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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - WESTERN DIVISION

LA ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ) Case No. LA CV 20-02291-DOC-  
et al., ) (KESx)  
Plaintiffs, )  
vs. ) Los Angeles, California  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES, et al., ) Thursday, September 28, 2023  
Defendants. ) (8:40 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.)

TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS CONFERENCE RE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID O. CARTER  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Appearances: See next page.  
Court Reporter: Recorded; CourtSmart  
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1 Los Angeles, California; Thursday September 28, 2023 8:40 am

2 --o0o--

3 (Call to Order)

4 THE COURT: If you'd call LA Alliance to order and  
5 please make your appearances. I know some of our officials  
6 have other business today.

7 So, beginning with Plaintiffs, please.

8 MS. MITCHELL: Good morning, your Honor.  
9 Elizabeth Mitchell, Matthew Umhofer, and Cara Arnold on  
10 behalf of Plaintiffs.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 With proposed intervenors?

13 MR. YAGMAN: Good morning, your Honor. Steven  
14 Yagman for the proposed Intervenors.

15 THE COURT: Thank you.

16 And for the Intervenors?

17 MS. MYERS: Good morning, your Honor. Shayla  
18 Myers with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles on behalf  
19 of Intervenors.

20 THE COURT: All right. For the County, please?

21 MS. HASHMALL: Good morning, your Honor. Mira  
22 Hashmall for the County of Los Angeles.

23 THE COURT: And for the City?

24 MR. MARCUS: Good morning, your Honor. Scott  
25 Marcus on behalf of the City of Los Angeles.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Marcus, it's nice seeing you.

2 The Court's received a proposed settlement  
3 agreement. I know that the Mayor and Supervisor Hahn have  
4 other businesses with the Metro Board. So, we tried to call  
5 the case earlier today at 8:30 for you. Hopefully we can  
6 get this resolved today.

7 I want to start with a very positive statement  
8 today, and that is the Court appreciates the efforts that  
9 you put into this.

10 So, I'm going to begin with Mayor Bass and then  
11 with Councilperson Paul Krekorian. The simple question is  
12 for each of you, your thoughts concerning this agreement?  
13 And the County before has argued that this agreement is  
14 somewhat tied to your efforts on behalf of the City.

15 MS. BASS: Thank you very much, Judge. Yes, as we  
16 have learned about the agreement, we are in support of it.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MS. BASS: And the fact that we're now talking  
19 about 3,000 beds I think would make a tremendous difference  
20 and is a significant increase from where we were several  
21 months ago. So, we are in support, and we're glad that we  
22 are to the point where hopefully all parties will agree  
23 today.

24 One issue that is important to the City of Los  
25 Angeles, of course, is that the people that would be in the

1 beds would be from the City of Los Angeles. That's very  
2 important because it could be possible that people from  
3 surrounding areas do that, and that would not really address  
4 the problem in the City of Los Angeles. So, thank you very  
5 much.

6 THE COURT: And, Mayor, thank you for being here;  
7 and thank you for your efforts.

8 Let me turn to Council President Paul Krekorian.  
9 By the way, it's good to see you also.

10 MR. KREKORIAN: Thank you very much, your Honor.  
11 And let me say first how much we appreciate your persistence  
12 in this and how much we appreciate the leadership of the  
13 County Board of Supervisors for really leaning in on this  
14 and moving us forward significantly from where we were the  
15 last time we were all together. And I especially want to  
16 recognize Supervisor Hahn who has personally taken this on  
17 to try to get a resolution of --

18 THE COURT: Yeah.

19 MR. KREKORIAN: -- works in the interests of the  
20 County and in the City and our unhoused population and the  
21 Plaintiffs, and -- and I believe she has done that.

22 To -- to the Mayor's point, it is a constant  
23 struggle in the City of Los Angeles as we continue to do  
24 what we need to do in building housing and -- and doing the  
25 other aggressive bold steps that we're taking to address

1 homelessness, that we continue to have the challenge that we  
2 are devoting resources to an unhoused population that --  
3 that we're trying to target within the City and within our  
4 boundaries, and I think that this settlement will -- will  
5 certainly help us in those efforts. But if there is a way  
6 that, consistent with the legal requirements and other  
7 issues of the County, that we can ensure that the resolution  
8 of this lawsuit, which was directed at the problem within  
9 the City of Los Angeles, that named the City of Los Angeles  
10 as a party, and that the resolution of which should involve  
11 the City of Los Angeles, to the extent that we can identify  
12 a way operationally to ensure that the unhoused residents of  
13 Los Angeles are the beneficiaries of these beds, that would  
14 be a very important step forward for us.

15           But I do just want to join the Mayor in saying how  
16 much we are appreciative of the progress that we've made so  
17 far, both of your Honor and -- and the supervisors in  
18 getting us to this point.

19           THE COURT: Supervisor Hahn, let me come back to  
20 you in just a moment. I'd like to hear from the other  
21 parties and then, with your permission, come back to you.

22           On behalf of the Intervenors.

23           MS. MYERS: Good morning, your Honor. Shayla  
24 Myers on behalf of the intervenors. Obviously, we received  
25 the settlement agreement on Monday when the settlement was

1 filed publically with the Court. The Intervenors played no  
2 role in negotiating the settlement agreement. We were  
3 excluded by the -- from the settlement negotiations and by  
4 the County as well.

5           So, we just want to make a couple of statements  
6 regarding it because this is the first time that we've had a  
7 chance to weigh in on the settlement proposal.

8           First of all, we appreciate the County and the  
9 Plaintiffs working together to find a solution to the  
10 monitoring provision. We appreciate Judge Gandhi's role in  
11 negotiating the settlement early on. We did participate in  
12 an early settlement negotiation with Judge Gandhi and  
13 appreciate the role that he will play as a monitor.

14           We also appreciate the inclusion of the  
15 opportunity for Intervenors to participate in the  
16 monitoring. We would note that the LA Alliance and the  
17 County have often agreed and the City of Los Angeles have  
18 often agreed on many things. We think it's important to  
19 have representatives of unhoused folks participating in the  
20 monitoring and appreciate the opportunity for Judge Gandhi  
21 to involve the Intervenors if he finds that appropriate.

