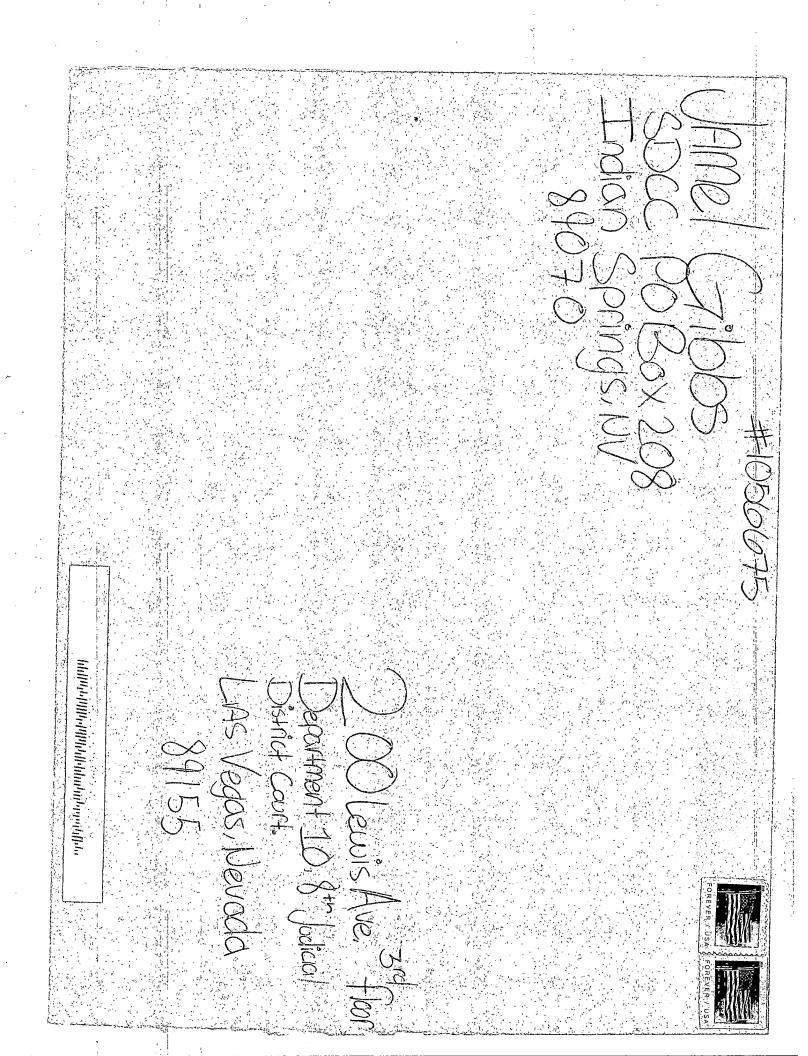
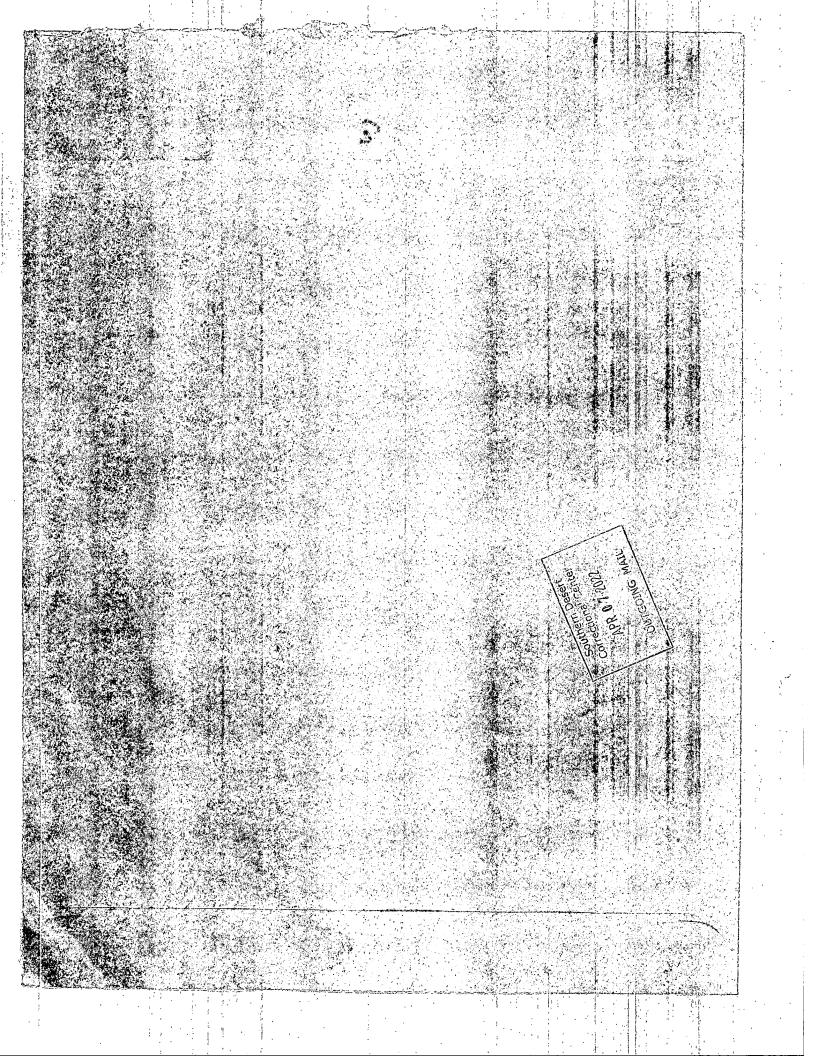
Electronically Filed 04/13/2022 s A 2 CLERK OF THE COURT 3 **Electronically Filed** 4 8" Judicial District Apr 15 2022 10:44 a.m. 5 Elizabeth A. Brown LIGK County, Neved Slerk of Supreme Court 6 7 8 Cuse NO. A-21-844881-W ٩ Deft NO. 10 10 11 12 // Respondan Notice of Appeal 13 you will Please take Notice, that comes Now, Jamel 14 15 CTIBBS (1056675) is coming as an Appellant to the Nevada Supreme Court. This Appeal is taken from 10 the final Judgment entered on March 31,2022, 17 denying the Petition for Writ of habeas Corpus 18 19 20 21 22 23 Dated: this 10th day of April 2022 24 25 26 #1056675 By: Jamel Gibbs X M. 27 28 toper

Docket 84569 Document 2022-11954





		Electronically Filed 4/13/2022 2:12 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT	
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6	IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL	DISTRICT COURT OF THE	
7	STATE OF NEVA		
8	THE COUNT	Y OF CLARK	
9			
10	JAMEL GIBBS,	Case No: A-21-844881-W	
11	Plaintiff(s),	Dept No: X	
12	vs.		
13	STATE OF NEVADA,		
14	Defendant(s),		
15 16			
10	CASE APPEAL	STATEMENT	
18	1. Appellant(s): Jamel Gibbs		
19	 Appendin(s). Jamer Globs Judge: Tierra Jones 		
20	 Judge: Herra Jones Appellant(s): Jamel Gibbs 		
21	Counsel:		
22			
23	Jamel Gibbs #1056675 P.O. Box 208 Indian Spring, NV 89070		
24 25			
25	4. Respondent (s): State of Nevada Counsel:		
27			
28	Steven B. Wolfson, District Attorney 200 Lewis Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89155-2212		
	A-21-844881-W -1		
	Case Number: A	A-21-844881-W	

I	
1	5. Appellant(s)'s Attorney Licensed in Nevada: N/A
2	Permission Granted: N/A
3 4	Respondent(s)'s Attorney Licensed in Nevada: Yes Permission Granted: N/A
5	6. Has Appellant Ever Been Represented by Appointed Counsel In District Court: No
6	7. Appellant Represented by Appointed Counsel On Appeal: N/A
7	8. Appellant Granted Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis**: N/A
8	** <i>Expires 1 year from date filed</i> Appellant Filed Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis: Yes, Date Application(s) filed: December 2, 2021
9	
10	9. Date Commenced in District Court: February 2, 2021
11	10. Brief Description of the Nature of the Action: Civil Writ
12	Type of Judgment or Order Being Appealed: Civil Writ of Habeas Corpus
13	11. Previous Appeal: No
14	Supreme Court Docket Number(s): N/A
15	12. Child Custody or Visitation: N/A
16	13. Possibility of Settlement: Unknown
17 18	Dated This 13 day of April 2022.
19	Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court
20	
21	/s/ Amanda Hampton
22	Amanda Hampton, Deputy Clerk 200 Lewis Ave
23	PO Box 551601 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-1601
24	(702) 671-0512
25	
26	cc: Jamel Gibbs
27	
28	
	A-21-844881-W -2-

Eighth Judicial District Court CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-21-844881-W

