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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA OURT

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DAYVID J. FIGLER,

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE,

DEANGELO CARROLL,

vs.

Petitioner.

Respondent,

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF CLARK, THE HONORABLE VALERIE ADAIR,

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RECEI NOV 2 9 2007 JANETTE M. BLEICH CLERK OF SUPREME COURT

DEPUTY CLARK

2007 NOV 29 AM 9: 41

Case No.

(Dist. Ct. No. C212667)

FILED

NOV 2 9 2007

Real Party in Interest.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS EMERGENCY MOTION FOR STAY OF PROCEEDINGS

DAYVID J. FIGLER, ESQ. BUNIN & BUNIN, LTD. Nevada Bar #4264 626 S. Third Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 386-0333

Attorney for Appellant

DAVID J.J. ROGER CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA DISTRICT ATTORNEY Nevada Bar # 2781 200 Lewis Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 (702) 671-2500

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO Attorney General 100 North Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717 (702) 486-3420

Counsel for Respondent

BUNIN & BUNIN, LTD.

07-25735

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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DAYVID J. FIGLER,

Case No. (Dist. Ct. No. C212667)

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Petitioner,

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vs.

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF CLARK, THE HONORABLE VALERIE ADAIR, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE,

Respondent,

DEANGELO CARROLL.

Real Party in Interest.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND EMERGENCY MOTION FOR STAY OF PROCEEDINGS

COMES NOW the Petitioner, BUNIN & BUNIN, LTD. and DAYVID J. FIGLER, and pursuant to NRS 34.320 et. seq., respectfully petitions this Honorable Court to declare the two qualifying aggravating be improper and/or circumstances alleged by the State to unconstitutional as they relate to Deangelo Carroll and that this matter be removed from death penalty eligibility. Additionally, the Petitioner requests a stay of the proceedings until this and the related Writ of Mandamus already pending before this court regarding Luis Hildalgo, III, et. al, be resolved.

This Petition is based upon the Memorandum of Points and Authorities and portions of the record relevant to the determination

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of this Petition and any argument should this Honorable Court order a hearing on this matter.

DATED this 29th day of November, 2007.

BUNIN & BUNIN, LTD.

Ву

DAY WID U. FIGLER ESQ.

Nevada Bar #4264

626 South Third Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

(702) 386-0333

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VERIFICATION

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)ss:

COUNTY OF CLARK

STATE OF NEVADA

DAYVID J. FIGLER, being first duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

- That he is an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada and one of the private attorneys assigned to represent Deangelo Carroll in a capital matter.
- That MR. CARROLL, has authorized and directed Mr. Figler, to file the foregoing Writ of Mandamus;
- That MR. FIGLER, has read the foregoing Writ of Mandamus and knows the contents therein and as to those matters they are true and correct and as to those matters based on information and belief he is informed and believes them to be true;
- That MR. CARROLL has no other remedy at law available 4. to him and that the only means to address this problem is through this writ, in that he is about to face capital murder proceedings;
- 5. That MR. FIGLER signs this Verification on behalf of MR. CARROLL, under his direction and authorization and further that MR. CARROLL is currently in custody of the authorities of the Clark County Detention Center.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NAUGHT.

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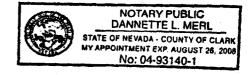
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me this 29th day of November, 2007.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State.



J. FIGLER, ESQ.

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

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STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES

I.

1. Whether the District Court erred in denying the Defendant's Motion to Strike Aggravating Circumstances.

II.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Defendant, Deangelo Carroll, a cooperating witness regarding the shooting murder of Timothy Hadland (hereinafter "Hadland") on or about May 19, 2005, was charged by way of a criminal complaint with open murder based on multiple theories of liability including conspiracy and aiding and abetting. Mr. Carroll waived his preliminary hearing. However, preliminary hearings were held for four co-defendants, all of whom were bound over on the murder charge and other various offenses. The State eventually decided to seek the Death Penalty against four of the five co-defendants, including Mr. Carroll. The only co-defendant against whom the Death Penalty was not sought was a juvenile at the time and ineligible for the Death Penalty for that reason.

In the District Court, all defendants plead not guilty and the case was assigned to Eighth Judicial District Court Department XIV. Later, because of a change in counsel, the District Court recused itself and the matter was reassigned to Eighth Judicial District Court Department XXI. Co-defendants, Luis Hildago, III and Anabel Espindola filed a. motion to strike the aggravating circumstances on numerous grounds and that motion was denied. A writ of mandamus was taken up by the co-defendants and that matter is still pending as of the date of this Petition.

