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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of
CITY OF STOCKTON,
CALIFORNIA,

Debtor.

Case No: 12-32118-C-9
DC: DRJ-1

Date: January 20, 2015
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Dept. C, Judge Klein
501 I Street, 6th Floor,
Courtroom 35, Sacramento, CA

**DECLARATION OF JASON S. BELL, ESQ. IN SUPPORT
OF MOTION BY MARTI LYNN COOK FOR RELIEF
FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY**

I, the undersigned, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney duly licensed and admitted to practice in the state of California. My law firm and I represent Marti Lynn Cook in connection with a claim against the City of Stockton and an Officer Larios. Prior to executing this declaration, I have reviewed the file that my law firm and I maintain concerning that claim. Based on that review and on my pre-existing independent knowledge, I have personal knowledge of the facts that are set forth in this declaration. If the court or a party were to call upon me to do so I could and would competently testify to these facts under oath.

2. I was born in Fresno, California on December 31, 1974. I was raised, educated and have been employed in Fresno my entire life. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from California State University, Fresno, in 1997 and a Juris Doctorate Degree from San Joaquin College of Law in 2000. I was admitted to

1 California State Bar and the United States District Court, Eastern District Bar in 2001. I
2 am an active member of the Fresno County Bar Association and the State Bar of
3 California. I am also a member of the National Trial Lawyers Association, as well as a
4 member of the Central California Trial Lawyers Association. In 2008 I was elected by
5 my peers to serve on the Board of Directors for the Fresno County Bar Association. In
6 every year since 2009, I have been named a Rising Star as one of the top young lawyers
7 in Northern California by Super Lawyers. This distinction is only bestowed upon 2.5%
8 of the attorneys in Northern California. In 2012, the National Trial Lawyers Association
9 designated me as one of the Top 40 Lawyers under 40 years of age in the State of
10 California. I have received an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, which is
11 the national directory of lawyers. This is the highest possible rating an attorney can
12 receive, which indicates the highest levels of professionalism and utmost ethical
13 standards. I primarily practice in the areas of plaintiff's personal injury, which
14 encompasses personal injury, wrongful death, UM/UIM, insurance bad faith, products
15 liability and wrongful termination. I have tried multiple cases to verdict before a jury
16 and judge, involving motor vehicle accidents, products liability and wrongful
17 termination/sexual harassment. I have also engaged in multiple arbitrations in the area
18 of uninsured/under-insured motorist claims, as well as wrongful termination and hostile
19 work environment.

20 3. The evidence in my file, consisting of database research and
21 information and declarations provided by the client, indicates that: Officer Larios and
22 his K-9 partner, Koda, reside in Fresno and commute to Stockton. On Sunday, June 1,
23 2014, my client was introduced by Officer Larios to Koda at Dry Creek Park in Clovis,
24 California. My client attempted to pet Koda. Officer Larios failed to control Koda who
25 jumped up and bit my client on the face causing lacerations to her left cheek, puncture
26 wounds to her right cheek and upper lip, and severe bruising. Pursuant to California
27 Government Code 810 et seq., I filed with the Debtor the "Claim For Damages" a true
28 copy of which is annexed to the motion that this Declaration supports marked as Exhibit

1 A. The claim was rejected by the Debtor on August 11, 2014.

2 4. Except to the extent that the running of time to commence a civil action
3 may be tolled by reason of the automatic stay, the deadline for my client to commence a
4 civil action to determine, liquidate, and enforce her claim will expire on February 11,
5 2015.

6 5. My client's proposed lawsuit is a garden-variety personal injury claim
7 that the Fresno County Superior Court is well-positioned to promptly and efficiently
8 resolve.

9 6. I am unaware of the nature and extent of any insurance coverage that
10 may be available to pay any judgment that my client may obtain. I have been made
11 aware, from reviewing the Debtor's plan and disclosure statement, that the Debtor has
12 some insurance coverage applicable to at least some tort claims. My client seeks relief
13 from stay only to permit her to commence and prosecute to judgment a lawsuit seeking
14 to determine and liquidate her claim. I understand that any recovery on any judgment
15 obtained against the Debtor will be limited to insurance proceeds and such distributions
16 as my client may be entitled to receive under a confirmed plan.

17 I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct
18 and that I executed this declaration on December 22, 2014, at Fresno, California.

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/S/ Jason S. Bell
Jason S. Bell