Jamel Gibbs, vs. State of Nevac	Plaintiff(s) da, Defendant(s)	© A SE 110. A 2 § § § §		Judicial Officer:	12/02/2021	
		CASE INFOR	RMATIO	N		
Related Cases C-21-355769-1	(Writ Related Case)			Case Type:	Writ of Hal	beas Corpus
Statistical Closu				Case Status:	03/31/2022	Closed
DATE		CASE ASSIC	GNMENI	[
	Current Case Assignmen Case Number Court Date Assigned Judicial Officer	t A-21-844881-W Department 10 12/02/2021 Jones, Tierra	7			
		PARTY INFO	RMATIC	DN		
Plaintiff	Gibbs, Jamel				Lea	d Attorneys
Defendant	State of Nevada					Pro Se Wolfson, Steven B Retained 702-671-2700(W)
DATE		EVENTS & ORDERS	S OF THE	E COURT		INDEX
12/02/2021	EVENTS Inmate Filed - Petition Party: Plaintiff Gibbs, . [1] Post Conviction		pus			
12/02/2021	Memorandum Filed By: Plaintiff Gibl [2] Memorandum Suppo		effective .	Assistance of Counsel C	llaim	
12/02/2021	Application to Proceed Filed By: Plaintiff Gibl [3]					
12/02/2021	Motion for Appointme Filed By: Plaintiff Gibl [4] Motion for Appointm	os, Jamel	quest for	Evidentiary Hearing		
12/02/2021	Notice of Motion Filed By: Plaintiff Gibl [5]	os, Jamel				
12/07/2021	Order for Petition for V	Writ of Habeas Corpus				

Eighth Judicial District Court CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-21-844881-W

Order for Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus
ork's Notice of Hearing Notice of Hearing
sponse state's Response to Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction), on for Appointment of Counsel, and Request for Evidentiary Hearing
sponse I by: Defendant State of Nevada States Supplemental Response to Petitioner's Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus(Post States), Motion for Appointment of Counsel and Request for Evidentiary Hearing.
tion By: Plaintiff Gibbs, Jamel Motion for Change of Address
oly to Opposition by: Plaintiff Gibbs, Jamel Petitioner's Pro Per Response to Respondent's Answer
dings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order By: Plaintiff Gibbs, Jamel Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order
tice of Entry of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law Notice of Entry of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order
tice of Appeal By: Plaintiff Gibbs, Jamel <i>Notice of Appeal</i>
se Appeal Statement Appeal Statement
RINGS ition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (8:30 AM) (Judicial Officer: Jones, Tierra) 22, 03/09/2022 ion for Writ of Habeas Corpus inued; ed; hal Entry Details: EARANCE CONTINUED: Ms. Walls present as a friend of the Court, via video on behalf r. Gibbs through bluejeans technology. Deft. not present and in the Nevada Department of ections. Counsel submitted the matter on the pleadings. Court Stated its Findings and ERED, Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, DENIED. State to prepare Findings of Fact Conclusions of Law consistent with their Supplemental opposition. Clerk's Note: A copy of minutes mailed to Jamel Gibbs ID # 1056675 SDCC P.O. Box 208 Indian Springs, da 89070 /tb ; inued; ed; hal Entry Details: Gibbs not present an in the Nevada Department of Corrections. COURT ORDERED, er CONTINUED for the State to file a supplemental response. 03/09/22 8:30 A.M. ITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS ;

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-21-844881-W

2 **Motion for Appointment of Attorney** (8:30 AM) (Judicial Officer: Jones, Tierra) Plaintiff's Ex Parte Motion for Appointment of Counsel and Request for Evidentiary Hearing

02/09/2022

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEET

A-21-844881-W Dept. 10

						County, Nevada
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Case No. (Assigned by Clerk's Office)

(Assigned	by Clerk's	Office

I. Party Information (provide both h	ome and mailing addresses if different)		
Plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone):		Defendant(s) (name/address/phone):	
Jamel Gi	ibbs	State of Nevada	
	······	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Attorney (name/address/phone):		Attorney (name/address/phone):	
I Nature of Controversy ()		halmal	
II. Nature of Controversy (please :	select the one most applicable filing type	Delow)	
Civil Case Filing Types Real Property		Torts	
Landlord/Tenant	Negligence	Other Torts	
Unlawful Detainer	Auto	Product Liability	
Other Landlord/Tenant	Premises Liability	Intentional Misconduct	
	Other Negligence	Employment Tort	
Title to Property	Malpractice		
Judicial Foreclosure	Maipractice Medical/Dental	Other Tort	
Other Title to Property			
Other Real Property			
Condemnation/Eminent Domain	Accounting		
Other Real Property	Other Malpractice		
Probate Construction Defect & Con			
Probate (select case type and estate value)	Construction Defect	Judicial Review	
Summary Administration	Chapter 40	Foreclosure Mediation Case	
General Administration	Other Construction Defect	Petition to Seal Records	
Special Administration	Contract Case	Mental Competency	
Set Aside	Uniform Commercial Code	Nevada State Agency Appeal	
Trust/Conservatorship	Building and Construction	Department of Motor Vehicle	
Other Probate	Insurance Carrier	Worker's Compensation	
Estate Value	Commercial Instrument	Other Nevada State Agency	
Over \$200,000	Collection of Accounts	Appeal Other	
Between \$100,000 and \$200,000	Employment Contract	Appeal from Lower Court	
Under \$100,000 or Unknown	Other Contract	Other Judicial Review/Appeal	
Under \$2,500			
Civ	/il Writ	Other Civil Filing	
Civil Writ		Other Civil Filing	
Writ of Habeas Corpus	Writ of Prohibition	Compromise of Minor's Claim	
Writ of Mandamus	Other Civil Writ	Foreign Judgment	
Writ of Quo Warrant	_	Other Civil Matters	
	Court filings should be filed using the	e Business Court civil coversheet.	
December 2, 2021		PREPARED BY CLERK	
Date		Signature of initiating party or representative	

See other side for family-related case filings.

Æ	Electronically Filed 03/31/2022 2:14 PM
•	CLERK OF THE COURT

			CLERK OF THE COURT	
1	FFCO STEVEN B. WOLFSON			
2	Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565			
3	TALEEN PANDUKHT Chief Deputy District Attorney			
4	Nevada Bar #005734 200 Lewis Avenue			
5	Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212 (702) 671-2500			
6	Attorney for Respondent			
7	DISTRIC	CT COURT		
8		NTY, NEVADA		
9	JAMAL GIBBS,			
10	Petitioner,			
11	-VS-	CASE NO:	A-21-844881-W	
12			(C-21-355769-1)	
13	THE STATE OF NEVADA,	DEPT NO:	X	
14	Respondent.			
15	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCL	USIONS OF LAV	V AND ORDER	
16	DATE OF HEARIN	NG: MARCH 9, 20	22	
17		ARING: 8:30 AM		
18	THIS CAUSE having come on for h	earing before the H	Ionorable TIERRA JONES,	
19	District Judge, on the 9th day of March 202	2, Petitioner not be	eing present, the State being	
20	represented by STEVEN B. WOLFSON, C.	lark County Distric	ct Attorney, by and through	
21	ALEXANDER CHEN, Chief Deputy Distric	t Attorney, and the	Court having considered the	
22	matter, including briefs, transcripts, and docu	uments on file here	in, now therefore, the Court	
23	makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:			
24	///			
25	///			
26	///			
27	///			
28	///			
	Statistically		ther Manner of Disposition (USJROT	
	Statistically	003eu. 033r - 07 - 0	are manner or Disposition (USJROI	

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW PROCEDURAL HISTORY

An Indictment was filed on May 6, 2021, charging Jamel Gibbs (hereinafter "Petitioner") with one count of Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon and one count of Ownership or Possession of Firearm by Prohibited Person. Trial proceeded on July 20, 2021. On July 23, 2021, the jury returned a verdict of guilty of Second-Degree Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon. The State subsequently dismissed the Ownership or Possession of Firearm by Prohibited Person of Firearm by Prohibited Person of Firearm

On July 28, 2021, Petitioner filed a Motion for New Trial. The State's Opposition was filed on July 29, 2021. On August 30, 2021, the Court denied Petitioner's Motion for New Trial.

On October 8, 2021, Petitioner was sentenced to Life with the Possibility of Parole after ten (10) years in the Nevada Department of Corrections (hereinafter "NDOC"), plus a consecutive minimum of forty-eight (48) months and a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) months in the NDOC for use of a deadly weapon, with one hundred ninety-nine (199) days credit for time served.

The Judgment of Conviction was filed on October 12, 2021.

On October 16, 2021, Petitioner filed a Notice of Appeal.

On November 1, 2021, Petitioner's Motion to Withdraw Attorney of Record and Request for Appointment of Appellate Counsel was granted. On November 29, 2021, Jeannie Hua, Esq. was appointed as appellate counsel. Petitioner's appeal is currently still pending under Nevada Supreme Court Case No. 83672.

On December 2, 2021, Petitioner filed the instant Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction) (hereinafter "Petition"), Motion for Appointment of Counsel and Request for Evidentiary Hearing. On January 21, 2022, the State filed its Response.

On February 9, 2022, this Court ordered the State to file a Supplemental Response. On February 10, 2022, the State filed its Supplemental Response. On March 4, 2022, Petitioner filed a Reply to the State's Supplemental Response.

On March 9, 2022, this Court denied the Petition, finding as follows.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND¹

On May 3, 2021, around 6:30 PM, Brionta Terrell (hereinafter "Brionta") and Jaylon Tiffith (hereinafter "Jaylon") drove to Hidden Canyon Villas to drop off Jaylon's daughter, Nevaeh. Navaeh lived at the apartment complex with her mother, Mimi. At the time, Mimi and Petitioner were in a relationship. Upon arriving, Brionta saw Petitioner in his garage.