22           Second of all, we want to applaud the County of  
23 Los Angeles for leading on this issue without leading with  
24 enforcement. That was a significant problem that  
25 Intervenors raised with the City settlement with the LA

1 Alliance which led -- which fronted the issue of enforcement  
2 of an anti-camping ordinance which I think history has shown  
3 is unnecessary to address this issue. The County has led  
4 with care first throughout this entire negotiation,  
5 throughout this entire case. That's evidenced in the  
6 settlement agreement, and we -- we really applaud the  
7 leadership of the supervisors and the County of Los Angeles  
8 on this issue, of -- of leading with services, which we'll  
9 address this issue, and not with enforcement, which is the  
10 problem with the City of Los Angeles's ongoing settlement  
11 negotiation -- or settlement agreement.

12           Third, we just want to say that we appreciate the  
13 County meeting the City's obligation. The settlement  
14 agreement between the City and the Plaintiffs will not solve  
15 homelessness. That's very clear. We raised objections to  
16 the amount of resources that the City is putting in, but it  
17 is clear at this point that the County is both meeting the  
18 City's obligations and far exceeding them at this point with  
19 the 3,000 beds that they're offering, in addition to  
20 providing services for the permanent supportive housing that  
21 the City of Los Angeles was already providing. It's an  
22 exceptional commitment by the County of Los Angeles to meet  
23 the City of Los Angeles, and we want that to -- we want to  
24 ensure that that does not go unremarked upon as we talk  
25 about the additional resources.



1           We would strongly object to any suggestion that  
2 the 3,000 beds be allocated solely within the City of Los  
3 Angeles. The County of Los Angeles has an obligation to  
4 provide services throughout the County to 10 million people.  
5 The 3,000 beds, we assume based on the language of the  
6 settlement that the County will make those allocations based  
7 on the needs of the residents of the County of Los Angeles.

8           This case has been -- the point of this case has  
9 largely been a jurisdictional fight between the City of Los  
10 Angeles ensuring that its borders are protected through  
11 enforcement, and the suggestion that the City of Los Angeles  
12 be -- that the resources that the County is providing be  
13 dedicated only to the City of Los Angeles is incredibly  
14 problematic. individuals who are unhoused in the City and  
15 County of Los Angeles are not bound by the jurisdictional  
16 fights that the City of Los Angeles has with other  
17 jurisdictions. If people are forced out of the City of Los  
18 Angeles into other jurisdictions because of the City of Los  
19 Angeles' hostile climate towards folks who are unhoused,  
20 those individuals should not be precluded from getting the  
21 mental health services that they need. And we would stress  
22 this point because the mental health services that folks who  
23 are unhoused need are sometimes in part because of the  
24 trauma that individuals who are unhoused face at the hands  
25 of enforcement by the Los Angeles Police Department, Los

1 Angeles Sanitation, and other enforcement provisions that  
2 are inscribed in the settlement agreement between the City  
3 and the LA Alliance.

4           And, so, finally, the last thing that we would say  
5 is we appreciate the addition of 3,000 mental health and  
6 substance abuse beds. That is definitely a good start.  
7 What we would say is that the provision of those beds are  
8 temporary for individuals who are receiving treatment, and  
9 the only way to address homelessness are to ensure that  
10 individuals who are coming out of those treatment beds have  
11 a permanent place to go.

12           We understand that this case has largely been  
13 fought about permanent supportive housing versus interim  
14 housing beds. The 3,000 beds that are being offered here  
15 are interim beds. They are incredibly important in terms of  
16 ensuring mental health and substance abuse treatment; but,  
17 absent a permanent place for individuals to go, there will  
18 be -- there will be no resolution of the homeless crisis.

19           THE COURT: Okay.

20           MS. MYERS: So, we appreciate the effort that went  
21 into this, and we do not have any current objections.

22           THE COURT: Are you supportive of this agreement?

23           MS. MYERS: I'm sorry, your Honor?

24           THE COURT: Are you supportive of this agreement,  
25 yes or no?

1 MS. MYERS: We don't have any objections.

2 THE COURT: What does that mean? Are you  
3 supportive of this agreement, yes or no?

4 MS. MYERS: We don't have any objections. We  
5 would be neutral on the -- on the substantive terms of the  
6 agreement.

7 THE COURT: All right. Before you approved 300 as  
8 the Intervenor, you know my deep concern over that, you --

9 MS. MYERS: Your Honor, we did not approve --

10 THE COURT: Yes, you did. I'll get a transcript  
11 for you. Now, if we had 300 bed spaces before, are you in  
12 agreement with 3,000 bed spaces?

13 MS. MYERS: Your Honor, the Intervenor, we have never  
14 approved a settlement agreement. We were never asked to do  
15 so. We, similarly, took a non-objection position to the  
16 earlier settlement agreement because, again, the concerns  
17 that we have are about meeting the City's obligations which  
18 we thought the previous agreement did. We -- we would stand  
19 by that, and we would stand by our non-objection.

20 THE COURT: You know, I'm deeply troubled by it.  
21 Counsel on behalf of the Proposed Intervenor?

22 MR. YAGMAN: First, I agree with everything that  
23 the Mayor had to say.

24 Second and last, I hope that this isn't a good  
25 thing that turns into a bad thing.

1 THE COURT: Right.

2 On behalf of the Plaintiffs.

3 MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, your Honor.

4 So, when we were here five months ago, the Court,  
5 in order to accept continuing jurisdiction, gave us a task  
6 to come back with 3,000 beds and a monitor, and that's  
7 exactly what we did.

8 THE COURT: Right.

9 MS. MITCHELL: We feel very comfortable with this.  
10 We are very excited about this. Congratulations to the  
11 County, and I really do believe that they dug deep to come  
12 up with these 3,000 beds.

13 Now, it took us five months to get there and five  
14 months of a lot of hard work with counsel to get there, but  
15 given not only the 3,000 beds which are desperately needed  
16 in this County, but all the other things that are included  
17 in this agreement, including the 450 enriched residential  
18 care, board and care supplements which go towards people  
19 with serious mental illness who are at risk largely of  
20 becoming homeless if they did not have these long-term care  
21 beds. We think this is a significant deal. We're very  
22 comfortable with it, especially with the partnerships with  
23 the City that we're seeing, and -- and I think to the extent  
24 there is some concern by the City, that these are not beds  
25 that are dedicated to the City, I think I would say the need

1 that was identified of 3,000 beds was county wide. It was  
2 not city wide. That was identified by the County. And, so,  
3 we are comfortable with it being county wide.

