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CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
LAW DEPARTMENT

IN RE: Hearing for Water Rate Board

DATE: Thursday, April 2, 2026

LOCATION: Zoom Teleconference

Reported by: Talya Anderson

Job No.: 1072742

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ATTENDANCE

KATHRYN SOPHY, HEARING OFFICER  
KADIJAH SMITH, MEETING ORGANIZER  
SONNY POPOWSKY, CHAIRMAN  
ANDRE DASENT, WATER REVENUE BUREAU, PANEL MEMBER  
CARL SHULTZ, WATER DEPARTMENT, PANEL MEMBER  
RENARDO HICKS, WATER REVENUE BUREAU, PANEL MEMBER  
NEAL SELLERS, WATER DEPARTMENT, PANEL MEMBER  
LAURICE SMITH, WATER DEPARTMENT, PANEL MEMBER  
BROOKE DARLINGTON, WATER DEPARTMENT, PANEL MEMBER  
ADRIANA GONZALEZ, WATER REVENUE BUREAU, PANEL MEMBER  
KACHANA WILLIAMS, WATER REVENUE BUREAU, PANEL MEMBER  
ROBERT BALLINGER, PUBLIC ADVOCATE  
VIKRAM PATEL, PUBLIC ADVOCATE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES  
LAFAYETTE MORGAN, PUBLIC ADVOCATE  
BOB PRINGLE, BOARD ADMINISTRATOR  
LANCE HAVER, PANEL MEMBER  
ALSO PRESENT:  
ADEOLU BAKARE, PHILADELPHIA LARGE USERS GROUP  
VICTORIA GEDDIS, PHILADELPHIA LARGE USERS GROUP  
RYAN MCSHERRY, WATER, SEWER AND STORMWATER RATE BOARD  
ED MARCUS

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PROCEEDINGS

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MS. SOPHY: Just to remind everyone, we do have a court reporter, so please speak slowly and clearly.

THE REPORTER: Recording in progress.

MS. SOPHY: My name is Kathryn Sophy. And the hearing board has selected me as your new hearing officer. I'm coming out of three years of retirement from the Public Utility Commission, where I spent more years than I care to admit writing their orders. So I'm looking forward to working with all of you. And with that being said, I think we'll just jump right into it.

The transcript for this conference will be posted and I will be issuing prehearing orders establishing the schedules and the basic rules. So first off, I'd like to go through the participants list just to make sure we have everyone that needs to be here, needs to be on the participants list.

1 For the Philadelphia Water Department, we've  
2 got Andre Dasent, Carl Shultz, Renardo Hicks,  
3 Neal Sellers, Laurice Smith, and Brooke  
4 Darlington. Is that correct?

5 MR. DASENT: That's correct, Madam  
6 Hearing Officer.

7 MS. SOPHY: And for the city of  
8 Philadelphia Water Revenue Bureau, we've got  
9 Adriana Gonzalez, and Kachana Williams. Is  
10 that correct?

11 MR. DASENT: That is correct also.

12 MS. SOPHY: For the public  
13 advocate, I have Robert Ballinger, Vikram  
14 Patel and Lafayette Morgan. Is that  
15 accurate?

16 MR. PATEL: That's correct, Your  
17 Honor.

18 MS. SOPHY: And I have Mr. Haver  
19 representing himself?

20 MR. HAVER: That's correct.

21 MS. SOPHY: Philadelphia Large  
22 Users Group. I've got Adeolu Bakare, Bakare,  
23 I'm sorry, --

24 MR. BAKARE: Good morning, Your

1 Honor.

2 MS. SOPHY: -- Garber (phonetic)  
3 and Victoria Geddis.

4 MR. BAKARE: That is correct. This  
5 is Adeolu Bakare and it is Adeolu Bakare  
6 hearing Officer, Sophy. Thank you.

7 MS. SOPHY: Bakare. I've got it  
8 now. And for the Water, Sewer and Stormwater  
9 Rate Board, on the hearing officer, we've got  
10 Chairman Popowsky here, Ryan McSherry,  
11 Khadijah George, who is running this webinar.  
12 And Ed Marcus will be our consultant. Is  
13 there anyone missing from the list?