After dropping Navaeh off and leaving, Mimi called Brionta to let her know Navaeh left her phone in the car. Brionta and Jaylon returned the complex and saw Petitioner driving with Mimi and Nevaeh. Petitioner stopped his car behind Brionta and both Petitioner and Mimi exited the car. Brionta noticed that Petitioner had a firearm. Without provocation, Petitioner and Mimi started to argue with Brionta and Jaylon.

As the argument escalated, Mimi started to throw rocks at Brionta's car. Jaylon attempted to intervene and prevent Mimi from throwing rocks. Jaylon was unsuccessful as Mimi pulled Brionta out of the car starting a fight. Jaylon attempted to break up the fight, but Petitioner joined the fight and started to punch Brionta.

Jaylon disengaged and went to get his daughter who was in Petitioner's car. While in the midst of the fight, Brionta heard a gunshot and saw Petitioner waiving his gun around. Petitioner then quickly got in the car and fled the scene.

Brionta looked around and saw Jaylon on the floor. She noticed a gunshot wound in his head. When Brionta called 911, Mimi ran off. Jaylon died as a result of the gunshot wound.

ANALYSIS

I. PETITIONER DID NOT RECEIVE INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF **COUNSEL**

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that, "[i]n all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense." The United States Supreme Court has long recognized that "the right to counsel is

¹ The transcripts for Petitioner's jury trial have been requested. Since they have not been filed, this Court relies upon the Grand Jury Transcripts.

the right to the effective assistance of counsel." <u>Strickland v. Washington</u>, 466 U.S. 668, 686, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 2063 (1984); <u>see also State v. Love</u>, 109 Nev. 1136, 1138, 865 P.2d 322, 323 (1993).

To prevail on a claim of ineffective assistance of trial counsel, a defendant must prove he was denied "reasonably effective assistance" of counsel by satisfying the two-prong test of <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 686-87, 104 S. Ct. at 2063–64. <u>See also Love</u>, 109 Nev. at 1138, 865 P.2d at 323. Under the <u>Strickland</u> test, a defendant must show first that his counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness, and second, that but for counsel's errors, there is a reasonable probability that the result of the proceedings would have been different. 466 U.S. at 687–88, 694, 104 S. Ct. at 2065, 2068; <u>Warden, Nevada State Prison</u> <u>v. Lyons</u>, 100 Nev. 430, 432, 683 P.2d 504, 505 (1984) (adopting the <u>Strickland</u> two-part test). "[T]here is no reason for a court deciding an ineffective assistance claim to approach the inquiry in the same order or even to address both components of the inquiry if the defendant makes an insufficient showing on one." <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 697, 104 S. Ct. at 2069.

The court begins with the presumption of effectiveness and then must determine whether the defendant has demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that counsel was ineffective. <u>Means v. State</u>, 120 Nev. 1001, 1011, 103 P.3d 25, 32 (2004). "Effective counsel does not mean errorless counsel, but rather counsel whose assistance is '[w]ithin the range of competence demanded of attorneys in criminal cases." <u>Jackson v. Warden</u>, 91 Nev. 430, 432, 537 P.2d 473, 474 (1975).

Counsel cannot be ineffective for failing to make futile objections or arguments. <u>See</u> <u>Ennis v. State</u>, 122 Nev. 694, 706, 137 P.3d 1095, 1103 (2006). Trial counsel has the "immediate and ultimate responsibility of deciding if and when to object, which witnesses, if any, to call, and what defenses to develop." <u>Rhyne v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 1, 8, 38 P.3d 163, 167 (2002).

Based on the above law, the role of a court in considering allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel is "not to pass upon the merits of the action not taken but to determine whether, under the particular facts and circumstances of the case, trial counsel failed to render

reasonably effective assistance." <u>Donovan v. State</u>, 94 Nev. 671, 675, 584 P.2d 708, 711 (1978). This analysis does not mean that the court should "second guess reasoned choices between trial tactics nor does it mean that defense counsel, to protect himself against allegations of inadequacy, must make every conceivable motion no matter how remote the possibilities are of success." <u>Id.</u> To be effective, the constitution "does not require that counsel do what is impossible or unethical. If there is no bona fide defense to the charge, counsel cannot create one and may disserve the interests of his client by attempting a useless charade." <u>United States v. Cronic</u>, 466 U.S. 648, 657 n.19, 104 S. Ct. 2039, 2046 n.19 (1984).

"There are countless ways to provide effective assistance in any given case. Even the best criminal defense attorneys would not defend a particular client in the same way." <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 689, 104 S. Ct. at 689. "Strategic choices made by counsel after thoroughly investigating the plausible options are almost unchallengeable." <u>Dawson v. State</u>, 108 Nev. 112, 117, 825 P.2d 593, 596 (1992); <u>see also Ford v. State</u>, 105 Nev. 850, 853, 784 P.2d 951, 953 (1989). In essence, the court must "judge the reasonableness of counsel's challenged conduct on the facts of the particular case, viewed as of the time of counsel's conduct." <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 690, 104 S. Ct. at 2066.

The decision not to call witnesses is within the discretion of trial counsel, and will not be questioned unless it was a plainly unreasonable decision. See <u>Rhyne v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 1, 38 P.3d 163 (2002); see also <u>Dawson v. State</u>, 108 Nev. 112, 825 P.2d 593 (1992). <u>Strickland</u> does not enact Newton's third law for the presentation of evidence, requiring for every prosecution expert an equal and opposite expert from the defense. In many instances crossexamination will be sufficient to expose defects in an expert's presentation. When defense counsel does not have a solid case, the best strategy can be to say that there is too much doubt about the State's theory for a jury to convict. <u>Harrington v. Richter</u>, 131 S.Ct. 770, 791, 578 F.3d. 944 (2011). "Strategic choices made by counsel after thoroughly investigating the plausible options are almost unchallengeable." <u>Dawson v. State</u>, 108 Nev. 112, 117, 825 P.2d 593, 596 (1992).

///

Even if a defendant can demonstrate that his counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness, he must still demonstrate prejudice and show a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's errors, the result of the trial would have been different. <u>McNelton v. State</u>, 115 Nev. 396, 403, 990 P.2d 1263, 1268 (1999) (citing <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 687, 104 S. Ct. at 2064). "A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome." <u>Id.</u> (citing <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 687-89, 694, 104 S. Ct. at 2064–65, 2068).

The Nevada Supreme Court has held "that a habeas corpus petitioner must prove the disputed factual allegations underlying his ineffective-assistance claim by a preponderance of the evidence." <u>Means v. State</u>, 120 Nev. 1001, 1012, 103 P.3d 25, 33 (2004). Furthermore, claims of ineffective assistance of counsel asserted in a petition for post-conviction relief must be supported with specific factual allegations, which if true, would entitle the petitioner to relief. <u>Hargrove v. State</u>, 100 Nev. 498, 502, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984). "Bare" and "naked" allegations are not sufficient, nor are those belied and repelled by the record. <u>Id.</u> NRS 34.735(6) states in relevant part, "[Petitioner] must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the petition[.]... Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed." (emphasis added).

In this case, Petitioner argues that trial counsel was ineffective because he failed to notify him of the <u>Marcum</u> notice. <u>Petition</u>, at 3. The magistrate may order an accused to answer the charges filed against him or her upon a finding that a public offense has been committed, and slight or marginal evidence that the Appellant committed the crime. <u>See, Sheriff v. Hodes</u>, 96 Nev. 184, 186, 606 P.2d 178, 180 (1980); <u>Beasley v. Lamb</u>, 79 Nev. 78, 80, 378 P.2d 524, 525 (1963); <u>State v. Fuchs</u>, 78 Nev. 63, 65, 368 P.2d 869, 869 (1962). The State only must present enough evidence to support a reasonable inference that the accused committed the crime and does not need to negate all possible inferences as to doubt. <u>See, Lamb v. Holsten</u>, 85 Nev. 566, 568, 459 P.2d 771, 772 (1969); Johnson v. State, 82 Nev. 338, 341, 418 P.2d 495, 496 (1966). Further, the State may present a case based solely on circumstantial evidence. <u>See, Howard v. Sheriff</u>, 93 Nev. 30, 31, 559 P.2d 827, 827 (1977). Finally, the Nevada

Supreme Court has explicitly held that a probable cause hearing is "not a substitute for trial," and that the "full and complete exploration of all facets of the case" should be reserved for trial. <u>Marcum v. Sheriff</u>, 85 Nev. 175, 178, 451 P.2d 845, 847 (1969); <u>see also</u>, <u>Robertson v.</u> <u>Sheriff</u>, 85 Nev. 681, 683, 462 P.2d 528, 529 (1969).

In a grand jury proceeding, neither a criminal defendant nor his or her counsel have a right to be present. NRS 172.145; NRS 172.235; <u>Maiden v. State</u>, 84 Nev. 443, 445, 442 P.2d 902, 904 (1968). However, a defendant has a right to testify before a grand jury considering an indictment against him or her. NRS 172.241(1); <u>Sheriff v. Bright</u>, 108 Nev. 498, 501, 835 P.2d 782, 784-85 (1992). NRS 172.241 governs the right of certain persons to appear before the Grand Jury and it provides that the district attorney's notice upon a person whose indictment is being considered by a grand jury is adequate if it is given to the person, or the person's attorney of record, and gives the person not less than 5 days judicial days to submit a request to testify to the district attorney. NRS 172.241(2)(a).

