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1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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4 In the Matter of Determining )

the Proper Carrier )

5 Classification of, and )

Complaint for Penalties )

6 against: )Docket No: TV-161077

)

7 )

JEAN FRANCOIS ASSIN AND )

8 BROSSE MAGNURS d/b/a STRONG )

MUSCLES MOVERS AKA TCHAMAN )

9 MOVERS )

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MOVER'S COURT, VOLUME I

11

PAGES 1-23

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RAYNE PEARSON

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9:00 A.M.

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OCTOBER 25, 2016

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17 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest

18 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

19

20 REPORTED BY: TAYLER RUSSELL, CCR#3358

21 Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC

1325 Fourth Avenue

22 Suite 1840

Seattle, Washington 98101

23 206.287.9066 - Seattle

360.534.9066 - Olympia

24 800.846.6989 - National

25 www.buellrealtime.com

0002

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

3

RAYNE PEARSON

4 Washington Utilities and

Transportation Commission

5 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive

Southwest

6 PO Box 47250

Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

7 360.664.1136

8

9 FOR COMMISSION STAFF:

10 RACHEL JONES

Washington Utilities and

11 Transportation Commission

1300 South Evergreen Park Drive

12 Southwest

PO Box 47250

13 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

360.664.1129

14 rjones@utc.wa.gov

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; OCTOBER 25, 2016

2 9:00 A.M.

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5 JUDGE PEARSON: Good morning. My name is

6 Rayne Pearson. I am an administrative law judge with

7 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

8 and I'm the presiding officer for today's hearing being

9 conducted at the Commission's headquarters in Olympia.

10 Today is Tuesday, October 25th, 2016, at

11 9:00 a.m. Today's hearing involves a total of three

12 household goods carriers, so the first thing we will do

13 is take a roll call to determine which companies are

14 present.

15 As you can see, there is a court reporter

16 who is creating a record of today's proceeding, so when

17 I call your name, please raise your hand and please also

18 give a verbal response to the roll call like "here" or

19 "present" when I call your name.

20 The first company is Docket TV-161076, Anna

21 Nemykina.

22 MS. NEMYKINA: Here.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Did I pronounce your name

24 correctly? It's Anna?

25 MS. NEMYKINA: Yes.

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1 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Next is Docket

2 TV-161077, Jean Assin?

3 MR. ASSIN: Here.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Did I pronounce your name

5 correctly?

6 MR. ASSIN: Yes.

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And finally is Docket

8 TV-161078, Dallas Brewster, Pacific North West Moving?

9 Okay. Hearing nothing, it appears that

10 company is not in the hearing room as of right now. So

11 that company will be subject to being held in default

12 and having an order entered against it without a chance

13 to address the Commission. So I will take that docket

14 up later this morning.

15 Each of you are here because the Commission

16 filed a complaint alleging that each of your companies

17 is performing or advertising to perform work as a

18 household goods carrier without the required permit.

19 The purpose of today's proceeding is to formally explain

20 what your choices are and then hear from each of you

21 regarding which option you wish to pursue.

22 So you can choose one of two options on

23 behalf of your company. The first is to cease and

24 desist providing, offering, or advertising unpermitted

25 household goods services. And if you choose that

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1 option, you will need to demonstrate what you've done to

2 shut down your business either completely or partially

3 to avoid further enforcement action by the Commission.

4 The Commission is going to want to see proof that you're

5 no longer operating regulated services. For example,

6 proof that you've taken down or changed your website or

7 your other online advertisements for your business.

8 The second choice is to ask for a formal

9 classification hearing to show why you don't need a

10 permit. So if you choose that option, you're contesting

11 allegations in the complaint in claiming not to be

12 conducting household goods moves. So for this option,

13 we would schedule a hearing for a date in the near

14 future with a deadline two to three weeks from now for

15 both your company and Commission Staff to declare all

16 witnesses and file any exhibits.

