

Matt McCool
mccool.matt@gmail.com
(310) 486-9696

October 6, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Stacey Armarto
Councilwoman, City of Hermosa Beach
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

RE: Hermosa Beach Police Department Corruption Scandal

Dear Councilwoman Armarto:

I am following up on my August 5, 2019 formal complaint against the City of Hermosa Beach for police misconduct and conspiracy to obstruct justice. (Exhibit A.) The lack of acknowledgement by the City after 14 months, is by default an admission of guilt. Furthermore, your lack of action as an elected City Official makes you an accessory after the fact, especially for your knowledge and/or participation regarding retaliatory conduct by those in positions of authority. These are serious criminal allegations, which require a response, as I will be reporting these crimes to the FBI through NCIS.

Retaliation

- Malicious Prosecution – On the same day as Chief Papa's 'retirement', October 1, 2019, the City Prosecutor's Office filed a Notice of Arraignment for allegedly violating a court order for allegedly posting a [YouTube video](#) in my formal complaint. However, not only did the prosecution fail to provide any evidence of this criminal allegation, the prosecution failed to prove there even was a crime. A judge dismissed the case in a pretrial hearing. (Exhibit B.)
- False Statements to the FBI – On June 15, 2020, I was interviewed by NCIS regarding a 13-month old Facebook post for questioning the mindset of your associate for filing a false police report, and associating me with domestic terrorism. On May 25, 2019, I sent you an email condemning these implications. (Exhibit C.) Likely that email was withheld from the FBI, while ████████ made further unsubstantiated statements not in any official police reports.

Conflicts of Interests

- City Attorney Michael Jenkins – During the period in my formal complaint, Mr. Jenkin's law firm, Jenkins & Hogen, LLP provided City Prosecutor services to the City on an interim basis with City Prosecutor Trevor Rusin and Assistant City Prosecutor Natalie Karpeles. (Exhibit D.) It is highly unlikely that someone of Mr. Jenkin's stature or anyone under his employment would engage in criminal conspiracy, but for the record this happened on his watch.
- LT. Dorothy Scheid – For my formal complaint, LT. Scheid served as the Detective Sergeant supervising DET. JR Smith assigned to the case. With the [high-profile involvement by Police Chief Papa](#), the public comments by ████████, and the lack of investigation by DET. Smith, there is a credibility issue for a claim of plausible deniability.

I am a lifelong supporter of the law enforcement community, and believe in law and order. Many of my associates are current or retired police officers, including the countless local and federal law enforcement members I served alongside with for 15+ years in the United States Navy Reserve. Also as a City Commissioner, I had the pleasure to interact with several HYPD personnel including with CERT, Neighborhood Watch, National Night out, Community Police Academy and the Safety Fair. I am still a supporter of the Hermosa Beach Police Department regardless of this corruption scandal.

However, in this political climate, it is the worst possible time for City Officials not to address police misconduct. Please advise on the City's course of action other than continuing to use taxpayer dollars to harass and retaliate against me.

Fiat justitia,

MCCOOL.MATTHEW.TODD.1280758457

Digitally signed by MCCOOL.MATTHEW.TODD.1280758457
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD, ou=PKI, ou=USN,
cn=MCCOOL.MATTHEW.TODD.1280758457
Date: 2020.10.06 14:00:25 -07'00'

Matt McCool

cc: Hermosa Beach City Council (via email)
Hermosa Beach City Manager, Suja Lowenthal (via email)

EXHIBIT A

Matt McCool

mccool.matt@gmail.com

(310) 486-9696

August 5, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Honorable Stacey Armarto
Mayor, City of Hermosa Beach
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-3885

RE: **Formal complaint against the City of Hermosa Beach for police misconduct and conspiracy**

Dear Mayor Armato:

I am submitting a formal complaint against the City of Hermosa Beach for police misconduct and conspiracy in violating my rights as declared in Article I, Section 28 of the Constitution of California.

During my 2017 campaign for City Council, [REDACTED] knowingly made false, incomplete and misleading statements in a October 18, 2017 Easy Reader article, which effectively ended my run for City Council, and seriously damaging my reputation in our community. His statement "*there was nothing wrong with the department's work in the case*" was a lie to cover up police misconduct.

Even with the refinements to the Public Records Request process from the Chris Miller "Standing Room" incident, I still have no records for nearly an eight-month period from March 16, 2014 to November 10, 2014, and neither the Police Department nor City Prosecutor's Office will discuss the details of my case. Court documents list SGT. Ramirez, OFC. McDermott and DET. Smith as witnesses, and I have not been provided the investigation report from DET. Smith.

The fact the City will not provide nor discuss the records of investigation from DET. Smith only further substantiates my allegation of police misconduct by the Hermosa Beach Police Department. If there "*was nothing wrong with the department's work in the case*," then there should not be an issue of releasing the case file, and/or discussing the details of the case.