4 To the extent that the City and the County -- I  
5 know they have ongoing conversations in an MOU -- want to  
6 make that part of the MOU, Plaintiffs certainly wouldn't  
7 object, but that is not part of this agreement.

8 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Would you help me?  
9 There will -- or, Alma, would you go to the ELMO and put up  
10 the agreement for just a moment.

11 I'm going to ask you to consider three following  
12 areas for your consideration. I'm probably going to sign  
13 this agreement today. I think that Supervisor Hahn has the  
14 authority to do that on behalf of the Board.

15 But, before I put up this, I'd like to hear from  
16 you, Supervisor Hahn, and I want to compliment you on your  
17 courage, quite a journey. If there's anything you'd like to  
18 say, this is an opportunity.

19 MS. HAHN: Thank you, your Honor, and good  
20 morning.

21 I will say this year, since I've been the Chair of  
22 our County Board of Supervisors, certainly the issue of  
23 homelessness in L.A. County has been my top priority. This  
24 lawsuit has also been something that I have worked very hard  
25 on.

1 I will never forget when the Mayor, newly  
2 inaugurated, we sat here and, you know, Karen Bass and I  
3 have been friends a long time. We served in Congress  
4 together. Our offices were actually right next to each  
5 other. But the relationship that the Mayor began to model  
6 publically was so different than I had experience, even when  
7 my own brother was Mayor. She said, you know, no longer  
8 will the County and the City point fingers at each other.  
9 There is enough blame to go around for all of us in terms of  
10 this problem. She said let's lock arms and begin to move  
11 forward on a pathway that the public will see we are working  
12 together, and she said that day sitting here, "Your Honor,  
13 give us 90 days. I think we can do better."

14 At that point, we were putting on the table 300  
15 beds. She said -- you said too -- let's put a zero behind  
16 that, and it was clear to you that you wanted the county to  
17 have some accountability, to have a monitor to make sure  
18 that our good intentions, that our -- our faith in our  
19 ability to do this would have some accountability. You  
20 wanted to see a deal on the County's side that mirrored the  
21 City's --

22 THE COURT: Right.

23 MS. HAHN: -- which was -- I think a big part was  
24 the monitor. So, for all this year, we've been working very  
25 hard -- all sides have been working really hard -- to bring

1 the County along, and I will say it was an all hands on deck  
2 with the County of Los Angeles. I had my Department of  
3 Mental Health. I had Cheri Todoroff with our Homeless  
4 Initiative. I had Fesia Davenport, our CEO and our County  
5 Counsel, getting us to this point; and we are all now  
6 aligned. The stars are aligned with 3,000 beds, the  
7 accountability piece that I think you wanted, and a real,  
8 you know, desire that everyone understands that, of course,  
9 you know, we are all in as the County to try to address the  
10 seriousness of homelessness. The County is the safety net.  
11 We're there to keep people from falling through the  
12 cracks --

13 THE COURT: Um-hmm.

14 MS. HAHN: -- both mentally, physically,  
15 financially, and every other way. Is 3,000 beds enough? Of  
16 course you know it's not. But I believe this is a solid  
17 proposal.

18 THE COURT: Um-hmm.

19 MS. HAHN: We will make this happen. And we can  
20 work out later the allocation of the beds. I don't -- I  
21 understand that the majority of the homeless in the County  
22 resides in the City of Los Angeles. Hilda Solis's district  
23 is the one --

24 THE COURT: Right.

25 MS. HAHN: -- most heavily impacted.

1 THE COURT: Right.

2 MS. HAHN: And 3,000 beds going towards solving  
3 that problem will help the entire County of Los Angeles.

4 THE COURT: Um-hmm.

5 MS. HAHN: We as elected officials have to be held  
6 accountable. We want to see some progress. Our  
7 constituents want to see some progress, and I think this  
8 gives us that pathway forward.

9 So, for me, the thanks today goes to my partners  
10 in the City of Los Angeles, Mayor Bass, Paul Krekorian. I  
11 thank the -- the Alliance, the Plaintiffs, who have been  
12 wonderful in working with us, and I thank my lawyers for  
13 working hard to get us to this day, and I think about my  
14 good friend, Tom LaBonge, you know, who was probably my  
15 dearest friend on the City Council, who believed so much in  
16 you, Judge; and he believed in the better nature of all of  
17 us to dig deep and do all we can to -- to work to solve this  
18 problem.

19 So, I'm pleased with this settlement.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MS. HAHN: I've worked really hard to get us here,  
22 and I hope you'll bless it --

23 THE COURT: Sign it.

24 MS. HAHN: -- today. I want to put this lawsuit  
25 behind us so we can start doing the hard work that this



1 settlement will allow us to do.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. HAHN: That's what I'm ready for.

4 THE COURT: I want to put up three things for your  
5 consideration, and then I'm going to sign this without  
6 further negotiation. I'll need the -- I'll need the  
7 signature of the Board of Supervisors. Although I respect  
8 the attorneys, I'm tired of signing documents as a judge and  
9 having intermediaries or counsel sign it. So, Judge -- or  
10 Judge Hahn, Supervisor Hahn, if you'd be kind enough to sign  
11 this today if you agree.

12 All right. The first is I agree with you. This  
13 is a floor, not a ceiling. And, therefore, if you'd put up  
14 the very first provision of the three points I've got, just  
15 the first provision, and write in the following on the last  
16 page -- you can handwrite it in.

17 "This agreement is a floor, not a ceiling. While  
18 the agreement does not solve the homelessness in Los Angeles  
19 County, it is an important and substantial step forward."

20 Now, why would I ask that? This is a huge step  
21 forward. You're all to be commended. I want to be very  
22 positive about this. But what I worry about in the future  
23 is we become protective that this is the only responsibility  
24 we have or believe we have in three to five years from now  
25 and we're clinging to this document saying, Judge, we've

1 done enough. There's a lot more work to do.

2           Okay. So, second:

3           All future billings from providers must be  
4 completely transparent, and all underlying invoices are to  
5 be public documents.