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that a defendant must be given reasonable notice that a grand jury will meet and consider returning an indictment against him. <u>Sheriff v.</u> <u>Marcum</u>, 105 Nev. 824, 783 P.2d 1389 (1989). In order for a defendant to exercise his statutory right to testify before the grand jury, he must be given reasonable notice that he is the target of a grand jury investigation. <u>Id.</u> at 826, 783 P.2d at 1390.

In <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, the Nevada Supreme Court held that "reasonable" notice under NRS 172.241 required the State to inform the target of the investigation of the actual time, date and place of the grand jury hearing otherwise the statutory right to testify would be meaningless. <u>Solis-Ramirez v. District Court</u>, 112 Nev. 344, 913 P.2d 1293 (1996). In <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, the defendant received a <u>Marcum</u> notice indicating that the State intended to obtain a Grand Jury indictment against him but failed to include the date, time, or location. <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, 112 Nev. at 346, 913 P.2d at 1294. The Nevada Supreme Court held that the notice to the defendant placed the ultimate "burden on him to call the district attorney's office from jail and located the information regarding the date, time, and location of the hearing" and ordered the district court to dismiss the indictment. <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, 112 Nev. at 347, 913 P.2d at 1295. However,

it was not the legislature's intent that the right to testify be interpreted so expansively. Therefore, in 1998, the legislature amended NRS 172.241 to clarify that notice is adequate if it simply "advises the person that he may testify before the grand jury only if he submits a written request to the district attorney and includes an address where the district attorney may send a notice of the date, time and place of the scheduled proceeding of the grand jury." NRS 172.241(2)(b). This legislative change places the burden on the person receiving notice of a grand jury investigation to respond with written notice of their intent to testify before they are entitled to details of the date, time, and place where they may appear to testify.

On April 15, 2021, the State provided Petitioner with <u>Marcum</u> notice. <u>Exhibit 1</u>. Petitioner does not deny that the State properly notified counsel:

> The State of Nevada did their part in giving Craig a proper notice but he failed to give Petitioner "any" type of notice . . ."

<u>Petition</u>, at 3. Petitioner's only contention is that trial counsel should have told him about the notice. This is insufficient to establish prejudice. Only if the defendant demonstrates actual prejudice based on lack of notice must the district court dismiss an Indictment. <u>Hill v. State</u>, 124 Nev. 546, 188 P.3d 51; <u>Lisle v. State</u>, 114 Nev. 221, 224, 954 P.2d 744, 746 (1998). Implicit in the decisions of most district courts addressing claims of basic unfairness, which violates due process within grand jury proceedings, "is the concept that substantial prejudice to the defendant must be demonstrated before the province of the independent grand jury is invaded." <u>Sheriff v. Keeney</u>, 106 Nev. 213, 216, 791 P.2d 55, 57 (1990).

Therefore, even if Petitioner did not receive adequate notice from his attorney, any error in the Grand Jury proceedings connected with the charging decision is harmless beyond a reasonable doubt where a defendant was convicted after trial beyond a reasonable doubt, because the conviction establishes that probable cause undoubtedly existed to bind the defendant over for trial. In <u>United States v. Mechanik</u>, the United States Supreme Court held that the jury's guilty verdict in prosecution for drug-related offenses and conspiracy established probable cause to charge the defendants with those offenses and thus rendered harmless any error in the grand jury's charging decision. <u>United States v. Mechanik</u>, 475 U.S. 66, 106 S. Ct. 938 (1986) (cited approvingly by and applied in the <u>Marcum</u> context in <u>Lisle v. State</u>, 114 Nev. 221, 224-225, 954 P.2d 744, 746-747 (1998)). The United States Supreme Court concluded that the jury's subsequent guilty verdict means not only that there was probable cause to believe that the defendants were guilty as charged, but also that they are in fact guilty as charged beyond a reasonable doubt. Measured by the jury's verdict, then, any error in the grand jury proceeding connected with the charging decision was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. <u>Mechanik</u>, 475 U.S. at 70, 106 S. Ct. at 941–42.

The Nevada Supreme Court has also suggested that a jury verdict of guilt may render harmless an error in the grand jury proceedings. <u>Dettloff v. State</u>, 120 Nev. 588, 596, 97 P.3d 586, 591 (2004). The Nevada Supreme Court found that the jury convicting Dettloff under a higher burden of proof cured any irregularities that may have occurred during the grand jury proceedings. <u>Dettloff</u>, 120 Nev. at 596, 97 P.3d at 591.

The State presented substantial evidence of Petitioner's guilt during the Grand Jury proceeding. Brionta testified that Petitioner and Mimi started a fight with her and Jaylon. Prior to and during this fight. she saw Petitioner with a gun. She heard a gunshot and saw Petitioner waving the gun around. Petitioner was the only person in the area that she saw with a gun. Her testimony established probable cause that Petitioner murdered Jaylon with a deadly weapon. As such, there was substantial evidence for the Grand Jury to indict Petitioner. Additionally, there is nothing in the transcripts that the Grand Jury held his absence against him.

Furthermore, Petitioner cannot face prejudice as a jury found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Any error associated with his lack of notice is harmless beyond a reasonable doubt due to his conviction. Thus, Petitioner's claim of ineffective assistance of trial counsel for allegedly failing to present Petitioner's testimony and exculpatory evidence to the Grand Jury is moot because a jury has already found Petitioner guilty of the charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt. <u>Weber v. State</u>, 121 Nev. 554, 585, 119 P.3d 107, 128 (2005). There is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that Petitioner's testimony or any exculpatory evidence Petitioner may have presented would have negated the probable cause evidence offered by the State. As such, this Court denies Petitioner's claim.

II. PETITIONER IS NOT ENTITLED TO COUNSEL

Under the U.S. Constitution, the Sixth Amendment provides no right to counsel in postconviction proceedings. <u>Coleman v. Thompson</u>, 501 U.S. 722, 752, 111 S. Ct. 2546, 2566 (1991). In <u>McKague v. Warden</u>, 112 Nev. 159, 163, 912 P.2d 255, 258 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court similarly observed that "[t]he Nevada Constitution...does not guarantee a right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings, as we interpret the Nevada Constitution's right to counsel provision as being coextensive with the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution." <u>McKague</u> specifically held that with the exception of NRS 34.820(1)(a) (entitling appointed counsel when petitioner is under a sentence of death), one does not have "any constitutional or statutory right to counsel at all" in post-conviction proceedings. <u>Id.</u> at 164, 912 P.2d at 258.

The Nevada Legislature has, however, given courts the discretion to appoint postconviction counsel so long as "the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily." NRS 34.750. NRS 34.750 reads:

> A petition may allege that the Defendant is unable to pay the costs of the proceedings or employ counsel. If the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition *is not dismissed summarily*, the court may appoint counsel at the time the court orders the filing of an answer and a return. In making its determination, the court may consider whether:

- (a) The issues are difficult;
- (b) The Defendant is unable to comprehend the proceedings; or
- (c) Counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery.

(emphasis added). Accordingly, under NRS 34.750, it is clear that the Court has discretion in determining whether to appoint counsel.

More recently, the Nevada Supreme Court examined whether a district court appropriately denied a defendant's request for appointment of counsel based upon the factors listed in NRS 34.750. <u>Renteria-Novoa v. State</u>, 133 Nev. 75, 391 P.3d 760 (2017). In <u>Renteria-</u>

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Novoa, the petitioner had been serving a prison term of eighty-five (85) years to life. Id. at 75, 391 P.3d at 760. After his judgment of conviction was affirmed on direct appeal, the defendant filed a pro se postconviction petition for writ of habeas corpus and requested counsel be appointed. Id. The district court ultimately denied the petitioner's petition and his appointment of counsel request. Id. In reviewing the district court's decision, the Nevada Supreme Court examined the statutory factors listed under NRS 34.750 and concluded that the district court's decision should be reversed and remanded. Id. The Court explained that the petitioner was indigent, his petition could not be summarily dismissed, and he had in fact satisfied the statutory factors. Id. at 76, 391 P.3d 760-61. As for the first factor, the Court concluded that because petitioner had represented he had issues with understanding the English language which was corroborated by his use of an interpreter at his trial, that was enough to indicate that the petitioner could not comprehend the proceedings. Id. Moreover, the petitioner had demonstrated that the consequences he faced—a minimum eighty-five (85) year sentence were severe and his petition may have been the only vehicle for which he could raise his claims. Id. at 76-77, 391 P.3d at 761-62. Finally, his ineffective assistance of counsel claims may have required additional discovery and investigation beyond the record. Id.

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Pursuant to NRS 34.750, Petitioner has not demonstrated that counsel should be appointed. As a preliminary matter, Petitioner's request is suitable only for summary denial as he has failed to provide any specific facts to support his bare and naked request. <u>Hargrove v.</u> <u>State</u>, 100 Nev. 498, 502, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984).

Notwithstanding summary denial, Petitioner's request should still be denied as he has failed to meet any of the additional statutory factors under NRS 34.750. The issues Petitioner raises are not difficult. Petitioner raises a meritless claim since there was substantial evidence to support probable cause at the grand jury hearing. Additionally, Petitioner cannot establish prejudice because he was convicted by a jury. As such, counsel is not necessary as the issue is not difficult.