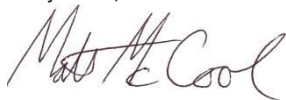
This is a stalking case, not a mutual combat case, and as in most stalking cases the victim is unaware of the stalking until it is too late. On March 15, 2014 at 6:15pm on a patio at Pier Plaza, Thomas "TJ" Powers stalked, ambushed and violent attack me in a premeditated orchestrated assault involving multiple people. This attack came without warning or provocation and began with a cowardly and dangerous sucker punch while I was seated, which was followed by a kill shot while I was down and defenseless. As a result of this attack I sustained permanent spinal injuries, and still endure chronic cervical and thoracic pain. Here is the video of Powers "in fear of his life, and acting in self-defense:" https://youtu.be/quHMaIMv_n0

Based on the evidence and circumstances of this case, the perpetrator's father Thomas F. Powers formerly of SFPD, contact Police Chief Papa regarding his son's felony PC 245(a)(4), and then she conspired with other police officers to report the felonious attack as a mutual combat fight, and then bury the case from prosecution. The motive for this conspiracy was to prevent revocation of Thomas "TJ" Powers' Real Estate License.

Over seven months after the attack, Councilman Fangary requested before City Council the Police Chief address this case along with three other cases. It was only then, the newly contracted Redondo Beach City Prosecutor's Office filed my case. However I was excluded from any investigation from the detectives and prosecutors. Additionally material video evidence was suppressed, and there was an arrangement for a summons in lieu of an arrest warrant for Powers. Also I was purposefully misled as to the original criminal charges, and the subsequent plea bargain. Finally and most importantly, I was denied my right to giving a victim impact statement at sentencing. Clearly Powers received preferential treatment as a cop's son.

There is overwhelming evidence to support my allegations, and justify an independent serious internal investigation in accordance with the OIR Group report, which followed the Chris Miller settlement. I am looking forward to the finding of the truth, clearing my name and reputation of all the malicious false allegations, and seeing justice done. I believe justice should be harsh, especially for those who denied it to others.

Fiat justitia,



Matt McCool

cc: Hermosa Beach City Council (via email)
Suja Lowenthal, Hermosa Beach City Manager (via email)
Michael Jenkins, Hermosa Beach City Attorney (via email)
Milton McKinnon, Hermosa Beach Acting Chief of Police (via email)
Hermosa Beach City Clerk (via email)

EXHIBIT B

This minute order is not an official copy unless Court certification is affixed.

MINUTE ORDER
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DATE PRINTED: 09/10/20

CASE NO. 9TR05196

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
VS.
DEFENDANT 01: MATTHEW TODD MCCOOL

BAIL: APPEARANCE DATE	AMOUNT OF BAIL	DATE POSTED	RECEIPT OR BOND NO.	SURETY COMPANY	REGISTER NUMBER
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CASE FILED ON 10/18/19.

COMPLAINT FILED, DECLARED OR SWORN TO CHARGING DEFENDANT WITH HAVING COMMITTED,
ON OR ABOUT 08/04/19 IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, THE FOLLOWING OFFENSE(S)
OF:

COUNT 01: 166(A)(4) PC MISD

ON 09/10/20 AT 830 AM IN TORRANCE COURTHOUSE DEPT 713

CASE CALLED FOR PRETRIAL AND MOTION

PARTIES: GEORGE F. BIRD (JUDGE) MICHELLE MILLIGAN (CLERK)
JANET PESUSICH (REP) ANASTASIA PAPADAKIS (CP)

DEFENDANT IS PRESENT IN COURT, AND REPRESENTED BY DEVIN W. FRIEND ARP DEPUTY
PUBLIC DEFENDER

COUNT (01) : DISPOSITION: ALL OTHER DISMISSALS NOT (A) TO (L)

CITY PROSECUTOR, ANA PAPADAKIS IS APPEARING BY WEBEX.

DEFENDANT'S DEMURRER TO THE COMPLAINT IS CALLED FOR HEARING.

COURT HAS READ AND CONSIDERED THE DEMURRER AND OPPOSITION
FILED HEREIN.

COURT HEARS ORAL ARGUMENTS MADE BY COUNSEL.

BOTH SIDES REST.

COURT ORDERS THE DEMURRER SUSTAINED AND CASE IS DISMISSED.

EXHIBIT C

From: Matt McCool <mccool.matt@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2019 8:33 AM

To: sarmato@hermosabch.org

Cc: ssmith@hermosapolice.org; tjohnson@hermosapolice.org; cityclerk@hermosabch.org; citycouncil@hermosabch.org; jnakamoto@hermosapolice.org; ecahalan@hermosapolice.org

Subject: RE: Crime Against Public Justice

Mayor Armato:

Thank you for your assistance with the attached public records request.

Normally I would not go through the Mayor for this type of request, but you allegedly know the alleged victim. Unfortunately most of the Police report is redacted, which I find completely unacceptable. I respect the fact the City is not required to produce information as to the complaining party, however I have every right to the details of the criminal allegations made against me.

Since Officer Nakamoto is advising the complaining party to obtain a restraining order, obviously there are allegations of criminal threats and/or criminal harassment. As the use of Virginia's state motto, Sic Semper Tyrannis, is not a crime nor does it make me a potential assassin or domestic terrorist. Furthermore to my knowledge, the Community Police Advisory Board fully vetted this infamous organizational chart that I allegedly created. No Police action was taken.

