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DECLARATION OF JERRY L. STEERING IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' SECOND EX PARTE APPLICATION TO ENLARGE TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. doing business as S & S TOWING, SEAN GERMAINE METCALF and SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO PERMIT PLAINTIFFS TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AS TO THOSE DEFENDANTS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO

JUDGE CYNTHIA BASHANT

 I am counsel of record for plaintiffs Katie Ann Barcelo and Justin Roberts in this action.

- As I previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application to this Honorable Court to Enlarge Time to This action was filed on February 13 2025 [Civil Docket Number 1] and plaintiffs filed their First Amended Complaint on March 11, 2025 [Civil Docket Number 5].
- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application in this action, in a nutshell, this action involves allegations by the plaintiffs that on February 26, 2024 plaintiff Katie Barcelo (hereinafter "BARCELO") drove her car, a 2017 Hyundai Elantra<sup>1</sup>, to the Hillside Views Apartments, located at 5446 Bayview Heights Place, San Diego, California, to pick up her children from a friend's apartment<sup>2</sup>.
- 4) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application there were no guest spots for parking at the Hillside Views Apartments available for BARCELO to park her Hyundai Elantra sedan to go pick up her children, so plaintiff BARCELO parked her car approximately 15 feet away from her friend's apartment on the

<sup>1</sup> Said vehicle bearing Vehicle Identification Number KMHD35LH2HU384029 and California license plate number 8KKY404.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Plaintiff BARCELO's 2017 Hyundai Elantra (hereinafter, "Hyundai" or "car" or "plaintiffs' car" or "Hyundai Elantra") was registered to plaintiff ROBERTS, who is plaintiff BARCELO's nephew. Plaintiff BARCELO had been making payments on the 2017 Hyundai Elantra for approximately six months and was in the process of purchasing the car from ROBERTS.

DECLARATION OF JERRY L. STEERING IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' SECOND EX PARTE APPLICATION TO ENLARGE TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. doing business as S & S TOWING, SEAN GERMAINE METCALF and SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO PERMIT PLAINTIFFS TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AS TO THOSE DEFENDANTS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO

- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application within a few minutes, plaintiff BARCELO's friend had noticed that a tow truck driver employed by defendant S & S TOWING, the towing company owned by defendant 51 Strategies, L.L.C., and by defendants Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf, was in the process of towing plaintiff BARCELO's car, and had her 2017 Hyundai Elantra coupled to the tow truck. Plaintiff BARCELO immediately ran outside and confronted the S & S Towing tow truck driver and demanded the release of her car; something that she is entitled to do even if the towing of her vehicle had been lawful<sup>3</sup>, which it was not.
- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application thereafter, the tow truck driver handed plaintiff BARCELO a defendant S & S TOWING's business card that had no address and only had a phone number shown on it, to pick up her car that he intended to tow away.
- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application during this time, the tow truck driver stopped towing plaintiff's car, away, and was waiting for the S & S Towing dispatcher to tell him what to do next. Thereafter, both plaintiff BARCELO and the tow

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B) provides: "(B) Upon the request of the owner of the vehicle or that owner's agent, the towing company or its driver shall immediately and unconditionally release a vehicle that is not yet removed from the private property and in transit."

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- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application when the DOE defendant San Diego Police Department police officers arrived they told plaintiff BARCELO that because she was parked in a "fire lane," that the tow truck driver could take her car and tow it away; something untrue, as she had a right to demand the release of her car under Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B), and as plaintiffs' car was not parked in a fire lane<sup>4</sup>.
- 9) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application the San Diego Police Department police officers then told the tow truck driver to tow plaintiffs' car away, which he then did.
- 10) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application thereafter, plaintiff BARCELO kept calling defendant S & S TOWING to retrieve her car, but S & S TOWING refused to answer her phone call and blocked plaintiff BARCELO's cellphone number.
- 11) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application thereafter, plaintiff Justin Roberts, hereinafter referred to as "ROBERTS", who was the registered owner of the towed away 2017 Hyundai, was texting with a representative of defendant S & S TOWING<sup>5</sup> who refused to tell ROBERTS where he could pick up his

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> A merely painted red curb is not a legitimate or lawful "fire lane" under Cal. Veh. Code § 22500.1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Because defendants at S & S Towing, defendants SEAN METCALF and/or SONYA METCALF and/or DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 had blocked plaintiff BARCELO's phone number. DECLARATION OF JERRY L. STEERING IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' SECOND EX PARTE APPLICATION TO ENLARGE TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. doing business as S & S TOWING, SEAN GERMAINE METCALF and SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO PERMIT PLAINTIFFS TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AS TO THOSE DEFENDANTS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO REFILE IN STATE COURT

- car and how much it would cost to retrieve it from S & S Towing.
- 12) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application thereafter, I personally did extensive internet searches for and about S & S Towing and learned that defendants Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf were the principals and owners of S & S Towing, and that they were the Managers, the Managing Members, and the owners and the *alter egos* of 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C.; the business entity that owned and did business as S & S Towing.
- 13) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application I was also able to find a telephone number for defendant Sean Metcalf, and on or about March 4, 2024 I spoke with Sean Metcalf by phone.
- 14) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application during that March 4, 2024 discussion, I told defendant Sean Metcalf that plaintiffs' car had been illegally towed by S & S Towing<sup>6</sup>, and demanded to know where plaintiffs' vehicle was being stored, and demanded the return of plaintiffs' 2017 Hyundai sedan or plaintiff would sue defendant Sean Metcalf and his company(ies) for the felonious and tortious taking and keeping plaintiffs' car.
- 15) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application moreover, during my internet search for and about defendant Sean

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> And why it was an illegal tow.

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- Metcalf I learned that defendant Sean Metcalf was a criminal, that he "steals" car using his towing company as a vehicle to "steal" vehicles by illegally towing vehicles and by refusing to return or release them to the owners of the vehicles and then selling them off.

  As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application
- 16) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application in addition, during my internet search for and about defendant Sean Metcalf, I also learned that defendant Sean Metcalf and his front company S & S Towing did not have a tow yard to tow vehicles to, and that defendant Sean Metcalf, his wife defendant Sonya Metcalf and their companies were a nationwide group of scam companies to advance various criminal schemes across the United States of America.
- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application this is not merely my opinion. The San Diego Police Department has issued a bulletin about criminal towing by S & S Towing. See, attached Exhibit "A"; the August 15, 2024 News Release by the San Diego Police Department entitled: "SDPD Investigating Illegal Practices by S&S Towing in the City of San Diego, Investigators Seeking Additional Information From People Who've Been Unlawfully Towed In Past 3 Years", 20240815-sdpd-investigating-illegal-practices-by-ss-towing-in-the-city-of-san-diego.pdf.
- 18) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application on August 5, 2024 the San Diego Police Department executed a search warrant on S & S Towing, and during the search warrant execution, an S & S Tow Truck driver committed suicide during that

DECLARATION OF JERRY L. STEERING IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' SECOND EX PARTE APPLICATION TO ENLARGE TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. doing business as S & S TOWING, SEAN GERMAINE METCALF and SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO PERMIT PLAINTIFFS TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AS TO THOSE DEFENDANTS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO REFILE IN STATE COURT

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raid. See also, "San Diego police investigating illegal practices by towing company", NBC 7 News, San Diego police investigating illegal practices by towing company – NBC 7 San Diego; "San Diego police looking for potential victims in towing fraud investigation, S&S Towing is accused by alleged victims of towing away cars illegally then demanding cash for their return, police said", San Diego Union-Tribune, August 16, 2024 (SDPD investigating tow company for alleged exploitation).

- 19) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application after this instant lawsuit was filed on February 13 2025, I served a F.R.Civ.P. 4 Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons and Waiver of Service of Summons documents, along with the Summons and the First Amended Complaint on all of the defendants to this action.
- Since the filing of Plaintiffs' First Ex Parte Application to Enlarge 20) Time to Serve Defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C. doing business as S & S Towing, Sean Germaine Metcalf and Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf on May 14, 2025, all of the other defendants to this action have either filed their Answers to the First Amended Complaint in this action<sup>7</sup> or have filed a Motion to Dismiss First Amended Complaint pursuant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> To wit, defendants MAAC Valencia Pointe MGP L.L.C., MAAC Bayview Heights, L.L.C. filed their Answer to the First Amended Complaint on May 27, 2025 [Civil Docket Item Number 16] and defendant CRP Valencia Pointe L.P. filed its Answer on June 23, 2025 [Civil Docket Item 181.

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- Thereafter, on June 5, 2025 an Order issued out of this Honorable Court Granting Plaintiffs' Ex Parte Application to Enlarge Time to Serve Defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C. doing business as S & S Towing, Sean Germaine Metcalf and Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf, and ordering that plaintiff serve said defendant and to file proof of service upon them by September 3, 2025.
- 22) As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application I sent my law clerk, Shahin Shams to personally serve defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C., Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf at 4182 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92105; the address that at that time was listed with the California Secretary of State's Office had on file for defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C.
- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application when Shahin Shams went to that address at 4182 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92105 to serve said defendants with the Summons and First Amended Complaint in this case, he was told that said defendants had not been at that address for over one year.
- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application on May 14, 2025 I checked with the California Secretary of State's Office as to any new address for defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., but

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> To wit, defendant City of San Diego, filed its Motion to Dismiss First Amended Complaint pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) on May 27, 2025 [Civil Docket Item 15].

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there has been no change in the address for that defendant. See, attached Exhibit "C", a true and correct printout from of California Secretary of State's Office of May 14, 2025 showing the address of defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C. as that same address; 4182 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, CA 92105.

- As I also previously alleged in Plaintiff First Ex Parte Application 25) I hired a Private Investigator to attempt to find addresses where I can serve defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C., Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf.
- 26) After the June 5, 2025 Order enlarging time to serve defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C., Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf I was planning of serving defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C. by serving at the California Secretary of State's Office.
- 27) However, when I checked with the California Secretary of State's Office to see if defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C. I leaned that said LLC was officially dissolved by Sean Germaine Metcalf and Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf on June 23, 2025. See, attached Exhibit "B", a true and correct copy of the Statement of Dissolution of defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C. from the California Secretary of State's Office.
- 28) My Private Investigator, Joseph Travers, again did a search to locate Sean Germaine Metcalf and Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf, and he confirmed again and as recently as September 3, 2025 that they resided at 2828 Oakwood Creek Way, Escondido, CA 92027.
- 29) Therefore, I sent my law clerk Shahin Shams to personally serve Sean Germaine Metcalf and Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf, and

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- whatever was left of 51 Strategies LLC at that 2828 Oakwood Creek Way, Escondido, CA 92027.
- 30) My law clerk Shahin Shams attempted to personally serve Sean Germaine Metcalf and Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf, and whatever was left of 51 Strategies LLC at that 2828 Oakwood Creek Way, Escondido, CA 92027 single family residence on four separate occasions, as recently as July 2, 2025.
- Each time that Shahin Shams attempted serve the Metcalfs at the 2828 Oakwood Creek Way, Escondido address, there was a car parked in the driveway, and Mr. Shams believed that someone was home, but were refusing to open the door of that residence.
- 32) Even as recently as today, September 3, 2025 my Investigator locating service showed that the Metcalfs still resided at the 2828 Oakwood Creek Way, Escondido address. See attached Exhibit "D"; true and correct printouts that I received from my Private Investigator on September 3, 2025 showing that Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf both reside at that address.
- Order to Serve Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf by Publication, I decided to make one last attempt to serve them by serving them by mail pursuant and to mail to them a F.R.Civ.P. 4 Waiver of Service of Summons, as all of the legal authorities that I consulted recommended attempting all other means to serve a defendant before obtaining an order from this Honorable Court to serve a defendant by publication.