6           And I'll repeat that in just a moment. All right.  
7 Now, I want to start why.

8           In the past, unconnected to any of you as public  
9 officials, there has been -- or let's be as kind as possible  
10 -- there may have been double counting. When those figures  
11 thrown out to the public were 20,000, I want to thank Jeff,  
12 Katherine, Don, who's here, Pete, Dave Mala, Stephanie, for  
13 showing me the community.

14           And what I'm afraid of is that the Board got  
15 shielded and the City got shielded with well intentioned  
16 people in the past and, in doing so, that these figure's  
17 let's say were kindly questionable. And what occurred in  
18 the past -- and let me be as kind as possible -- may be a  
19 person going into the Wellesley Center or other  
20 establishments -- and with your background, Mayor, you don't  
21 have to affirm this, but -- and you sit there and you watch  
22 20 or 30 people waiting to be treated -- and they're doing a  
23 terrific job, by the way -- but if the person's bipolar or  
24 schizophrenic or needs to go use the bathroom, they leave.  
25 And, historically in the past, I worry about how your money

1 was spent because you had a sign-up, a name; but the person  
2 didn't receive treatment.

3 I'm not going to say what I witnessed or what was  
4 told to me by the community, but when you're on the ground,  
5 you have to believe -- and I'll take you down there any time  
6 and introduce you to the community.

7 Where's Don for a moment? Don, you here? Yeah,  
8 stand up. He can take -- Katherine can take you down there.  
9 If General Jeff were still alive, Pate, you know, Pastor Q,  
10 Big Mama. There's a host of people. Thank you, Don.

11 The second thing is sometimes services were  
12 counted. So, in other words, I went in as an individual,  
13 but a provider may have counted one service, a second  
14 service, and a third service. And in the past, certain  
15 providers may have -- so I can be as kind as general --  
16 submitted a bill to the City or the County, and that bill  
17 was supposed to have underlying documentation kept by the  
18 provider. If you go back and look at our record in April of  
19 2022, Michelle, 2022, that record is replete with millions  
20 if not tens of millions if not maybe hundreds of millions of  
21 dollars unaccounted for. That doesn't mean there was fraud.  
22 That doesn't mean anything else except the providers didn't  
23 keep that information, and the reason I'm demanding that is  
24 is going forward, the public has to have faith that you as  
25 the Board and you as the City have the underlying

1 documentation so you can compare what one group is doing and  
2 producing in terms of homelessness versus another, and we  
3 don't have those records.

4           Well, the Governor's in the box. Hypothetically,  
5 if Newsom were here, he'd tell you even with a deficit, he's  
6 going to supply money to the County and the City. But  
7 you've heard him threaten from Sacramento to take over the  
8 accounting of this. In reality, he can't do it. By the  
9 same token, hypothetically, if you're the Governor, you  
10 might fear the cities and counties turning on you if you  
11 didn't give them money, hypothetically, and say you're not  
12 supporting homelessness. He needs, the State needs, and,  
13 more importantly, you need, and the taxpayers need a full  
14 and transparent accounting of these moneys.

15           So, I'm going to sign this. And if you choose not  
16 to -- but this strikes right at transparency that we've  
17 needed right from the beginning, and I think it's  
18 extraordinarily helpful to you and the Board,  
19 extraordinarily helpful to you on the City, you compare  
20 apples to oranges.

21           I want to talk about a very sensitive issue for  
22 just a moment, and that is is Judge Gandhi here? It's been  
23 stated that Judge Gandhi would be my special monitor. I've  
24 reached out to a myriad of people. I'll name them. John  
25 Heuston of the Heuston Hennigan Firm, who was the chief

1 prosecutor on Enron; Steve Larsen (phonetic), Antony  
2 Villaraigosa, and I can't -- I can't even start to name  
3 them. No, I know, not going to happen.

4           But, you know, I've made the rounds with a lot of  
5 people. Last night -- I forget, who was I speaking to last  
6 night? I -- Miguel Santana. I've been blessed by  
7 surrounding myself with absolute virtue. And by that, I  
8 mean, for five years, nobody who's worked with me has  
9 accepted one cent. Let me repeat that. This City has  
10 incredible people here who really care who are working for  
11 minimum fee. I'll start with Tom LaBonge, who you  
12 mentioned, and his wife. Two days before he died, he was  
13 out fighting the Patriot Hall for our last meeting, and he  
14 passed away. Okay. The community out here with Katherine  
15 and Don and General Jeff, et cetera. I'm just amazed at all  
16 the people trying to solve the problem.

17           I'm willing to accept Judge Gandhi. I want to be  
18 very positive about that, but I worry about two things.  
19 First of all, in the present provision, the provision has to  
20 be stricken before I will sign this, that aggrandizes Judge  
21 Gandhi's involvement. He was involved in one mediation  
22 session, which I compliment him on. And, although they  
23 won't accept praise, Judge Birotte and Michelle Martinez sat  
24 here until 2:00 o'clock in the morning with the parties  
25 night after night, and I don't want this historic document

1 and the fallaciousness of this taken out of context.

2           Second, I understand that there's been a struggle  
3 over money. I think we've had a meeting -- I'll be  
4 transparent. I met with Karen Barham (phonetic) this  
5 morning, a wonderful meeting, okay.

6           There was a proposal that Judge Gandhi get paid  
7 \$200,000. First of all, he's a wonderful colleague, and I  
8 welcome him to this, but I need a monitor on the street, and  
9 that means he hits the street at 6:30 in the morning on Skid  
10 Row with me. Matt, are you listening? Is Fesia here also?  
11 Where's Fesia? She'll be my caller.

12           That means that I need to transition over the next  
13 year all this acquired knowledge that Michelle has having  
14 worked on the street. And, so, the proposal was that we pay  
15 Judge Gandhi \$200,000, and the proposal was that we pay  
16 Michelle Martinez \$50,000. She'd probably do it for free.  
17 And I want you to think about that for a moment. The person  
18 doing all the work and now comes a male, (indiscernible),  
19 and you propose to me to pay him \$200,000. No. He can work  
20 for free or he can work for the same salary that Michelle  
21 Martinez receives and no more.

22           So, put up the next provision. If you don't agree  
23 to it, this deal's off. I won't have gender bias, and I  
24 won't have those people who've made special effort for no  
25 cost and sign this document unless that provision is

1 stricken.