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On or about August 16, 2007, the Defendant filed a Motion to Strike Aggravating Circumstances in the District Court Department XXI. The State was given an opportunity to respond in writing and filed its opposition on or about October 4, 2007. The Court held a hearing on the matter on October 9, 2007 and took the matter under advisement. On October 10, 2007, a minute order was issued denying relief and specifically directing the State to prepare an order with specific findings of fact and conclusions of law. The minute order also denied the motion for a stay of proceedings made by the Defendant in the District Court. A written order denying the Defendant's motions was submitted but rejected by the District Court. did not submit a written order to the District Court until multiple prompting by the Defendant and eventually an order was submitted and signed on November 27, 2007. A Death Penalty trial is set to begin on December 3, 2007. The instant petition follows.

III.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Just before midnight on May 19, 2005, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) received a 9-1-1 call concerning a homicide on North Shore Road near Lake Mead (Reporter's Transcript of the Preliminary Hearing (hereinafter "RTP"), page 146). Upon arrival they found the body of Timothy Hadland (hereinafter "Hadland")lying in the middle of the road with an two gunshot wounds to the head. (RTP 151, 157). Just south of the body were several flyers from a strip club in North Las Vegas called the Palomino Club which led police to do begin an investigation at the club. (RTP, 152-160). Additionally, the last number on Hadland's cell phone was from an individual identified as "Deangelo" on the phone itself, but the number was registered to

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an individual named Anabel Espindola (hereinafter "Espindola") who was a key employee at the Palomino club. (RTP, 153-159).

It was determined that Hadland was a former employee of the Palomino club and that the Defendant, Deangelo Carroll was a current employee of the club. (RTP, 163-164). Carroll gave the police a lengthy, recorded statement which contains multiple versions of the motivations and intentions behind the events of the evening of May 19, 2007, but in his statement, Carroll essentially admits that he drove a van out to Lake Mead on May 19, 2005 with three passengers in the car, Rontae Zone, Jason Taoipu, and Kenneth Counts; there they encounter Timothy Hadland who was friends with Carroll; at that point Kenneth Counts shot and killed Timothy Hadland. Rontae Zone, a juvenile who was not charged with any offense and Jason Taoipu, the juvenile co-defendant confirm this essential account and the State has not contested that Kenneth Counts was the actual shooter. (See Statement of the Defendant). The discrepancies and contradictory accounts made by Carroll to the police primarily surround the motivation for meeting with Hadland at the lake in the first place.

In one version of Carroll recitation of the events, after Hadland was shot he returned to the Palomino club where Kenneth Counts demanded 6,000 dollars in compensation for the shooting. Carroll told police that he got the 6,000 dollars from Anabel Espindola and gave it to Counts. (See Statement of the Defendant).

Carroll agreed to work with police in an attempt to enshare the owners/managers of the Palomino club as involved with the shooting of Hadland. To that end, he wore a surreptitious listening device on his person and entered an establishment where Anabel Espindola and Luis

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Hildago, III (the son of the owner of the Palomino Club), were present. There Carroll was able to solicit numerous statements from his eventual co-defendants that the State has cast as incriminating. At that meeting, Carroll placed his own life in jeopardy as the co-defendant's made Carroll strip his clothes off with the implication that if he was cooperating with police he would be killed. The listening device was not recovered. (See Statement of the Defendant).

Mr. Carroll asserts that the police, FBI and the prosecutors made him numerous promises regarding treatment in the criminal process in exchange for his cooperation. After the fact of his cooperation, no accord was made regarding a plea negotiation and Mr. Carroll had not secured either counsel or a written agreement regarding his cooperation prior to helping the police. Mr. Carroll was arrested on the charge of murder and the State is seeking the death penalty.

In the Amended Notice of Evidence in Aggravation filed November 14, 2007, the State alleges two aggravating circumstances pursuant to NRS 200.033, to wit: murder for pecuniary gain and prior conviction for a crime involving violence. Essentially, the pecuniary gain comes from the 6,000 dollars given to Kenneth Counts by Anabel Espindola. The prior conviction involves a plea by the Carroll to the charge of conspiracy to commit robbery on June 18, 2002 for which Carroll received probation.

ARGUMENT

The relief requested by the Petitioner should be properly granted by this Court 1.

