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 GEORGE S. CARDONA
   Acting United States Attorney
   THOMAS P. O'BRIEN
   Assistant United States Attorney
   Chief, Criminal Division
3
   ALICIA VILLARREAL
   Assistant United States Attorney
4
   Senior Litigation Counsel
   California Bar Number: 142669
5
        1300 United States Courthouse
        312 North Spring Street
6
        Los Angeles, California 90012
        Telephone: (213) 894-3172
7
        Facsimile: (213) 894-6436
        Email: Alicia. Villarreal@usdoj.gov
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   Attorney for Plaintiff
   United States of America
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                      UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
                                   ) CR No. <u>06-803</u>
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                                     PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT
                    Plaintiff,
                                     RITO MIGUEL DIAZ, JR.
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                  v.
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    RITO MIGUEL DIAZ, JR.,
       aka Mike Diaz,
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                    Defendant.
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         1. This constitutes the plea agreement between RITO MIGUEL
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1. This constitutes the plea agreement between RITO MIGUEL DIAZ, aka Mike Diaz ("defendant MIKE DIAZ") and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California ("the USAO") in the investigation of fraud against the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") in connection with real estate loans. This agreement is limited to the USAO and cannot bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative or regulatory authorities.

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PLEA

2. Defendant agrees to plead guilty to count one of the indictment in <u>United States v. Rito Miguel Diaz, Jr., et al.</u>, CR No. 06-803.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

3. In order for defendant to be guilty of count one of the indictment, which charges a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 2, the following must be true: (1) defendant made up a scheme or plan for obtaining money or property by making false promises or statements; (2) defendant knew that the promises or statements were false; (3) the promises or statements were material, that is they would reasonably influence a person to part with money or property; (4) defendant acted with the intent to defraud; and (5) defendant used, or caused to be used, the mails to carry out or attempt to carry out an essential part of the scheme. Defendant admits that defendant is, in fact, guilty of this offense as described in count one of the indictment.

PENALTIES AND RESTITUTION

- 4. The statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341 is: 5 years imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or gross loss resulting from the offense, whichever is greatest; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100.
 - 5. Defendant understands that defendant will be required to

pay full restitution to the victim of the offense. Defendant agrees that, in return for the USAO's compliance with its obligations under this agreement, the amount of restitution is not restricted to the amounts alleged in the count to which defendant is pleading guilty and may include losses arising from charges not prosecuted pursuant to this agreement as well as all relevant conduct in connection with those charges. The parties currently believe that the applicable amount of restitution to HUD is \$1,344,343. The parties recognize and agree that this amount could change based on facts that come to the attention of the parties prior to sentencing. Defendant further agrees that defendant will not seek the discharge of any restitution obligation, in whole or in part, in any present or future bankruptcy proceeding.

- 6. Supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for all or part of the term of supervised release, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 7. Defendant also understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to

serve on a jury.

8. Defendant further understands that the conviction in this case may subject defendant to various collateral consequences, including but not limited to, deportation, revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case, and suspension or revocation of a professional license, including any real estate licenses defendant may currently hold. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's guilty plea.

FACTUAL BASIS

- 9. Defendant and the USAO agree and stipulate to the statement of facts provided below. This statement of facts includes facts sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charges described in this agreement and to establish the sentencing guideline factors set forth in paragraph 12 below. It is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to defendant that relate to that conduct.
- a) Beginning on a date unknown and continuing to in or about December 2001, defendant RITO MIGUEL DIAZ aka Mike Diaz ("defendant MIKE DIAZ"), and others known and unknown, aiding and abetting one another, knowingly and with the intent to defraud, devised and intended to devise a scheme to defraud HUD and commercial lenders, and to obtain money and property from HUD and commercial lenders by false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises. As part of the scheme, defendant

MIKE DIAZ prepared and caused his co-schemers to prepare supporting documentation for loan applications for the purchase of real estate in the names of individuals who acted as "straw buyers." The term "straw buyers" refers to the use of a real person's name and identifying information, such as driver's license and social security number, to apply for a loan in that person's name. In truth, a straw buyer spends none of his or her own money or assets to purchase the property, does not intend to occupy the property, and only nominally holds title to the property.

- b) In support of the loan applications, defendant MIKE DIAZ and his co-schemers created and caused to be created fraudulent identification and income documentation that defendant knew the commercial lenders and HUD would rely upon to fund the loans.
- c) Defendant MIKE DIAZ engaged in the above-described tactics in connection with numerous real estate loans, including a loan for the property located at XXX Ferntop Drive, Los Angeles, California. More specifically, in connection with the property at XXX Ferntop Drive, Los Angeles, California, on or about October 25, 2001, defendant DIAZ caused an FHA-insured home mortgage loan application to be submitted to HUD in the name of non-qualifying buyer E.L.T., which included the following false and fraudulent information: (1) fraudulent Forms W-2; (2) fraudulent pay stubs; and (3) a fraudulent Request for Verification of Employment.