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34) Accordingly, on August 8, 2025 I served defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C., Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf by sending to them by Certified Mail, return receipt requested, a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, the Summons on Amended Complaint and the First Amended Complaint in this action. See, attached Exhibit "E", pages 1 through 52, a true and correct copy of the Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, the Summons on Amended Complaint and the First Amended Complaint sent to Sean Metcalf for defendant 51 Strategies, attached Exhibit "F", pages 1 through 52, a true and correct copy of the Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, the Summons on Amended Complaint and the First Amended Complaint sent to Sean Metcalf individually, and attached Exhibit "G", pages 1 through 52, a true and correct copy of the Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons, the Summons on Amended Complaint and the First Amended Complaint sent to Sonya Metcalf individually.

- On September 2, 2025 and September 3, 2025 all three of those 35) packages (Exhibits "E, "F" and "G") were returned to my office showing "Return to Sender, Undeliverable to Addressed, Unavailable to Forward" (See, pages 53 through 57 on Exhibits "E, "F" and "G").
- Accordingly, based on the above and foregoing, plaintiffs pray that 36) an order issue out of this Honorable Court enlarging time for plaintiff to serve to obtain an order for service by publication and to serve defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C., Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf by

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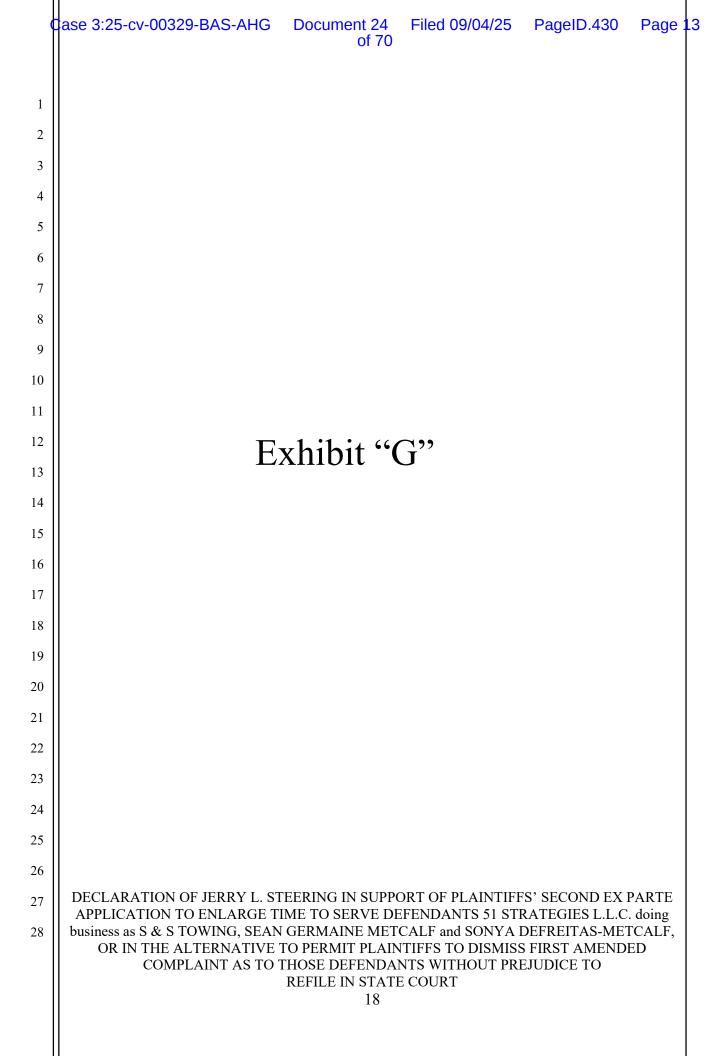
publication.

- 37) In the alternative, if this Honorable Court is not willing to enlarge time for plaintiff to serve said defendants, plaintiff prays that this action be dismissed as to defendants 51 Strategies L.L.C., Sean Metcalf and Sonya Metcalf to serve them by publication.
- 38) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the above and foregoing is true and correct.
- 39) This the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2025 at Newport Beach, California.

/s/ Jerry L. Steering

JERRY L. STEERING, ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS KATIE ANN BARCELO and JUSTIN ROBERTS

DECLARATION OF JERRY L. STEERING IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' SECOND EX PARTE APPLICATION TO ENLARGE TIME TO SERVE DEFENDANTS 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. doing business as S & S TOWING, SEAN GERMAINE METCALF and SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO PERMIT PLAINTIFFS TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AS TO THOSE DEFENDANTS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO REFILE IN STATE COURT



### NOTICE OF LAWSUIT AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

of 70

TO:	(A) Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf	
as	(B) Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf	of (C) individually

A lawsuit has been commenced against you (or the entity on whose behalf you are addressed). A copy of the complaint is attached to this notice. It has been filed in the United States District Court Southern District of California and has been assigned docket number (E) 3:25-cv-00329-BAS-AHG

This is not a formal summons or notification from the court, but rather my request that you sign and return the enclosed waiver of service in order to save the cost of serving you with a judicial summons and an additional copy of the complaint. The cost of service will be avoided if I receive a signed copy of the waiver within (F) days after the date designated below a the date on which this Notice and Request is sent. I enclose a stamped and addressed envelope (or other means of cost-free return) for your use. An extra copy of the waiver is also attached for your records.

If you comply with this request and return the signed waiver, it will be filed with the court and no summons will be served on you. The action will then proceed as if you had been served on the date the waiver is filed, except that you will not be obligated to answer the complaint before 60 days from the date designated below as the date on which this notice is sent (or before 90 days from the date is you address is not in any judicial district of the United States).

If you do not return the signed waiver within the time indicated, I will take appropriate steps to effect formal service in a manner authorized by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and will then, to the extent authorized by those Rules, ask the court to require you (or the party on whose behalf you are addressed) to pay the full costs of such service. In that connection, please read the statement concerning the duty of parties to waive the service of the summons, which is set forth at the foot of the waiver form.

I affirm that this request is being sent to you on behalf of the plaintiff this 8 day of August

> Signature of Plaintiff's Attorney or Unrepresented Plaintiff JERRY L. STEERING

- A Name of individual defendant (or name of officer or agent of corporate defendant)
- B Title or other relationship of individual to corporate defendant
- C Name of corporate defendant, if any
- D District
- E Docket number of action
- F Addressee must be given at least 30 days (60 days if located in foreign country) in which to return waiver

::ODMA\PCDOCS\WORDPERFECT\14565\1 May 5, 1999 (10:00am)

Case 3:25-cv-00329-BAS-AHG

TO: Jerry L. Steering, Esq.

### WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

(NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY OR UNREPRESENTED PLAINTIFF)					
I, acknowledge receipt of your request that I waive service of a summons in the action of					
Barcelo, et al v. City of San Diego, et al	, which is case number	3:25-cv-00329-BAS-AHG			
in the United States District Court for the	Southern	District of			
California . I have also received a copy of the complaint in the action, two copies of this instrument, and a means by which I can return the signed waiver to you without cost to me.					
I agree to save the cost of service of a summons and an additional copy of the complaint in this lawsuit by not requiring that I (or the entity on whose behalf I an acting) be served with judicial process in the manner provided by Rule 4.					
I (or the entity on whose behalf I an acting) will retain all defenses or objections to the lawsui or to the jurisdiction or venue of the court except for objections based on a defect in the summons or in the service of the summons.					
I understand that a judgment may be e acting) if an answer or motion under Rule 12	•				

8/8/25 , or within 90 days after that date if the request was sent outside the (DATE REQUEST WAS SENT) United States. 8/8/25 (SIGNATURE) (DATE) Printed/Typed Name:

As(TITLE)

(CORPORATE DEFENDANT)

#### **Duty to Avoid Unnecessary Costs of Service of Summons**

Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires certain parties to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint. A defendant located in the United States who, after being notified of an action and asked by a plaintiff located in the United States to waive service of a summons, fails to do so will be required to bear the cost of such service unless good cause be shown for its failure to sign and return the waiver.

It is not good cause for a failure to waive service that a party believes that the complaint is unfounded, or that the action has been brought in an improper place or in a court that lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action or over its person or property. A party who waives service of the summons retains all defenses and objections (except any relating to the summons or to the service of the summons), and may later object to the jurisdiction of the court or to the place where the action had been brought.

A defendant who waives service must within the time specified on the waiver form serve on the plaintiff's attorney (or unrepresented plaintiff) a response to the complaint and must also file a signed copy of the response with the court. If the answer or motion is not served within this time, a default judgment may be taken against that defendant. By waiving service, a defendant is allowed more time to answer than if the summons had been actually served when the request for waiver of service was received.

# **United States District Court**

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Katie Ann Barcelo; Justin Roberts		
V. See Attachment	Plaintiff	Civil Action No. 25-cv-0329-BAS-AHG
	Defendant	

### AMENDED SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) - or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an office or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a)(2) or (3) - You must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Jerry Lawrence Steering 4063 Birch Street, Suite 100 Newport Beach, CA 92660 949-474-1849

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Date: 3/12/25

John Morrill

CLERK OF COURT

S/ M.Williams

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

### Civil Action No. 25-cv-0329-BAS-AHG

Date Issued: 3/12/25	
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### PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(1))

	This summons for (nan	me of individual and tit	le, if any)			
was re	ceived by me on (date)			_·		
	I personally served the summons on the individual at (place)					
				on (date)	; or	
	I left the summons at t	he individual's reside	nce or place	e of abode with (name)		
		, a	person of s	uitable age and discretion who	resides there,	
	on (date)	, and maile	ed a copy to	the individual's last known add	lress; or	
	I served the summons on (name of the individual)				, who is	
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)					
				on (date)	; or	
	I returned the summor	returned the summons unexecuted because				
	Other (specify):					
	My fees are \$	for travel and	\$	for services, for a total of	f\$	
	I declare under penalty	y of perjury that this i	nformation	is true.		
Date:						
Date.		<u></u>		Server's Signature		
				Printed name and title		
				Server's address		

#### NOTICE OF RIGHT TO CONSENT TO TRIAL BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF 28 USC 636(C) YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT A U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF THIS DISTRICT MAY, UPON CONSENT OF ALL PARTIES, CONDUCT ANY OR ALL PROCEDDINGS, INCLUDING A JURY OR NON-JURY TRIAL, AND ORDER THE ENTRY OF A FINAL JUDGMENT.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT YOUR DECISION TO CONSENT OR NOT CONSENT IS ENTIRELY VOLUNTARY AND SHOUL BE COMMUNICATED SOLELY TO THE CLERK OF COURT. ONLY IF ALL PARTIES CONSENT WILL THE JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE JUDGE WHOM THE CASE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED BE INFORMED OF YOUR DECISION.