14 MR. DASENT: I haven't heard from  
15 Mr. Scandalouski (phonetic) yet. I did see  
16 an email. So he may be, you know, reaching  
17 out to you later.

18 MS. SOPHY: Oh, okay. So the Water  
19 Department has circulated a tentative  
20 schedule. I was a little bit disappointed  
21 that the proposed schedule did not consider  
22 the board's June 10th meeting. There's no  
23 way that this can meet that. The board has  
24 requested that we finish this before 4th of

1 July. Now, Chairman Popowsky is looking into  
2 possibly rescheduling meetings to accommodate  
3 such a schedule.

4 But if that can't happen, is there  
5 any reason we cannot have the public input  
6 and the technical hearings a week earlier,  
7 like May 7th, and fall back on May 8th?

8 MR. HAVER: Madam Hearing Examiner,  
9 I was not privileged to receive that proposed  
10 schedule.

11 MS. SOPHY: I am sorry.

12 MR. DASENT: I sent it to the  
13 hearing list. I sent it to the whole hearing  
14 list, but I apologize.

15 MS. SOPHY: Mr. Dasent, could you  
16 send that to him now?

17 MR. DASENT: Yes. Doing it now.

18 MS. SOPHY: Thank you. So the  
19 proposed schedule has hearings May 14th with  
20 falling onto the 15th, if necessary.

21 MR. DASENT: And I just sent the --  
22 this schedule to Mr. Haver. The folks that  
23 I've interacted with at the public advocate  
24 have indicated that this current schedule

1 does work. And we obviously can explore if  
2 an earlier date will work. Because the  
3 public advocates sometimes has concerns that  
4 he raises that would require rebuttal  
5 testimony.

6 We gave enough time to accommodate  
7 all of that. And for the witnesses also, the  
8 respective witnesses to respond and related  
9 discovery. So we're hopeful that we can keep  
10 to the schedule if we could. Because we can  
11 finish by the end of June, under any scenario  
12 that I can conceive of. Because I thought we  
13 would be done by June 30th.

14 But you're right. I didn't put a  
15 lot of weight on that first meeting, the June  
16 10th meeting. And that was a mistake.

17 MS. SOPHY: Got it. If they can  
18 maneuver additional meetings and even move  
19 the June 10th one, I could be -- I would be  
20 fine with this.

21 MR. HAVER: I don't see a proposed  
22 date for close of discovery.

23 MR. DASENT: Well, we can discuss  
24 that the close of discovery for testimony for

1 -- usually happens right after, let me look  
2 for this, right before the public, the  
3 technical hearings. So the last day for  
4 information requests will be May 4th,  
5 assuming that we have the technical hearings  
6 on May 14th.

7 MR. HAVER: So that's his last day  
8 for information requests. Is that what  
9 you're calling discovery?

10 MR. DASENT: Yes, sorry. And Madam  
11 Hearing Officer also tried to allow for the  
12 times that the GAS Commission hearing room  
13 might be available.

14 MS. SOPHY: Right.

15 MR. DASENT: I know they have a  
16 meeting earlier than that week. And so I was  
17 trying to push it off into days where  
18 everyone was available and the hearing room  
19 was available also. And I think I've planned  
20 it on a date that is, but I need to reach out  
21 to their staff. And I'm sure Ryan also can  
22 do that to just try to make sure nobody else,  
23 takes the hearing room on that date.

24 MS. SOPHY: Right. Water Board is

1 on that.

2 MR. DASENT: Okay.

3 MS. SOPHY: All right. Well, are  
4 there any, objections.

5 MR. HAVER: I want to move that all  
6 of these hearings be held in person. So that  
7 my followers can show up, in protest Mr.  
8 Ballinger's decision to exclude the public as  
9 a client group.