Defendant DIAZ, for the purpose of executing the

1 fraudulent scheme described above, knowingly caused the Los 2 Angeles County Recorder's Office to place the deed of trust for 3 the above-described property in an authorized depository for mail 4 matter to be sent and delivered by the U.S. Postal Service and 5 private and commercial interstate carriers according to the 6

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directions thereon.

Defendant MIKE DIAZ caused a loss of not less than e) \$942,871 to HUD as a result of defendant's fraud.

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- By pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following 10. rights:
 - a) The right to persist in a plea of not quilty.
 - b) The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c) The right to the assistance of legal counsel at trial, including the right to have the Court appoint counsel for defendant for the purpose of representation at trial. (In this regard, defendant understands that, despite his or her plea of quilty, he or she retains the right to be represented by counsel - and, if necessary, to have the court appoint counsel if defendant cannot afford counsel - at every other stage of the proceedings.)
- The right to be presumed innocent and to have the d) burden of proof placed on the government to prove defendant quilty beyond a reasonable doubt.
 - e) The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses

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against defendant.

- f) The right, if defendant wished, to testify on defendant's own behalf and present evidence in opposition to the charges, including the right to call witnesses and to subpoena those witnesses to testify.
- g) The right not to be compelled to testify, and, if defendant chose not to testify or present evidence, to have that choice not be used against defendant.

By pleading guilty, defendant also gives up any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could be filed.

SENTENCING FACTORS

- 11. Defendant understands that the Court is required to consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines ("U.S.S.G." or "Sentencing Guidelines") among other factors in determining defendant's sentence. Defendant understands that the Sentencing Guidelines are only advisory, and that after considering the Sentencing Guidelines, the Court may be free to exercise its discretion to impose any reasonable sentence up to the maximum set by statute for the crimes of conviction.
- 12. Defendant and the USAO agree and stipulate to the following applicable sentencing guideline factors:

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Base Offense Level: 6 [U.S.S.G. § 2F1.1(a)]

Specific Offense
Characteristics
(Loss More than $800K): +11 [U.S.S.G. §2F1.1(b)(1)(L)
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More than Minimal Planning: ± 2 [U.S.S.G. §2F1.1(b)(2)] Defendant and the USAO reserve the right to argue that additional specific offense characteristics, adjustments, and departures are appropriate.

- 13. There is no agreement as to defendant's criminal history or criminal history category.
- 14. The stipulations in this agreement do not bind either the United States Probation Office or the Court. Both defendant and the USAO are free to: (a) supplement the facts by supplying relevant information to the United States Probation Office and the Court, (b) correct any and all factual misstatements relating to the calculation of the sentence, and (c) argue on appeal and collateral review that the Court's sentencing guidelines calculations are not error, although each party agrees to maintain its view that the calculations in paragraph 12 are consistent with the facts of this case.

DEFENDANT'S OBLIGATIONS

- 15. Defendant agrees that he or she will:
 - a) Plead guilty as set forth in this agreement.
- b) Not knowingly and willfully fail to abide by all sentencing stipulations contained in this agreement.
- c) Not knowingly and willfully fail to: (i) appear as ordered for all court appearances, (ii) surrender as ordered for service of sentence, (iii) obey all conditions of any bond, and (iv) obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
 - d) Not commit any crime; however, offenses which would

be excluded for sentencing purposes under U.S.S.G. § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.

- e) Not knowingly and willfully fail to be truthful at all times with Pretrial Services, the U.S. Probation Office, and the Court.
- f) Pay the applicable special assessments at or before the time of sentencing unless defendant lacks the ability to pay.
- 16. Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully with the USAO, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, HUD-Office of Inspector General, the Internal Revenue Service, and, as directed by the USAO, any other federal, state, or local law enforcement agency. This cooperation requires defendant to:
- a) Respond truthfully and completely to all questions that may be put to defendant, whether in interviews, before a grand jury, or at any trial or other court proceeding.
- b) Attend all meetings, grand jury sessions, trials or other proceedings at which defendant's presence is requested by the USAO or compelled by subpoena or court order.
- c) Produce voluntarily all documents, records, or other tangible evidence relating to matters about which the USAO, or its designee, inquires.

THE USAO'S OBLIGATIONS

- 17. If defendant complies fully with all defendant's obligations under this agreement, the USAO agrees:
- a) To abide by all sentencing stipulations contained in this agreement.