17 Each of you has a right to be heard by the

18 Commission, and I will call you up to do that

19 individually. Commission Staff also has a right to be

20 heard, and Ms. Rachel Jones will be representing the

21 Commission this morning. If you have not already met

22 Ms. Jones, she is seated at the table to my right.

23 She's a Commission Compliance Investigator.

24 So now that we've gone over the general

25 options for each of your companies, let me explain the

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1 rest of today's procedure. In a few minutes, I will

2 call you each up to make your choice on how to proceed

3 and at that time, I will swear you in. So anything that

4 you tell the Court today will be considered sworn

5 testimony under oath. Once you're sworn in, I will ask

6 if you understand your options and then ask you to state

7 what option you would like to pursue. And if there is

8 anything else you want to explain to me, you can do so

9 at that time.

10 In each of the complaints, Commission Staff

11 has not only alleged that you are providing household

12 goods moving services without a permit, they are also

13 seeking to have a penalty imposed. The law sets the

14 maximum penalty for each violation at $5,000, and Staff

15 will be making a penalty recommendation, but the

16 Commission will make the final decision about the amount

17 of penalty to be imposed.

18 If you choose to testify about how you are

19 getting out of the household goods business, I will

20 allow you to make a statement explaining how you plan to

21 do that and depending on what proof you can provide, you

22 should be able to reach an agreed order resolving the

23 Commission -- resolving the matter with Commission

24 Staff, and you can speak to Ms. Jones about that during

25 the recess.

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1 If you choose to contest the allegations in

2 the complaint, we'll schedule another court appearance

3 for the Commission to present the necessary evidence to

4 prove its case, and I'll explain the types of

5 documentation you would need to bring in order to

6 dispute the Commission's evidence.

7 So after I hear from each of your companies,

8 we will take a break for probably about an hour, and

9 that will provide Commission Staff time to meet with

10 each of you and prepare a final disposition for your

11 cases. And for most of you, I believe that Ms. Jones

12 will be presenting agreed orders bringing your companies

13 into compliance or agreements to leave the industry.

14 So, Ms. Jones, I will go ahead and swear you

15 in at this point so you are sworn in for the entire

16 proceeding.

17 (Rachel Jones sworn.)

18 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. You may be seated.

19 So I will begin with the companies who have

20 made an appearance today, and then after hearing from

21 each of you, we can deal with the company who has not

22 appeared today.

23 Ms. Jones, when I call on the nonappearance

24 case, you can make a brief summary of the status and

25 present your motion for default at that time.

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1 MS. JONES: Okay.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: So first is Docket

3 TV-161076, Anna Nemykina, Kangaroo Movers.

4 If you would come forward to the table,

5 please.

6 MR. NEMYKIN: May I come with my wife?

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. Just go ahead and

8 have a seat in front of the microphone. And if you

9 could pull the microphone towards you close to you at

10 the table and turn it on. The red light will come on

11 when it's on.

12 Okay. If you could state your first and

13 last name for the record and spell your last name for

14 the court reporter.

15 MS. NEMYKINA: Anna Nemykina,

16 N-e-m-y-k-i-n-a.

17 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And what is your

18 position with Kangaroo Movers?

19 MS. NEMYKINA: I own the company.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And can we get your

21 address and telephone number for the record, please.

22 MS. NEMYKINA: 12040 - 28th Avenue

23 Northeast, Seattle, Washington 9125 -- or 98125.

24 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. And your

25 phone number.

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1 MS. NEMYKINA: 206-228-4821.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So if you could stand

3 and raise your right hand, I will swear you in.

4 (Anna Nemykina sworn.)

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. You may be seated.

6 And how would you like to proceed this morning?

7 MS. NEMYKINA: Actually, if it's allowed, I

8 would like my husband to speak because he's more

9 familiar with case.

10 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. Okay. Could you --

11 MS. NEMYKINA: His name is --

12 JUDGE PEARSON: I'm sorry, what?

13 MS. NEMYKINA: His name is Nikita Nemykin.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Can you turn your

15 microphone on? Can you please state and spell your last

16 name for the court reporter.

17 MR. NEMYKIN: Nikita Nemykin, N-e-m-y-k-i-n.

18 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. If you could stand

19 and raise your right hand, I will swear you in.

