessions:

13. In or about the summer of 2002 at various times, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK “rolled” or “tested” additional “Bad Newz Kennels” dogs by putting the dogs through fighting sessions at 1915 Moonlight Road to determine which animals were good fighters.

14. In or about the summer of 2002, PEACE executed at least one dog that did not perform well in a “testing” session at 1915 Moonlight Road by shooting the animal.

15. In or about the summer of 2002, PHILLIPS executed at least one dog that did not perform well in a “testing” session at 1915 Moonlight Road by shooting the animal.

16. In or about the summer of 2002, TAYLOR executed at least two dogs that did not perform well in “testing” sessions at 1915 Moonlight Road by shooting one dog and electrocuting the other.

2002: Fights Involving “Maniac,” a Male Pit Bull Owned by an Individual from North Carolina, Versus Dogs Owned by “Bad Newz Kennels”:

17. In or about the spring of 2002, PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR traveled from Virginia to North Carolina with a male pit bull named “Seal” to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull named “Maniac,” owned by an individual from North Carolina. The purse for the dog fight was established at approximately \$500 per side, for a total of approximately \$1,000.

18. In or about the spring of 2002, PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR sponsored “Seal” in a dog fight against “Maniac.”

19. In or about the spring of 2002, “Bad Newz Kennels,” represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR, lost the purse when “Maniac” prevailed over “Seal.”

20. In or about late 2002, an individual traveled from North Carolina to Virginia with a male pit bull named “Maniac” to participate in a dog fight against a pit bull named “Zebro,”

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owned by another unknown person. "Bad Newz Kennels" hosted the dog fight at 1915 Moonlight Road and established the purse at approximately \$1,000 per side, for a total of approximately \$2,000.

21. In or about late 2002, the unknown person, aided and assisted by TAYLOR and VICK, sponsored "Zebro" in the fight against "Maniac."

22. In or about late 2002, the unknown person, aided and assisted by TAYLOR and VICK, lost the purse when "Maniac" prevailed over "Zebro."

Late 2002: A Fight Involving "Chico," a Male Pit Bull Owned by "Bad Newz Kennels," Versus a Pit Bull from Alabama:

23. In or about late 2002, unknown individuals traveled from Alabama to Virginia with a male pit bull to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull named "Chico" owned by "Bad Newz Kennels." "Bad Newz Kennels" hosted the dog fight at 1915 Moonlight Road and established the purse at approximately \$1,000 per side, for a total of approximately \$2,000.

24. In or about late 2002, PHILLIPS and TAYLOR, sponsored "Chico" in a dog fight against the male pit bull from Alabama.

25. In or about late 2002, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PHILLIPS and TAYLOR, won the purse when "Chico" prevailed over the male pit bull from Alabama.

Late 2002: "Bad Newz Kennels" Hosting Other Kennels' Dog Fights at 1915 Moonlight Road:

26. In or about late 2002, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR, hosted one regular fight and a "Grand Champion Fight" (meaning that each dog was fighting for his fifth consecutive win) at 1915 Moonlight Road between male pit bulls from North Carolina and Maryland.

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27. In or about late 2002, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR, hosted a fight at 1915 Moonlight Road between a male pit bull sponsored by the "Junior Mafia" of North Carolina versus a male pit bull sponsored by a person known to the Grand Jury from Williamsburg, Virginia.

2002-2003: Fights Involving "Jane," a Female Pit Bull Owned by "Bad Newz Kennels," Versus Pit Bulls From New York and North Carolina and a Fight in New Jersey:

28. In or about late 2002, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and another individual traveled from Virginia to Maryland with a female pit bull named "Jane" to participate in a dog fight against a female pit bull owned by "Show Biz Kennels" of New York. The purse for the dog fight was established at approximately \$1,000 per side, for a total of approximately \$2,000.

29. In or about late 2002, PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR sponsored "Jane" in a dog fight against the female pit bull owned by "Show Biz Kennels."

30. In or about late 2002, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR, won the purse when "Jane" prevailed over the female pit bull owned by "Show Biz Kennels."

31. In or about the spring of 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, VICK, and two other individuals traveled from Virginia to North Carolina with a female pit bull named "Jane" to participate in a dog fight against a female pit bull owned by unknown individuals from North Carolina. The purse for the dog fight was established at approximately \$1,500 per side, for a total of approximately \$3,000.

32. In or about the spring of 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored "Jane" in a dog fight against the female pit bull from North Carolina.

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33. In or about the spring of 2003, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when "Jane" prevailed over the female pit bull from North Carolina.

34. In or about late 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and another individual traveled from Virginia to New Jersey with a female pit bull named "Jane" to participate in a dog fight against a female pit bull owned by unknown individuals. The purse for the dog fight was established at approximately \$5,000 per side, for a total of approximately \$10,000.

35. In or about late 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR sponsored "Jane" in a dog fight against the female pit bull owned by the unknown individuals in New Jersey.

36. In or about late 2003, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, and TAYLOR, won the purse when "Jane" prevailed over the female pit bull owned by the unknown individuals in New Jersey.