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- b) At the time of sentencing, provided that defendant demonstrates an acceptance of responsibility for the offenses up to and including the time of sentencing, to recommend a two-level reduction in the applicable sentencing guideline offense level, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1, and to recommend and, if necessary, move for an additional one-level reduction if available under that section.
- c) To recommend that defendant be sentenced at the low end of the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range provided that the total offense level as calculated by the Court is 16 or higher and provided that the Court does not depart downward in offense level or criminal history category (except pursuant to, and to the extent requested in, a motion by the USAO for a downward departure under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1). Notwithstanding its agreement to recommend the low end of the Sentencing Guidelines range, the USAO is free to recommend any conditions of confinement, including imprisonment, if the total offense level falls within Zone B or C of the sentencing table.
- d) Not to offer as evidence in its case-in-chief in the above-captioned case or any other prosecution that may be brought against defendant by the USAO, or in connection with any sentencing proceeding in any case that may be brought against defendant by the USAO, any statements made by defendant or documents, records, or tangible evidence provided by defendant pursuant to this agreement. Defendant agrees, however, that the USAO may use such statements, documents, records, and tangible

evidence: (1) to obtain and pursue leads to other evidence, which evidence may be used for any purpose, including any prosecution of defendant, (2) to cross-examine defendant should defendant testify, or to rebut any evidence, argument or representations made by defendant or a witness called by defendant in any trial, sentencing hearing, or other court proceeding, and (3) in any prosecution of defendant for false statement, obstruction of justice, or perjury.

- e) Not to use any information provided by defendant pursuant to this agreement against defendant at sentencing for the purpose of determining the applicable guideline range, including the appropriateness of an upward departure, and to recommend to the Court that such information not be used in determining the sentence to be imposed. Defendant understands, however, that information provided by defendant pursuant to this agreement will be disclosed to the probation office and the Court, and that the Court may use this information for the purposes set forth in U.S.S.G § 1B1.8(b) and for determining the sentence to be imposed.
- f) In connection with defendant's sentencing, to bring to the Court's attention the nature and extent of defendant's cooperation.
- g) If the USAO determines, in its exclusive judgment, that defendant has both complied with his or her obligations under paragraphs 15 and 16 above and provided substantial assistance to law enforcement in the prosecution or investigation

of another ("substantial assistance"), to move the Court pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 to fix an offense level and corresponding guideline range below that otherwise dictated by the sentencing guidelines, and to recommend a sentence within this reduced range.

DEFENDANT'S UNDERSTANDINGS REGARDING SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE

- 18. Defendant understands the following:
- a) Any knowingly false or misleading statement by defendant will subject defendant to prosecution for false statement, obstruction of justice, and perjury and will constitute a breach by defendant of this agreement.
- b) Nothing in this agreement requires the USAO or any other prosecuting or law enforcement agency to accept any cooperation or assistance that defendant may offer, or to use it in any particular way.
- c) Defendant cannot withdraw defendant's guilty pleas if the USAO does not make a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 for a reduced guideline range or if the USAO makes such a motion and the Court does not grant it or if the Court grants such a USAO motion but elects to sentence above the reduced range.
- d) At this time the USAO makes no agreement or representation as to whether any cooperation that defendant has provided or intends to provide constitutes substantial assistance. The decision whether defendant has provided substantial assistance rests solely within the discretion of the USAO.

e) The USAO's determination of whether defendant has provided substantial assistance will not depend in any way on whether the government prevails at any trial or court hearing in which defendant testifies.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- If defendant, at any time between the execution of this 19. agreement and the completion of defendant's cooperation pursuant to the agreement or defendant's sentencing on a non-custodial sentence or surrender for service on a custodial sentence, whichever is later, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this agreement ("a breach"), the USAO may declare this agreement breached. For example, if the defendant knowingly in an interview, before a grand jury, or at trial, falsely accuses another person of criminal conduct or falsely minimizes his own role, or the role of another, in criminal conduct, he will have breached this agreement. If the USAO declares this agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, defendant will not be able to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and the USAO will be relieved of all of its obligations under this agreement. In particular:
- a) The USAO will no longer be bound by any agreements concerning sentencing and will be free to seek any sentence up to the statutory maximum for the crimes to which defendant has pleaded guilty.
- b) The USAO will no longer be bound by any agreements regarding criminal prosecution, and will be free to prosecute

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defendant for any crime, including charges that the USAO would otherwise have been obligated not to prosecute pursuant to this agreement.