10 MR. DASENT: I think there was a  
11 conversation about having a hybrid hearing  
12 for the public input hearings, particularly -  
13 -

14 MR. HAVER: So, Mr. Dasent --

15 MR. DASENT: -- to accommodate  
16 that, but that's just not--

17 MR. HAVER: Mr. Dasent, it's my  
18 motion. So if you'd like to ask me what I  
19 meant, I'm happy to describe it. Please  
20 don't try and redefine my motion.

21 MR. DASENT: Not trying to redefine  
22 your motion, but tell you other conversations  
23 that are going on.

24 MR. HAVER: They're not being held

1 with me and I am an equal participant. This  
2 is--

3 MS. SOPHY: Excuse me -- excuse me  
4 -- excuse me. I was going to ask Mr. Haver,  
5 if there was a hearing room available with a  
6 hybrid situation, satisfy you?

7 MR. HAVER: No, ma'am. Again,

8 MS. SOPHY: And why is that?

9 MR. HAVER: I want Mr. Ballinger to  
10 have to see the public. To explain to the  
11 people in the room, why he doesn't have a  
12 client group. The mayor has already said  
13 everybody should show up in person. And that  
14 does mean everybody.

15 MR. DASENT: If I may speak, Your  
16 Honor.

17 MS. SOPHY: Yes, go ahead.

18 MR. DASENT: All right. Madam  
19 Hearing Officer, 'm sorry. Just, want to get  
20 around the formality sometimes, but sometimes  
21 it's appropriate. We have scheduled hearings  
22 based upon witness availability, and part of  
23 witness availability, because a lot of them  
24 are out of town, is to make sure that it's

1 flexible enough to accommodate their  
2 schedules even if we run over one day. And  
3 to avoid the cost of travel, to have these  
4 guys come in, and pay for their trip in and  
5 out and hotel accommodations when we can do  
6 this technically and virtually and  
7 accommodate their concerns.

8           And in addition, because you can  
9 take a hybrid format, particularly for public  
10 input hearings, we can accommodate, I think,  
11 as a compromise at least everyone's concerns.  
12 And that would be our position as the Water  
13 Department. And hopefully you can sort of  
14 weigh that against competing positions.

15           MR. HAVER: I didn't realize there  
16 was a price tag associated with justice.

17           MR. DASENT: I'm happy to be in the  
18 room with you anytime, Mr. Haver.

19           MR. HAVER: You don't represent the  
20 public, Mr. Dasent. I'm not interested in  
21 having my folks talk to you. It's the so-  
22 called public advocate. Oh, I believe the  
23 public should have, be able to confront that  
24 there is no client group.

1 MR. PATEL: Hearing Officer. If I  
2 may?

3 MS. SOPHY: Yes.

4 MR. PATEL: So the argument that  
5 Mr. Haver is making -- I'm Vik Patel from  
6 community legal services -- that the argument  
7 that Mr. Haver is making is about the, its  
8 structure of community legal services itself  
9 as opposed to the public advocate or how this  
10 hearing is handled or how this proceeding is  
11 handled.

12 MR. HAVER: That's not correct, Mr.  
13 Patel. That's not correct. Only talking  
14 about, I'm only talking about the public  
15 advocate.

16 MR. PATEL: Mr. Haver, please. I  
17 didn't interrupt you.

18 MR. HAVER: Yeah, but you're not  
19 categorizing what I am saying correctly. I  
20 am not talking about CLS's corporate board.  
21 I am simply talking about, the public,  
22 "public advocate" not having any clients.  
23 CLS is free to put as many corporate lawyers  
24 on it's board as it wants. That's not being

1 paid for by the public ratepayers. The  
2 public advocate is, and that's who I'm  
3 talking about.

4 MR. PATEL: Mr. Haver, I would  
5 please ask. If you could just let me finish.  
6 We can take turns. I have deep respect for  
7 you, right? CLS has partnered with you  
8 previously, right, on many things. Point  
9 being the argument that Mr. Haver is making  
10 for having a solely in-person hearing is not  
11 related to how his proceeding actually is  
12 handled or the subject of this proceeding.