20 (Nikita Nemykin sworn.)

21 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Go ahead and be

22 seated.

23 MR. NEMYKIN: So what happened, I been in

24 this industry already. I have a company with my partner

25 other than Kangaroo Movers. We've been licensed and

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1 bonded and insured.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: What is the name of your

3 company?

4 MR. NEMYKIN: ABC Movers.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: And it's permitted with the

6 Commission?

7 MR. NEMYKIN: Yes.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

9 MR. NEMYKIN: And I wanted to branch out and

10 just expand business. And on behalf of my wife, I was

11 trying to register Kangaroo Movers in her name and she

12 agreed as a family business. I'm -- I guess we miss the

13 paperwork that was stating that we apply for the

14 licenses, that our paperwork weren't -- aren't writing

15 clearly so we had to apply again.

16 But unfortunately, we didn't understand it.

17 And so the last paperwork we've been served, now we

18 understand that we did something wrong, and we want to

19 make sure we will stop the -- all operations with

20 Kangaroo Movers, and we want to make sure we get the

21 licenses and all the document that needed to proceed.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So it sounds like you

23 want to enter into an agreed order to cease and desist

24 all operations of Kangaroo Movers until you're able to

25 get a permit; is that correct?

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1 MR. NEMYKIN: Correct, yes.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And have you

3 submitted an application to the Commission yet for

4 Kangaroo Movers?

5 MR. NEMYKIN: No, we were waiting for the

6 hearing.

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

8 MR. NEMYKIN: And just wanted to make sure

9 and how to fill it out and make sure we did everything

10 the right way.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So when we take a

12 recess, you will have the opportunity to speak with

13 Staff and see if you can agree on an order for entry

14 that will essentially say that until you get a permit,

15 that you won't operate the business or advertise and

16 that you understand all of that, okay?

17 MR. NEMYKIN: All right.

18 JUDGE PEARSON: So once you are satisfied

19 that you understand all the terms of order, then you and

20 Ms. Jones can both sign it. And it will also most

21 likely include an agreement about the amount of the

22 penalty to be imposed, but if not, you can make your

23 case about why the penalty should be different than what

24 Staff is recommending when we come back from the recess.

25 Do you have any questions about anything at this point?

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1 MS. NEMYKINA: No.

2 MR. NEMYKIN: No.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So you can go ahead

4 and take a seat until we call a recess.

5 And the next docket is TV-161077, Jean

6 Assin.

7 Good morning. Can you please state your

8 first and last name for the record and spell your last

9 name for the court reporter.

10 MR. ASSIN: Good morning. My name is --

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Is that microphone on? The

12 red light should be on.

13 MR. ASSIN: Good morning. My name is Jean

14 Assin, J-e-a-n, A-s-s-i-n.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And what's your

16 position with the company?

17 MR. ASSIN: I was trying to open a company

18 with my friend then we didn't get along so we decided to

19 lose the company together and then decide to open my

20 company. I was in the process of doing that and then

21 the Commission came and send paper at my door.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So why don't I go

23 ahead and swear you in at this point.

24 (Jean Assin sworn.)

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Go ahead and be

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1 seated.

2 So there is another gentleman's name with

3 the company Strong Muscles Movers, Mr. Magnurs?

4 MR. ASSIN: Mr. Magnurs, I don't even know

5 where he is. He was supposed to be my partner of Strong

6 Muscles Movers. We went to get a business license then

7 after one week, you know, we didn't get along with the

8 company. So we decided to close the company. I went to

9 the Department of Revenue to have a business license for

10 that Tchaman Movers. I was in the process to get the

11 Commission -- the Commission payments and then I was

12 served by the Commission. I was even here with the

13 Commission I remember in June, but I don't have the

14 dates. I came here to find out what is the -- how can I

15 get the payments.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So how would you like

17 to proceed this morning? Would you like to -- do you

18 plan still on applying for a household goods permit or

19 are you just out of the business completely?

20 MR. ASSIN: I do. I do, but I don't know

21 right now. I believe I am going to work for the next

22 six months when I save up money and come back to

23 Commission.

24 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So it sounds like you

25 also would like to enter into an agreement to cease and

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1 desist offering advertising and providing moves until

2 you're able to get a permit?

