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20 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
21 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

22 Manuel de Jesus Ortega Melendres,  
23 et al.,

24 Plaintiff(s),

25 v.

26 Joseph M. Arpaio, et al.,

27 Defendants(s).

28 CV-07-2513-PHX-GMS

**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO  
DEFENDANTS' EXPEDITED  
MOTION TO VACATE HEARING  
AND REQUEST FOR ENTRY OF  
JUDGMENT**

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1 Plaintiffs respectfully submit the following response in opposition to  
2 Defendants' Expedited Motion To Vacate Hearing and Request for Entry of Judgment  
3 ("Expedited Motion") (Doc. 948). The Defendants' admissions of liability and  
4 stipulations are significant. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office ("MCSO"), Sheriff  
5 Arpaio, and Chief Deputy Sheridan previously denied liability for civil contempt (Doc.  
6 840, Doc. 841, Doc. 842), but now admit, among other things: (1) Sheriff Arpaio was  
7 aware of the Court's preliminary injunction and "failed to take steps necessary to ensure  
8 that MCSO complied with the preliminary injunction"; and (2) Sheriff Arpaio had an  
9 obligation to produce recordings of traffic stops before trial and failed to do so.  
10 However, the motion should be denied because Defendants have not yet provided full  
11 discovery on why and how they violated the Court's orders. Material issues of fact,  
12 crucial for determining the proper remedies for Defendants' contempt of this Court's  
13 orders, remain unresolved, and therefore the process set by the Court for discovery and an  
14 evidentiary hearing should go forward.

15 Defendants argue that the Court should vacate the evidentiary hearing on the  
16 grounds for civil contempt set out in the Order To Show Cause (Doc. 880) because they  
17 have now consented to a finding of civil contempt against Sheriff Arpaio, Chief Deputy  
18 Sheridan, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, and to stipulations of fact and  
19 remedies to address the admitted contempt of court. Expedited Motion at 1. Defendants  
20 contend that in light of these admissions, there are no material issues to be addressed  
21 through the evidentiary hearing currently scheduled for April 21 through 24, 2015.

22 Defendants' contention is incorrect. As they acknowledge, a key purpose of the  
23 evidentiary hearing would be not only for the Court to resolve the facts relating to  
24 whether the Defendants and charged contemnors should be held in contempt, but also the  
25 proper remedy for such contempt. *See, e.g., Sec. & Exch. Comm'n v. Hickey*, 322 F.3d  
26 1123, 1128 (9th Cir.) *as amended on denial of reh'g*, 335 F.3d 834 (9th Cir. 2003)  
27 ("District courts have broad equitable power to order appropriate relief in civil contempt  
28

1 proceedings.”); *Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc. v. Winter*, 508 F.3d 885, 886 (9th Cir.  
2 2007) (“Injunctive relief must be tailored to remedy the specific harm alleged[.]”). The  
3 remedies that Defendants have now proposed and agreed to (Expedited Motion, Exhibit  
4 B) are the bare minimum needed to address their violations of the Court’s order, and  
5 Plaintiffs would request that the Court include those remedies in its eventual order on  
6 civil contempt. However, for the Court to assess and impose a remedy that would *fully*  
7 address the Defendants’ violations and protect the Plaintiff Class, it will be necessary to  
8 address numerous factual issues that Defendants have not addressed in their proposed  
9 stipulations, including: the precise cause of, and sequence of events leading to,  
10 Defendants’ failure to communicate the Court’s Preliminary Injunction order to MCSO  
11 rank and file, *see, e.g.*, Doc. 948-1, Ex. A ¶ 5 (stating only that MCSO “failed to  
12 implement the order”), ¶ 9 (“Sheriff Arpaio failed to take steps necessary to ensure that  
13 MCSO complied with the preliminary injunction.”); the precise cause of, and sequence of  
14 events leading to, Defendants’ failure to comply with the Court’s May 14, 2014, order  
15 directing the execution of a plan, with the Monitor’s approval, for the “quiet” collection  
16 of video recordings of traffic stops, *see id.* ¶¶ 19–21; and the precise cause of, and  
17 sequence of events leading to, Defendants’ failure to comply with their pretrial discovery  
18 obligations, *see id.* ¶ 12 (“MCSO failed to comply with the Federal Rules of Discovery”),  
19 ¶ 14 (“Sheriff Arpaio had an obligation to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil  
20 Procedure regarding discovery, but failed to do so when he failed to take steps to ensure  
21 that the materials or information enumerated above were disclosed to Plaintiffs.”). While  
22 Defendants acknowledge that they violated the Court’s orders and thereby committed  
23 civil contempt, Plaintiffs believe that the evidence will show that at least some of these  
24 violations were the result of willful misconduct. Plaintiffs and the Court also do not  
25 currently know the identities of the persons responsible for certain violations of the  
26  
27  
28

1 Court's orders.<sup>1</sup> For example, Plaintiffs have not yet conclusively determined which  
2 high-ranking MCSO officials were aware that the Human Smuggling Unit had a practice  
3 of recording traffic stops but had not turned over any such videos to Plaintiffs in  
4 discovery, or if there was a conscious decision not to turn over such videos. Completion  
5 of the hearing process set by the Court would allow those questions to be answered.