JUDGMENTS OF THE U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGES ARE APPEALABLE TO THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS STATUTE AND THE PROCEDURE.

# **United States District Court**

# SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

(ATTACHMENT)

Civil Action No. 25-cv-0329-BAS-AHG

Defendant's: City of San Diego; 51 Strategies L.L.C., doing business as S&S Towing; Sean Germaine Metcalf; Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf; 5471 Bayview Heights, L.P.; MAAC Bayview Heights, L.L.C.; Does 1 through 10, Inclusive; CRP Valencia Pointe L.P.; MAAC Valencia Pointe MGP L.L.C.

# LAW OFFICES OF JERRY L. STEERING

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Attorneys for plaintiffs Katie Ann Barcelo and Justin Roberts

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

KATIE ANN BARCELO and JUSTIN ROBERTS,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CITY OF SAN DIEGO, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. doing business as S & S TOWING, SEAN GERMAINE METCALF, SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF, 5471 BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, L.P., MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, L.L.C., CRP VALENCIA POINTE L.P., MAAC VALENCIA POINTE MGP L.L.C. and DOES 1 through 10, INCLUSIVE,

Defendants.

Case No.:

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR VIOLATION OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS UNDER COLOR OF STATE LAW [42 U.S.C. § 1983]; CLAIMS FOR UNREASONABLE SEIZURE OF PROPERTY (U.S. CONST. AMEND 4); RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH (U.S. CONST. AMEND 1); CLAIM AGAINST LOCAL PUBLIC ENTITY BASED ON FAILURE TO TRAIN / OFFICIAL POLICY, PRACTICE OR CUSTOM (MONELL CLAIM and CLAIM AGAINST PRIVATE ENTITY ACTING UNDER COLOR OF STATE LAW); CALIFORNIA STATE LAW CLAIMS FOR CONVERSION /TRESPASS TO CHATTELS; NEGLIGENCE, INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS and VIOLATION OF CAL. VEH CODE § 22658

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

# **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

this honorable court the following:

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

1. As this action is brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, this court has

**COME NOW** plaintiffs Katie Ann Barcelo and Justin Roberts and shows

- 1. As this action is brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, this court has jurisdiction over this case under its federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 2. As the incidents complained of in this action occurred in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court, venue properly lies in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).
- 3. As the plaintiffs' claims under California state law arise out of a common nucleus of operative facts and out of the same transactions and occurrences at plaintiffs' claims under federal law this Honorable Court has jurisdiction over the plaintiffs' state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 and otherwise pursuant to *United Mine Workers of America v. Gibbs*, 383 U.S. 715 (1966).
- 4. Plaintiffs Katie Ann Barcelo and Justin Roberts timely filed their Claim For Damages against the City of San Diego on June 24, 2024, pursuant to the California Tort Claims Act, Cal. Gov't. Code § 900 et seq. Said claim as to Katie Ann Barcelo was rejected by defendant City of San Diego on August 13, 2024, and this action is commenced less than six months after the denial of plaintiff Katie Ann Barcelo's claim. As of the filing of the instant action, defendant City of San Diego has neither accepted nor rejected plaintiff Justin Roberts' Claim for Damages.

# **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

5. Plaintiff Katie Ann Barcelo, hereinafter referred to as "KATIE BARCELO" and/or "plaintiff" and/or "BARCELO" and/or "plaintiff BARCELO" FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

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is a natural person, who, at all times complained of in this action, resided in the County of San Diego, State of California.

- Plaintiff Justin Roberts, hereinafter referred to as "JUSTIN ROBERTS" and/or "plaintiff" and/or "ROBERTS" and/or "plaintiff ROBERTS" is a natural person, who, at all times complained of in this action, resided in the County of San Diego, State of California.
- Defendant City of San Diego, hereinafter also referred to as "CITY", 7. is a municipal entity located in the State of California; within the territorial jurisdiction of this court.
- 8. Defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., doing business as S & S Towing, is a California Limited Liability Company, hereinafter also referred to as "S & S TOWING," doing business in the City and County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court. Plaintiffs also show that defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., doing business in the City and County of San Diego as S & S Towing, is a nationwide criminal organization, that is involved, inter alia, in ongoing auto-thefts<sup>1</sup> in the City and County of San Diego and in the San Diego Metropolitan Area under the guise and ruse of being a legitimate towing company, which it is not.<sup>2</sup>
- Defendant Sean Germaine Metcalf, hereinafter also referred to as 9. "SEAN METCALF," is a natural person who, at all times complained of in this action, resided in the County of San Diego, State of California, within the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Including auto-thefts and criminal and tortious violations of various provisions of California Vehicle Code and the California Penal Code prohibiting certain actions in conducting private property impounds of vehicles.

See the San Diego Police Department bulletin, SDPD INVESTIGATING ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY S&S TOWING IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, Investigators Seeking Additional Information From People Who've Been Unlawfully Towed In Past 3 Years, San Diego Police Department, August 15, 2024 at https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/20240815-sdpd-investigating-illegal-practices-by-ss-towing-in-the-city-of-san-diego.pdf

- 10. Plaintiffs also show that defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., doing business in California as S & S Towing, is a nationwide criminal organization, that is involved, *inter alia*, in ongoing auto-thefts in the City and County of San Diego and in the San Diego Metropolitan Area under the guise and ruse of being a legitimate towing company, and, that defendant SEAN METCALF along with his wife, defendant SONYA METCALF, directs and actively participates in these ongoing criminal acts by defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., including auto-thefts and other criminal and tortious violations of various provisions of California Vehicle Code and the California Penal Code prohibiting certain criminal actions in conducting Private Property Impounds of vehicles.
- 11. Defendant Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf, hereinafter referred to as "SONYA METCALF," is a natural person who, at all times complained of in this action, resided in the County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court. SONYA METCALF is a Manager or Member and/or a Managing Member and/or an owner of, and is an alter ego owner of Defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C.
- 12. Plaintiffs also show that defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., doing business in California as S & S Towing, is a nationwide criminal organization, that is involved, *inter alia*, in ongoing auto-thefts in the City and County of San Diego and in the San Diego Metropolitan Area under the guise and ruse of being a legitimate towing company, and, that defendant SONYA METCALF along with her husband, defendant SEAN METCALF, directs and actively participates in these ongoing criminal acts by defendant 51 Strategies L.L.C., including auto-thefts and other criminal and tortious violations of various provisions of California Vehicle Code and the California Penal Code prohibiting certain criminal and tortious actions in conducting Private Property Impounds of vehicles.

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

- 13. Defendant 5471 Bayview Heights, L.P., hereinafter referred to as "BAYVIEW HEIGHTS," is a California Limited Partnership, doing business in the City and County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court. Defendant BAYVIEW HEIGHTS is the landlord for the Hillside Views Apartments<sup>3</sup>.
- 14. Defendant MAAC Bayview Heights, L.L.C., hereinafter referred to as "MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS," is a California Limited Liability Company, doing business in the County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court. Defendant MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS is the General Partner of defendant BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, and is the property management company for the Hillside Views Apartments.
- 15. Defendant CRP Valencia Pointe L.P., hereinafter referred to as "VALENICIA POINTE," is a California Limited Partnership, doing business in the City and County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court. Defendant VALENCIA POINTE is the landlord for the Valencia Point Apartments<sup>4</sup>.
- 16. Defendant MAAC Valencia Pointe MGP, L.L.C., hereinafter referred to as "MAAC VALENCIA POINTE," is a California Limited Liability Company, doing business in the County of San Diego, State of California, within the territorial jurisdiction of this court. Defendant MAAC VALENCIA POINTE is the General Partner of defendant VALENCIA POINTE, and is the property management company for the Valencia Pointe Apartments.
- 17. Defendants DOES 1 and 2, inclusive, are, at all times complained of herein, tow truck drivers or dispatchers or other agents/employees, who are employed by defendant S & S TOWING and were acting within their course and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Located at 6421 Bayview Heights Pl, San Diego, CA 92105.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Located at 5930 Division St, San Diego, CA 92114
FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

- 18. Defendant DOES 3 and DOES 4 are the property management persons or entities for the Hillside Views Apartments and for the Valencia Pointe Apartments who/which authorized/contracted with and/or directed defendant S & S TOWING to tow cars from the Hillside Views Apartments and/or from the Valencia Pointe Apartments pursuant to a General Authorization to patrol the Hillside Views Apartments and the Valencia Pointe Apartments, and to perform Private Property Impounds<sup>5</sup> at said apartment, including the towing of any vehicles parked next to any red curb in said apartment complex, including red curbs that were not fire lanes, notwithstanding that a curb merely painted red is not a fire lane under California state law.
- 19. At all times complained of herein defendants DOES 3 and 4 were acting in the course of and within the scope of their employment with BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS MAAC, VALENCIA POINTE and VALENCIA POINTE MAAC.
- 20. Defendants DOES 5 and 6 are California Certified Peace Officers, and police officers and/or supervisors and/or Investigators and/ Special Officers and/or a dispatchers and/or some other public officer, public official or employee of defendant City of San Diego/the San Diego Police Department and/or with some other public entity, who in some way committed some or all of the tortious actions and constitutional violations complained of in this action, and/or are otherwise responsible for and liable to plaintiffs for the acts complained of in this action, whose identities are, and remain unknown to plaintiffs, who will amend their complaint to add and to show the actual names of said DOE defendants when ascertained by plaintiffs.
  - 21. At all times complained of herein, DOES 5 and 6 were acting as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The towing of vehicles from private property.
FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

- 22. Defendants DOES 7 and 8 are sworn peace officers and/or Supervisors and/or Commanders and/or Captains and/or Lieutenants and/or Sergeants and/or Detectives and/or other Supervisory personnel (such as) and/or policy making and/or final policy making officials, employed by the City of San Diego/the San Diego Police Department and/or with some other public entity, who are in some substantial way liable and responsible for, or otherwise proximately caused and/or contributed to the occurrences complained of by plaintiffs in this action, such as by failing to properly train San Diego Police Department police officers and other San Diego Police Department officers, agents and employees about California laws on Private Property Impounds of vehicles and the towing of vehicles from private property, including the laws regarding the towing vehicles from fire lanes and from other places on private property, and about threatening persons with arrest for asserting their federal and state constitutional rights and their federal and state statutory rights<sup>7</sup>.
- 23. At all times complained of herein, DOES 7 and 8 were acting as individual persons acting under the color of state law, pursuant to their authority as Police Officers and/or Supervisory Officers, Commanders and/or Captains

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> And/or with some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Such as their right to demand the release of their vehicle that is being towed from private property but not yet off of the private property and in transit pursuant to Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B).

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and/or Lieutenants and/or Sergeants and/or other Supervisory personnel and/or policy making and/or final policy making officials, employed by the City of San Diego and/or with some other public entity, and/or some other public official(s) with the City of San Diego and/or with some other public entity, and were acting in the course of and within the scope of their employment with defendant the City of San Diego<sup>8</sup>.