Based on the screens shots that were send to me, the complaining party is allegedly a Stephanie Palmer. I do not know, nor have any knowledge of this random individual. My first and only interaction was through some posts she initiated towards me and a direct message exchange in mid-December of last year. I thought it was just another fake account. I had no contact with the alleged victim until she initiated a direct message on March 28th, alleging I threatened her family. Crazy, so I responded and blocked her.

Any and all claims outside my description are completely and unequivocally false. However she is claiming to know me, including months of interactions, bullying, threats, targeting, cyber-stalking and harassment, which are all a fabricated Facebook hoax to seek attention and portray herself as a victim.

I find her post of, "why is he zoned on me so bad?" extremely disturbing when I don't even know this individual. In fact, all of her posts appear to be genuine, which makes me believe she is truly delusional and has mental health issues. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in getting a restraining order filed against me. The sooner we get this situation in front of a judge, the sooner we can get the alleged victim the right treatment.

In the meanwhile, I am very much looking forward to the Police investigation by Detective Droz. Obviously the investigation will reveal that the alleged victim filed a false Police report, which is a crime against public justice, and I fully expect criminal charges to be filled. The City should not normalize this criminal behavior by doing nothing. However I will submit a statement to the City Prosecutor encouraging leniency, as screen shots show the alleged victim was manipulated by several others, including some who are offering to provide false testimony.

Please take this case seriously as these situations can lead to violence. I know from personal experience. After all because of false allegations I was stalked, ambushed and violently attacked, beginning with a cowardly sucker punch while I was seated on a patio bench. Also some false allegations situations have led to fatal outcomes. I do not know if the alleged victim in this case has a husband and/or boyfriend(s), who believe I have abused, threatened and harassed her for months. My personal safety is now compromised.

However the real victims in this case are the women who are truly victims of crimes, but a shadow of doubt is cast over them because of false allegations like those of this Stephanie Palmer. #MeTooBrett

Additionally I am morally obligated to report this mental instability and criminal activity to Child Protective Services, as one of the posts indicated the alleged victim has three children. Perhaps the California Women's Law Center could assist in this matter as I will be referring this case to them. However I believe they assist women who are victims of crimes, not women who perpetrate crimes.

Please advise your people that, if they go off the reservation, you cannot save them!

Juventus stultorum magister.

Very Respectfully,
Matt McCool

From: PSO Terea Johnson [<mailto:tjohnson@hermosapolice.org>]
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 6:22 PM
To: Matt McCool <mccool.matt@gmail.com>
Cc: PSO Starla Smith <ssmith@hermosapolice.org>; Records Request <recordsrequest@hermosabch.org>
Subject: Public Records Request

Dear Mr. McCool:

The City of Hermosa Beach is in receipt of your Public Records Act request received April 2, 2019. Attached are the responsive records.

Please note that the City is not required to produce information as to the complaining party. (See Gov. Code Section 6255; *see also City of San Jose v. Superior Court* (1999) 74 Cal.App.4th 1008.) Accordingly, the City has redacted that identifying information.

Please let me know if I can assist you further. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terea Johnson
Hermosa Beach Police Department



City of Hermosa Beach
 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90264
 310.318-0203 - Fax 310.372-6186
 Email: recordsrequest@hermosabch.org



PRR-19-00030

Received By: Tanesha H.
 Referred To: P.D.
 Date Referred: 4/2/19

Public Records Request

The City of Hermosa Beach encourages public participation in the governing process and provides reasonable accessibility to all public records except those documents which are exempt from disclosure by express provisions of law or considered confidential or privileged under the law. The City is under no obligation to respond to requests which are not focused or specific. The City may withhold documents which are exempt from disclosure under state or federal law, including the attorney-client privilege or any other applicable privilege. The City, in accordance with Government Code Section 6253(b), has ten (10) days to respond to any request for public documents by indicating whether or not the documents exist and will be made available. Actual production of the documents may take somewhat longer depending upon their ease of availability and staff workload. To assist us in providing a timely response to your request, please fill out the form below and indicate the specific record/document you wish to review.

Name (please print): Matthew McCool	Email: mccool.matt@gmail.com
Address: N/A	Phone: (310) 486-9696
City: N/A	Fax: N/A

Record or Document Requested:

To assist the City with your request, please identify each requested record/document separately. Please be as specific as possible. Non specific inquiries may cause responses to be delayed or may prove to be burdensome and therefore the City may not be able to respond. (Additional sheets may be used) **Submit all requests to the City Clerk's Office.**

I am respectfully requesting all Police records that might have been filed last week which would include my name. I was informed last week that on the official Keep Hermosa Hermosa secret Facebook group, Hermosa Beach Forum, which is the de facto official City of Hermosa Beach Facebook group, that false allegations of criminal harassment and criminal threats were made against me. This alleged female individual using an unconfirmed Facebook account with the name, Stephaine Palmer, which may or may not be an alias of another individual, claimed to report me to the HBPD. Please see attachment of screen shots that were sent to me.