2           For the first year, Judge Gandhi will work for  
3 free as a special monitor or, alternatively, will be  
4 compensated commensurately with Special Master Michelle  
5 Martinez.

6           Additionally, Judge Gandhi will work under the  
7 guidance of Michelle Martinez for the first year to ensure  
8 continuity. The monitor must be willing to take to the  
9 streets and learn from the community, not the bureaucracy,  
10 and has an absolute fiduciary responsibility to the Federal  
11 Court as special master.

12           I would welcome Judge Gandhi. I want that  
13 absolutely clear. I would welcome him as a colleague. I'd  
14 ask you to check for conflicts in case he has business at  
15 JAMS, where he has a lucrative income. And if that includes  
16 a conflict with the County -- I haven't had that  
17 conversation with Jay, but, once again, I would welcome him,  
18 and I want to show that face to both of you, but I worry  
19 about the disparity, about who did the work. And this  
20 paragraph is not correct.

21           Now, gently, take it or leave it. I'm going to  
22 turn now to the Intervenors first of all. Are these  
23 provisions agreeable to you, yes or no?

24           MS. MYERS: Your Honor, I think we --

25           THE COURT: Yes or no?

1 MS. MYERS: No.

2 THE COURT: Okay. And tell me why.

3 MS. MYERS: I think I'm -- I would just like to  
4 point out that it -- it is -- it is factually inaccurate to  
5 say that everyone has worked on this case for free.  
6 Certainly, the Intervenors have worked on this case for  
7 free, but the LA Alliance has not worked on this case for  
8 free.

9 THE COURT: No. No. The people who I've  
10 consulted with have worked on this for free. And I'll  
11 represent that to you, and I'll start with Tom LaBonge, and  
12 I'll go through Miguel Santana, and I'll go through a host  
13 of good people. I'll go through the community out here with  
14 Pastor Q, who's certainly not getting paid, or General Jeff  
15 when he was alive. So, that may not be you; but, as far as  
16 the parties are concerned, they're irrelevant to this  
17 provision.

18 I want people who I'm surrounded with with  
19 absolute virtue, who are willing to commit themselves to  
20 homelessness for one reason, that they really truly care.

21 MS. MYERS: Yes, your Honor. And -- and certainly  
22 we -- we appreciate that That is -- and that is why we have  
23 been at the table, but I would say there is -- there is  
24 value in providing compensation to the individuals who are  
25 retained to provide objective monitoring of this settlement



1 agreement --

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. MYERS: -- which we believe that Judge Gandhi  
4 is being compensated to do. We -- we appreciate that he --

5 THE COURT: Why would he receive \$200,000 for one  
6 mediation session then and the other monitor making this  
7 transition, a female, receive \$50,000? Help me with that.

8 MS. MYERS: Your Honor, certainly, we are -- we  
9 are strongly opposed to gender bias in compensation.

10 THE COURT: Okay. So, they both receive --

11 MS. MYERS: What we would say is --

12 THE COURT: -- it? Just a moment. So, they both  
13 -- I'm not going to take up much more time with this. So,  
14 they both receive equal compensation then.

15 MS. MYERS: Your Honor, we were not part of nor  
16 were we aware of --

17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for --

18 MS. MYERS: -- the negotiation --

19 THE COURT: -- the discussion. Thank you. We're  
20 done with it.

21 MS. HASHMALL: Your Honor, on behalf of the  
22 County, I'd like to speak about the settlement and about the  
23 Court's concerns.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 MS. HASHMALL: This agreement represents a \$1.2

1 billion commitment on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.  
2 These resources are unprecedented, and they're targeted  
3 towards the most vulnerable members of our population.

4 THE COURT: Are you agreeing to this transparency  
5 or not?

6 MS. HASHMALL: The County has always been  
7 committed --

8 THE COURT: Are you committed to this transparency  
9 and these underlying documents being shared with the public,  
10 yes or no?

11 MS. HASHMALL: The County has always been  
12 committed to transparency, your Honor, and also are  
13 champions of diversity and equity. The Board believes that  
14 to their core, and any suggestion that they are complicit in  
15 bias or gender discrimination is completely misguided.

16 THE COURT: Then you have no difficulty with this  
17 provision?

18 MS. HASHMALL: The monitor of the City's agreement  
19 -- the compensation structure was agreed to by the City and  
20 the Plaintiffs and approved by the Court. The monitor  
21 agreement the County has reached with Judge Gandhi mirrors  
22 that compensation structure. There is parity and equality  
23 with regards to the monitor for the City agreement, Special  
24 Master Martinez, and the monitor of the County agreement,  
25 Judge Gandhi.

1 THE COURT: I want to keep this positive, but  
2 that's not correct.

3 MS. HASHMALL: We value and appreciate the  
4 commitment the Court has given to this issue, and we know  
5 you have pushed us, and I think the County has more than  
6 stepped up. The resources here not only involve 3,000 beds,  
7 but --

8 THE COURT: No. I object strongly to not having  
9 continuity in this next year in transferring information  
10 from Michelle Martinez to Judge Gandhi. I want that street  
11 knowledge. This is no longer a mediation session where  
12 people are sitting in their offices. This is on the street.  
13 And, therefore, this Court will not be precluded from that  
14 kind of monitoring activity by someone who won't take to the  
15 street. So, while I welcome Jay Gandhi, I've got a dozen  
16 other people I can insert. It's my choice as the Judge, not  
17 the parties'. This person has a fiduciary duty to the  
18 Court. They are a creation of the Court just like the Grand  
19 Jury.

20 I'm going to turn to Paul Krekorian for a moment,  
21 Council President. Transparency and coequality in terms of  
22 this next year -- and, by the way, if you want to limit it  
23 to \$50,000, that's fine. We'll save \$100,000 for the  
24 County. And, by the way, for the City, I think Mayor Bass  
25 will vouch and, Matt, you can vouch, that Michelle Martinez

1 could be paid up to \$200,000 a year. She's received less  
2 than \$100,000, half of that, and walked away from lucrative  
3 contracts to keep virtue and to keep no conflict. And I  
4 want to make sure that Judge Gandhi's doing that also,  
5 because the first time I hear -- that's why I wanted Jay  
6 here. He's a close friend. But the first time I hear he's  
7 got a business dealing with the County or with JAMS, you  
8 know what my response is going to be, because that reflects  
9 on the Court, and that's why up to this point,  
10 (indiscernible) amount of laundering, I've surrounded myself  
11 with people who did not take money.