Additionally, there has been no indication that Petitioner is unable to comprehend the proceedings. Unlike the petitioner in <u>Renteria-Novoa</u> who faced difficulties understanding the

English language, here Petitioner has failed to demonstrate any inability to understand these
 proceedings. By filing the instant petition, Petitioner demonstrates he understands that a
 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is how you bring a claim of ineffective assistance of
 counsel. Additionally, he is able to research and apply case law. As such, he can comprehend
 the proceedings.

Finally, counsel is not necessary to proceed with further discovery in this case. Given that Petitioner's claim is meritless, no additional discovery is necessary. Due to habeas relief not being warranted, there is no need for additional discovery, let alone counsel's assistance to conduct such investigation. Therefore, Petitioner's request is denied.

III. PETITIONER IS NOT ENTITLED TO AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING

NRS 34.770 determines when a defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing. It reads:

 The judge or justice, upon review of the return, answer and all supporting documents which are filed, shall determine whether an evidentiary hearing is required. A petitioner must not be discharged or committed to the custody of a person other than the respondent *unless an evidentiary hearing is held*.
 If the judge or justice determines that the petitioner is not

entitled to relief and an evidentiary hearing is not required, he shall dismiss the petition without a hearing.

3. If the judge or justice determines that an evidentiary hearing is required, he shall grant the writ and shall set a date for the hearing.

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that if a petition can be resolved without expanding the record, then no evidentiary hearing is necessary. <u>Marshall v. State</u>, 110 Nev. 1328, 885 P.2d 603 (1994); <u>Mann v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 351, 356, 46 P.3d 1228, 1231 (2002). A defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing if his petition is supported by specific factual allegations, which, if true, would entitle him to relief unless the factual allegations are repelled by the record. <u>Marshall</u>, 110 Nev. at 1331, 885 P.2d at 605; <u>see also Hargrove v. State</u>, 100 Nev. 498, 503, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984) (holding that "[a] defendant seeking post-conviction relief is not entitled to an evidentiary hearing on factual allegations belied or repelled by the record"). "A claim is 'belied' when it is contradicted or proven to be false by the record as it

1 existed at the time the claim was made." <u>Mann</u>, 118 Nev. at 354, 46 P.3d at 1230 (2002).

It is improper to hold an evidentiary hearing simply to make a complete record. *See* <u>State v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court</u>, 121 Nev. 225, 234, 112 P.3d 1070, 1076 (2005) ("The district court considered itself the 'equivalent of . . . the trial judge' and consequently wanted 'to make as complete a record as possible.' This is an incorrect basis for an evidentiary hearing."). Further, the United States Supreme Court has held that an evidentiary hearing is not required simply because counsel's actions are challenged as being unreasonable strategic decisions. <u>Harrington v. Richter</u>, 131 S. Ct. 770, 788 (2011). Although courts may not indulge post hoc rationalization for counsel's decision making that contradicts the available evidence of counsel's actions, neither may they insist counsel confirm every aspect of the strategic basis for his or her actions. <u>Id.</u> There is a "strong presumption" that counsel's attention to certain issues to the exclusion of others reflects trial tactics rather than "sheer neglect." <u>Id.</u> (*citing* <u>Yarborough v. Gentry</u>, 540 U.S. 1, 124 S. Ct. 1 (2003)). <u>Strickland</u> calls for an inquiry in the *objective* reasonableness of counsel's performance, not counsel's *subjective* state of mind. 466 U.S. 668, 688, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 2065 (1994).

Here, Petitioner requests an evidentiary hearing for his claim. There is no need for an evidentiary hearing because Petitioner is not entitled to any relief. Petitioner's claim fails as he is unable to establish prejudice. As such, Petitioner would not be entitled to relief even if counsel were deficient. No need exists to expand the record, as all claims can be disposed of based on the existing record. Thus, Petitioner's request for an evidentiary hearing is denied.

<u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction), Motion for Appointment of Counsel, and Request for Evidentiary ///

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1	Hearing shall be, and is, hereby denied.	Dated this 31st day of March, 2022
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6	Respectfully submitted,	929 77A D7CA 87E9 Tierra Jones
7	STEVEN WOLFSON Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565	District Court Judge
8	Nevada Bar #001565	
9		
10	By /s/ TALEEN PANDUKHT	
11	By <u>/s/TALEEN PANDUKHT</u> TALEEN PANDUKHT Chief Deputy District Attorney Nevada Bar #005734	
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1	CSERV	
2		ISTRICT COURT
3		K COUNTY, NEVADA
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6	Jamel Gibbs, Plaintiff(s)	CASE NO: A-21-844881-W
7	vs.	DEPT. NO. Department 10
8	State of Nevada, Defendant(s)	
9		
10	AUTOMATED	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
11	This automated certificate of se	ervice was generated by the Eighth Judicial District
12	Court. The foregoing Findings of Fact,	Conclusions of Law and Order was served via the cipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled
13	case as listed below:	expletits registered for e-service on the above entitled
14	Service Date: 3/31/2022	
15	Dept 10 Law Clerk d	ept10lc@clarkcountycourts.us
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	Electronically Filed 4/6/2022 2:04 PM Steven D. Grierson
1	CLERK OF THE COURT
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2	DISTRICT COURT
	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
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5	JAMEL GIBBS, Case N <u>o</u> : A-21-844881-W
6	Petitioner, Dept No: X
7	vs.
8	STATE OF NEVADA,
9	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER
10	
11	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 31, 2022, the court entered a decision or order in this matter, a
12	true and correct copy of which is attached to this notice.
13	You may appeal to the Supreme Court from the decision or order of this court. If you wish to appeal, you
14	must file a notice of appeal with the clerk of this court within thirty-three (33) days after the date this notice is mailed to you. This notice was mailed on April 6, 2022.
15	STEVEN D. GRIERSON, CLERK OF THE COURT
16	/s/ Amanda Hampton
17	Amanda Hampton, Deputy Clerk
18	
19	<u>CERTIFICATE OF E-SERVICE / MAILING</u>
20	I hereby certify that on this 6 day of April 2022, I served a copy of this Notice of Entry on the following:
21	By e-mail: Clark County District Attorney's Office
22	Attorney General's Office – Appellate Division-
23	
24	 The United States mail addressed as follows: Jamel Gibbs # 1056675
25	P.O. Box 208 Indian Springs, NV 89070
26	
27	/s/ Amanda Hampton
28	Amanda Hampton, Deputy Clerk
	-1-
	Case Number: A-21-844881-W

Æ	Electronically Filed 03/31/2022 2:14 PM
•	CLERK OF THE COURT

			CLERK OF THE COURT
1	FFCO STEVEN B. WOLFSON		
2	Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565		
3	TALEEN PANDUKHT Chief Deputy District Attorney		
4	Nevada Bar #005734 200 Lewis Avenue		
5	Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212 (702) 671-2500		
6	Attorney for Respondent		
7	DISTRIC	CT COURT	
8		NTY, NEVADA	
9	JAMAL GIBBS,		
10	Petitioner,		
11	-VS-	CASE NO:	A-21-844881-W
12			(C-21-355769-1)
13	THE STATE OF NEVADA,	DEPT NO:	Х
14	Respondent.		
15	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCL	USIONS OF LAV	V AND ORDER
16	DATE OF HEARIN		22
17	TIME OF HEA	ARING: 8:30 AM	
18	THIS CAUSE having come on for h	earing before the H	Ionorable TIERRA JONES,
19	District Judge, on the 9th day of March 202	2, Petitioner not be	eing present, the State being
20	represented by STEVEN B. WOLFSON, C.	lark County Distric	ct Attorney, by and through
21	ALEXANDER CHEN, Chief Deputy Distric	t Attorney, and the	Court having considered the
22	matter, including briefs, transcripts, and docu	uments on file here	in, now therefore, the Court
23	makes the following findings of fact and conc	clusions of law:	
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25	///		
26	///		
27	///		
28	///		
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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW PROCEDURAL HISTORY

An Indictment was filed on May 6, 2021, charging Jamel Gibbs (hereinafter "Petitioner") with one count of Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon and one count of Ownership or Possession of Firearm by Prohibited Person. Trial proceeded on July 20, 2021. On July 23, 2021, the jury returned a verdict of guilty of Second-Degree Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon. The State subsequently dismissed the Ownership or Possession of Firearm by Prohibited Person of Firearm by Prohibited Person of Firearm

On July 28, 2021, Petitioner filed a Motion for New Trial. The State's Opposition was filed on July 29, 2021. On August 30, 2021, the Court denied Petitioner's Motion for New Trial.

On October 8, 2021, Petitioner was sentenced to Life with the Possibility of Parole after ten (10) years in the Nevada Department of Corrections (hereinafter "NDOC"), plus a consecutive minimum of forty-eight (48) months and a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) months in the NDOC for use of a deadly weapon, with one hundred ninety-nine (199) days credit for time served.

The Judgment of Conviction was filed on October 12, 2021.

On October 16, 2021, Petitioner filed a Notice of Appeal.

On November 1, 2021, Petitioner's Motion to Withdraw Attorney of Record and Request for Appointment of Appellate Counsel was granted. On November 29, 2021, Jeannie Hua, Esq. was appointed as appellate counsel. Petitioner's appeal is currently still pending under Nevada Supreme Court Case No. 83672.