¹ To the extent that this is essentially an emergency motion, the Petitioner has already filed with this Court an "Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedings." With trial beginning in a matter of days, that Motion sets forth the timing of these pleadings with Court. Additionally, the Petitioner intends to file with this Court a Supplemental Points and Authorities which outlines with greater specificity and more indepth analysis why the relief sought is appropriate, but needed to get the case in front of this Court as quickly as possible to avoid the manifest injustice underlying the improper seeking by the State of the Death Penalty.

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This court may issue a writ of mandamus in order "to compel the performance of an act which the law especially enjoins as a duty resulting from an office, trust or station." NRS Generally, a writ of mandamus may issue only when there is no plain, speedy, and adequate remedy at NRS <u>See</u> 34.170. However, where circumstances reveal urgency or strong necessity, this court may grant extraordinary relief. Jeep Corp. v. District Court, 98 Nev. 440, 443, 652 P.2d 1183, 1185 (1982). Moreover, "where an important issue of law needs clarification and policy by public is served this invocation of its original jurisdiction, our consideration of a petition for extraordinary relief may be justified." Business Computer Rentals v State Treas., 114 Nev. 63, 67, 953 P.2d 13, 15 (1998).

"murder for hire" or pecuniary gain aggravating circumstance does not apply to him, or in the alternative, that it is so broad as to be Constitutionally infirm. Likewise, the so called "prior conviction for violence" aggravating circumstance does not apply to him because his prior conviction was for a mere conspiracy charge. In light of the utmost seriousness attached to the imposition of the Death Penalty on an individual under the present national and international debate on the subject that the public interest can only be served by analysis of our Nevada Supreme Court before another person potentially sentenced to death under an unconstitutional system.

When the State is not required to narrow the categories of those individuals eligible for and against whom the Death Penalty is sought, not only is it a manifest injustice for that individual, but the public confidence in a state where execution is allowed will be forever lost. When the State can and cannot seek the Death Penalty, especially in a case where they are seeking against all individuals involved, including the non-shooter and parties not even present,

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I there can be little argument that this is not an important issue of law which needs clarification and which serves the public policy. As such, the Petitioner implores this Court to stay these unconstitutional proceedings for time to consider the Petitioner's request for writ.

Capital punishment is reserved for the most heinous of murders. Not all murders qualify for death as the punishment. "Death is different" goes the famous and oft-quoted citation of the United States Supreme Court. Not surprising, the United States Supreme Court has relied upon this principle and its application to Eight Amendment implications for decades. See Grego v. Georgia, 428 U.S. 153, 188 (1976); Ring v. Arizona, 536 U.S. 584, 606 (2002).

The Nevada Supreme Court also recognized its "obligation to ensure that aggravators are not applied so liberally that they fail to perform their constitutionally required narrowing function." Redeker v. Eighth Judicial District Court, 122 Nev. ____, 127 P.3d 520, 526 (2006) (citations omitted). In interpreting the statute at issue, the Nevada Supreme Court looks to the plain language of the statute. Nev. , 142 P.3d State v. Colosimo, 122 352 (2006) (citing State v. Washoe County, 6 Nev. 104, 107 (1870)). If a penal "rules statutory statute is ambiguous, of interpretation...require that provisions which negatively impact a defendant must be strictly construed, while provisions which positively impact a defendant are to be given a more liberal constructions." Colosino, 122 Nev. At , 142 P.3d at 359 (quoting Mangarella v. State, 117 Nev. 130, 134, 17 P.3d 989, 992 (2001)).

PRIOR CONVICTION INVOLVING THE USE OR THREAT OF VIOLENCE TO THE PERSON OF ANOTHER.

Defendant Carroll was convicted of conspiracy to commit robbery, not robbery. Understandably, the State has alleged in the Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty the "underlying" facts of the conviction to which the Defendant plead guilty, however, the State does not allege how a conspiracy, the crime for which the judgment of conviction was entered is a crime of violence in and of itself which is required to proceed under the Death Penalty. See Redeker v. Eighth Judicial District Court, 122 Nev. _____, 127 P.3d 520(2006).

Conspiracy is defined as "an agreement between two or more persons for an unlawful purpose." **Bolden v. State**, 121 Nev. 908, 124 P.3d 191 (2005). Simply stated, and irrespective of the underlying facts averred in the information, an agreement cannot contain an actus reus of violence by definition. The act of violence, or the threat of violence is not an element of the offense of conspiracy.

