CHRISTOPHER A. CALLIHAN (Bar No. 203010)
City Attorney
MICHAEL MUTALIPASSI (Bar No. 274858)
Asst. City Attorney
OFFICE OF THE SALINAS CITY ATTORNEY
200 Lincoln Avenue
Salinas, CA 93901
Telephone: 831.758.7256
Facsimile: 831.758.7257
Email: michaelmu@ci.salinas.ca.us

Attorneys for Plaintiff City of Salinas

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE; LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS; BLACK ALLIANCE FOR JUST IMMIGRATION; HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS; KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON; CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; CITY OF SALINAS, CALIFORNIA; CITY OF SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA; RODNEY ELLIS; and ADRIAN GARCIA, Plaintiffs, v. WILBUR L. ROSS, JR., in his official capacity as Secretary of Commerce; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; STEVEN DILLINGHAM, in his official capacity as Director of the U.S. Census Bureau; and U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, Defendants.	CASE NO. 20-cv-5799-LHK **DECLARATION OF MONICA GURMILAN, ASSOC. PLANNER, CITY OF SALINAS, IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR STAY AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

I, **Monica Gurmilan**, do hereby declare as follows:

1. The facts set forth in this declaration are true and correct based upon my own personal knowledge. If called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to each of the facts set forth herein.

2. I am employed as associate planner for the City of Salinas.

3. Among other duties, in my position as associate planner, I coordinate directly with the Census Bureau on all census activities and messaging for the City of Salinas. I lead the Salinas Census Action team comprised of stakeholders that include the City of Salinas, the State of California, the County of Monterey, the Census Bureau, local school districts and community based organizations.

4. In my current role, I am responsible for the City's Census 2020 Outreach strategy, including all messaging. The primary focus of the City's effort is to enable an accurate census count by engaging Salinas's hard-to-count populations.

5. To achieve these aims, for the past three years, Salinas has dedicated significant resources to funding and staffing its "Census Action Team," which is composed of City staff and representatives from the County of Monterey's "Complete Count Committee," as well as community-based organizations, school districts, and local businesses. We have also closely coordinated with and received support from the State of California.

6. The City of Salinas, California is the most populous city in and the government seat of the County of Monterey. Salinas is home to more than 150,000 people, including 38.5% of the County's Hard-to-Count population. The City's self-response rate for the 2020 Census is currently 58.4 percent, which is 421st out of 482 California cities. The City's response rate is 8 percent below the current statewide average for self-responses and 9.5 percent below its own self-response rate from the 2010 Census.

7. The City uses decennial census data to guide allocation decisions from locating firehouses to building roads to expanding water infrastructure to ensuring adequate sanitation. As noted in a Salinas City Council resolution passed by the City Council, information from the 2020 Census is a vital tool for planning and land use decisions, including guiding whether and where

to locate new affordable housing, health care services, and local economic development projects.

8. Because of the City's hard-to-count population, City staff has developed outreach strategies based on the particular composition of the hard-to-count population in that district. The City's Census Action Team has worked hard to implement those strategies, hosting more than 90 census action events including canvassing, informational sessions in the form of "popups," and coordinating and making presentations at recreation and social service centers.

9. The City has paid for air time and radio spots on La Preciosa, Campesina, Kwave, and the Beach radio stations. In July, the City initiated the mailing of over 53,000 leaflets to all Salinas households through the City's private waste hauler and Monterey One Water utility bills. The City, together with the County, and Catholic Charities initiated the installation of over 55 banners in city limits informing residents about the Census. And the Santa Rita School District and Salinas Union High School District have been displaying census messaging on their school marquees.

10. The Salinas Valley is known as the Salad Bowl of the World due to the region's verdant farmland. Many of the City's hard-to-count residents work in the local farming industry, are predominantly Latino, and often fearful of interacting with the government, which is why the Salinas Census Action Team engages religious and community organizations, such as local food banks, to support their outreach. These organizations are known entities in the farmworker community and are able to overcome trust and communication barriers. This form of organization, while successful, is both labor and time intensive and cannot be rushed.

11. Shortening the response period (both self-response and non-response follow up) by one month will have a damaging impact on the City. The City had "hard-to-count" organizing events planned for the month of October, including a "Census Parade" through the main thoroughfares of the neighborhoods with the hardest to count populations that has to be cancelled. Community-based organizations likewise planned to conduct outreach to residents during this period. This undoubtedly means that residents who otherwise would have been subject to engagement during the month of October may not receive enumeration support from the City.

12. Since the Bureau announced the October 31, 2020 deadline as part of the COVID-19 Plan, the City promoted the new date in messaging and on social media and in thousands of paper flyers, broadcasting to the public that they had more time to complete the Census. These messaging activities highlighted the October 31, 2020 date for self-response. It is human nature to wait until a deadline to act, meaning that some residents who received the City's messaging will fail to respond before the Rush Plan deadline because the City has limited remaining resources to correct what is now misinformation.

13. Each of Salinas's census count issues is amplified by COVID-19. For example, Monterey County is still advertising for census enumerator job listings because traditional applicant groups like senior citizens have concerns about the risk of catching COVID-19. With fewer enumerators working, every extra day the City has to use the existing staff to support the count, increases the response rate.

14. The City's digital divide has been worsened by the pandemic. More than 1 in 4 occupied households in Salinas have no broadband internet. While some of those residents may rely on cellular service, many utilize internet access provided by local schools and libraries, both of which have been closed for the entire response period due to COVID-19. The City and its partners can bring resources to bear to organize residents who lack of access to broadband but that type of outreach takes time and cannot be expedited with success.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: August 24, 2020 in Monterey, California.

Monica Gurmilan,
Assoc. City Planner,
City of Salinas