On December 2, 2021, Petitioner filed the instant Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction) (hereinafter "Petition"), Motion for Appointment of Counsel and Request for Evidentiary Hearing. On January 21, 2022, the State filed its Response.

On February 9, 2022, this Court ordered the State to file a Supplemental Response. On February 10, 2022, the State filed its Supplemental Response. On March 4, 2022, Petitioner filed a Reply to the State's Supplemental Response.

On March 9, 2022, this Court denied the Petition, finding as follows.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND¹

On May 3, 2021, around 6:30 PM, Brionta Terrell (hereinafter "Brionta") and Jaylon Tiffith (hereinafter "Jaylon") drove to Hidden Canyon Villas to drop off Jaylon's daughter, Nevaeh. Navaeh lived at the apartment complex with her mother, Mimi. At the time, Mimi and Petitioner were in a relationship. Upon arriving, Brionta saw Petitioner in his garage.

After dropping Navaeh off and leaving, Mimi called Brionta to let her know Navaeh left her phone in the car. Brionta and Jaylon returned the complex and saw Petitioner driving with Mimi and Nevaeh. Petitioner stopped his car behind Brionta and both Petitioner and Mimi exited the car. Brionta noticed that Petitioner had a firearm. Without provocation, Petitioner and Mimi started to argue with Brionta and Jaylon.

As the argument escalated, Mimi started to throw rocks at Brionta's car. Jaylon attempted to intervene and prevent Mimi from throwing rocks. Jaylon was unsuccessful as Mimi pulled Brionta out of the car starting a fight. Jaylon attempted to break up the fight, but Petitioner joined the fight and started to punch Brionta.

Jaylon disengaged and went to get his daughter who was in Petitioner's car. While in the midst of the fight, Brionta heard a gunshot and saw Petitioner waiving his gun around. Petitioner then quickly got in the car and fled the scene.

Brionta looked around and saw Jaylon on the floor. She noticed a gunshot wound in his head. When Brionta called 911, Mimi ran off. Jaylon died as a result of the gunshot wound.

ANALYSIS

I. PETITIONER DID NOT RECEIVE INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF **COUNSEL**

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that, "[i]n all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense." The United States Supreme Court has long recognized that "the right to counsel is

¹ The transcripts for Petitioner's jury trial have been requested. Since they have not been filed, this Court relies upon the Grand Jury Transcripts.

the right to the effective assistance of counsel." <u>Strickland v. Washington</u>, 466 U.S. 668, 686, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 2063 (1984); <u>see also State v. Love</u>, 109 Nev. 1136, 1138, 865 P.2d 322, 323 (1993).

To prevail on a claim of ineffective assistance of trial counsel, a defendant must prove he was denied "reasonably effective assistance" of counsel by satisfying the two-prong test of <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 686-87, 104 S. Ct. at 2063–64. <u>See also Love</u>, 109 Nev. at 1138, 865 P.2d at 323. Under the <u>Strickland</u> test, a defendant must show first that his counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness, and second, that but for counsel's errors, there is a reasonable probability that the result of the proceedings would have been different. 466 U.S. at 687–88, 694, 104 S. Ct. at 2065, 2068; <u>Warden, Nevada State Prison</u> <u>v. Lyons</u>, 100 Nev. 430, 432, 683 P.2d 504, 505 (1984) (adopting the <u>Strickland</u> two-part test). "[T]here is no reason for a court deciding an ineffective assistance claim to approach the inquiry in the same order or even to address both components of the inquiry if the defendant makes an insufficient showing on one." <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 697, 104 S. Ct. at 2069.

The court begins with the presumption of effectiveness and then must determine whether the defendant has demonstrated by a preponderance of the evidence that counsel was ineffective. <u>Means v. State</u>, 120 Nev. 1001, 1011, 103 P.3d 25, 32 (2004). "Effective counsel does not mean errorless counsel, but rather counsel whose assistance is '[w]ithin the range of competence demanded of attorneys in criminal cases." <u>Jackson v. Warden</u>, 91 Nev. 430, 432, 537 P.2d 473, 474 (1975).

Counsel cannot be ineffective for failing to make futile objections or arguments. <u>See</u> <u>Ennis v. State</u>, 122 Nev. 694, 706, 137 P.3d 1095, 1103 (2006). Trial counsel has the "immediate and ultimate responsibility of deciding if and when to object, which witnesses, if any, to call, and what defenses to develop." <u>Rhyne v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 1, 8, 38 P.3d 163, 167 (2002).

Based on the above law, the role of a court in considering allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel is "not to pass upon the merits of the action not taken but to determine whether, under the particular facts and circumstances of the case, trial counsel failed to render

reasonably effective assistance." <u>Donovan v. State</u>, 94 Nev. 671, 675, 584 P.2d 708, 711 (1978). This analysis does not mean that the court should "second guess reasoned choices between trial tactics nor does it mean that defense counsel, to protect himself against allegations of inadequacy, must make every conceivable motion no matter how remote the possibilities are of success." <u>Id.</u> To be effective, the constitution "does not require that counsel do what is impossible or unethical. If there is no bona fide defense to the charge, counsel cannot create one and may disserve the interests of his client by attempting a useless charade." <u>United States v. Cronic</u>, 466 U.S. 648, 657 n.19, 104 S. Ct. 2039, 2046 n.19 (1984).

"There are countless ways to provide effective assistance in any given case. Even the best criminal defense attorneys would not defend a particular client in the same way." <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 689, 104 S. Ct. at 689. "Strategic choices made by counsel after thoroughly investigating the plausible options are almost unchallengeable." <u>Dawson v. State</u>, 108 Nev. 112, 117, 825 P.2d 593, 596 (1992); <u>see also Ford v. State</u>, 105 Nev. 850, 853, 784 P.2d 951, 953 (1989). In essence, the court must "judge the reasonableness of counsel's challenged conduct on the facts of the particular case, viewed as of the time of counsel's conduct." <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 690, 104 S. Ct. at 2066.

The decision not to call witnesses is within the discretion of trial counsel, and will not be questioned unless it was a plainly unreasonable decision. See <u>Rhyne v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 1, 38 P.3d 163 (2002); see also <u>Dawson v. State</u>, 108 Nev. 112, 825 P.2d 593 (1992). <u>Strickland</u> does not enact Newton's third law for the presentation of evidence, requiring for every prosecution expert an equal and opposite expert from the defense. In many instances crossexamination will be sufficient to expose defects in an expert's presentation. When defense counsel does not have a solid case, the best strategy can be to say that there is too much doubt about the State's theory for a jury to convict. <u>Harrington v. Richter</u>, 131 S.Ct. 770, 791, 578 F.3d. 944 (2011). "Strategic choices made by counsel after thoroughly investigating the plausible options are almost unchallengeable." <u>Dawson v. State</u>, 108 Nev. 112, 117, 825 P.2d 593, 596 (1992).

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Even if a defendant can demonstrate that his counsel's representation fell below an objective standard of reasonableness, he must still demonstrate prejudice and show a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's errors, the result of the trial would have been different. <u>McNelton v. State</u>, 115 Nev. 396, 403, 990 P.2d 1263, 1268 (1999) (citing <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 687, 104 S. Ct. at 2064). "A reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome." <u>Id.</u> (citing <u>Strickland</u>, 466 U.S. at 687-89, 694, 104 S. Ct. at 2064–65, 2068).

The Nevada Supreme Court has held "that a habeas corpus petitioner must prove the disputed factual allegations underlying his ineffective-assistance claim by a preponderance of the evidence." <u>Means v. State</u>, 120 Nev. 1001, 1012, 103 P.3d 25, 33 (2004). Furthermore, claims of ineffective assistance of counsel asserted in a petition for post-conviction relief must be supported with specific factual allegations, which if true, would entitle the petitioner to relief. <u>Hargrove v. State</u>, 100 Nev. 498, 502, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984). "Bare" and "naked" allegations are not sufficient, nor are those belied and repelled by the record. <u>Id.</u> NRS 34.735(6) states in relevant part, "[Petitioner] must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the petition[.]... Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed." (emphasis added).

In this case, Petitioner argues that trial counsel was ineffective because he failed to notify him of the <u>Marcum</u> notice. <u>Petition</u>, at 3. The magistrate may order an accused to answer the charges filed against him or her upon a finding that a public offense has been committed, and slight or marginal evidence that the Appellant committed the crime. <u>See, Sheriff v. Hodes</u>, 96 Nev. 184, 186, 606 P.2d 178, 180 (1980); <u>Beasley v. Lamb</u>, 79 Nev. 78, 80, 378 P.2d 524, 525 (1963); <u>State v. Fuchs</u>, 78 Nev. 63, 65, 368 P.2d 869, 869 (1962). The State only must present enough evidence to support a reasonable inference that the accused committed the crime and does not need to negate all possible inferences as to doubt. <u>See, Lamb v. Holsten</u>, 85 Nev. 566, 568, 459 P.2d 771, 772 (1969); Johnson v. State, 82 Nev. 338, 341, 418 P.2d 495, 496 (1966). Further, the State may present a case based solely on circumstantial evidence. <u>See, Howard v. Sheriff</u>, 93 Nev. 30, 31, 559 P.2d 827, 827 (1977). Finally, the Nevada

Supreme Court has explicitly held that a probable cause hearing is "not a substitute for trial," and that the "full and complete exploration of all facets of the case" should be reserved for trial. <u>Marcum v. Sheriff</u>, 85 Nev. 175, 178, 451 P.2d 845, 847 (1969); <u>see also</u>, <u>Robertson v.</u> <u>Sheriff</u>, 85 Nev. 681, 683, 462 P.2d 528, 529 (1969).