3 MR. ASSIN: Yes, Your Honor.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So again, when we

5 take a recess, you will also have an opportunity to

6 speak with Ms. Jones or other Staff members and see if

7 you can agree to an order for entry and also agree on

8 the amount of the penalty to be imposed. Do you have

9 any other questions?

10 MR. ASSIN: I am fine, thank you.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So at this point, we

12 can take a recess. It's approximately 12 minutes after

13 9:00. Because Mr. Brewster has not appeared, we can

14 take that up after the recess and there's a chance he

15 will still show up, and we can deal with him at that

16 point. Otherwise, I will entertain a motion for default

17 after we -- I think it would be best to speak to the

18 companies who have appeared today and get things worked

19 out with them so they can be on their way and we don't

20 have to hold them in here any longer than is necessary.

21 So as soon as you have a chance, you and

22 also Ms. Nemykina, to review the cease and desist orders

23 and language with Staff, there will be some negotiation

24 about the penalty, and typically a portion of the

25 penalty is suspended, which is meant to deter you from

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1 further illegal operations. So you would pay a portion

2 of it today and then the remaining portion of the $5,000

3 penalty would not become due and payable unless you've

4 violated the order; does that make sense?

5 MR. ASSIN: Sure.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So hopefully within

7 the next hour or so we will have all the orders

8 prepared, and then I will call each of you back up, make

9 sure you understand the order. I will sign it on the

10 record today, and you will leave here with a copy of it.

11 So, Ms. Jones, is there anything else before

12 we take a break?

13 MS JONES: No.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will be in my

15 office. Just please notify me when I need to come back,

16 and we will be in recess until further notice.

17 (Recess taken from 9:15 a.m. until

18 10:03 a.m.)

19 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Let's be back on the

20 record at a little after 10:00 a.m.

21 Ms. Jones, were you able to reach agreements

22 with both of the companies?

23 MS. JONES: Yes, I was.

24 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And were they both

25 cease and desist orders?

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1 MS. JONES: Yes, they are.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will call each

3 company back up to go over the orders and the agreements

4 that were entered into. So we will start again with

5 Docket TV-161076, Ms. Nemykina.

6 Okay. Did you have a chance to walk through

7 the order?

8 MS. NEMYKINA: Yes.

9 MR. NEMYKIN: Yes.

10 JUDGE PEARSON: Both of you? Okay.

11 And do you understand everything that's in

12 it and what you signed?

13 MS. NEMYKINA: Pretty much.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And this one, I see

15 that you and Ms. Jones have both signed it.

16 I didn't bring a pen. Do you have a pen?

17 That's the one thing I forgot.

18 So I see that you have both signed it, and

19 just for the record, Ms. Jones, it looks like you've

20 recommended two violations in this case, one for

21 offering move and one for advertising?

22 MS. JONES: Yes.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And the $5,000

24 penalty will be imposed, but a $4500 portion will be

25 suspended; is that correct?

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1 MS. JONES: Yes, that's correct.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And they paid the

3 full $500 penalty today?

4 MS. JONES: Yes, they did.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So this suspension

6 period for the $4,500 is two years from today's date

7 which is October 25th, 2018, so that means that if Staff

8 finds an advertisement or you offer a move during that

9 time without a permit, the remaining $4500 would become

10 immediately due and payable; do you understand that?

11 MS. NEMYKINA: Yes.

12 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And the order to

13 cease and desist is permanent, so that doesn't expire.

14 So even if the penalty expires, the order to cease and

15 desist does not expire. So even if after the two-year

16 period of suspended penalty has run, if Staff discovers

17 that you're still operating or advertising, Staff can go

18 straight to Superior Court to seek enforcement of this

19 order, which would include significant additional

20 penalties. So there is a very strong incentive for you

21 to comply with the law, but it sounds like you are

22 working on getting your application together and your

23 intent is to operate legally and lawfully.

24 MS. NEMYKINA: Yes.

25 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So do you have any

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1 other questions?