12           So, I'll turn to both of you because I'm adamant  
13 about the transparency. From now on, the public not only  
14 sees the documents submitted to you, they see the underlying  
15 documents that support this because that couldn't be found  
16 for two years, from 2017 to 2019, and there could be  
17 hundreds of millions of dollars unaccounted for, not  
18 fraudulently, just unaccounted for.

19           So, I'll turn to Paul Krekorian.

20           MR. KREKORIAN: Thank you, your Honor. I  
21 certainly share your concerns about transparency, and this  
22 has been an ongoing struggle that we've had with many  
23 providers to try to provide -- to -- to try to obtain  
24 actionable information --

25           THE COURT: Yeah.

1 MR. KREKORIAN: -- that we can use in policy  
2 making as well and to target our resources in the way that  
3 are most effective and most cost effective. So, we  
4 certainly share that -- that concern.

5 I'm not an expert in what the legal requirements  
6 of the providers are and what they can and can't do, but I  
7 think having a strong statement like this is --

8 THE COURT: Yeah.

9 MR. KREKORIAN: -- a very productive, positive  
10 direction to go in.

11 THE COURT: I'm going to say to you that I commend  
12 you for that statement for one reason amongst many. How  
13 does the City or the County know what the provider's really  
14 providing? And you need in the future to know X provider is  
15 getting so much housing or so much shelter or what that mix  
16 is and then somebody can complain about it. But right now  
17 we're getting a vast amount of our documentation is a one  
18 liner, "\$248,000, please pay me." And what we couldn't find  
19 was that underlying documentation. I think that the public  
20 -- the public has a right to know what that money is being  
21 spent on, is it being spent on water bottles or something  
22 substantive?

23 Judge, come on up here for a moment. No, I -- I  
24 know you didn't want to be on the spot. So, we're talking  
25 about Judge Gandhi. Have you had any conversation with him

1 yet?

2 DISTRICT JUDGE BIROTTE: I have not.

3 THE COURT: All right. Now, I was going to invite  
4 him to join me at 6:30 tomorrow. I was going to tell him  
5 the location, and I want to take him out to view the  
6 community. So, can somebody call him?

7 Now I'll turn to Mayor Bass.

8 MS. BASS: Yes. Once again, thank you so much for  
9 your leadership on this issue, and I really think that we're  
10 in a new time period of collaboration, as the Chair of the  
11 Board mentioned before, the collaboration between the City  
12 and the County. All year long there has not been any finger  
13 pointing.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 MS. BASS: We have been working together, and the  
16 transparency is absolutely critical --

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MS. BASS: Because, as we are focused on housing  
19 people and not using enforcement and thousands of -- of  
20 units of permanent supportive housing coming online, we have  
21 to know what we are accomplishing. The transparency is  
22 critical. But the other part of transparency is what are  
23 the outcomes, not just that you saw a person, but what  
24 happened to that --

25 THE COURT: Yeah.

1 MS. BASS: -- person, did they go into treatment,  
2 what type of treatment. Services need to be defined.

3 So, I think the call for transparency is  
4 absolutely welcomed.

5 THE COURT: I'm so pleased with your background  
6 that you have that, you know, wisdom in terms of your prior  
7 occupation.

8 Let me turn to the Supervisor. I know you didn't  
9 expect this, but I just can't see how this is helpful to us  
10 to know which provider is doing what, what they're  
11 producing, et cetera, so you can compare, because going  
12 forward, my guess is we're going to have to ask the taxpayer  
13 for a bond issue. They have to have absolute confidence  
14 going forward that that money is well spent, and I think  
15 this is the only way to do it, but I turn to Supervisor  
16 Hahn.

17 MS. HAHN: Thank you, your Honor. You're  
18 absolutely right. I am a hundred percent in agreement with  
19 you in terms of the transparency. And, by the way, as you  
20 know, the voters passed Measure H in 2017, and for 10 years,  
21 are -- are giving about a half a billion dollars a year to  
22 this problem through a sales tax.

23 We know at the end of 10 years the problem will  
24 not have gone away.

25 THE COURT: Right.

1 MS. HAHN: And we're looking to ask the voters  
2 again. So, absolutely, they probably won't agree to re-  
3 upping this measure unless they know for sure, because  
4 voters have always said, We don't mind taxing ourselves as  
5 long as we know --

6 THE COURT: No.

7 MS. HAHN: -- where the money's going and how it's  
8 being spent. So, I think transparency in this issue with  
9 providers is key.

10 Let me speak to the payment of the monitor and the  
11 special master. I don't even know if Judge Gandhi is here  
12 this morning. So, I'm not sure we could even ask him how he  
13 feels about this, but I certainly don't want this beautiful  
14 settlement --

15 THE COURT: Right.

16 MS. HAHN: -- to be blown up by a payment or  
17 nonpayment to him. What I can say -- and I might have to  
18 consult with my -- my lawyers, but what I can say is the  
19 Board of Supervisors in closed session has authorized a  
20 certain amount of money to go towards Gandhi and to Special  
21 Master Martinez. I would certainly be in favor of dividing  
22 that equally --

23 THE COURT: Equally, sure.

24 MS. HAHN: -- to both of them. Means he would get  
25 a little less, but she certainly would get more. I respect



1 Michelle so much. I've always wanted her involved because I  
2 think she in her heart of heart wants to help us get to  
3 where we --

4 THE COURT: Right.

5 MS. HAHN: -- want to get, which is how I see the  
6 monitor and the special master. It's not a got you  
7 punishment thing. They're going to help us get to where we  
8 need to get. And, so, I welcome their partnership. I don't  
9 want this deal blown up over --

10 THE COURT: I don't either.

11 MS. HAHN: -- you know, a payment. I really never  
12 sat here in a courtroom watching somebody like scribble on  
13 the actual document.

14 THE COURT: Yeah.

15 MS. HAHN: New proficiency. It's making me  
16 nervous, but I am a hundred percent in support of it, and I  
17 think I -- I could -- I would think my colleagues would  
18 agree to the amount that we authorized, to split it between  
19 the two of them. I think that would be a good solution.