- 24. Plaintiffs are presently unaware of the identities of DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and will amend this complaint to add and to show the actual names of said DOE defendants, when ascertained by plaintiffs.
- 25. Defendants DOES 9 and 10 were at all times complained of herein the San Diego City Manager<sup>9</sup> and/or the Chief of Police of the San Diego Police Department<sup>10</sup> and/or Assistant or Deputy Chiefs of Police of the San Diego Police Department<sup>11</sup> and/or Commanders of the San Diego Police Department<sup>12</sup> and/or Captains of the San Diego Police Department<sup>13</sup> and/or Lieutenants of the San Diego Police Department<sup>14</sup> and/or Sergeants of the San Diego Police Department<sup>15</sup> and other Supervisory peace officers of the San Diego Police Department<sup>16</sup> (as described herein, above and below), and were policy making and/or final policy making officials with defendant City of San Diego<sup>17</sup>
- 26. At all times complained of herein, defendants DOES 9 and 10 were acting as individual persons under the color of state law and were acting in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> And/or with some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> And/or of some other public entity.

<sup>10</sup> And/or with some other public entity or police agency.

<sup>11</sup> And/or with some other public entity or police agency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> And/or with some other public entity or police agency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> And/or with some other public entity or police agency.

And/or with some other public entity or police agency.
 And/or with some other public entity or police agency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> And/or with some other public entity or police agency.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> And/or with some other public entity.

- 27. Moreover, at all times complained of herein, defendants DOES 9 and 10 were acting pursuant to, or otherwise contributed to the creation and maintenance of, the customs, policies, usages and practices of the San Diego Police Department/City of San Diego<sup>21</sup> of failing to properly train San Diego Police Department police officers and other San Diego Police Department officers, agents and employees about California laws on Private Property Impounds of vehicles, about the laws regarding the towing vehicles from fire lanes and from other places on private property, and about threatening persons with arrest for asserting their federal and state constitutional rights and their federal and state statutory rights<sup>22</sup>.
- 28. In addition to the above and foregoing, defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, 51 STRATEGIES, L.L.C., BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 1 through 6, inclusive, acted pursuant to a conspiracy, agreement and understanding and common plan and scheme to deprive the plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS of their federal

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> And/or with some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> And/or with some other public entity.

And/or with some other public entity.

<sup>21</sup> And/or with some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Such as their right to demand the release of their vehicle that is being towed from private property but not yet off of the private property and in transit pursuant to Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B).

and California state law Constitutional and statutory rights, as complained of below in this action, and acted in joint and concerted action to so deprive plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS of those rights as complained of herein; all in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and otherwise in violation of United States (Constitutional and statutory) law.

29. Said conspiracy / agreement / understanding / plan / scheme / joint action / concerted action, above referenced, was a proximate cause of the violation of the plaintiffs BARCELO's and ROBERTS' federal and California state law Constitutional and statutory rights as complained of herein.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. § 1983

Violation of Fourth Amendment Rights
Unlawful/Unreasonable Seizure of Property
(AGAINST DEFENDANTS S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 1 through 6, inclusive)

- 30. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 29, inclusive, above, as if set forth in full herein.
- 31. On February 26, 2024, plaintiff BARCELO drove her car, a 2017 Hyundai Elantra<sup>23</sup> to the Hillside Views Apartments, located at 5446 Bayview Heights Place, San Diego, California to pick up her children from a friend's apartment.
- 32. Plaintiff BARCELO's 2017 Hyundai Elantra (hereinafter, "Hyundai" or "car" or "plaintiffs' car" or "Hyundai Elantra") was registered to plaintiff ROBERTS, who is plaintiff BARCELO's nephew.
  - 33. Plaintiff BARCELO had been making payments on the 2017

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Said vehicle bearing Vehicle Identification Number KMHD35LH2HU384029 and California license plate number 8KKY404.

Hyundai Elantra for approximately six months and was in the process of purchasing the car from ROBERTS.

- 34. There were no guest spots for parking at the Hillside Views Apartments available for BARCELO to park her Hyundai Elantra sedan to go pick up her children, so plaintiff BARCELO parked her car approximately 15 feet away from her friend's apartment on the street next to the curb, leaving her hazard lights, on and went to and into her friend's apartment to get her children.
- 35. Within a few minutes, plaintiff BARCELO's friend had noticed that a tow truck driver(s), defendant DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, employed by defendant S & S TOWING<sup>24</sup>, was in the process of towing plaintiff BARCELO's car and had her Hyundau Elantra coupled to the tow truck. Plaintiff BARCELO immediately ran outside and confronted said tow truck driver(s) and demanded the release of her car<sup>25</sup>.
- 36. Thereafter, the tow truck driver, defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, handed plaintiff BARCELO defendant S & S TOWING's business card that had no address and only had a phone number shown on it to pick up her car that he intended to tow away.
- 37. During this time, the tow truck driver(s), DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, stopped towing plaintiff's car, the Hyundai, away, and was waiting for his/their dispatcher to tell him/them on what to do next.
- 38. Plaintiff BARCELO again demanded that defendant(s) tow truck driver(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 release her Hyundai Elantra as it was on private property, and that California law required that defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> That is owned by defendant 51 Strategies, L.L.C. and by SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> As shown above, Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B) provides: "(B) Upon the request of the owner of the vehicle or that owner's agent, the towing company or its driver shall immediately and unconditionally release a vehicle that is not yet removed from the private property and in transit."

unconditionally release her Hyundai Elantra to her<sup>26</sup>.

- 39. Defendant tow truck driver(), defendant DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, once again refused to release plaintiff BARCELO's car to her.
- 40. Thereafter, both plaintiff BARCELO and defendant tow truck driver(s), DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, called the San Diego Police Department.
- 41. Thereafter, the tow truck driver(s), defendant DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, told plaintiff BARCELO that her registration sticker on her license plate was expired, something that defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 could not take her car for as it was on private property, and was not something defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 was not authorized to enforce under California state law.
- 42. Plaintiff BARCELO then explained to defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 that her car registration license plate stickers were stolen, and she had already gone to the California Department of Motor Vehicles to get new stickers, and that she was waiting for them to come in the mail, and that her vehicle was current validly registered.
- 43. When the defendant San Diego Police Department police officers DOES 5 and 6 arrived at the scene, they ignored plaintiff BARCELO and spoke with defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2.
- 44. Thereafter, defendants San Diego Police Department police officer(s) DOES 5 and 6 told plaintiff BARCELO that because she was parked in a "fire lane<sup>27</sup>," that defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 could take her car and tow it away; something untrue, as she had a right to demand the release of her car under Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B), and as plaintiffs' car was not parked in a fire

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> As shown above, Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B) provides: "(B) Upon the request of the owner of the vehicle or that owner's agent, the towing company or its driver shall immediately and unconditionally release a vehicle that is not yet removed from the private property and in transit."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> A merely painted red curb is not a legitimate or lawful "fire lane" under Cal. Veh. Code § 22500.1.

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- 45. Plaintiff BARCELO verbally protested to DOES 5 and 6 that DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 had no right to tow her car away, and that he/they was/were stealing her car, and she demanded the release of her car, but BARCELO was ignored by DOES 5 and 6.
- 46. Plaintiff BARCELO then heard defendants DOE 5 and DOE 6 conspire with the tow truck driver(s), defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, to unlawfully tow away plaintiff BARCELO's car, and defendant police officers DOES 5 and 6<sup>29</sup> then told defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, to tow plaintiff BARCELO's car away, which defendant(s) DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 then did.
- 47. Thereafter, plaintiff BARCELO kept calling defendant S & S TOWING to retrieve her car, but S & S TOWING to answer her phone call and blocked plaintiff BARCELO's cellphone number.
- 48. Thereafter, plaintiff ROBERTS, who was the registered owner of the towed away 2017 Hyundai, was texting with a representative at defendant S & S TOWING<sup>30</sup>; either defendants SEAN METCALF and/or SONYA METCALF and/or DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, and that person demanded identification from

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<sup>28</sup> Cal. Veh. Code § 22500.1 provides: In addition to Section 22500, no person shall stop, park, or leave standing any vehicle, whether

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Defendants DOE 4 and/or DOE 5 and/or DOE 6
 Because defendants at S & S Towing, defendants SEAN METCALF and/or SONYA
 METCALF and/or DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 had blocked plaintiff BARCELO's phone number.
 FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in

street parking facility, designated as a fire lane by the fire department or fire district with

compliance with the directions of a peace officer or official traffic control device along the edge

of any highway, at any curb, or in any location in a publicly or privately owned or operated off-

jurisdiction over the area in which the place is located. The designation shall be indicated (1) by

a sign posted immediately adjacent to, and visible from, the designated place clearly stating in letters not less than one inch in height that the place is a fire lane, (2) by outlining or painting

the place in red and, in contrasting color, marking the place with the words "FIRE LANE",

which are clearly visible from a vehicle, or (3) by a red curb or red paint on the edge of the

roadway upon which is clearly marked the words "FIRE LANE".

comfortable in doing so, fearful that he would be scammed by giving his personal identifying information to a stranger via a text message.

49. Thereafter, during said text message exchange with a representative

plaintiff ROBERTS be sent via text message, and plaintiff ROBERTS did not feel

- 49. Thereafter, during said text message exchange with a representative at defendant S & S TOWING, either defendants SEAN METCALF and/or SONYA METCALF and/or DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, whoever plaintiff ROBERTS was texting would not tell him how much it would cost to get his car out of impound, would not reveal the location of the tow yard of defendant S & S TOWING and would not tell plaintiff ROBERTS where his car was being impounded / stored.
- 50. Thereafter, plaintiffs' counsel, Jerry L. Steering, did extensive internet searches for and about S & S TOWING and learned that defendants SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF were the principals and owners of S & S TOWING and were the Managers, the Managing Members, the owners and the alter egos of 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C.
- 51. Plaintiff's counsel, Jerry L. Steering was also able to find a telephone number for defendant SEAN METCALF, and on or about March 4, 2024 spoke with SEAN METCALF by phone.
- 52. During that March 4, 2024 discussion, Mr. Steering told SEAN METCALF that plaintiffs' car had been illegally towed by S & S TOWING<sup>31</sup>, and demanded to know where plaintiffs' vehicle was being stored, and demanded the return of plaintiffs' 2017 Hyundai sedan or plaintiff would sue defendant SEAN METCALF and his company(ies) for the felonious and tortious taking and keeping plaintiffs' car.
- 53. During Mr. Steering's internet search for and about defendant SEAN METCALF he learned that defendant SEAN METCALF was a criminal, that he

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> And why it was an illegal tow.

"steals" car using his towing company as a vehicle to "steal" vehicles by illegally towing vehicles and by refusing to return or release them to the owners of the vehicles, and then selling them off.

