

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
NORTHERN DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 2:23-CR-7

v.

Hon. Robert J. Jonker  
United States District Judge

NATHAN WEEDEN,

Defendant.

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**DEFENDANT NATHAN WEEDEN'S PROPOSED VOIR DIRE**

Defendant Nathan Weeden, by and through counsel, respectfully requests that the following questions be among those posed to prospective jurors in the trial of this matter.

I. Connections to Law Enforcement

1. Does anyone have any family member or close friend who is a law enforcement officer?
2. If so, would you be willing to not discuss anything about the case until it is over?
3. Would it be awkward or uncomfortable for you to inform that person that you returned a "not guilty" verdict in this case?
4. Does anyone believe law enforcement officers are more credible or reliable than non-law enforcement witnesses, simply because they are law enforcement officers?
5. Are you willing to evaluate the credibility of a law enforcement officer just as you would any other witness?
6. You may have heard the term "cooperating witness." Do any of you know someone who has been used by law enforcement in that capacity?
7. Why do you think someone might decide to become a cooperating witness?

8. Are you willing to evaluate the truthfulness of a cooperating witness just as you would any other witness?

II. Allegations/Affiliations

9. What did you think when you heard the allegations about Mr. Weeden?
10. Did you assume he was guilty *because* he was charged?
11. Have you, or has anyone with whom you are close, belonged to, financially supported, or attended an event for any of the following organizations:
  - a. Antifa
  - b. Black Lives Matter
  - c. The Anti-Defamation League
12. Are you active on social media?
13. If you are active on social media, do you use any platform to express political viewpoints?
14. Have you ever posted a political message that others might consider controversial, or outside the mainstream?
15. Have you ever posted a political message on social media that you later regretted posting?
16. Do you believe people's social media content should always be taken literally?

III. Presumption of Innocence/Burden of Proof

17. Does everyone understand that Mr. Weeden is presumed innocent of any crime as he sits here now?
18. Does everyone understand that the government has to overcome that presumption for Mr. Weeden to be convicted of any crime?
19. You have probably heard the phrase "proof beyond a reasonable doubt" in criminal cases. Is each of you willing to follow Judge Jonker's instructions regarding reasonable doubt, and hold the government to its obligation to meet that burden?
20. Does everyone understand that Mr. Weeden does not have to prove anything?

21. What would you do if you thought Mr. Weeden was probably guilty, but the government had not convinced you of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt?
22. Does everyone understand that the law does not require Mr. Weeden to testify, and that the jury may not hold it against him if he chooses not to?
23. Does anyone think that an innocent person should always be willing to take the stand and tell his side of the story?

IV. Witness Credibility

24. How many of you have ever had to decide between two people (your kids, your employees) who was telling the truth?
25. How did you go about determining who was telling the truth between those two people?
26. What factors were important to you in making that determination?
27. Can you think of some reasons why a person might lie?

V. General

28. Does anyone here feel uncomfortable about being a juror on this case?
29. How would your friends and family members react if you sat on this jury and returned a verdict of not guilty?
30. Is anyone here worried about what the other jurors will think about you if you vote one way or the other?

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 26, 2023

/s/Heath M. Lynch  
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