13 And if we look at having a hybrid  
14 hearing, right? Hybrid hearing allows  
15 actually for more access, right? It allows  
16 for people who it's difficult for them to  
17 come to a hearing in the middle of the day.  
18 It allows for more witnesses. It allows for  
19 better administration of the hearing.

20 And so I would argue that having a  
21 hybrid hearing allows people to come in  
22 person, which should satisfy, I guess, the  
23 ability of people to come and protest and  
24 discuss in person, while also providing

1 access to those who it is difficult,  
2 including members of the public to come and  
3 provide their input.

4 MS. SOPHY: Thank you.

5 MR. DASENT: Madam Hearing Officer,  
6 in the past, we've had, I'm sorry.

7 MS. SOPHY: I'm going to have a  
8 hybrid meeting. And that should at least  
9 somewhat satisfy Mr. Haver's concerns, but it  
10 also provides better access for the general  
11 population and for the witnesses, and we  
12 won't waste more of their time, and our  
13 money.

14 MR. HAVER: It does not satisfy me.  
15 And I will appeal this decision directly to  
16 the Water Rate Board. It is a shame that you  
17 don't believe the public should be able to  
18 confront the people who are supposed to be  
19 representing them. I am embarrassed for you.

20 MR. DASENT: In the past, Your  
21 Honor, if Your Honor, please, we've had one  
22 public hearing and one technical hearing in  
23 the TAP-R proceeding. And so I assume that  
24 would be the nature of this proceeding as

1 well. Obviously, we can accommodate more if  
2 we need to.

3 MS. SOPHY: I'm sorry. Wasn't --  
4 I didn't follow that completely.

5 MR. DASENT: Oh, we have one public  
6 input hearing.

7 MS. SOPHY: Yes.

8 MR. DASENT: And we have a  
9 technical hearing.

10 MS. SOPHY: Right.

11 MR. DASENT: And usually those are  
12 on the same day. I suggest spacing them  
13 apart. So that one would start, let's say at  
14 10:00 a.m., and perhaps one would be mid-day  
15 just to allow both proceedings to happen and  
16 be completed and move to the next. And if we  
17 need to go to our computers, we can do that  
18 as well, if it's a hybrid proceeding.

19 MS. SOPHY: Yes. And for, at  
20 least, for the public input, the board chair  
21 is able to be in the room for an in-person  
22 hearing. And I would also assume the  
23 technical hearings would start, after the  
24 public input, same day depending on timing,

1 how long it goes for the public input would  
2 be -- would dictate like when really the  
3 technical should start.

4 If it's very short, you know, I'd  
5 hate to waste a few hours that could be done,  
6 you know, used for the technical rather than  
7 schedule something later in the day. But I  
8 will look into that and --

9 MR. HAVER: I would object to  
10 holding the public hearings on the same date  
11 as a technical hearings. Those of us who  
12 believe the public had something important to  
13 say would want an opportunity to analyze what  
14 they're saying. And use that for further  
15 discovery, and use that at the technical  
16 hearings.

17 I understand that Mr. Dasent  
18 doesn't think it's important to have time  
19 between when the public testifies, and when  
20 the experts testify, but I do not agree. If  
21 the public input hearings have any meaning  
22 whatsoever, there has to be time to analyze  
23 what they say and use that at the technical  
24 hearings. If it's just a dog and pony show,

1 you should say that.

2 MR. DASENT: If, Your Honor,  
3 please, if you want to have a, --

4 MS. SOPHY: Yeah

5 MR. DASENT: -- public hearing the  
6 day before, we could accommodate that.

7 MS. SOPHY: What about the point?  
8 So I mean, to go to his point that something  
9 raised in the public input hearing may have  
10 bearing?

11 MR. DASENT: We have no objection.

12 MS. SOPHY: How early would you --  
13 how much time do you think you would need  
14 between a public input hearing and the  
15 technical hearings?