2 MS. NEMYKINA: No.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Then I will sign the

4 order. And I think they are going to make a copy; is

5 that right? So don't leave here before you get a copy,

6 but once you get your copy, you will be free to go,

7 okay? Thank you very much for coming down today, and I

8 will give this to Ms. Paul. Thank you.

9 And next is TV-161077, Mr. Assin.

10 Okay. Did you have a chance to walk through

11 the order and do you understand --

12 MR. ASSIN: Yes.

13 JUDGE PEARSON: -- everything in it?

14 Okay. And I see that you and Ms. Jones have

15 both signed it as well. And I assume that you heard

16 everything that I just said to the other party?

17 MR. ASSIN: Sure.

18 JUDGE PEARSON: And, again, Ms. Jones, it

19 looks like you have also recommended two violations

20 here, one for offering to move and one for advertising?

21 MS. JONES: Yes.

22 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And the $5,000

23 penalty will be imposed and a $4500 portion of that will

24 be suspended and the company will pay $500; is that

25 correct?

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1 MS. JONES: Yes.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And it looks like you

3 made a payment of $150 today.

4 MR. ASSIN: Yes.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And you have the

6 remaining $350 payment due on November 28th, which is

7 next month. And do you understand that if you miss that

8 payment that the $4500 suspended will become due and

9 payable immediately?

10 MR. ASSIN: Yes, Your Honor.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So if, for some

12 reason, you are going to be late making the payment, you

13 should contact Staff and make an arrangement to avoid

14 the suspended penalty.

15 MR. ASSIN: Yes.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And you do understand

17 legally what you can and can't do after speaking with

18 Staff?

19 MR. ASSIN: Sure.

20 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. All right. Do you

21 have any -- any questions?

22 MR. ASSIN: No.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will go ahead

24 and sign this order and once you receive your copy, you

25 are also free to go. Thank you for taking the time to

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1 come here today.

2 MR. ASSIN: Thank you.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And it appears that

4 Mr. Brewster failed to make an appearance today?

5 MS. JONES: Yes, he did.

6 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So have you had

7 contact with Mr. Brewster, did you attempt to contact

8 him?

9 MS. JONES: I attempted to contact, no

10 contact was made. His voice mailbox was full.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I have had a

12 chance to review the Commission's evidence in Docket

13 TV-161078. There was an offer for an intrastate move

14 and there was advertising. That meets the definitions

15 under the applicable statute for engaging in business as

16 a moving company without a household goods permit. So

17 what is Staff's motion at this point with respect to

18 Dallas Brewster doing business as Pacific North West

19 Moving?

20 MS. JONES: We would like the default order

21 classified Respondent as a household goods carrier

22 ordering him to cease and desist and impose a penalty

23 for two violations.

24 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So nothing would be

25 suspended with the penalty; is that correct, it would be

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1 the full $5,000 penalty?

2 MS. JONES: We are asking for the full

3 5,000. Nothing suspended.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So let's walk through

5 the evidence that you have for the company with respect

6 to the two violations, and then if you could also

7 describe how and when service was accomplished.

8 MS. JONES: Okay. So I received a move

9 under an assumed name on September 8th of this year by

10 phone from Mr. Brewster. He was served at his home

11 September 28th by a legal processor and as of today, he

12 is still advertising on Craigslist.

13 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. And you

14 verified that this morning?

15 MS. JONES: I verified that this morning.

16 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And has this company

17 ever applied for a permit with the Commission?

18 MS. JONES: No, they have not.

19 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will grant the

20 motion for default for Dallas Brewster doing business as

21 Pacific North West Moving, and if you would pass the

22 default order up to me, I will sign it.

23 Okay. Is there any other business that we

24 need to take care of today?

25 MS. JONES: No, that's it.

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1 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. Then we

2 are adjourned.

3 (Proceeding adjourned at 10:11 a.m.)

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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 COUNTY OF THURSTON

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6 I, Tayler Russell, a Certified Shorthand Reporter

7 in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify

8 that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to

9 the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

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Tayler Russell, CCR

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