- 54. During Mr. Steering's internet search for and about defendant SEAN METCALF, and learned that defendant SEAN METCALF and his front company S & S TOWING did not have a tow yard to tow vehicles to, and that defendant SEAN METCALF, his wife defendant SONYA METCALF and their companies were a nationwide group of scam companies to advance various criminal schemes across the United States of America.
- 55. Thereafter, plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS never saw their Hyundai again.
- 56. Moreover, during that discussion between Mr. Steering and defendant SEAN METCALF, defendant SEAN METCALF told Mr. Steering that he would not reveal the location of plaintiffs' car and that he would not return or release plaintiffs car to plaintiffs.
- 57. In addition to the above and foregoing, as shown above, defendants MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and/or DOE 3 and/or DOE 4 who are the property management persons or entities for the Hillside Views Apartments authorized/contracted with and/or directed defendant S & S TOWING to tow cars from the Hillside Views Apartments pursuant to a General Authorization to patrol the Hillside Views Apartments, and to tow any vehicles parked next to any red curb in said apartment complex, including red curbs that were not fire lanes, notwithstanding that a curb merely painted red is not a fire lane under California state law.
- 58. Accordingly, defendants S & S TOWING and DOE 1 and/or DOE 2 and DOES 4 through 6, inclusive were acting under the color of state law, as they were acting in joint, concerted and conspiratorial action with defendants DOE 4 and/or DOE 5 and/or DOE 6 to deprive plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS of

their property (i.e. their vehicle); in violation of plaintiffs' right not to be subjected to an unlawful and unreasonable seizure of their property under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

- 59. Said actions by S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, and DOES 1 and 2, DOES 3 and 4 and DOES 5 and 6 constituted a violation of Cal. Penal Code § 487(d)(auto theft, a felony) and of violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 10851 (taking vehicle without consent, a felony) and a violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658, by said defendants.
- 60. Defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF ultimately auctioned off plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra at a lien sale and plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS do not know who owns their Hyundai Elantra or where it is located.
- 61. Defendants DOE 1 and/or DOE 2, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF were acting pursuant to actual policies of defendants S & S TOWING, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 through 7, inclusive, to unlawfully Patrol Tow vehicles from red curbs in the apartment complex, and to call the police to get them to help them to allow defendants to unlawfully tow vehicles away from the apartment complexes to facilitate felony auto theft<sup>32</sup> and felony extortion<sup>33</sup>.
- 62. Said defendants DOE 1 and 2, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, S & S TOWING, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, and defendants 5 and 6, are all liable to the plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS for the loss of their personal property and for the other constitutional torts committed against them, above described.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Cal. Penal Code § 487(d) (grand theft auto) and Cal. Veh Code § 10851 (taking vehicle without consent).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Cal. Penal Code § 518/519 (for demanding money in exchange of the release of the vehicle to its owner / owner's agent).

63. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle and their personal property, the 2017 Hyundai Elantra, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.

64. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive/exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, save defendant CITY, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. § 1983

Violation of First Amendment Rights

Freedom of Speech / Right to Petition Government for Redress of Grievances (By Plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS Against Defendants DOES 5 and 6)

- 65. Plaintiff BARCELO hereby realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 64, inclusive, above, as though set forth in full herein.
- 66. On February 26, 2024, in response to and in retaliation for plaintiff BARCELO verbally protesting defendants DOES 5 and 6's statements to her that defendants DOES 1 and 2 had the right to tow her Hyundai Elantra away and defendants DOES 5 and 6's refusal to tell defendants DOES 1 and 2 to release plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra to her, defendants DOES 5 and 6 told plaintiff to move away from her Hyundai Elantra under implied threat of arrest, prevented plaintiff BARCELO from getting her personal property out of her Hyundai Elantra, resulting in her ultimately losing those items of personal property, and told DOES 1 and 2 to tow plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra away.

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- 67. Those adverse actions by defendants DOES 5 and 6 taken against plaintiff BARCELO, above-described, would chill a person of ordinary firmness from continuing to engage in plaintiff's protected activity; her verbal protest of and verbal challenge to the actions that defendants DOES 5 and 6 perpetrated against her.
- 68. Plaintiff BARCELO's protected activity (verbal protest of having her car stolen and challenge to the officer's direction to the tow truck driver to take plaintiffs' car away) was a substantial or motivating factor in the decision of defendants DOES 5 and 6 refusal to tell defendants DOES 1 and 2 to release plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra to her, to tell plaintiff to move away from her Hyundai Elantra under implied threat of arrest, and to prevent plaintiff BARCELO from getting her personal property out of her Hyundai Elantra, and to tell DOES 1 and 2 to tow plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra away.
- 69. The actions of defendants constituted a violation of plaintiff BARCELO's First Amendment Freedom of Speech / Right to Petition Government for Redress of Grievances, and due to plaintiff BARCELO's exercise of her First Amendment right on her and on ROBERT's behalf, defendants DOES 5 and 6 took those adverse actions against plaintiffs complained of above and below, including telling defendants DOES 1 and 2 to tow plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra away, telling plaintiff to move away from her Hyundai Elantra under implied threat of arrest, and preventing plaintiff BARCELO from getting her personal property out of her Hyundai Elantra, and to tell DOES 1 and 2 to tow plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra away.
- 70. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of

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their vehicle and their personal property, all in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.

The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, 71. oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive/exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, save defendant CITY in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION **VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

Claim Against Local Governing Body and Private Party Employing DOE Defendants Based on Policy of Failure to Train / Policy, Custom and Practice (By Plaintiffs Against Defendants CITY, S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS & DOES 7 through 10, inclusive)

- Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations 72. set forth in paragraphs 1 through 71, inclusive, above, as if set forth in full herein.
- As shown above, on February 26, 2024 when defendants DOES 1 73. and 2, and DOES 3 and 4 deprived plaintiffs of their particular rights under the United States Constitution, they were acting under the color of state law with DOES 5 and 6, as they were acting pursuant to joint, concerted and conspiratorial action in a joint effort to deprive the plaintiffs of their federal constitutional rights, as described above.
- As shown above, the training policies of defendants CITY<sup>34</sup> and DOES 7 through 10, inclusive, were not adequate to train their police officers and other sworn peace officer personnel employed by CITY<sup>35</sup> to handle the usual and recurring situations with which they must deal with as sworn peace officers, to wit; 1) by failing to properly and adequately train San Diego Police Department

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> and/or some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> and/or some other public entity.

police officers<sup>36</sup> about California Private Property Impound towing laws, such as on Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(1)<sup>37</sup> and Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B) and (C)<sup>38</sup>, and 2) by failing to train its police officers and supervisors that a curb merely painted red is not a Fire Lane under California state law unless there is stenciling on the red curb that states FIRE LANE or that there is a sign next to the red painted curb that states FIRE LANE<sup>39</sup>, and 3) by failing to train its police officers and other officers, agents and employees that if the owner of a vehicle that is wrongfully parked and subject to being towed pursuant to a Private Property Impound, returns to the scene of the tow and demands the release of the vehicle before the vehicle is off of the private property and in transit, that the towing company must immediately an unconditionally release the vehicle to the owner of the vehicle or the owner's agent.

Accordingly, the failure of CITY<sup>40</sup> and DOES 7 through 10, 75. inclusive, to properly train its police officers regarding the laws involved in Private Property Impounds, was a proximate cause of the constitutional violations committed by defendants DOES 1 through 6 complained of above and below.

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(C) A person failing to comply with subparagraph (B) is guilty of a misdemeanor. <sup>39</sup> See, Cal. Veh. Code § 22500.1, and also, that the Fire Marshall has designated that curb as a

Fire Lane. <sup>40</sup> and/or some other public entity.

<sup>36</sup> and/or police officers employed by some other public entity.

<sup>37</sup> In particular that it is unlawful for a towing company to tow vehicles from private property pursuant to a General Authorization in the absence of the owner of the private property or the owner's agent to be present at the scene of the towing of a vehicle from private property and to sign for the towing of a vehicle from said private property, save a situation when the vehicle is either blocking traffic on the private property or is parked in a fire lane on any such private property.

<sup>38</sup> Cal. Veh. Code § 22658 (g) (1) (A) provides: "Possession of a vehicle under this section shall be deemed to arise when a vehicle is removed from private property and is in transit. (B) Upon the request of the owner of the vehicle or that owner's agent, the towing company or

its driver shall immediately and unconditionally release a vehicle that is not yet removed from the private property and in transit.

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- 76. Moreover, as set forth above, defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and their agents and employees DOE 3 and/or DOE 4 who are the property management persons or entities for the Hillside Views Apartments, authorized/contracted with and/or directed defendant S & S TOWING to tow cars from the Hillside Views Apartments pursuant to a General Authorization to Patrol Tow from the Hillside Views Apartments, and to Patrol Tow<sup>41</sup> any vehicles parked next to any red curb in said apartment complexes<sup>42</sup>, including red curbs that were not fire lanes, notwithstanding that a curb merely painted red is not a fire lane under California state law.
- 77. Accordingly, defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and DOES 4 engaged in a criminal conspiracy to tow vehicles from the Hillside Views Apartments in violation of California state law,

<sup>42</sup> And to Patrol Tow vehicles from those contracted apartment complexes for any other reason that would justify towing any such vehicles so long as the owner of the private property or its/their agent was present at the scene of the tow, and so long as the owner of the private property or its/their agent signed for the tow at the scene of the tow at the time of the tow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "Patrol Towing" being having a towing company patrol private property pursuant to a General Authorization Contract, such as an apartment complex or a business property such as a shopping center, and if the towing company notices any cars parked in a manner that arguably might justify it being towed from the private property, such as the vehicle being parked in a fire lane or obstructing traffic, to tow the spotted vehicle away from the private property without the owner of the private property or its/their agent being present at the scene of the tow, and so long as the owner of the private property or its/their agent signing for the tow at the scene of the tow at the time of the tow. "Patrol Towing" also includes having a towing company patrol private property pursuant to a General Authorization Contract, such as an apartment complex or a business property such as a shopping center, and if the towing company notices any cars parked in a manner that arguably might justify it being towed from the private property, such as a vehicle being parked in a space not designated for that vehicle, or otherwise improperly parked at the private property, to tow the vehicle away without the owner of the private property or its/their agent being present at the scene of the tow, and so long as the owner of the private property or its/their agent signing for the tow at the scene of the tow at the time of the tow; a violation of Cal. Penal Code § 487(d) (grand theft auto) and Cal. Veh Code § 10851 (taking vehicle without consent), and when demanding a towing and other fees for the release of the vehicle to its owner or its owner's agent, extorting the vehicle's owner or the vehicle's owner's agent, in Cal. Veh Code § 518/519.

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and that criminal conspiracy was made and the object of that conspiracy was carried out pursuant to the policies, customs and practices of defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS.

78 Moreover, when defendants DOES 1 and 2 coupled plaintiffs'

- Moreover, when defendants DOES 1 and 2 coupled plaintiffs' 78. vehicle to their tow truck owned by defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF, and when they towed plaintiffs' vehicle from private property without legal justification for doing so, and by DOES 1 and 2 calling the San Diego Police Department to assist them in towing the plaintiffs' vehicle away or otherwise stealing their car, in defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF refusing to communicate (either by telephone or text message) with either plaintiffs BARCELO or ROBERTS about releasing their vehicle after stealing the same, in defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF refusing to inform the vehicle owners (the plaintiffs) of the towing of their vehicle and impound fees, and in defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF refusing to tell vehicle owners where they could retrieve their vehicle, they were acting pursuant to the policies, customs and practices of defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF, inclusive, to do exactly those things during their duty shifts.
- 79. DOES 1 and 2 were in fact trained by defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF to: 1) tow vehicles from red curbs at apartment complexes that were not properly designated as fire lanes; 2) refuse to release vehicles to the vehicle owners and their agents who were demanding that S & S TOWING tow truck drivers release their vehicles to them and nonetheless continue to tow their vehicles away after the vehicle was coupled to the tow truck but was still on the private property and was not yet in transit, 3) to call the San Diego Police Department if the vehicle owner interfered with them unlawfully performing private property impounds of vehicles, and to have the police officers

43 and/or some other public entity.

assist them in towing a private vehicle from private property in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658 and 4) in charging towing fees and associated costs to vehicle owners and/or their agents when the vehicles were unlawfully towed away to their towing yard, said demands for money for the towing of the vehicle and for other fees constituting extortion under California state law.