20 THE COURT: Okay. And whatever that is, let's  
21 just have equality by gender and work. And no denigration  
22 to Judge Gandhi, but in the past I would have literally  
23 asked him to work for free. I would have wanted to see that  
24 passion on behalf of the homelessness --

25 MS. HASHMALL: Your Honor --

1 THE COURT: -- community and the City.

2 MS. HASHMALL: -- in connection with the -- the  
3 Plaintiff and City settlement, the parties were able to  
4 address the monitor piece and the compensation in a separate  
5 agreement, and I think that that's appropriate here as well.

6 THE COURT: I don't. I don't. This is going to  
7 be signed by me in a few moments, and I'm going to order  
8 that on page four of Document Number 641, that the  
9 appointment provisions from line 16 to line one, page five,  
10 be stricken for just a moment because that is a false  
11 rendition of what has occurred here, and I'm going to be  
12 blunt about it. So, if you would be so kind, you will  
13 strike line 16 on page four -- draw a line through it -- up  
14 to line one on page five. That will give me a coequality.

15 And whatever you decide, Mayor and Supervisor  
16 Hahn, that's fine. If you decide to pay each of them  
17 nothing, fine. She'd probably do it.

18 Okay. But there's coequality here across the  
19 board, and I really am affronted where somebody's stepping  
20 on who had --

21 MS. HAHN: No, I think women should make more.

22 THE COURT: Talk to my wife. I'm not going home  
23 without this. Okay. So, that's the bottom line. But I  
24 don't see how -- and I commend Jay Gandhi for being  
25 involved. He's one of the people I would have chosen

1 independently. I want that compliment paid to him. I need  
2 to know he's got an absolute passion for this. I need to  
3 know he's going out not from a desk but at 6:30 in the  
4 morning and talking to the community.

5           And, Don, I'm meeting you and the community at  
6 6:30 tomorrow. We'll give you the location, on Skid Row.  
7 And Jay Gandhi will be with me I hope. So, let's start that  
8 relationship, because I don't need somebody sitting behind a  
9 desk. I need somebody out there looking and not getting in  
10 your way but verifying, because there's been too much  
11 information that has been questionable.

12           All right. Matt?

13           MR. UMHOFFER: Two -- two points. The first is a  
14 small but important one with respect to the --

15           THE COURT: Use the mic. Just have a seat so I  
16 can hear you.

17           MR. UMHOFFER: With respect to the publication of  
18 invoices, your Honor, and bills, obviously there may be  
19 HIPAA --

20           THE COURT: Oh, of course.

21           MR. UMHOFFER: -- and private information. We just  
22 want to make sure that we're all in agreement that this  
23 wouldn't --

24           THE COURT: That's obvious. And, by the way, let  
25 me come back to the point between the County and the City.

1 I understand the City's need. But you also -- I have to  
2 understand the County's need. So, I'm going to take it in  
3 rough figures and finish this conversation and then you'll  
4 either sign it or not.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor --

6 THE COURT: Have a seat.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

8 THE COURT: First of all, where did we start? We  
9 started over 6800 on the freeway agreement. So, let's just  
10 take the number 6,800 of newly created debts. Okay. Then  
11 there was a settlement with the City, and thank you for  
12 giving me your faith and trust because I've given that back  
13 to the City to work with Mayor Bass and her efforts.

14 So, with that 13 to 14 thousand -- I went to a  
15 public school. So, I'm trying to -- I'm just kidding you.  
16 So, how much is that? That's about 20,000, isn't it, about  
17 20,000, rough, give or take.

18 Well, with this agreement with mental health,  
19 we've got 3500, and let me profusely thank all of you folks.  
20 I'm very impressed, and very courageous on your part. Well,  
21 that's about 23 to 24 thousand beds, isn't it?

22 Now, as you've said, this does not solve  
23 homelessness. Hopefully it's a substantial step that's  
24 meaningful, and I also noticed that you shortened the time  
25 period, which I appreciate, through Judge Birotte, to

1 overlap so that you're working together -- hold it from five  
2 years down.

3           THE COURT: All right. If we have 25 percent of  
4 our folks on the street who are mentally ill, I'm just going  
5 to take a rough number of about 5,000, right. Well, where  
6 is the other 3500? We've got another agreement over with  
7 Judge Pregerson, and he and I almost had a joint hearing  
8 today. You've got some more commitments over there. You're  
9 roughly about 5,000 beds between our two agreements, which  
10 matches that 25 percent.

11           Now, I'm going to take Mayor Bass's efforts, 15 to  
12 17 thousand people off the street. If I took those numbers,  
13 then about 25 percent, that's about 3,000, 3,500. But when  
14 Doctor Sherrin (phonetic) wrote this report, he wasn't  
15 explicit. He didn't say that these belonged to the City.  
16 He didn't say that these belonged to the County. And what  
17 the Court won't do is enter into that between the two of you  
18 because I think you're getting along well.

19           Mayor Bass, I think you and Janice Hahn can work  
20 this out, and I'm not going to intrude and say the City  
21 should get 60 percent or 70 percent or 40 percent. I leave  
22 that to your goodwill and the communication between the  
23 Board and the City.

24           My job is to get this as high as possible and  
25 still be reasonable so I match your efforts with the Court

1 pushing in terms of mental health, and that's why I commend  
2 the County for taking this step forward.

3 All right. If there's no other comment, I want  
4 you to give me that document, and I'm going to sign it; and  
5 then, Supervisor Hahn, you can choose to sign it or not.

6 MS. MYERS: Your Honor, we want -- we'd like to be  
7 heard on the transparency provisions. I'm very concerned --

8 THE COURT: This is going to take very few  
9 moments. The Supervisor's due in a meeting. One minute.

10 MS. MYERS: Yes, your Honor. You're adding a  
11 provision that requires billing records be provided to the  
12 City of Los Angeles from the County. We would -- we would  
13 echo and request that something be written in to ensure that  
14 the individuals whose -- who are reflected in those  
15 agreements, i.e., unhoused folks whose mental health  
16 treatment is at issue here is absolutely protected because  
17 we are very concerned --

18 THE COURT: Yeah.

19 MS. MYERS: -- about the ways in which the City of  
20 Los Angeles has consistently used and attempted to use data  
21 related to enforcement as a part of the City's provision of  
22 the settlement agreement. There's no --

23 THE COURT: Hopefully --

24 MS. MYERS: -- transparency --

25 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

1 MS. MYERS: -- in how that data will be used.

2 THE COURT: Hopefully we're going to move forward  
3 now because this is a gigantic step forward, and all of you  
4 lawyers can get together and continue to bicker, but this is  
5 moving forward now.