Additionally Mayor Armato, did "Like" and confirmed at least one of these post, even against the advice of our City Attorney.
 Photocopies are \$0.20 per page (Mailing fee, if applicable is \$3.00 plus postage). Fees must be paid before records are released.

I agree to pay all applicable fees and charges per the City Council Resolution of Fees for any copies I request of the above mentioned document. ***Accepted method of payment:*** Cash or check. Credit card accepted in person only.

MCCOOL.MATTHEW
 .TODD.1280758457

Digitally signed by
 MCCOOL.MATTHEW.TODD.1280758457
 DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government, ou=DoD,
 ou=PKI, ou=CONTRACTOR,
 cn=MCCOOL.MATTHEW.TODD.1280758457
 Date: 2019.04.02 06:37:01 -0700

02 APR 2019

Signature

Date

For Departmental Use Only:

Action Requested:

☐ Review Only
☐ Copies Requested

Action Taken:

☐ Document Reviewed
☐ Copies Provided
☐ Refusal/Reason

By Johnson Date 4/25/19
☐ Non-Existent Document
☐ Other (Please Explain)

For City Clerk's Use Only:

Date Requestor Notified _____ Notified By: _____ Date Picked Up or Mailed _____

AT&T 30% 8:01 PM Stephanie Palmer Hermosa Beach Forum 2 hrs · 2

So what do I do now? Matt McCool is messaging my Mom on Facebook and threatening me via her. Suggestions appreciated because I have had enough with him. What did I say he is staking this forum.

Like Comment 10

Johnathan Gupta I am unsure why the city hasn't done anything about his threatening behavior over the years. 2h Like Reply

Stephanie Palmer This is crazy my mom is like what? I have never threatened

Stephanie Palmer Hermosa Beach Forum 4 hrs · 2

View previous comments...

Stephanie Palmer This is crazy my mom is like what? I have never threatened Matt I have teased him relentlessly, but again I am allowed to not like him. I called the Hermosa Beach Police Department and told them what is going on. I have every message he sent me and every post I have everything. 3h Like Reply 2

Write a comment...

AT&T 18% 9:11 PM Stephanie Palmer Hermosa Beach Forum 4 hrs · 2

Write a reply...

Jenn Scott-Auville Stephanie Palmer you need to file hat police report and do the restraining order and have it all documented. Totally agree. Save and document everything. He's not stable and you have 3 kids and can't be taking any chances at this point. Same with Kent. These two especially need to be stopped by force by the HBPD if needed. 1h Like Reply 3

Jenn Scott-Auville All of us are character witnesses to their dysfunction and mental instability 1h Like Reply 2

Write a comment...

Stephanie's Post Stephanie Palmer Jacquelyne May later I am at the HBPD 2h Like Reply

Jacquelyne May Good luck! 1h Like Reply

Write a reply...

Stephanie Palmer Anyone want to meet me at Hermosa Beach police department right now they are taking statements 2h Like Reply 1

Timothy O'Connor Stephanie Palmer get that clown out of there. He does not belong. Write a comment...

Write a comment...

Public Records Request

 Matt McCool <mccool.matt@gmail.com>

Today, 7:00 AM

Mayor Stacey Armato; Records Request; City Council; City Clerk ✕



🔄 Reply all | ▼

Inbox

Public Records Request.... ▼
276 KB

Download

Mayor Armato:

I am respectfully requesting the attached Public Records Request.

For you to be such an outspoken advocate for women's rights, I am perplexed as to why you continue to empower crazy angry militant feminist who hate white men, and who make false criminal allegations about them.

These aspersions have minimal impact on the accused after proven false, and only service to undermine women who are truly victims of violence.

We all learned a lot from the Brett Kavanaugh hearings.

#MeTooBrett

Very respectfully,
Matt McCool



Hermosa Beach Police Department
540 PIER AVE | HERMOSA BEACH, CA 90254 | P: 310.318.0360

DR # 19-0000640 - Crime/Incident Report

REPORT DATE / TIME	AREA / BEAT	EVENT START DATE / TIME - EVENT END DATE / TIME
Mar 29, 2019 19:54	City HERMOSA / RD B101	Mar 29, 2019 17:30 - 18:30
PRIMARY REPORTER		
Joshua Nakamoto #10203		
REPORT TAKEN LOCATION		
540 PIER AVE, HERMOSA BEACH, CA 90254		

NARRATIVE

On 03-29-2019 at approximately 1815 hours, I (Officer Nakamoto #203) was dispatched to 540 Pier Avenue regarding a disturbance call. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is part of a Facebook group called Advocates for Hermosa Beach. This group is a public forum that discusses local and national politics along with any events related to Hermosa Beach. [REDACTED] stated that during December one of the founders Matt McCool posted a flow chart of the Organizational Structure of the Hermosa Beach "Mafia Style" politics. McCool stated he found the paper on his doorstep with the post-it-note; Sic semper tyrannis.