16 MR. HAVER: So it will depend on  
17 what the hearing examiner requires an public  
18 advocate to do as outreach. If the hearing  
19 examiner says Public Advocate doesn't have to  
20 do any outreach other than emails, then I  
21 think we can depend, we can project a very  
22 poor showing.

23 If the public advocate actually  
24 meets with people, meets with groups, makes

1 phone calls, has personal contact, I think  
2 the public meeting will be very important,  
3 and I would think at least 72 hours. To read  
4 through, to be able to pose questions and be  
5 able to prepare for the technical hearings.

6 But that's completely up to Your  
7 Honor, the hearing examiner says, all the  
8 public advocate has to do is rely on an email  
9 list, which we know doesn't work, then the  
10 public hearing will be meaningless. And Mr.  
11 Patel's group will do what they have  
12 historically done, go behind closed doors and  
13 negotiate a black box settlement. Which by  
14 the way, the governor has attacked. Governor  
15 Shapiro in his --

16 MS. SOPHY: I understand that.

17 MR. HAVER: -- attacked what the  
18 public advocate and Mr. Dasent have been  
19 doing for years.

20 MS. SOPHY: But this proceeding, is  
21 only for the reconciliation of the TAP.

22 MR. HAVER: And you're saying that  
23 like it's nothing. It's a major issue.

24 MS. SOPHY: I'm saying it's very

1 limited, it is not the general rating, rate  
2 increase. It's not looking at a wide variety  
3 of issues. This is a targeted proceeding.

4 MR. HICKS: Your Honor, if I may  
5 for a moment, this is Renardo Hicks.

6 MS. SOPHY: Yes, Mr. Hicks.

7 MR. HICKS: Mr. Dasent is doing an  
8 admirable job of articulating the position of  
9 the utility. However, one of the things that  
10 I think is important in this process is that  
11 when people talk, they get an opportunity to  
12 finish. And personal comments like one  
13 directed towards Your Honor a moment ago, are  
14 totally inappropriate. So I would strongly  
15 encourage the process be one where people get  
16 a chance to talk and finish before the next  
17 person begins to talk. That's all I have,  
18 Your Honor

19 MS. SOPHY: Thank you.

20 MR. DASENT: If I might, Your  
21 Honor. After May 4th, when the information  
22 requests discovery are answered, that would  
23 be a window where you could consider public-  
24 input hearing. And we're amenable to that.

1 It's just a question of finding the right  
2 day.

3 MS. SOPHY: Right. And will the  
4 public advocate, you want todo something like  
5 that?

6 MR. PATEL: Yeah. To have a public  
7 hearing the week before.

8 MS. SOPHY: Yeah.

9 MR. DASENT: And if, Your Honor,  
10 please also, we'll assist with outreach and  
11 making sure the network of folks that are  
12 regularly communicated by the water  
13 department are also receiving notice of the  
14 hearings. And if there needs to be  
15 advertising, we can assist with that, and we  
16 also can sort of dovetail with any efforts of  
17 the public advocate.

18 MS. SOPHY: All right. And Ms.  
19 George, can you, look into space for that?

20 MS. GEORGE: Yes, yes, I can.

21 MS. SOPHY: Thank you. I think  
22 it's generally, it's a good idea to have a  
23 public-input session, ahead of time.  
24 Especially in like the larger cases, the rate

1 cases where there are many more issues.  
2 That'll give everybody some time to digest  
3 some of the issues that are raised from the  
4 consumers. Let's see. So assuming we can do  
5 that then the technical could start at 10  
6 o'clock.

7 And I would assume we'd be able to  
8 get through everything in one day. If it  
9 goes long I am willing to stay until it's  
10 finished rather than clean up the next day.  
11 If that's an issue to somebody, speak now.