6 Bring me the document.

7 MR. UMHOFFER: Final point, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Counsel?

9 MR. UMHOFFER: I want to be -- first of all, make  
10 it clear how deeply we appreciate Michelle Martinez's work  
11 on this case. With respect to Judge Gandhi, my only comment  
12 and modification to what the Court suggested is that we,  
13 instead of naming Judge Gandhi in the agreement because we  
14 don't know the financial circumstances that he'll agree to,  
15 that we make it a special mast agreeable to the Court and  
16 the parties. That way we're not committing ourselves in the  
17 document to Judge Gandhi himself, and the Court and the  
18 parties can agree on another person who can meet this  
19 requirement if Judge Gandhi can't.

20 THE COURT: I'm going to get you out of here, I  
21 promise you. Just a moment.

22 Briefly, one minute.

23 MR. YAGMAN: I think under no circumstances should  
24 Judge Gandhi be the monitor; and if he is, he should work  
25 for free.

1           THE COURT: I don't mind him working with a  
2 commensurate salary so there's no -- I get worried about  
3 \$200,000 get paid to someone and \$50,000 to another one when  
4 the work has already been done with the other one at  
5 \$50,000. Somehow that's just degrading. That just isn't  
6 going to happen. I don't care what the amount is, as long  
7 as there's coequality. And, in good faith, I'm going to  
8 work with the County and your suggestion with Judge Gandhi.  
9 I'm just asking you, I'm going to be on the street at 6:30  
10 tomorrow morning. He better be there because that's the  
11 first commitment, to get out in the community and take a  
12 look, and if I've got people still sitting in their offices,  
13 I need to know that now. I think Jay will be there. He's a  
14 good friend, and I think I would have recommended him also  
15 back to you if I was to choose a magistrate judge. So, no  
16 denigration, but I need to know that these people really  
17 really care. And if they don't, this isn't just another  
18 paid position. Okay.

19           All right. I'm going to sign the back of this.  
20 And I don't want this to denigrate into this discussion  
21 about Judge Gandhi because it's so easily resolved. And I  
22 think we're going to work very well together, but he has an  
23 absolute fiduciary responsibility to the Court.

24           (Pause.)

25           THE COURT: All right. It's up to you. You



1 represent the Board. You can consult with your attorneys.  
2 I've signed this document.

3 (Pause.)

4 THE COURT: Give that to the Supervisor.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, if I --

6 THE COURT: No. Speak to the Chairman of the  
7 Board now. We're all done with the attorneys. We're all  
8 done with the bureaucracy. This is the Mayor, the Court,  
9 and the Board.

10 And, Judge Birotte, thank you so much for being my  
11 colleague. We'll see where this goes.

12 (Pause.)

13 THE COURT: And Fesia and Matt, where are you? Is  
14 Fesia here? Matt, you also have the Court's commendation.  
15 I wanted you to hear that on the record. I know you've  
16 worked hard on this. We've had some blunt discussions in  
17 the past. I'm commending you.

18 (Pause.)

19 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Counsel, I'll  
20 finally say this. I want to thank all of you. This is an  
21 extraordinary step forward. It's going to save a lot of  
22 lives. We're certainly not done with the task, but this is  
23 a literally courageous step, and I want to thank you for  
24 coming from that 300 to 3500, and just commend you, Mayor  
25 Bass, and Supervisor Hahn. I want you to convey that back

1 to all of your colleagues. And, Paul Krekorian, thank you.  
2 Would you convey that back to the Council.

3 I'm sorry I was short with some of you who are  
4 attorneys, et cetera; but this is at the highest level now.  
5 This is not at an attorney level anymore. This is between  
6 the Mayor and the Court and the Chairman of the Board of  
7 Supervisors and the Council, and that's where it should  
8 always be. These folks no longer should show this. We're  
9 the responsible parties.

10 Okay. We're in recess. Thank you very much.

11 (Proceedings recessed briefly.)

12 THE COURT: Oh, by the way, one thing on the way  
13 out the door -- would you put this up? I think you'll find  
14 this interesting. Would you put this up for just a moment.

15 An aside, apparently the State won't gather these  
16 figures, but I'll -- apparently the State's not giving it.  
17 It's okay. Orange County went down 18 percent last year.  
18 L.A. County went up 9.22 percent, L.A. City 10.0 percent.  
19 Keep going through. Next page. San Bernardino, up 25.8  
20 percent.

21 Now, you can check these figures out. My staff  
22 and I have been working night and day since we can't get  
23 this from the State. Riverside County, up 12.33 percent;  
24 Ventura County, up 9.0 percent; San Diego County up 21.8  
25 percent. Take the next one. San Francisco, down 3.5

1 percent. Don't ask me how, but whatever. Sacramento, up  
2 66.57 percent.

3           And, by the way, you should know I've rejected a  
4 number of people that the Plaintiff put forward. So, I'm  
5 showing the County good faith in terms of your request right  
6 now with your monitor.

7           Oakland up 24.17 percent. (Indiscernible) up 6.5  
8 percent.

9           If you are the courageous people who keep acting,  
10 you will create such goodness that the Governor, I believe,  
11 will support you; and so will the Federal Government. Be  
12 the first at the table to show that wisdom, and you'll  
13 create the need, and the money will come to you, and it will  
14 come from the taxpayers eventually because they'll gain our  
15 confidence through this transparency.

16           I want to commend all of you.

17           We're in recess.

18           (Proceedings concluded.)

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1 I certify that the foregoing is a correct  
2 transcript from the electronic sound recording of the  
3 proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

4  
5 /s/Jordan Keilty \_\_\_\_\_ 9/29/2023 \_\_\_\_\_  
6 Transcriber Date

7 FEDERALLY CERTIFIED TRANSCRIPT AUTHENTICATED BY:

8 /s/L.L. Francisco \_\_\_\_\_  
9 L.L. Francisco, President  
Echo Reporting, Inc.

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