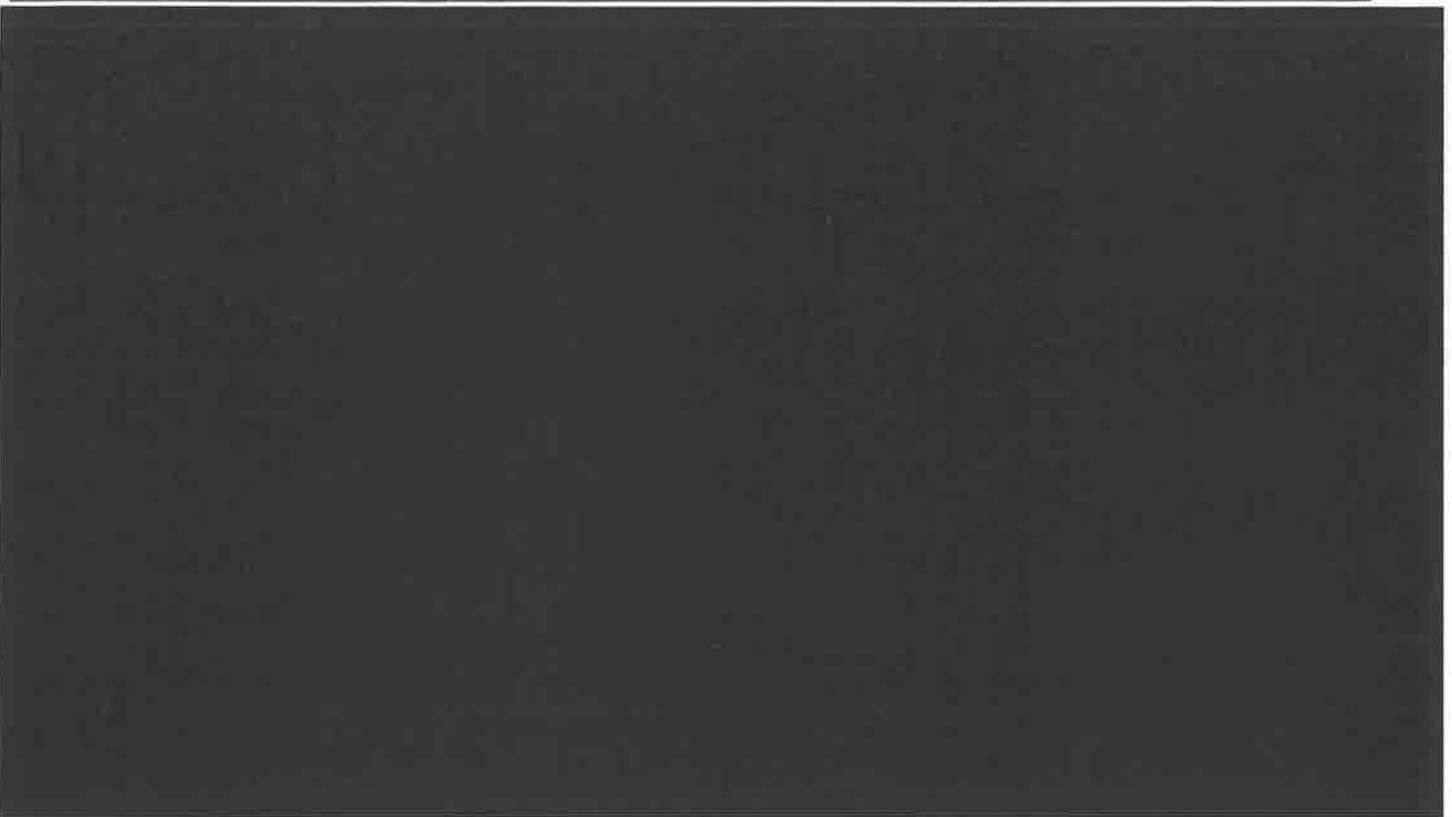
[REDACTED] stated that the phrase is known for being shouted by John Wilkes Booth after he shot President Lincoln and was on Timothy McVeigh's shirt when he was arrested for the Oklahoma City Bombing. [REDACTED] believes that McCool did not find this on his doorstep, but was the one responsible for making the flow chart and is concerned for the people that are shown on the flow chart. See attached link for further.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AdvocatesforHermosaBeach/permalink/1722088867920265>



I advised [REDACTED] block McCool from Facebook and to not engage McCool in any public forums in order to avoid him. [REDACTED] was also advised if [REDACTED] felt [REDACTED] has exhausted all options that [REDACTED] could go to Torrance Courthouse to obtain a restraining order.

REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE / DATE	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / DATE
Joshua Nakamoto #10203 Mar 30, 2019 03:56 (e-signature)	Eric Cahalan #10169 Mar 30, 2019 23:34 (e-signature)
PRINT NAME	PRINT NAME
Joshua Nakamoto #10203	Eric Cahalan #10169



INCIDENT INFO

INCIDENT TYPE

INFORMATION REPORT/INCIDENT



REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE / DATE

Joshua Nakamoto #10203 Mar 30, 2019 03:56 (e-signature)

PRINT NAME

Joshua Nakamoto #10203

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / DATE

Eric Cahalan #10169 Mar 30, 2019 23:34 (e-signature)

PRINT NAME

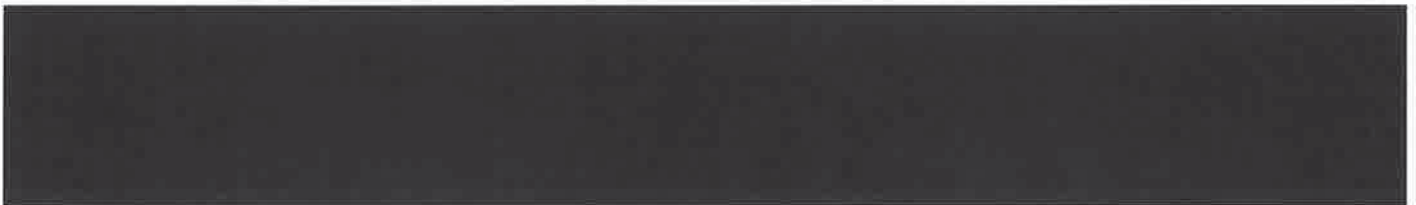
Eric Cahalan #10169



PERSON ADDENDUM



ATTACHMENTS ADDENDUM



REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE / DATE

Joshua Nakamoto #10203 Mar 30, 2019 03:56 (e-signature)

PRINT NAME

Joshua Nakamoto #10203

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / DATE

Eric Cahalan #10169 Mar 30, 2019 23:34 (e-signature)

PRINT NAME

Eric Cahalan #10169



REPORTING OFFICER SIGNATURE / DATE

Joshua Nakamoto #10203 Mar 30, 2019 03:56 (e-signature)