12 MR. DASENT: It's fine with the  
13 department.

14 MS. SOPHY: Okay.

15 MR. BAKARE: Hearing Officer Sophy?

16 MS. SOPHY: Yeah.

17 MR. BAKARE: Can you just clarify  
18 that participants are not required to attend  
19 the public input hearings? Is that correct?

20 MS. SOPHY: I'm sorry. Say that  
21 again?

22 MR. BAKARE: Can I just clarify  
23 that not all participants are required to  
24 attend the public input hearings? Is that

1 correct?

2 MS. SOPHY: That's correct.

3 MR. BAKARE: Thank you.

4 MS. SOPHY: All right. I'd like to  
5 give this a try.

6 MR. DASENT: Great. Thank you,  
7 Your Honor.

8 MS. SOPHY: Well, we'll move  
9 forward on that. Information requests. I  
10 see that there were some objections to  
11 certain data requests.

12 MR. DASENT: Yes. Public advocates  
13 said too. We have certain limited objections  
14 and we're talking through with the public  
15 advocate our concerns, their concerns to try  
16 to resolve them and we'll have a first  
17 tranche of responses right after Easter. And  
18 perhaps following that and Mr. Ballinger will  
19 be back also. We can have a discussion with  
20 Your Honor.

21 Let's see if we can resolve or  
22 dispose of the objections. Hopefully resolve  
23 them in our favor, I guess I should say it  
24 that way. But the public advocate knows what

1 I mean.

2 MS. SOPHY: Okay. Well, I expect  
3 everybody to be reasonable and accommodating  
4 where you can be. But if I start seeing  
5 motions to compel, I would expect an answer  
6 to that within three days.

7 MR. DASENT: Fair enough.

8 MS. SOPHY: Let's see.

9 MR. DASENT: If you hear us on a  
10 housekeeping, generally. I'm sorry.

11 MS. SOPHY: Yes, I was going to  
12 say, are there any outstanding procedural  
13 issues that I've not touched on here?

14 MR. DASENT: Yeah, the response  
15 time for discovery, we probably need to  
16 establish. I'm hopeful we can say seven  
17 business days for discovery responses. I  
18 think in a proceeding like this, it'll just  
19 give us a chance to actually meet the  
20 deadline. And for objections to discovery,  
21 three business days. But I have to hear the  
22 other parties on that.

23 MS. SOPHY: Okay.

24 MR. PATEL: Your Honor, I think I

1 believe that we would prefer seven days.  
2 This was seven business days. I think the,  
3 the testimony is coming up for us on just two  
4 weeks. Seven business days. We cover most  
5 of the time that's even left.

6 MR. DASENT: We will try to  
7 accommodate whatever schedule Your Honor  
8 sets.

9 MS. SOPHY: Yeah, I'm inclined to  
10 do days. Time is marching quickly here.  
11 Well, once I hear from the board on the  
12 possibility of moving those meeting days, I  
13 will issue a prehearing order and cover what  
14 we've discussed here. As I said, this  
15 transcript will be posted also.

16 CHAIR POPOWSKY: Excuse me, Miss  
17 Sophy.

18 MS. SOPHY: Yes.

19 CHAIR POPOWSKY: Sonny Popowsky  
20 here. Appreciate the opportunity to listen  
21 in. I have contacted the other board  
22 members, and we're trying to make sure that  
23 we be available on each of the last two weeks  
24 of June to have our meetings and going up and

1 through the first day of July, which is  
2 Wednesday also. So I've heard back from  
3 some, but not all.

4 But I will certainly get back to  
5 you as soon as I know when I'm sure that  
6 we'll have a quorum available for late June  
7 board meetings.

8 MS. SOPHY: Okay. All right.

9 MR. DASENT: Usually, Your Honor,  
10 in the hearing order, you'll specify when we  
11 have to file documents by the end of business  
12 on a certain, on the filing date, for  
13 example, and extensions for good cause, that  
14 sort of thing.