- c) The USAO will be free to prosecute defendant for false statement, obstruction of justice, and perjury based on any knowingly false or misleading statement by defendant.
- The USAO will no longer be bound by any agreement d) regarding the use of statements, documents, records, tangible evidence, or information provided by defendant, and will be free to use any of those in any way in any investigation, prosecution, or civil or administrative action. Defendant will not be able to assert either (1) that those statements, documents, records, tangible evidence, or information were obtained in violation of the Fifth Amendment privilege against compelled selfincrimination, or (2) any claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, or any other federal rule, that statements, documents, records, tangible evidence, or information provided by defendant before or after the signing of this agreement, or any leads derived therefrom, should be inadmissible.
- 20. Following a knowing and willful breach of this agreement by defendant, should the USAO elect to pursue any charge that was dismissed or not filed as a result of this agreement, then:
 - a) Defendant agrees that any applicable statute of

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limitations is tolled between the date of defendant's signing of this agreement and the commencement of any such prosecution or action.

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b) Defendant gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of preindictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such prosecution, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing of this agreement.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

Defendant gives up the right to appeal any sentence imposed by the Court, including any order of restitution, and the manner in which the sentence is determined, provided that (a) the sentence is within the statutory maximum specified above and is constitutional, (b) the Court in determining the applicable quideline range does not depart upward in offense level or criminal history category and determines that the total offense level is 16 or below, and (c) the Court imposes a sentence within or below the range corresponding to the determined total offense level and criminal history category. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a post-conviction collateral attack on the convictions or sentence, including any order of restitution, except a post-conviction collateral attack based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, a claim of newly discovered evidence, or a explicitly retroactive change in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or statutes of conviction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, defendant retains the ability to appeal the court's determination of defendant's criminal history category and the conditions of supervised release imposed by the court, with the exception of the following: standard conditions set forth in district court General Orders 318 and 01-05; the drug testing conditions mandated by 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(a)(5) and 3583(d); and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

22. The USAO gives up its right to appeal the Court's sentence, provided that (a) the Court in determining the applicable guideline range does not depart downward in offense level or criminal history category (except by a downward departure in offense level pursuant to, and to the extent requested by, the USAO in a motion under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1), (b) the Court determines that the total offense level is 16 or above prior to any departure under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, and (c) the Court imposes a sentence within or above the range corresponding to the determined total offense level (after any downward departure under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1) and criminal history category.

RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

23. Defendant agrees that if any count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside, the USAO may: (a) ask the Court to resentence defendant on any remaining count of conviction, with both the USAO and defendant being released from any stipulations regarding sentencing contained in this agreement, (b) ask the Court to void the entire plea agreement and vacate defendant's guilty pleas on any remaining counts of conviction,

with both the USAO and defendant being released from all of their obligations under this agreement, or (c) leave defendant's remaining convictions, sentence, and plea agreement intact.

Defendant agrees that the choice among these three options rests in the exclusive discretion of the USAO.

COURT NOT A PARTY

24. The Court is not a party to this agreement and need not accept any of the USAO's sentencing recommendations or the parties' stipulations. Even if the Court ignores any sentencing recommendation, finds facts or reaches conclusions different from any stipulation, and/or imposes any sentence up to the maximum established by statute, defendant cannot, for that reason, withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and defendant will remain bound to fulfill all defendant's obligations under this agreement. No one - not the prosecutor, defendant's attorney, or the Court - can make a binding prediction or promise regarding the sentence defendant will receive, except that it will be within the statutory maximum.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

25. Except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings or agreements between the USAO and defendant or defendant's counsel. Nor may any additional agreement, understanding or condition be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

26. The parties agree and stipulate that this Agreement

will be considered part of the record of defendant's guilty plea hearing as if the entire Agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

This agreement is effective upon signature by defendant and an Assistant United States Attorney. The offer of a plea on the terms set forth herein is automatically withdrawn, if the agreement is not executed and received by the USAO on or before December 14, 2006 at Noon.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

GEORGE S. CARDONA

Acting United States Attorney

ÌCIA

Assistant United States Attorney

Senior Litigation Counsel

I have read this agreement and carefully discussed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. My attorney has advised me of my rights, of possible defenses, of the Sentencing Guideline provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this agreement. No promises or inducements have been made to me other than those contained in this agreement. No one has threatened or forced me in any way to enter into this

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, KAREN A.GLANZ, declare:

That I am a citizen of the United States and resident or employed in Los Angeles County, California; that my business address is Office of United States Attorney, United States Courthouse, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012; that I am over the age of eighteen years, and am not a party to the above-entitled action;

That I am employed by the United States Attorney for the Central District of California who is a member of the Bar of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, at whose direction the service by mail described in this Certificate was made; that September 7, 2007, I deposited in the United States mails in the United States Courthouse at 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, California, in the above-entitled action, in an envelope bearing the requisite postage, a copy of: PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT RITO MIGUEL DIAZ, JR addressed to:

Roser J. Rosen, Esq.
1801 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 900 Los Angeles, CA 90067

a<u>his</u> last known addresses, at which place there is a delivery service by United States mail.

This Certificate is executed on <u>September 7, 2007</u>, at Los Angeles, California.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

KAREN A. GLANZ