PRINT NAME

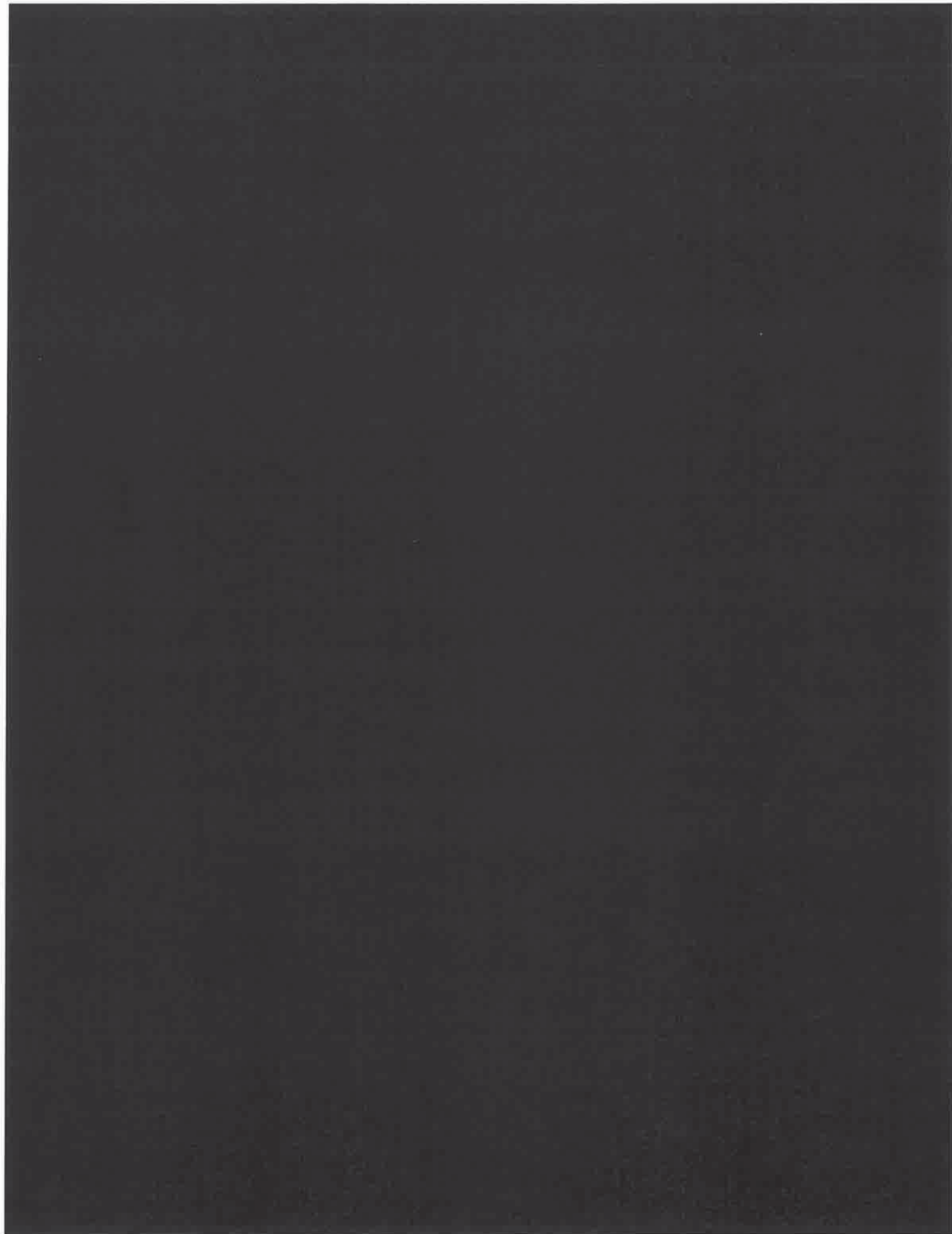
Joshua Nakamoto #10203

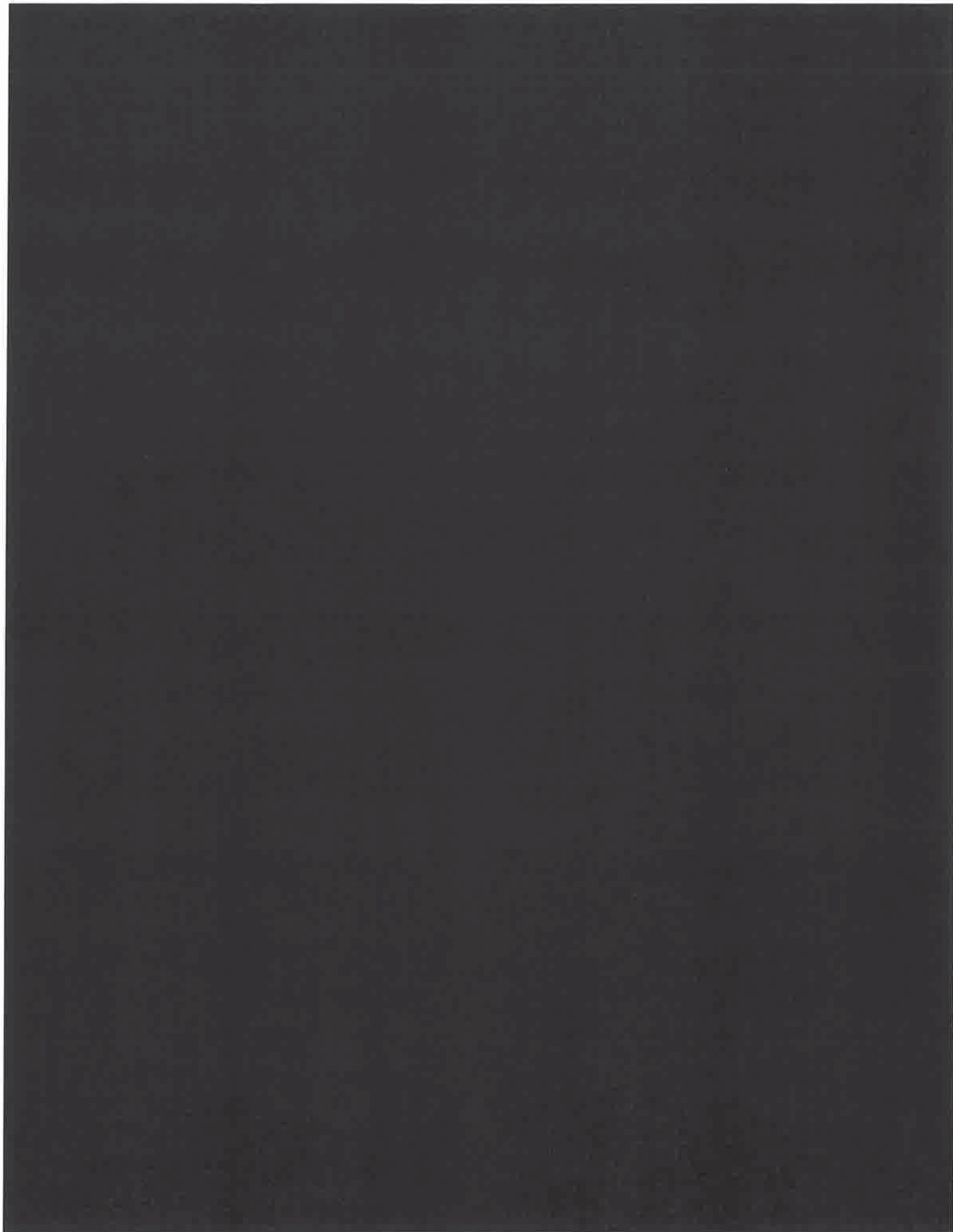
SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE / DATE

Eric Cahalan #10169 Mar 30, 2019 23:34 (e-signature)