6           These factual issues are material, notwithstanding Defendants' recent  
7 admissions, because they relate not only to whether Defendants and the named  
8 contemnors are liable for civil contempt, which has now been admitted, but also to the  
9 remedies that are needed to address each instance of contempt of the Court's orders. For  
10 example, the remedy that Plaintiffs would seek for a negligent failure to communicate the  
11 Preliminary Injunction would be quite different from the remedy sought for a willful  
12 decision by unknown individuals to withhold news of the Court's Preliminary Injunction,  
13 or to direct deputies not to comply with it and to continue the practice of detaining  
14 individuals based solely on suspected immigration violations. In the former instance,  
15 remedies such as those offered by the Defendants in their Expedited Motion could  
16 possibly be sufficient, but, in the latter case, more severe remedies would certainly be  
17 proposed for the protection of the Plaintiff Class. Defendants' proposed remedies,  
18 including the provision that the Monitor have powers with respect to internal  
19 investigations co-extensive with that of Sheriff Arpaio (Expedited Motion, Exhibit B ¶  
20 4), are significant, but constitute only the bare minimum needed to address Defendants'  
21 violations. These remedies are constructive and should be adopted but, as Defendants  
22 implicitly acknowledge, they may not be complete, and more may be needed. Expedited

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25 <sup>1</sup> Indeed, Defendants' motion accepts liability for civil contempt only on the part of  
26 Sheriff Arpaio and Chief Deputy Sheridan. The Court has named three other individual  
27 MCSO commanders as contemnors: Chief Sands, Chief MacIntyre, and Lieutenant  
28 Sousa. Their individual liability is not resolved by the course of action requested by the  
Defendants.

1 Motion at 3-4 & n.2 (offering to meet and confer on remedies and noting that remedies  
2 are ultimately in Court's discretion).

3           Plaintiffs should have an opportunity to develop such material facts at the  
4 evidentiary hearing. The need for further factual development finds further support in the  
5 fact that Defendants so far have apparently failed to comply fully with their discovery  
6 obligations in response to the Court's discovery order of February 12, 2015. For  
7 example, in their production of February 27, 2015, which responded to the Court's  
8 February 12, 2015, discovery order (Doc. 881), Defendants provided only a few  
9 documents relating to contacts with ICE or CBP and/or detentions after December 2011  
10 and may not have provided indisputably material documents, such as incident reports  
11 relating to the specific traffic stops identified in Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Law and  
12 Facts re Contempt Proceedings and Request for Order To Show Cause (Doc. 843) at 5-8.  
13 The Court directed Defendants to produce such documents at paragraphs 1(b), (c), and  
14 (d) of the February 12 order. Plaintiffs have attempted to meet and confer with the  
15 Defendants concerning deficiencies in their document productions and interrogatory  
16 responses but have not received any response. *See* Declaration of Stanley Young (filed  
17 herewith). In addition, Defendants and individually named contemnors face depositions  
18 in the coming days and weeks. Those depositions, which should not be cancelled  
19 regardless of how the Court decides the present motion (which does not mention the  
20 discovery process put in place by the Court's February 12, 2015 discovery order), will  
21 provide potentially critical information for purposes of determining the proper remedy..  
22 Moreover, the Defendants' internal investigation of matters relating to the instant  
23 contempt proceeding, which has twice been delayed, is currently scheduled to be  
24 completed by April 13, 2015.<sup>2</sup>

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26  
27 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs note that the Court has set a status conference for March 20 (Doc. 939) to  
28 address, among other things, whether supplemental hearings may be warranted in light of  
(continued...)

1           None of Defendants' cited authorities suggests that it would be an abuse of  
2 discretion to go forward with the evidentiary hearing here. First, as Defendants  
3 themselves acknowledge, the cases hold only that it is not an abuse of discretion for a  
4 court to impose remedies without an evidentiary hearing when there are no material facts  
5 in dispute. Expedited Motion at 2 (*Thomas, Head and Greisen Employees Trust v.*  
6 *Buster*, 95 F.3d 1449, 1458-59 (9th Cir. 1996); *Peterson v. Highland Music, Inc.*, 140  
7 F.3d 1313, 1324 (9th Cir. 1998)). As set forth above, that is not the case here, since there  
8 are material facts in dispute, *e.g.*, whether the contemnors intentionally and willfully  
9 ordered their subordinates to disobey the Court's orders. Moreover, the precedents do  
10 not require the district court to forgo an evidentiary hearing even where the material facts  
11 are undisputed, and indeed, the Ninth Circuit has held that courts ordinarily should not  
12 impose sanctions for contempt based solely on affidavits. *See Peterson*, 140 F.3d at 1324  
13 (citing *Hoffman v. Beer Drivers & Salesmen's Local Union No. 888*, 536 F.2d 1268,  
14 1276-77 (9th Cir. 1976)). *See also United States v. Ayres*, 166 F.3d 991, 996 (9th Cir.  
15 1999) (noting that the Court of Appeals does "not encourage" the imposition of contempt  
16 sanctions based on paper submissions); *Mercer v. Mitchell*, 908 F.2d 763, 769 n. 11 (11th  
17 Cir. 1990) (holding that a court "might" dispense with an evidentiary hearing if there  
18 were no material facts in dispute).

19           Defendants argue that the evidentiary hearing should be vacated because of the  
20 cost to the taxpayers. However, in light of the many unresolved factual issues that go to  
21 the heart of Sheriff Arpaio's and the other contemnors' multiple violations of federal  
22 court orders, this cost argument must fail. The course of the litigation and the  
23 Defendants' compliance with the Court's orders has incurred a public cost, but the way to  
24 avoid such costs is for the Defendants to comply with the Court's orders in the first place,

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 the delay in the internal investigation. Plaintiffs are prepared to address the timing of  
27 evidentiary hearings at the March 20 hearing.

1 not to attempt to avoid discovery of the true reasons and intentions lying behind their  
2 failure to comply.

3 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 19th day of March, 2015.

4 By: /s/ Cecillia D. Wang

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 19, 2015, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's office using the CM/ECF System for filing and caused the attached document to be e-mailed to:

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