- 80. Defendants CITY and DOES 7 through 10, inclusive, and defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF, and BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS were deliberately indifferent to the obvious consequences of their failure to train their police officers and other sworn peace officers, and their tow truck drivers and other towing company, and their property managers about Private Property Impounds, as explained above.
- 81. The failure of defendants CITY and DOES 7 through 10, inclusive, defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF, and defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS to provide adequate training on Private Property Impounds caused the deprivation of plaintiffs' rights by the defendants CITY<sup>43</sup>, S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF and DOES 1 through 6, inclusive; that is, the defendants' failure to train their agents and employees was so closely related to the deprivation of plaintiffs' rights as to be the moving force that caused the ultimate injuries to the plaintiffs.
- 82. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle and their personal property, in an amount to be proven at trial, in

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excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.

83. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive/exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, save defendant CITY in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.

# FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION CONVERSION / TRESPASS TO CHATTELS UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW (February 26, 2024 Incident) (By Plaintiffs Against all Defendants)

- 84. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 83, inclusive, above, as though set forth in full herein.
- 85. On February 26, 2024 plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS owned and possessed the 2017 Hyundai automobile identified herein above and at all times complained of herein.
- 86. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOE 3 and/or DOE 4 had an official policy, custom and practice, and had a written contract and/or General Authorization and/or an Agreement with defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF to Patrol Tow<sup>44</sup> the Hillside Views Apartments, that included unlawfully towing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> "Patrol Towing" being having a towing company patrol private property pursuant to a General Authorization Contract, such as an apartment complex or a business property such as a shopping center, and if the towing company notices any cars parked in a manner that arguably might justify it being towed from the private property, such as the vehicle being parked in a fire lane or obstructing traffic, to tow the spotted vehicle away from the private property without the owner of the private property or its/their agent being present at the scene of the tow, and so long as the owner of the private property or its/their agent signing for the tow at the scene of the tow at the time of the tow. "Patrol Towing" also includes having a towing company patrol private FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

vehicles away from that apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle, and without their employees/agents/property managers and signing the authorization to tow such vehicles at the time of and at the scene of the tow; all in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(l).

- 87. Moreover defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF had its tow truck drivers such as DOES 1 and 2 not only unlawfully tow vehicles away from their apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle and without their agents / employees / agents / property managers being present at the scene of the tow, and signing the authorizing the towing of such vehicles at the scene of the tow and at the time of the tow, but also to refused to release vehicles that were coupled to S & S TOWING tow trucks when the owner or the agent of the owner of the vehicle demanded that the vehicle be released to them before the vehicle was off of the private property and in transit.
  - 88. Said defendants DOES 1 through 6, inclusive, S & S TOWING,

property pursuant to a General Authorization Contract, such as an apartment complex or a business property such as a shopping center, and if the towing company notices any cars parked in a manner that arguably might justify it being towed from the private property, such as a vehicle being parked in a space not designated for that vehicle, or otherwise improperly parked at the private property, to tow the vehicle away without the owner of the private property or its/their agent being present at the scene of the tow, and so long as the owner of the private property or its/their agent signing for the tow at the scene of the tow at the time of the tow; a violation of Cal. Penal Code § 487(d) (grand theft auto) and Cal. Veh Code § 10851 (taking vehicle without consent), and when demanding a towing and other fees for the release of the vehicle to its owner or its owner's agent, extorting the vehicle's owner or the vehicle's owner's agent, in Cal. Veh Code § 518/519.

SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, intentionally and substantially interfered with plaintiffs' use of their property by taking possession of their vehicle during the February 26, 2024 incident complained of in this action and did so in violation of Cal. Veh Code § 22658 and also in violation of Cal. Penal Code §§ 487(d) and 518/519 and Cal. Veh Code § 10851.

- 89. Plaintiffs did not consent to said defendants', and each of them, taking of their vehicle and their items of personal property.
- 90. Plaintiffs were actually harmed by the taking of their vehicle and of their personal property, and such taking of their property constituted a Conversion of plaintiffs' property and a Trespass to Chattels of the plaintiff's property.
- 91. Said defendants' conduct, and each of them, was a substantial factor in causing plaintiffs' harm. Moreover, defendants CITY and DOES 5 though 10, inclusive, are liable to plaintiffs pursuant to Cal. Gov't Code §§ 815.2(a) and 820.
- 92. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle and their items of personal property, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.
- 93. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive / exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, save defendant CITY, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff against each defendant.

### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence Under California State Law

### (February 26, 2024 Incident) (By Plaintiffs Against all Defendants)

- 94. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 93, inclusive, above, as if set forth in full herein.
- 95. Defendants S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 1 through 4, inclusive, owed plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS a duty of care to ensure that any vehicles towed from the Hillside Views Apartments be done in accordance with California state law, including Cal. Veh Code § 22658.
- 96. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiff BARCELO, at the Hillside Views Apartments, a duty of care to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol and to perform private property impounds at the Hillside Views Apartments was a legitimate company that did not engage in criminal violations in performing private property impounds, unlike S & S TOWING, a notorious criminal enterprise.
- 97. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS a duty of care to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol and to perform Private Property Impounds at the Hillside Views Apartments that performed private property impounds would not patrol tow<sup>45</sup> vehicles from the Hillside Views Apartments without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS being present at the scene of any such towing of vehicles that were unlawfully or wrongfully parked at the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> That is without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow.

Hillside Views Point Apartments, and sign for the towing of vehicles pursuant to a private property impound at the scene of the tow and at the time of the tow, save any private property impounds done on vehicles that were either parked in a Fire Lane or were blocking traffic.

- 98. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS a duty of care to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol tow<sup>46</sup> and to perform private property impounds at the Hillside Views Apartments that performed private property impounds would not tow vehicles from the Hillside Views Apartments that were parked next to curbs that were painted red, unless the red painted curb had painted on it the words "Fire Lane", or that had a sign next to the red painted curb that showed the words "Fire Lane".
- 99. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS a duty of care to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol tow<sup>47</sup> and to perform private property impounds at the Hillside Views Apartments that performed private property impounds would release vehicles to the owner of the vehicle or the owner's agent if the owner or the owner's agent arrived at the scene of the vehicle that was being lawfully towed, and before the vehicle was off of the private property and in transit, demanded that the vehicle be released to them.
- 100. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiff BARCELO pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by hiring what said defendants should have known was basically an ongoing criminal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> That is without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> That is without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow.

and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by contracting with S & S TOWING to patrol tow<sup>49</sup> from the Hillside Views Apartments and to tow vehicles from the Hillside Views Apartments without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS being present at the scene of any such towing of vehicles that were unlawfully or wrongfully parked at the Hillside Views Apartments, and without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS signing for the towing of vehicles pursuant to a private property impound at the scene of the tow and at the time of the tow, save any private property impounds done on vehicles that were either parked in a Fire Lane or were blocking traffic.

102. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by contracting with S & S TOWING to patrol tow from the Hillside Views Apartments and to tow vehicles from the Hillside Views Apartments that were parked next to curbs that were painted red without the red painted curb have painted on it the words "Fire Lane", or without a sign next to the red painted curb that showed the words "Fire Lane".

103. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> That is without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> That is without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow.

owner's agent if the owner or the owner's agent arrived at the scene of the vehicle

104. In addition, defendants DOES 1 and 2, and defendants S & S

TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF owed plaintiffs BARCELO

and ROBERTS a duty of care pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to

the common law, to not patrol tow<sup>50</sup> vehicles from the Hillside Views Apartments

that were parked at the Hillside Views Apartments next to curbs that were painted

red but did not have painted on that red painted curb the words "Fire Lane", or

without a sign next to the red painted curb that showed the words "Fire Lane".

105. On February 26, 2024 defendants DOES 1 and 2, on behalf of

defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF and on

breached its duty of care owed to plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS pursuant

BARCELO's and ROBERTS' vehicle that was parked next to a red painted curb

that did not have lettering on it showing the words "Fire Lane" and that did not

106. In addition on February 26, 2024 defendants DOES 1 and 2, on

behalf of defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS,

to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by towing

have a sign next to it that showed the words "Fire Lane".

and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiffs BARCELO 1 and ROBERTS pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common 2 law, lawful tenants at the Hillside Views Apartments a duty of care to ensure that 3 the towing company that it contracted with to patrol and to perform Private 4 Property Impounds at the Hillside Views Apartments that performed Private 5 Property Impounds would release vehicles to the owner of the vehicle or the 6 7 that was being lawfully towed, and before the vehicle was off of the private 8 property and in transit, demanded that the vehicle be released to them. 9

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<sup>50</sup> That is without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow.

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behalf of defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF and on behalf of defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, breached its duty of care owed to plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by towing plaintiffs' vehicle that was despite plaintiff BARCELO parked next to a red painted curb that did not have lettering on it showing the words "Fire Lane" and that did not have a sign next to it that showed the words "Fire Lane".

107. Moreover, defendant CITY<sup>51</sup> and DOES 7 through 10, inclusive,

owed the public, including plaintiffs' to train its police officers and other employees and agents on the laws regarding Private Property Impounds, including: 1) by failing to properly and adequately train San Diego Police Department police officers<sup>52</sup> about California Private Property Impound towing laws, such as on Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(1)<sup>53</sup> and Cal. Veh. Code § 22658(g)(1)(B) and (C)<sup>54</sup>, and 2) by failing to train its police officers and supervisors that a curb merely painted red is not a Fire Lane under California state law unless there is stenciling on the red curb that states FIRE LANE or that there

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<sup>51</sup> Or some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> and/or police officers employed by some other public entity.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> In particular that it is unlawful for a towing company to tow vehicles from private property pursuant to a General Authorization in the absence of the owner of the private property or the owner's agent to be present at the scene of the towing of a vehicle from private property and to sign for the towing of a vehicle from said private property, save a situation when the vehicle is either blocking traffic on the private property or is parked in a fire lane on any such private property.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Cal. Veh. Code § 22658 (g) (1) (A) provides: "Possession of a vehicle under this section shall be deemed to arise when a vehicle is removed from private property and is in transit.

<sup>(</sup>B) Upon the request of the owner of the vehicle or that owner's agent, the towing company or its driver shall immediately and unconditionally release a vehicle that is not yet removed from the private property and in transit.