PRINT NAME

Eric Cahalan #10169





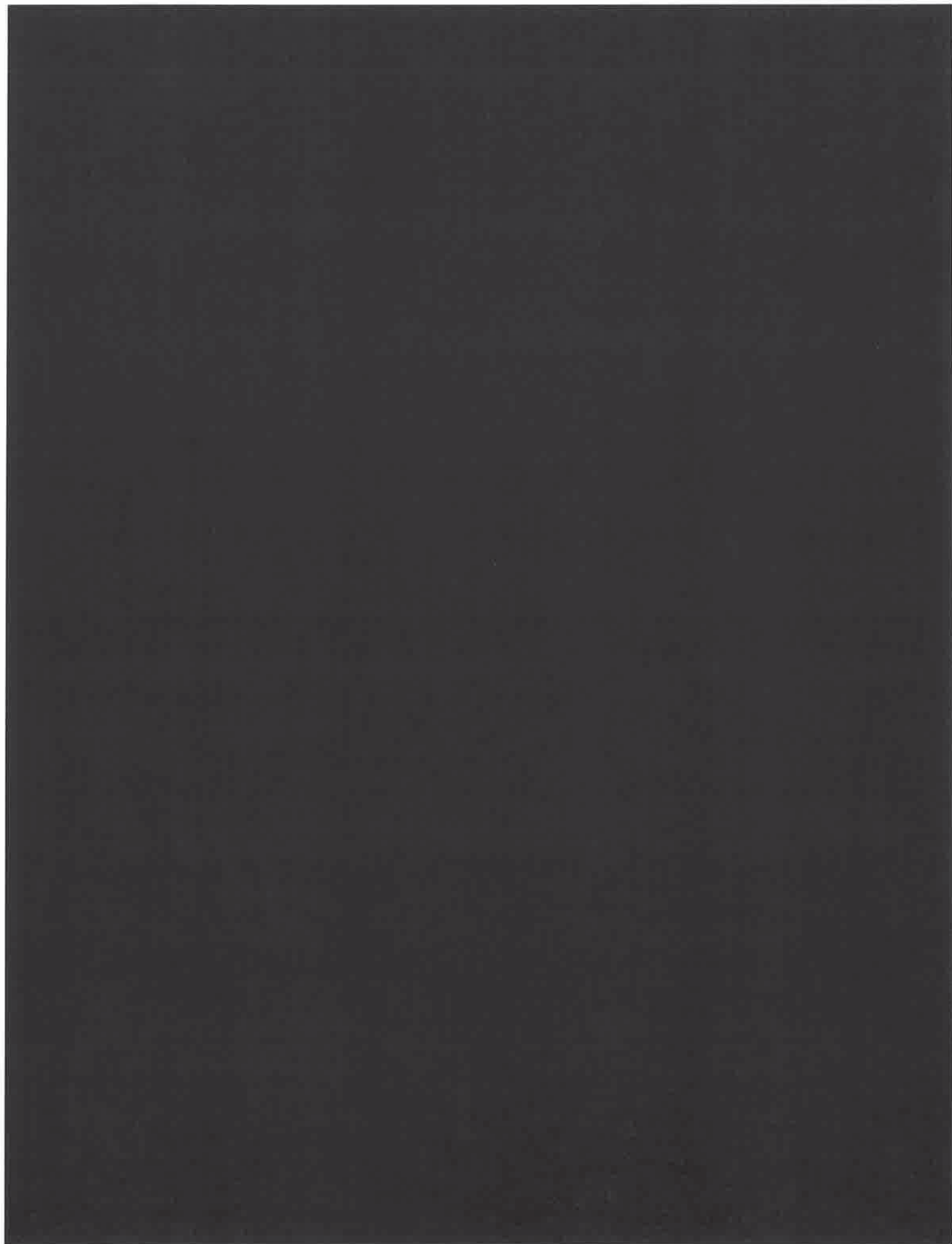


EXHIBIT D

Statement of Qualification
Request for Proposals
for
City Prosecutor Services

This proposal responds to the City of Hermosa Beach's Request for Proposals ("RFP") for City Prosecutor Services. **Jenkins & Hugin, LLP serves as the City's City Attorney and since November 2013 has provided City Prosecutor services to the City on an interim basis.** The Firm proposes what it believes to be a practical and cost effective basis upon which it may continue to provide the services on a permanent basis.

SUMMARY

We propose that Trevor Rusin and Natalie Karpeles continue to serve as City Prosecutor and Assistant City Prosecutor, respectively. We believe that they have demonstrated independent and sound judgment as prosecutors, have more than met the expectations of the Court and the Police Department and have proven to be innovative, professional, enthusiastic, energetic, well-liked and zealous in the performance of their duties. We propose a financial arrangement that will allow the City budgeting certainty at a cost that could not likely be duplicated under any other type of arrangement.

BID REQUIREMENTS

- 1. The Bidder must provide three (3) references knowledgeable as to Bidder's quality of services as a City Prosecutor.**

Aside from the Police Department Command staff, who have come to know the work of Trevor and Natalie, the following individuals are familiar with and can attest to their professional abilities and work product:

- a. Maureen Bessette, Former Oakland Chief, United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California
Tel: 510-637-3680
- b. Doug Haubert, City Prosecutor, City of Long Beach
Tel: 562-570-5600
- c. Lisa Tent, Senior Code Enforcement Officer, City of Malibu
Tel: 310-456-2489 ext. 359