The State cannot offer any authority for the proposition that the Nevada Supreme Court has authorized a conspiracy charge to stand for the narrowing required to make it an death eligible aggravator. Indeed, to the contrary, the Nevada Supreme Court seems to have indicated that the moment of striking aggravators for failure to narrow is at hand. See Leslie v. Warden, 118 Nev. 773, 59 P.3d 440 (2002) (Maupin concurring opinion).

NRS 200.033(2)(b) is unconstitutionally vague both on its face and in its application to this case. Under these circumstances the aggravating factor of conspiracy to commit robbery is invalid. Further, the State cannot provide any meaning to "use or threat of violence" and whether that phrase provides a principled guide for the choice between death and a lesser penalty as required by Maynard v. Cartwright, 486 U.S. 356, 361-364 (1988) and Godfrey v. Georgia, 446

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U.S. 429 (1980).

A statute violates due process if it is so vague that it fails to give persons of ordinary intelligence fair notice of what conduct is prohibited and fails to provide law enforcement officials with adequate guidelines to prevent discriminatory enforcement." Hernandez v. State, 118 Nev. 513, 524 (2002).

2. MURDER FOR HIRE / PECUNIARY GAIN

From the onset it should be noted that this aggravator (albeit plead differently at least at it relates to the co-defendants) has already been challenged by the co-defendants, Luis Hidalgo III and Anabel Espindola, is now on appeal as a writ of mandamus, or in the Defendant Carroll would alternative, as a writ of prohibition. additionally set forth that at least one portion of the State's averment must be stricken from the record in that he is listed as both hirer and hiree and the plain language of the statutory aggravator at issue, NRS 200.033(6) cannot be applied on both ends of the equation. Also, there is no dispute that Defendant Carroll did not physically kill Timothy Hadland, nor is it alleged that it was his plan to kill Timothy Hadland. Rather the State is seeking to establish liability for murder under aiding and abetting and conspiracy theories, though there is no authority that a go-between who did not do the original hiring or who did not do the actual killing is exposed to this aggravator.

3. IN ORDER TO SEEK THE Death Penalty THE STATE FOR MURDER FOR PECUNIARY GAIN, THE STATE RELIES EXCLUSIVELY ON THE DEFENDANT'S OWN CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS TO THE POLICE WHICH IS A VIOLATION OF THE CORPUS DELICTI RULE

It has long been established that the corpus delicti must be

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demonstrated by evidence independent of the confessions or admissions of the defendant. Sheriff, Washoe County v. Dhadda, 115 Nev. 175, 980 P.2d 1062 (1999) citing Sheriff v. Middleton, 112 Nev. 956, 921 P.2d 282, 285 (1996); In Re Kelly, 28 Nev. 491, 498, 83 P. 223, 225 (1905). This rule protects against an accused's conviction being based solely upon an uncorroborated confession. Domingues v. State, 112 Nev. 683, 692, 917 P.2d 1364, 1371 (1996). The rule arose from judicial distrust of confessions and admissions generally, combined with the recognition that juries are likely to accept such statements uncritically. City of Bremerton v. Corbett, 106 Wash.2d 569, 723 P.2d 1135, 1139 (1986), limited on other grounds by Aten, 130 Wash.2d 640, 927 P.2d at 220-21. The distrust of confessions stems from the possibility that they may have been misreported or misconstrued, elicited by force or coercion, based on mistaken perception of the facts or law, or falsely given by a mentally disturbed individual. Id. Thus, none of the statements made by Carroll to the police should be considered as grounds for any aggravator to the extent that they are not facially or constitutionally infirm.

4. MOTION FOR A STAY

In that there are two aggravators at issue in the Notice of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty, and both are potentially infirm, statutorily and constitutionally - and since the Nevada Supreme Court is currently considering the validity of both the "act of or threat of violence" aggravator as well as the "murder for hire/pecuniary gain" aggravator - it only makes sense to stay these proceedings under at least word comes down from the Nevada Supreme Court on these issues. Further, the Defendant intends to appeal this Court's ruling if it is denied to grant the specific relief sought. Defendant

Carroll will suffer irreparable harm by having to stand trial for a capital case despite the invalid Notices of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty. Because this is currently a capital case, he is being held without bail and may not be released from custody and is therefore unable to assist his counsel in preparation for his defense in an effective manner. Further, court resources will be unnecessarily expended by the potentially lengthy proceedings concerning the capital penalty hearing, a lengthy and complicated jury selection process, transcript expenses and other costs incurred by this case which would not be incurred if the Notices of Intent to Seek the Death Penalty are dismissed. Finally, there is a prejudice to the Defendant in facing a "death-qualified" jury. To the contrary, the State in the interest of justice should be sure that the aggravators being used to potentially execute a human being are valid.

