

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

ERIC JAMAR GOODALL,

Defendant(s).

Case No. 2:15-CR-77 JCM (VCF)

ORDER

Presently before the court is defendant Eric Goodall's motion for compassionate release under 18 U.S.C. 3582(c)(1)(A). (ECF No. 180). The government filed a response (ECF No. 185), to which Goodall replied (ECF No. 190). For the reasons set forth below, the court DENIES Goodall's motion.

I. Background

Goodall is currently serving his term of incarceration at the Federal Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") at Coleman Medium Federal Correctional Institution. (ECF No. 190, at 1). He is projected to finish his term around November of 2026. *Id.*

In 2014, Goodall committed a string of armed robberies with his co-defendants over a two-month period. (*Id.*). Goodall robbed two Beauty Supply Warehouse stores, two O'Reilly Auto Parts stores, two Cricket Wireless stores, and a National Jewelry Liquidation Center store. (*Id.*). During these robberies, Goodall repeatedly threatened store employees with violence, and even death, if they did not comply with his demands. (*Id.*).

Goodall eventually entered into a nonbinding plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery and one count of brandishing a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence (18 U.S.C. § 924(c)). (ECF

1 Nos. 63, 65). As part of his plea agreement, Goodall agreed to a broad waiver of his right to appeal
2 his conviction or sentence. (ECF No. 63).

3 This court sentenced Goodall to 168 months incarceration. (ECF No. 151). This sentence
4 was even shorter than the one contemplated in Goodall's plea agreement. (ECF No. 63). But,
5 despite his waiver of appellate rights, Goodall appealed his section 924(c) conviction, arguing that
6 the statute is unconstitutionally vague. *See United States v. Goodall*, 21 F.4th 555 (2021). The
7 Ninth Circuit dismissed Goodall's appeal, holding that it was barred by the appellate waiver in his
8 plea agreement. *Id.* at 565.

9 The Supreme Court denied Goodall's petition for a writ of certiorari. (ECF No. 177).
10 Goodall now moves this court for compassionate release. The parties do not dispute that Goodall
11 has exhausted his administrative remedies.

12 **II. Legal Standard**

13 The compassionate release provision of 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A), as amended by the First
14 Step Act; Pub. L. No. 115-391, 132 Stat. 5194 (Dec. 21, 2018); authorizes the sentencing court to
15 modify a defendant's sentence in limited circumstances. 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A). The court
16 may consider a motion under section 3582(c)(1)(A) only "upon a motion of the Director of the
17 Bureau of Prisons" or upon the defendant's motion after he has fully exhausted his administrative
18 remedies. *Id.* The defendant may also move for compassionate release if his application to the
19 BOP goes unanswered for thirty days. *Id.*

20 To grant compassionate release, the court must consider whether: (1) "extraordinary and
21 compelling reasons" warrant release; (2) release would be "consistent with *applicable* policy
22 statements issued by the Sentencing Commission;" and (3) release is warranted under the
23 "particular circumstances of the case" based on the factors outlined in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). *United*
24 *States v. Wright*, 46 F.4th 938, 945 (9th Cir. 2022). "Although a district court must conclude that
25 a defendant satisfies all three predicates before granting a motion for compassionate release, it may
26 deny compassionate release if a defendant fails to satisfy *any* of these grounds." *Id.* (emphasis
27 added).

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1 For compassionate release motions filed by the defendant, as opposed to the BOP, district
 2 courts may consider “any extraordinary and compelling reason for release that a defendant may
 3 raise.” *United States v. Aruda*, 993 F.3d 797, 801 (9th Cir. 2021). These reasons may include—
 4 but are not limited to—terminal illnesses and other medical conditions “that substantially diminish
 5 the ability of the defendant to provide self-care within the environment of a correctional facility
 6 and from which he or she is not expected to recover;” or the defendant’s advanced age. USSG §
 7 1B1.13.¹

8 The court need not “provide a lengthy explanation” for its decision on compassionate
 9 release so long as “context and the record reflect that [it] considered the defendant’s substantive
 10 arguments and offered a reasoned basis” for its decision. *Wright*, 46 F.4th, at 950 (citations
 11 omitted). Ultimately, the decision to grant or deny compassionate release is within the district
 12 court’s discretion. *United States v. Keller*, 2 F.4th 1278, 1284 (9th Cir. 2021).