In a grand jury proceeding, neither a criminal defendant nor his or her counsel have a right to be present. NRS 172.145; NRS 172.235; <u>Maiden v. State</u>, 84 Nev. 443, 445, 442 P.2d 902, 904 (1968). However, a defendant has a right to testify before a grand jury considering an indictment against him or her. NRS 172.241(1); <u>Sheriff v. Bright</u>, 108 Nev. 498, 501, 835 P.2d 782, 784-85 (1992). NRS 172.241 governs the right of certain persons to appear before the Grand Jury and it provides that the district attorney's notice upon a person whose indictment is being considered by a grand jury is adequate if it is given to the person, or the person's attorney of record, and gives the person not less than 5 days judicial days to submit a request to testify to the district attorney. NRS 172.241(2)(a).

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that a defendant must be given reasonable notice that a grand jury will meet and consider returning an indictment against him. <u>Sheriff v.</u> <u>Marcum</u>, 105 Nev. 824, 783 P.2d 1389 (1989). In order for a defendant to exercise his statutory right to testify before the grand jury, he must be given reasonable notice that he is the target of a grand jury investigation. <u>Id.</u> at 826, 783 P.2d at 1390.

In <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, the Nevada Supreme Court held that "reasonable" notice under NRS 172.241 required the State to inform the target of the investigation of the actual time, date and place of the grand jury hearing otherwise the statutory right to testify would be meaningless. <u>Solis-Ramirez v. District Court</u>, 112 Nev. 344, 913 P.2d 1293 (1996). In <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, the defendant received a <u>Marcum</u> notice indicating that the State intended to obtain a Grand Jury indictment against him but failed to include the date, time, or location. <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, 112 Nev. at 346, 913 P.2d at 1294. The Nevada Supreme Court held that the notice to the defendant placed the ultimate "burden on him to call the district attorney's office from jail and located the information regarding the date, time, and location of the hearing" and ordered the district court to dismiss the indictment. <u>Solis-Ramirez</u>, 112 Nev. at 347, 913 P.2d at 1295. However,

it was not the legislature's intent that the right to testify be interpreted so expansively. Therefore, in 1998, the legislature amended NRS 172.241 to clarify that notice is adequate if it simply "advises the person that he may testify before the grand jury only if he submits a written request to the district attorney and includes an address where the district attorney may send a notice of the date, time and place of the scheduled proceeding of the grand jury." NRS 172.241(2)(b). This legislative change places the burden on the person receiving notice of a grand jury investigation to respond with written notice of their intent to testify before they are entitled to details of the date, time, and place where they may appear to testify.

On April 15, 2021, the State provided Petitioner with <u>Marcum</u> notice. <u>Exhibit 1</u>. Petitioner does not deny that the State properly notified counsel:

> The State of Nevada did their part in giving Craig a proper notice but he failed to give Petitioner "any" type of notice . . ."

<u>Petition</u>, at 3. Petitioner's only contention is that trial counsel should have told him about the notice. This is insufficient to establish prejudice. Only if the defendant demonstrates actual prejudice based on lack of notice must the district court dismiss an Indictment. <u>Hill v. State</u>, 124 Nev. 546, 188 P.3d 51; <u>Lisle v. State</u>, 114 Nev. 221, 224, 954 P.2d 744, 746 (1998). Implicit in the decisions of most district courts addressing claims of basic unfairness, which violates due process within grand jury proceedings, "is the concept that substantial prejudice to the defendant must be demonstrated before the province of the independent grand jury is invaded." <u>Sheriff v. Keeney</u>, 106 Nev. 213, 216, 791 P.2d 55, 57 (1990).

Therefore, even if Petitioner did not receive adequate notice from his attorney, any error in the Grand Jury proceedings connected with the charging decision is harmless beyond a reasonable doubt where a defendant was convicted after trial beyond a reasonable doubt, because the conviction establishes that probable cause undoubtedly existed to bind the defendant over for trial. In <u>United States v. Mechanik</u>, the United States Supreme Court held that the jury's guilty verdict in prosecution for drug-related offenses and conspiracy established probable cause to charge the defendants with those offenses and thus rendered harmless any error in the grand jury's charging decision. <u>United States v. Mechanik</u>, 475 U.S. 66, 106 S. Ct. 938 (1986) (cited approvingly by and applied in the <u>Marcum</u> context in <u>Lisle v. State</u>, 114 Nev. 221, 224-225, 954 P.2d 744, 746-747 (1998)). The United States Supreme Court concluded that the jury's subsequent guilty verdict means not only that there was probable cause to believe that the defendants were guilty as charged, but also that they are in fact guilty as charged beyond a reasonable doubt. Measured by the jury's verdict, then, any error in the grand jury proceeding connected with the charging decision was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. <u>Mechanik</u>, 475 U.S. at 70, 106 S. Ct. at 941–42.

The Nevada Supreme Court has also suggested that a jury verdict of guilt may render harmless an error in the grand jury proceedings. <u>Dettloff v. State</u>, 120 Nev. 588, 596, 97 P.3d 586, 591 (2004). The Nevada Supreme Court found that the jury convicting Dettloff under a higher burden of proof cured any irregularities that may have occurred during the grand jury proceedings. <u>Dettloff</u>, 120 Nev. at 596, 97 P.3d at 591.

The State presented substantial evidence of Petitioner's guilt during the Grand Jury proceeding. Brionta testified that Petitioner and Mimi started a fight with her and Jaylon. Prior to and during this fight. she saw Petitioner with a gun. She heard a gunshot and saw Petitioner waving the gun around. Petitioner was the only person in the area that she saw with a gun. Her testimony established probable cause that Petitioner murdered Jaylon with a deadly weapon. As such, there was substantial evidence for the Grand Jury to indict Petitioner. Additionally, there is nothing in the transcripts that the Grand Jury held his absence against him.

Furthermore, Petitioner cannot face prejudice as a jury found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Any error associated with his lack of notice is harmless beyond a reasonable doubt due to his conviction. Thus, Petitioner's claim of ineffective assistance of trial counsel for allegedly failing to present Petitioner's testimony and exculpatory evidence to the Grand Jury is moot because a jury has already found Petitioner guilty of the charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt. <u>Weber v. State</u>, 121 Nev. 554, 585, 119 P.3d 107, 128 (2005). There is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that Petitioner's testimony or any exculpatory evidence Petitioner may have presented would have negated the probable cause evidence offered by the State. As such, this Court denies Petitioner's claim.

II. PETITIONER IS NOT ENTITLED TO COUNSEL

Under the U.S. Constitution, the Sixth Amendment provides no right to counsel in postconviction proceedings. <u>Coleman v. Thompson</u>, 501 U.S. 722, 752, 111 S. Ct. 2546, 2566 (1991). In <u>McKague v. Warden</u>, 112 Nev. 159, 163, 912 P.2d 255, 258 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court similarly observed that "[t]he Nevada Constitution...does not guarantee a right to counsel in post-conviction proceedings, as we interpret the Nevada Constitution's right to counsel provision as being coextensive with the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution." <u>McKague</u> specifically held that with the exception of NRS 34.820(1)(a) (entitling appointed counsel when petitioner is under a sentence of death), one does not have "any constitutional or statutory right to counsel at all" in post-conviction proceedings. <u>Id.</u> at 164, 912 P.2d at 258.

The Nevada Legislature has, however, given courts the discretion to appoint postconviction counsel so long as "the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition is not dismissed summarily." NRS 34.750. NRS 34.750 reads:

> A petition may allege that the Defendant is unable to pay the costs of the proceedings or employ counsel. If the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petition *is not dismissed summarily*, the court may appoint counsel at the time the court orders the filing of an answer and a return. In making its determination, the court may consider whether:

- (a) The issues are difficult;
- (b) The Defendant is unable to comprehend the proceedings; or
- (c) Counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery.

(emphasis added). Accordingly, under NRS 34.750, it is clear that the Court has discretion in determining whether to appoint counsel.

More recently, the Nevada Supreme Court examined whether a district court appropriately denied a defendant's request for appointment of counsel based upon the factors listed in NRS 34.750. <u>Renteria-Novoa v. State</u>, 133 Nev. 75, 391 P.3d 760 (2017). In <u>Renteria-</u>

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Novoa, the petitioner had been serving a prison term of eighty-five (85) years to life. Id. at 75, 391 P.3d at 760. After his judgment of conviction was affirmed on direct appeal, the defendant filed a pro se postconviction petition for writ of habeas corpus and requested counsel be appointed. Id. The district court ultimately denied the petitioner's petition and his appointment of counsel request. Id. In reviewing the district court's decision, the Nevada Supreme Court examined the statutory factors listed under NRS 34.750 and concluded that the district court's decision should be reversed and remanded. Id. The Court explained that the petitioner was indigent, his petition could not be summarily dismissed, and he had in fact satisfied the statutory factors. Id. at 76, 391 P.3d 760-61. As for the first factor, the Court concluded that because petitioner had represented he had issues with understanding the English language which was corroborated by his use of an interpreter at his trial, that was enough to indicate that the petitioner could not comprehend the proceedings. Id. Moreover, the petitioner had demonstrated that the consequences he faced—a minimum eighty-five (85) year sentence were severe and his petition may have been the only vehicle for which he could raise his claims. Id. at 76-77, 391 P.3d at 761-62. Finally, his ineffective assistance of counsel claims may have required additional discovery and investigation beyond the record. Id.