2003-2004: Fights Involving "Big Boy," a Male Pit Bull Owned by "Bad Newz Kennels," Versus Pit Bulls From South Carolina and New Jersey:

37. In or about the spring of 2003, an unknown individual traveled from South Carolina to Virginia with a male pit bull to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull named "Big Boy," owned by "Bad Newz Kennels." "Bad Newz Kennels" hosted the dog fight at 1915 Moonlight Road and established the purse at approximately \$1,000 per side, for a total of approximately \$2,000.

38. In or about the spring of 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored "Big Boy" in a dog fight against the male pit bull from South Carolina.

39. In or about the spring of 2003, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when "Big Boy" prevailed over the male pit bull from South Carolina.

40. In or about late 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to South Carolina with a male pit bull named "Big Boy" to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull owned by an unknown individual from South Carolina. The purse for the dog fight was established at approximately \$3,600 per side, for a total of approximately \$7,200.

41. In or about late 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored "Big Boy" in a dog fight against the male pit bull from South Carolina.

42. In or about late 2003, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when "Big Boy" prevailed over the male pit bull from South Carolina.

43. In or about the spring of 2004, unknown individuals traveled from New Jersey to Virginia with a male pit bull to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull named "Big Boy," owned by "Bad Newz Kennels." "Bad Newz Kennels" hosted the dog fight at 1915 Moonlight Road and established the purse at approximately \$1,500 per side, for a total of approximately \$3,000.

44. In or about the spring of 2004, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored "Big Boy" in a dog fight against the male pit bull from New Jersey.

45. In or about the spring of 2004, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when "Big Boy" prevailed over the male pit bull from New Jersey.

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Fall 2003: A Fight Involving "Magic," a Male Pit Bull Owned by "Bad Newz Kennels," Versus a Male Pit Bull in South Carolina:

46. In or about the fall of 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK traveled from Atlanta, Georgia to South Carolina with a male pit bull named "Magic" to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull owned by unknown individuals from South Carolina. The purse for the dog fight was established at approximately \$1,500 per side, for a total of approximately \$3,000.

47. In or about the fall of 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored "Magic" in a dog fight against the male pit bull from South Carolina.

48. In or about the fall of 2003, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when "Magic" prevailed over the male pit bull from South Carolina.

Fall 2003: A Fight Involving a Male Pit Bull From North Carolina Versus a Male Pit Bull Owned by "Bad Newz Kennels":

49. In or about the fall of 2003, an individual (referred to as Cooperating Witness Number 3 (C.W.#3) in the indictment) traveled to Surry County, Virginia with a male pit bull from North Carolina to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull named "Tiny," owned by "Bad Newz Kennels." "Bad Newz Kennels" hosted the dog fight at 1915 Moonlight Road and established the purse at approximately \$3,500 per side, for a total of approximately \$7,000.

50. In or about the fall of 2003, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored "Tiny" in a fight against the male pit bull sponsored by C.W.#3.

51. In or about the fall of 2003, "Bad Newz Kennels," represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when "Tiny" prevailed over the male pit bull owned by C.W.#3.

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Early 2004: A Fight Involving “Too Short,” a Male Pit Bull Owned by “Bad Newz Kennels,” Versus a Pit Bull from Maryland:

52. In or about the early 2004, unknown individuals traveled from Maryland to Virginia with a male pit bull to participate in a dog fight against a male pit bull named “Too Short” owned by “Bad Newz Kennels.” “Bad Newz Kennels” hosted the dog fight at 1915 Moonlight Road and established the purse was at approximately \$3,000 per side, for a total of approximately \$6,000.

53. In or about early 2004, PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK sponsored “Too Short” in a dog fight against the male pit bull from Maryland.

54. In or about early 2004, “Bad Newz Kennels,” represented by PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, and VICK, won the purse when “Too Short” prevailed over the male pit bull from Maryland.

2004: Continuation of Dog Fighting Venture at 1915 Moonlight Road:

55. TAYLOR left the “Bad Newz Kennels” operation following a disagreement with PHILLIPS and others in September 2004. Up until the time of his departure, the “Bad Newz Kennels” dog fighting operation continued with the participation and assistance of PEACE, PHILLIPS, TAYLOR, VICK, and others.

Respectfully Submitted,

CHUCK ROSENBERG
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By: Michael Gill
Michael R. Gill
Assistant United States Attorney

By: Brian Whisler
Brian Whisler
Assistant United States Attorney

After consulting with my attorney and pursuant to the plea agreement entered into this date between the defendant TONY TAYLOR and the United States, I hereby stipulate that the above Statement of Facts are true and accurate, and that had the matter proceeded to trial, the United States could prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt.

Tony Taylor
TONY TAYLOR
Defendant

I am TONY TAYLOR'S attorney. I have carefully reviewed the above Statement of Facts with him. To my knowledge, his decision to stipulate to these facts is an informed and voluntary one.

Stephen Hudgins
Stephen Hudgins
Counsel for the Defendant

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