Pursuant to the requirements of NRAP 8, the Defendant did make motion in the District Court for stay and that was denied by written order. The request for stay is not being made of the Supreme Court.

CONCLUSION

Petitioner prays and it would be in the best interest of the public, to not induce the waste of judicial resources and public confidence that would result from holding a Death Penalty trial when there is no justifiable or Constitutionally sound argument in support of it. Death as a means of punishment in the modern era is an extraordinary issue filled with debate to the extent that the United States Supreme Court is currently considering whether it violates the Eight Amendment and one state after another are falling in moratoriums disallowing the State from even seeking it. In the present case there can be no legitimate claim that Deangelo Carroll, who cooperated with

police, who is not the shooter, and who did not plan the killing of Timothy Hadland is facing the Death Penalty. If the District Court refuses to consider the broader picture and really scrutinize the State's decision-making in the case where every adult co-defendant in what is, not callously, but frankly in the modern world filled with hundreds of murders each year in our jurisdiction, an unremarkable murder case -- the Nevada Supreme Court hopefully will take on that task.

NRS 200.033 as used by the District Attorney in Clark County is clearly on a slippery slope with regard to how and who is being "narrowly" defined for eligibility. It inches closer and closer to seeking it in a way that will eventually preclude the Nevada structure from meeting Constitutional muster. In the present case, the State has crossed the line and this extraordinary relief is the only real remedy. Petitioner again requests that the trial be stayed and the writ be fully briefed and heard so that these very important issues can be resolved and guidance given to all district courts.

Respectfully submitted,

By_

BUNIN & BUNIN, LTD.

DAYVIO J. FIGLER, ESQ.

Nevada Bar #4264

626 South Third Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

(702) 386-0333

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DECLARATION OF FACSIMILE AND MAILING

Kira Matheson, an employee with Bunin & Bunin, hereby declares that she is, and was when the herein described mailing took place, a citizen of the United States, over 21 years of age, and not a party to, nor interested in, the within action; that on the 28th day of November, 2007, declarant deposited in the United States mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, a copy of the Petition for Writ of Mandamus and Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedings in the case of Dayvid J. Figler, Petitioner vs. The Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Clark, the Honorable Valerie Adair, Respondent, Deangelo Carroll, Real Party in Interest, District Court Case No. C212667, enclosed in a sealed envelope upon which first class postage was fully prepaid, addressed to Catherine Cortez Masto, 100 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717; Judge Valerie Adair, District Court Judge, 200 Lewis Avenue and David J.J. Roger, 200 Lewis Avenue that there is a regular communication by mail between the places of mailing and the places so addressed. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED on the 29th day of November, 2007.

KIRA MATHESON

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RECEIPT OF A COPY of the foregoing Petition for Writ Of

Mandamus and Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedigns is hereby

acknowledged this 29th day of November, 2007.

DAVID J.J. ROGER
CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RECEIPT OF A COPY of the foregoing Petition for Writ of

RECEIPT OF A COPY of the foregoing Petition for Writ of Mandamus and Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedgins is hereby acknowledged this 29th day of November, 2007.

VALERIE ADAIR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT XXI

By Kenny Sunce

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA OFFICE OF THE CLERK

DEANGELO CARROLL,

Real Party in Interest.

Supreme Court No. 50576

Petitioner,

District Court Case No. C212667

VS.

THE HONORABLE VALERIE ADAIR, DISTRICT JUDGE, THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK, Respondents, and THE STATE OF NEVADA.

RECEIPT FOR DOCUMENTS

TO: Bunin & Bunin and Dayvid J. Figler

Clark County District Attorney David J. Roger and Steven S. Owens,

Chief Deputy District Attorney

Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto/Carson City

Charles J. Short , District Court Clerk

You are hereby notified that the Clerk of the Supreme Court has received and/or filed the following:

11/29/07

Filed Petition for Writ of Mandamus.

and Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedings. (Filed via fax.)

11/29/07

Filed Response to Motion.

State's Opposition to Emergency Motion for Stay of Proceedings. (Filed via fax.)

DATE: November 29, 2007

Janette M. Bloom, Clerk of Court

By:

Deputy Clerk