<sup>(</sup>C) A person failing to comply with subparagraph (B) is guilty of a misdemeanor. FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

is a sign next to the red painted curb that states FIRE LANE<sup>55</sup> and , and 3) by failing to train its police officers and other officers, agents and employees that if the owner of a vehicle that is wrongfully parked and subject to being towed pursuant to a Private Property Impound, returns to the scene of the tow and demands the release of the vehicle before the vehicle is off of the private property and in transit, that the towing company must immediately an unconditionally release the vehicle to the owner of the vehicle or the owner's agent.

- 108. Accordingly due to this lack of training of San Diego Police Department police officers and other officers, agents and employees, cause DOES 5 and 6 to direct DOES 1 and 2 to tow plaintiffs' vehicle away from the scene of the February 26, 2024 tow of their vehicle complained of herein, and threatened plaintiff BARCELO with arrest for failure to interfere with the towing of plaintiffs' vehicle on that day.
- 109. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.
- 110. As shown above, said defendants breached their duty of care to plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS when they unlawfully seized plaintiffs' vehicle. Moreover, defendants are liable to plaintiffs pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714.
  - 111. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> See, Cal. Veh. Code § 22500.1, and also, that the Fire Marshall has designated that curb as a Fire Lane.

complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.

#### SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Intentional Infliction Of Emotional Distress Under California State Law (February 26, 2024 Incident) (By Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)

- 112. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 111, inclusive, above, as if set forth in full herein.
- 113. Defendants DOES 1 and 2, and DOES 4 through 7, inclusive, and each of them, knew and/or should have known that plaintiffs were susceptible to suffering severe emotional distress from the actions taken and committed against plaintiffs as complained of above and herein.
- 114. Moreover, the conduct of said defendants for all of the incidents complained of herein, as complained of above and below, were outrageous and not the type of conduct condoned in a civilized society. Defendants are liable to plaintiffs pursuant to Cal. Gov't Code §§ 815.2(a) and 820.
- 115. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle and their items of personal property, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.

116. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive / exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, save defendant CITY, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.

# SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF CAL. VEH CODE § 22658 UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW (February 26, 2024 Incident) (By Plaintiffs Against All Defendants)

- 117. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 116, inclusive, above, as though set forth in full herein.
- 118. Plaintiffs BARCELO and ROBERTS owned and possessed the vehicle identified hereinabove and at all times mentioned herein.
- 119. Defendants BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, MAAC BAYVIEW HEIGHTS and DOE 3 had an official policy, custom and practice, and had a written contract with defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF to Patrol Tow the Hillside Views Apartments and to unlawfully tow vehicles away from their apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle and without their employees / agents / property managers and to sign to authorize the towing of such vehicles; all in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658.
- 120. Moreover defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF and 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. had its tow truck drivers such as DOES 1 and 2 not only to unlawfully Patrol Tow vehicles away from their apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owner(s) or their

agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle and without their employees / agents / property managers and to sign to authorize the towing of such vehicles, and also to refuse to release vehicles that were coupled to S & S TOWING tow trucks when the owner or the agent of the owner of the vehicle demanded that the vehicle be released to them before the vehicle was off of the private property and in transit.

- 121. As set forth above, on February 26, 2024, DOES 1 and 2 while Patrol Towing the Hillside Views Apartments unlawfully towed plaintiffs' 2017 Hyundai Elantra to a place owned and or operated by S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658, to wit:
  - DOES 1 and/or 2 towed plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra away from a) plaintiff BARCELO without the owner or agent of the private property where it was on being present at the scene of the tow and without the owner or agent of the private property signing for the tow of plaintiffs' vehicle at the scene of the tow;
  - After plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra was coupled to the tow truck b) but before plaintiffs' car was off of the private property and in transit, plaintiff BARCELO demanded that DOES 1 and/or 2 release plaintiffs' car to her, and he/they refused to do so;
  - c) DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiffs' car from it being parked next to a red-painted curb that was not a fire lane, and did so pursuant to a General Authorization provided to S & S TOWING by DOES 3 and 4 to patrol the Hillside Views Apartments and to Patrol Tow vehicles parked next to red curbs that were not Fire Lanes;
  - DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiffs Hyundai Elantra when there d) were not proper signs that were compliant with Cal. Veh. Code

- § 22658 posted at every entrance and exit to the Hillside Views Apartments;
- e) DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra to a place unknown and to place not shown on any signs posted on every entrance to and exit from the Hillside Views Apartments.
- f) DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra from the Hillside Views Apartments even though after plaintiff's Hyundai Elantra was coupled to the tow truck but before the tow truck and the Hyundai Elantra were off of the private property and in transit, plaintiff BARCELO arrived at the scene of the tow and demanded that DOES 1 and 2 release the Hyundai Elantra vehicle to her, and
- g) DOES 1 and 2 and SEAN METCALF and SONYA

  METCALF refused to tell plaintiffs and their lawyer, Jerry L.

  Steering, where plaintiffs' vehicle was being stored, and refused to release plaintffs' vehicles even if they paid the tow and storage fees for plaintiffs' vehicle.
- 122. After plaintiffs' Hyundai Elantra was towed away that vehicle was secreted from plaintiffs and plaintiffs were deprived of the opportunity to retrieve their car by SEAN METCALF;
- 123. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiffs were: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle and their items of personal property, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.
  - 124. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously,

oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive / exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, save defendant CITY, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.

### EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION CONVERSION / TRESPASS TO CHATTELS UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW (May 31, 2024 Incident)

(By Plaintiff BARCELO AGAINST DEFENDANTS S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 4, inclusive)

- 125. Plaintiff BARCELO hereby realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 124, inclusive, above, as though set forth in full herein.
- 126. On May 31, 2024 plaintiff BARCELO owned and possessed a 2018 Ford Explorer Limited Sport Utility Vehicle (hereinafter referred to as the "EXPLORER").
- 127. Also on May 31, 2024 plaintiff BARCELO resided at 5930 Division Street, Apt. 323 San Diego, California in the Valencia Pointe Apartments.
- 128. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, VALENCIA POINTE and/or DOE 3 and/or DOE 4 had an official policy, custom and practice, and had a written contract with defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF to patrol the Valencia Pointe Apartments and to unlawfully Patrol Tow vehicles away from their apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents consent and without apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle and without their employees / agents / property managers and to signing to authorize the towing of such vehicles at the scene of the tow; all

in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658.

- 129. Moreover defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF had its tow truck drivers such as DOES 1 and 2 unlawfully tow vehicles away from the Valencia Pointe Apartments apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owners or property managers or other agents of the owners of the Valencia Pointe Apartments consent, and without or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle, and without the owners of the Valencia Pointe Apartments or their employees / agents / property managers signing to authorize the towing of such vehicles at the scene of the tow when the towing of any such vehicle was made.
- 130. Moreover defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF had its tow truck drivers such as DOES 1 and 2 unlawfully tow vehicles away from the Valencia Pointe Apartments apartment complex during the towing process, including when the vehicle to be towed was already coupled to the tow truck, when the vehicle was still on the private property and was not yet in transit, and when the owner or the agent of the owner of the vehicle demanded that the vehicle be released to them before the vehicle was off of the private property and in transit.
- 131. On May 31, 2024 DOES 1 and 2, tow truck drivers for S & S TOWING towed away plaintiff BARCELO's EXPLORER that was properly and lawfully parking in her designated parking space at the Valencia Pointe Apartments; a parking space that was designated for BARCELO to park her EXPLORER in.
- 132. Accordingly, defendants DOES 1 through 4, inclusive, S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE and MAAC VALENCIA POINTE, intentionally and substantially interfered with plaintiff BARELO's use of her EXPLORER / her personal property, by taking

possession of her EXPLORER vehicle during the May 31, 2024 incident complained of in this action and did so in violation of Cal. Veh Code §§ 22658 (the California private property impound statute) and 10851 (taking vehicle without consent), in violation of Cal. Penal Code § 487(d) (auto theft), and in violation of Cal. Penal Code § 518/519 (extortion), for demanding \$400.00 from plaintiff BARCELO to release her EXPLORER back to her.

- 133. Plaintiff BARCELO did not consent to said defendants', and each of them, the taking of her vehicle and her items of personal property, to wit; her EXPLORER.
- 134. Plaintiff BARCELO was actually harmed by the taking of her EXPLORER vehicle and of her personal property, and such taking of her EXPLORER constituted a Conversion of plaintiff's property and a Trespass to Chattels of the plaintiff's property.
- 135. Said defendants' conduct, and each of them, was a substantial factor in causing plaintiffs' harm.
- 136. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiff BARCELO was: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of use of her EXPLORER vehicle, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.
- 137. The actions by said defendants S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, and MAAC VALENCIA POINTE were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive / exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 against each defendant.

### NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence Under California State Law (May 31, 2024 Incident)

(By Plaintiff BARCELO AGAINST DEFENDANTS S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 4, inclusive)

- 138. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 137, inclusive, above, as if set forth in full herein.
- 139. Defendants S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 4, inclusive, owed plaintiff BARCELO a duty of care pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, to ensure that any vehicles towed from the Valencia Pointe Apartments be done in accordance with California state law, including Cal. Veh Code § 22658.
- 140. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiff BARCELO, a lawful tenant at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, a duty of care pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol tow and to perform private property impounds at the Valencia Pointe Apartments was a legitimate company that did not engage in criminal violations in performing private property impounds, unlike S & S TOWING, a notorious criminal enterprise.
- 141. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiff BARCELO, a lawful tenant at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, a duty of care pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol and to perform Private Property Impounds at the Valencia Pointe Apartments that performed Private Property Impounds would not tow vehicles

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from the Valencia Points Apartments that without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from VALENCIA POINTE and MAAC VALENCIA POINTE, being present at the scene of any such towing of vehicles that were unlawfully or wrongfully parked at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, and sign for the towing of vehicles pursuant to a private property impound at the scene of the tow and at the time of the tow, save any private property impounds done on vehicles that were either parked in a Fire Lane or were blocking traffic.

- 142. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 3 and 4, owed plaintiff BARCELO, a lawful tenant at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, a duty of care pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, to ensure that the towing company that it contracted with to patrol and to perform Private Property Impounds at the Valencia Pointe Apartments that performed private property impounds would not tow vehicles from the Valencia Pointe Apartments that were parked next to curbs that were painted red unless the red painted curb has painted on it the words "Fire Lane", or that had a sign next to the red painted curb that showed the words "Fire Lane", without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from VALENCIA POINTE and MAAC VALENCIA POINTE, being present at the scene of any such towing of vehicles that were unlawfully or wrongfully parked at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, and sign for the towing of vehicles pursuant to a private property impound at the scene of the tow and at the time of the tow, save any private property impounds done on vehicles that were either parked in an actual Fire Lane or were blocking traffic.
- 143. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiff BARCELO pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by hiring what said defendants knew or should have known was basically an ongoing criminal enterprise auto-theft and extortion company, S & S TOWING, to patrol

tow from the Valencia Pointe Apartments.

144. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiff BARCELO pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by contracting with S & S TOWING to patrol tow from the Valencia Point Apartments and to tow vehicles from the Valencia Point Apartments without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from VALENCIA POINTE and MAAC VALENCIA POINTE, being present at the scene of any such towing of vehicles that were unlawfully or wrongfully parked at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, and without DOES 3 and/or 4 or some other authorized agent from VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE signing for the towing of vehicles pursuant to a private property impound at the scene of the tow and at the time of the tow, save any private property impounds done on vehicles that were either parked in a Fire Lane or were blocking traffic.

145. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 3 and 4, breached their duty of care that it owed plaintiff BARCELO pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by contracting with S & S TOWING to patrol tow from the Valencia Pointe Apartments and to tow vehicles from the Valencia Pointe Apartments that were parked next to curbs that were painted red without the red painted curb have painted on it the words "Fire Lane", or without a sign next to the red painted curb that showed the words "Fire Lane".

146. In addition, defendants DOES 1 and 2, and defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, and MAAC VALENCIA POINTE owed plaintiff BARCELO a duty of care to not tow vehicles from the Valencia Pointe Apartments that were not unlawfully or wrongfully parked at the Valencia Pointe Apartments, and not to tow vehicles from the Valencia Pointe Apartments that were properly parked in a tenant's

assigned parking space or in any other proper parking space pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law.

- 147. On May 31, 2024 defendants DOES 1 and 2, on behalf of defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF and on behalf of defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE, breached its duty of care owed to plaintiff BARCELO pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 1714 and pursuant to the common law, by towing her EXPLORER that was properly parked at the Valencia Point Apartments.
- 148. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiff was: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff.

#### **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

Intentional Infliction Of Emotional Distress Under California State Law (May 31, 2024 Incident)

(By Plaintiff BARCELO AGAINST DEFENDANTS S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 4, inclusive)

- 149. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 148, inclusive, above, as if set forth in full herein.
- 150. Defendants S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 6, inclusive, and each of them, knew and/or should have known that plaintiff BARCELO was susceptible to suffering severe emotional distress from the actions taken and committed against her as

- 151. Moreover, the conduct of defendants S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 6, inclusive for all of the incidents complained of herein, were outrageous and not the type of conduct condoned in a civilized society.
- 152. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiff BARCELO was: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of use of her vehicle, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.
- 153. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive / exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 against each defendant.

### ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION VIOLATION OF CAL. VEH CODE § 22658 UNDER CALIFORNIA STATE LAW (May 31, 2024 Incident)

(AGAINST DEFENDANTS S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C., SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF, VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOES 1 through 6, inclusive)

- 154. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 153, inclusive, above, as though set forth in full herein.
- 155. Plaintiff BARCELO and owned and possessed the EXPLORER vehicle identified hereinabove and at all times mentioned herein.

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156. Defendants VALENCIA POINTE, MAAC VALENCIA POINTE and DOE 3 had an official policy, custom and practice, and had a written contract with defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, and SONYA METCALF to patrol tow<sup>56</sup> the Valencia Pointe Apartments and to unlawfully tow vehicles away from their apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle and without their employees / agents / property managers and to sign to authorize the towing of such vehicles; all in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658.

157. Moreover defendants S & S TOWING, SEAN METCALF, SONYA METCALF and 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C. had its tow truck drivers such as DOES 1 and 2 not only unlawfully tow vehicles away from the Valencia Pointe Apartments apartment complex (where the subject incident took place) that were parked next to red curbs that were not fire lanes, and without the consent or knowledge of the apartment complex's owner(s) or their agents being present at the scene of the towing of the vehicle, and without their employees / agents / property managers signing an authorization for the towing of such vehicles, but also had S & S TOWING tow truck drivers refuse to release vehicles that were coupled to S & S TOWING tow trucks when the owner or the agent of the owner of the vehicle demanded that the vehicle be released to them before the vehicle was off of the private property and in transit.

158. As set forth above, on May 31, 2024, DOES 1 and 2 and S & S TOWING, while patrol towing, towed plaintiff BARCELO's EXPLORER to a place owned and or operated by S & S TOWING, 51 STRATEGIES L.L.C.,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> That is to patrol the property for the property owner for wrongfully parked cars, and to tow vehicles without the property owner or the owner's agents consent or direction to tow a vehicle off of the owner's private property, and to do so without the property owner or the property owner's agent present at the scene of the tow and to sign for the tow at the scene of the tow. FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

SEAN METCALF and SONYA METCALF in violation of Cal. Veh. Code § 22658, to wit:

- a) DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiff BARCELO's EXPOLORER away from plaintiff BARCELO without the owner or agent of the private property where it was on being present at the scene of the tow and without the owner or agent of the private property signing for the tow of plaintiffs' vehicle at the scene of the tow;
- b) After plaintiff BARCELO's EXPOLORER was coupled to the tow truck plaintiff BARCELO demanded that DOES 1 and 2 release her car to her, and they refused to do so;
- c) DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiff BARCELO's EXPOLORER from a parking space at the Valencia Pointe Apartments where plaintiff BARCELO was authorized by the Valencia Pointe Apartments to park;
- d) DOES 1 and 2 towed plaintiff BARCELO's EXPOLORER when there were not proper signs that were compliant with Cal. Veh. Code § 22658 posted at every entrance and exit to the Valencia Pointe Apartments;
- 159. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of said defendants complained of herein, plaintiff BARCELO was: 1) substantially, mentally and emotionally injured, and suffered great mental and emotional injury, distress and suffering; 2) incurred attorney's fees and associated litigation and other related costs, and 3) incurred other special and general damages and expenses, including the loss of their vehicle and their items of personal property, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00.
- 160. The actions by said defendants were committed maliciously, oppressively and in reckless disregard of plaintiffs' constitutional rights, sufficient for an award of punitive / exemplary damages against all defendants and each of them, in an amount to be proven at trial, in excess of \$3,000,000.00 against each defendant.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray that an order issue out of this Honorable Court, as follows:

1. For indement against all defendants for compensatory damages in

- 1. For judgment against all defendants for compensatory damages in an amount in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff;
- 2. For judgment against all defendants, save CITY, for punitive damages in an amount in excess of \$3,000,000.00 for each plaintiff against each defendant;
- 3. For reasonable attorney's fees and other costs of suit;
- 4. For a trial by jury; and

5. For such other relief as this Honorable Court finds just and equitable.

JERRY L. STEERING, ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS KAZIE BARCELO and JUSTIN ROBERTS





Law Office of Jerry L. Steering 4063 Birch Street, Ste 100 Newport Beach CA 92660

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SONYA DEFREITAS-METCALF 2828 OAKWOOD CREEK WAY ESCONDIDO CA 92027-5250

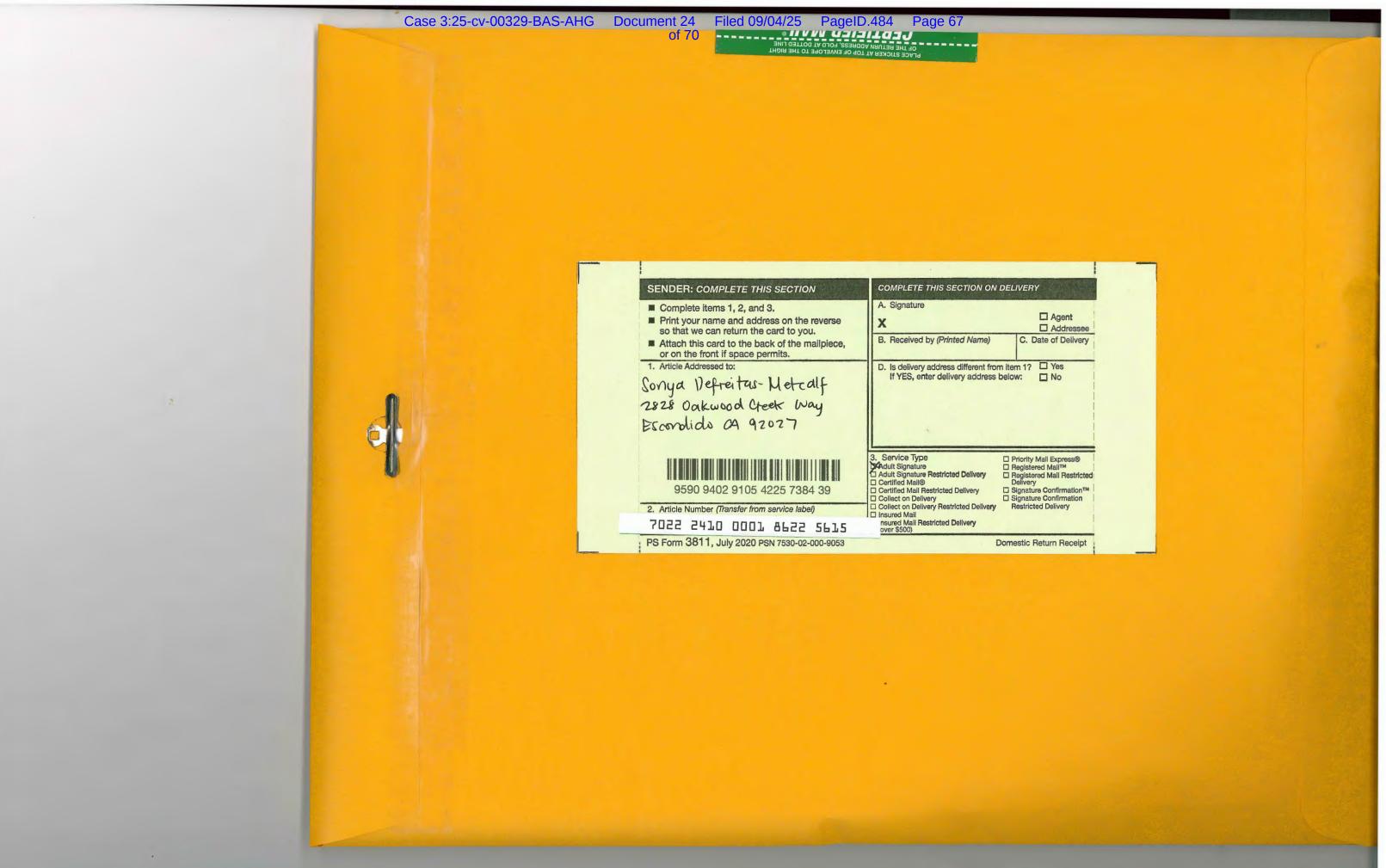


Exhibit G - 55

Exhibit G - 56

# SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.

  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.
- 1. Article Addressed to:

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? If YES, enter delivery address below:

O Nes

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery ☐ Agent☐ Addressee

2828 Oakwood Geek Way Escardido 04 92027 Sonya Defreitas-Metcalf



2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053 7022 T000 0Th2 2299 5475

- 3. Service Type

  | Adult Signature
  | Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
  | Certified Mail@
  | Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
  | Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
  | Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
  | Insured Mail Restricted Delivery
  | over \$500)
- - ☐ Priority Mail Express®
    ☐ Registered Mail ™
    ☐ Registered Mail Restricted
    Delivery
    ☐ Signature Confirmation™
    ☐ Signature Confirmation
    ☐ Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

Law Office of Jerry L. Steering 4063 Birch Street, Ste 100 Newport Beach CA 92660

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