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Pursuant to NRS 34.750, Petitioner has not demonstrated that counsel should be appointed. As a preliminary matter, Petitioner's request is suitable only for summary denial as he has failed to provide any specific facts to support his bare and naked request. <u>Hargrove v.</u> <u>State</u>, 100 Nev. 498, 502, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984).

Notwithstanding summary denial, Petitioner's request should still be denied as he has failed to meet any of the additional statutory factors under NRS 34.750. The issues Petitioner raises are not difficult. Petitioner raises a meritless claim since there was substantial evidence to support probable cause at the grand jury hearing. Additionally, Petitioner cannot establish prejudice because he was convicted by a jury. As such, counsel is not necessary as the issue is not difficult.

Additionally, there has been no indication that Petitioner is unable to comprehend the proceedings. Unlike the petitioner in <u>Renteria-Novoa</u> who faced difficulties understanding the

English language, here Petitioner has failed to demonstrate any inability to understand these
 proceedings. By filing the instant petition, Petitioner demonstrates he understands that a
 Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus is how you bring a claim of ineffective assistance of
 counsel. Additionally, he is able to research and apply case law. As such, he can comprehend
 the proceedings.

Finally, counsel is not necessary to proceed with further discovery in this case. Given that Petitioner's claim is meritless, no additional discovery is necessary. Due to habeas relief not being warranted, there is no need for additional discovery, let alone counsel's assistance to conduct such investigation. Therefore, Petitioner's request is denied.

III. PETITIONER IS NOT ENTITLED TO AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING

NRS 34.770 determines when a defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing. It reads:

 The judge or justice, upon review of the return, answer and all supporting documents which are filed, shall determine whether an evidentiary hearing is required. A petitioner must not be discharged or committed to the custody of a person other than the respondent *unless an evidentiary hearing is held*.
 If the judge or justice determines that the petitioner is not

entitled to relief and an evidentiary hearing is not required, he shall dismiss the petition without a hearing.

3. If the judge or justice determines that an evidentiary hearing is required, he shall grant the writ and shall set a date for the hearing.

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that if a petition can be resolved without expanding the record, then no evidentiary hearing is necessary. <u>Marshall v. State</u>, 110 Nev. 1328, 885 P.2d 603 (1994); <u>Mann v. State</u>, 118 Nev. 351, 356, 46 P.3d 1228, 1231 (2002). A defendant is entitled to an evidentiary hearing if his petition is supported by specific factual allegations, which, if true, would entitle him to relief unless the factual allegations are repelled by the record. <u>Marshall</u>, 110 Nev. at 1331, 885 P.2d at 605; <u>see also Hargrove v. State</u>, 100 Nev. 498, 503, 686 P.2d 222, 225 (1984) (holding that "[a] defendant seeking post-conviction relief is not entitled to an evidentiary hearing on factual allegations belied or repelled by the record"). "A claim is 'belied' when it is contradicted or proven to be false by the record as it

1 existed at the time the claim was made." <u>Mann</u>, 118 Nev. at 354, 46 P.3d at 1230 (2002).

It is improper to hold an evidentiary hearing simply to make a complete record. *See* <u>State v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court</u>, 121 Nev. 225, 234, 112 P.3d 1070, 1076 (2005) ("The district court considered itself the 'equivalent of . . . the trial judge' and consequently wanted 'to make as complete a record as possible.' This is an incorrect basis for an evidentiary hearing."). Further, the United States Supreme Court has held that an evidentiary hearing is not required simply because counsel's actions are challenged as being unreasonable strategic decisions. <u>Harrington v. Richter</u>, 131 S. Ct. 770, 788 (2011). Although courts may not indulge post hoc rationalization for counsel's decision making that contradicts the available evidence of counsel's actions, neither may they insist counsel confirm every aspect of the strategic basis for his or her actions. <u>Id.</u> There is a "strong presumption" that counsel's attention to certain issues to the exclusion of others reflects trial tactics rather than "sheer neglect." <u>Id.</u> (*citing* <u>Yarborough v. Gentry</u>, 540 U.S. 1, 124 S. Ct. 1 (2003)). <u>Strickland</u> calls for an inquiry in the *objective* reasonableness of counsel's performance, not counsel's *subjective* state of mind. 466 U.S. 668, 688, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 2065 (1994).

Here, Petitioner requests an evidentiary hearing for his claim. There is no need for an evidentiary hearing because Petitioner is not entitled to any relief. Petitioner's claim fails as he is unable to establish prejudice. As such, Petitioner would not be entitled to relief even if counsel were deficient. No need exists to expand the record, as all claims can be disposed of based on the existing record. Thus, Petitioner's request for an evidentiary hearing is denied.

<u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction), Motion for Appointment of Counsel, and Request for Evidentiary ///

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1	Hearing shall be, and is, hereby denied.	Dated this 31st day of March, 2022
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6	Respectfully submitted,	929 77A D7CA 87E9 Tierra Jones
7	STEVEN WOLFSON Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565	District Court Judge
8	Nevada Bar #001565	
9		
10	By /s/ TALEEN PANDUKHT	
11	By <u>/s/TALEEN PANDUKHT</u> TALEEN PANDUKHT Chief Deputy District Attorney Nevada Bar #005734	
12	Nevada Bar #005734	
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1	CSERV		
2		ISTRICT COURT	
3		K COUNTY, NEVADA	
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6	Jamel Gibbs, Plaintiff(s)	CASE NO: A-21-844881-W	
7	vs.	DEPT. NO. Department 10	
8	State of Nevada, Defendant(s)		
9			
10	AUTOMATED	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
11	This automated certificate of se	ervice was generated by the Eighth Judicial District	
12	Court. The foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled		
13	case as listed below:	expletits registered for e-service on the above entitled	
14	Service Date: 3/31/2022		
15	Dept 10 Law Clerk d	ept10lc@clarkcountycourts.us	
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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Writ of Habeas Corpus		COURT MINUTES	February 09, 2022
A-21-844881-W Jamel Gibbs, Plan vs. State of Nevada,			
February 09, 202	22 8:30 AM	Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus	
HEARD BY: Jones, Tierra		COURTROOM:	RJC Courtroom 14B
COURT CLERK: Teri Berkshire			
RECORDER: Victoria Boyd			
REPORTER:			
PARTIES PRESENT:	Chen, Alexander G. State of Nevada	Attorney Defendant	
		JOURNAL ENTRIES	

- Mr. Gibbs not present an in the Nevada Department of Corrections. COURT ORDERED, Matter CONTINUED for the State to file a supplemental response.

03/09/22 8:30 A.M. PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Writ of Habeas Corpus		COURT MINUTES	March 09, 2022
A-21-844881-W Jamel Gibbs, Plaintiff(s) vs. State of Nevada, Defendant(s)			
March 09, 202	2 8:30 AM	Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus	
HEARD BY: Jones, Tierra		COURTROOM:	RJC Courtroom 14B
COURT CLERK: Teri Berkshire Deriontae Green			
RECORDER:	Victoria Boyd		
REPORTER:			
PARTIES PRESENT:	Chen, Alexander G. Walls, Tina M, ESQ	Attorney Attorney	
		JOURNAL ENTRIES	
		Valle present as a friend of the	Court via video on bobalf of Mr

- APPEARANCE CONTINUED: Ms. Walls present as a friend of the Court, via video on behalf of Mr. Gibbs through bluejeans technology.

Deft. not present and in the Nevada Department of Corrections. Counsel submitted the matter on the pleadings. Court Stated its Findings and ORDERED, Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus, DENIED. State to prepare Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law consistent with their Supplemental opposition.

Clerk's Note: A copy of these minutes mailed to Jamel Gibbs ID # 1056675 SDCC P.O. Box 208

PRINT DATE: 04/13/2022

Minutes Date: February 09, 2022

A-21-844881-W

Indian Springs, Nevada 89070 /tb

PRINT DATE: 04/13/2022

Page 3 of 3 Minutes Date: February 09, 2022

Certification of Copy

State of Nevada County of Clark SS:

I, Steven D. Grierson, the Clerk of the Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, State of Nevada, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the hereinafter stated original document(s):

"NOTICE OF APPEAL"; CASE APPEAL STATEMENT; DISTRICT COURT DOCKET ENTRIES; CIVIL COVER SHEET; FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER; NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER; DISTRICT COURT MINUTES

JAMEL GIBBS,

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

STATE OF NEVADA,

Defendant(s),

now on file and of record in this office.

Case No: A-21-844881-W

Dept No: X

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto
Set my hand and Affixed the seal of the
Court at my office, Las Vegas, Nevada
This 13 day of April 2022.
Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court
Amanda Hampton, Deputy Clerk
Alter and a second a