13 **III. Discussion**

14 Goodall argues that he should be compassionately released due to his underlying medical
 15 conditions, the BOP’s alleged inability to safeguard its inmates from infection by the Omicron
 16 variant of the COVID-19 virus, and the purported unconstitutionality of his conviction under
 17 section 924(c). The court does not decide whether there is an extraordinary and compelling reason
 18 to grant Goodall’s request for compassionate release because it denies his request under the factors
 19 listed in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a). *Wright*, 46 F.4th at 947 (holding that a district court may deny a
 20 request for compassionate release without conducting a sequential, “step-by-step analysis” under
 21 section 3582(c)(1)(A)).

22 Section 3553(a) factors include: “the nature and circumstances of the offense and the
 23 history and characteristics of the defendant; the need for the sentence imposed; the kinds of
 24 sentences available; the kinds of sentence and the sentencing range established in the Guidelines;
 25 any pertinent policy statement issued by the Sentencing Commission; the need to avoid
 26 unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found

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 28 ¹ Because USSG § 1B1.13 has not yet been updated to reflect the First Step Act’s amendment of
 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(1)(A), its policy statement is currently only “informative,” rather than
 binding, on district courts. *Aruda*, 993 F.3d at 802.

1 guilty of similar conduct; and the need to provide restitution to any victims.” *United States v.*
2 *Carty*, 520 F.3d 984, 991 (9th Cir. 2008) (en banc) (citing 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1)–(7)).

3 Goodall admitted to the facts supporting his convictions. Not only did Goodall rob several
4 stores with his codefendants, but he also split off from the group and robbed several more stores
5 on his own. (ECF No. 63, at 6–14). During the group and solo robberies, Goodall repeatedly held
6 store employees at gunpoint and threatened their lives. (*Id.*).

7 These robberies are also not the only criminal convictions under Goodall’s belt. Prior to
8 his sentence by this court, Goodall had multiple convictions and arrests, many of which involved
9 violence. Furthermore, since beginning his term of incarceration, Goodall has not shown evidence
10 of rehabilitation. Goodall has faced multiple disciplinary hearings for poor conduct, including
11 threatening a BOP staff member and refusing a work assignment. (ECF No. 185, at 5).

12 Considering all of the above, the first two factors under section 3553(a) do not warrant a
13 grant of compassionate release. Not only was Goodall’s underlying offense undeniably serious,
14 he appears to pose a danger to the public and has not shown evidence of rehabilitation. Granting
15 Goodall’s motion for compassionate release would not serve the purposes of sentencing. *Dean v.*
16 *United States*, 581 U.S. 62, 67 (2017) (explaining that the second sentencing factor considers
17 whether a given sentence serves the purposes of sentencing: “just punishment, deterrence,
18 protection of the public, and rehabilitation”).

19 The remaining pertinent section 3553(a) factors require the court to consider “the kinds of
20 sentences available,” “the kinds of sentence and the sentencing range established,” “any pertinent
21 policy statement” issued by the Sentencing Commission, and “the need to avoid unwarranted
22 sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been guilty of similar
23 conduct.” 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(3)–(6). These factors weigh against a grant of compassionate
24 release.

25 This court sentenced Goodall to 84 months for two counts of Hobbs Act robbery followed
26 by a consecutive sentence of another 84 months for his section 924(c) conviction. (ECF No. 151).
27 The guideline range for Goodall on his Hobbs Act counts, based on his criminal history and the
28 total offense level, is 84 to 105 months. A conviction under section 924(c) carries a mandatory

1 minimum of 84 months, to be served consecutive to any other sentence imposed by the court. 18
2 U.S.C. 924(c)(1)(D).

3 Goodall's sentence is thus already at the low end of the guidelines range and the statutory
4 minimum. His sentence is also significantly below the 240 months agreed upon by the parties in
5 the plea agreement. (ECF No. 63, at 20). To grant Goodall compassionate release now, when he
6 is still years away from completing his term of incarceration, would not serve the goals of
7 sentencing.

8 Finally, to the extent that Goodall argues he should be allowed to serve the remainder of
9 his sentence on home confinement, the court reminds him that it lacks the jurisdiction to enter such
10 an order. Although the compassionate release statute "allows a court to reduce a defendant's term
11 of imprisonment," whether to allow a defendant to serve his term of incarceration on home
12 confinement is "a matter committed to the discretion" of the BOP, not the court. *Wright*, 46 F.4th
13 at 951.

14 **IV. Conclusion**

15 Accordingly,

16 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that Goodall's motion for
17 compassionate release (ECF No. 180) be DENIED.

18 DATED November 3, 2023.

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21 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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