15 MS. SOPHY: Yes.

16 MR. DASENT: I have a feeling the  
17 template will carry over from prior  
18 proceedings.

19 MS. SOPHY: Yes, as is Judge  
20 Chestnut's prime directive. Where I expect  
21 everyone to settle or stipulate to anything  
22 you recently can in order to move this  
23 through as reasonably quickly as we can.

24 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

1 MR. HAVER: I did not realize the  
2 hearing examiner had received direction from  
3 Ms. Chestnut. Will that connection --

4 MS. SOPHY: No, I just know that  
5 she used to say that.

6 MR. HAVER: That's not what you,  
7 that's not what the hearing examiner just  
8 said. If you go back and ask the hearing,  
9 the court reporter, read back what you just  
10 said. You'll hear that it was very  
11 distinctly different.

12 MS. SOPHY: Well, let me speak in  
13 my own words then.

14 MR. HAVER: Those were your words.

15 MS. SOPHY: I expect that I would -  
16 - let me speak, please. Thank you. I expect  
17 all parties to reach a settlement or a  
18 stipulation to any issue that they reasonably  
19 can. I'm not saying force it, but if there's  
20 room to settle, you should do so. If there's  
21 room to stipulate, you should do so.

22 MR. HAVER: I want to put on the  
23 record my request --

24 MS. SOPHY: Anything else?

1 MR. HAVER: Yes. I want to put on  
2 the record my request for any correspondence  
3 that you have had with Ms. Chestnut regarding  
4 these proceedings.

5 MR. HICKS: Your Honor, if I may.  
6 I want to put on the record an objection to  
7 that discovery request. So, if necessary, we  
8 will, in fact, provide Your Honor with a  
9 written response, if that is the direction  
10 that Mr. Haver wants to go.

11 MS. SOPHY: I'm going to deny that  
12 motion. So if you want to take that up,  
13 that's fine.

14 MR. HAVER: I'm sorry. What, on  
15 what basis are you denying that motion?

16 MR. HICKS: Your Honor, if I may  
17 respond?

18 MS. SOPHY: Sure.

19 MR. HICKS: This is a prehearing  
20 conference. It's not a technical conference  
21 and it's not a discovery conference. And, in  
22 fact, there is no requirement that Your Honor  
23 articulate the specific reasons why an  
24 informal motion of this sort is rejected. As

1 I suggested, if Mr. Haver wants to advance  
2 this position, he should do so in writing,  
3 and we will respond in writing.

4 MR. PATEL: Your Honor, if I may  
5 also. In addition, right, hearing officer is  
6 not a party. Hearing officer is presiding  
7 over the hearing, is not a party. So I don't  
8 believe that the hearing officer would be  
9 subject to discovery.

10 MR. HICKS: Very good.

11 MS. SOPHY: Well, on that note, I  
12 think we can thank everyone for their  
13 participation and cooperation. And you'll be  
14 receiving the prehearing conference order so.

15 MR. DASENT: Thank you so much for  
16 today.

17 MS. SOPHY: Thank you very much.

18 MR. HICKS: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 MR. BAKARE: Thank you, Your Honor.

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF DIGITAL REPORTER

2  
3 I, TALYA ANDERSON, a Digital Reporter and  
4 Notary Public within and for the State of  
5 Pennsylvania, do hereby certify:

6  
7 That the foregoing proceeding hereinbefore  
8 set forth was accurately captured with annotations  
9 by me during the proceeding.

10  
11 I further certify that I am not related to  
12 any of the parties to this action by blood or  
13 marriage, and that I am in no way interested in  
14 the outcome of this matter.

15  
16 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
17 hand this 2nd day of April, 2026.

18  
19  
20 

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Talya Anderson, Notary  
23 Notary Commission FL HH 418844  
24 Commission Expires: July 9, 2027

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, RUPA HEGDE, do hereby certify:

That said audio transcription is a true record as reported by me, a disinterested person.

I further certify that I am not interested in the outcome of said action, nor connected with, nor related to any of the parties in said action, nor to their respective counsel.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of April, 2026.



---

Rupa Hegde

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