

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

In re: WATTS COORDINATED
PRETRIAL PROCEEDINGS

)
) Master Docket Case No. 19-cv-01717
)
) Judge Franklin U. Valderrama
)
) Magistrate Judge Sheila M. Finnegan
)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL CASES

JOINT STATUS REPORT

All parties to the coordinated proceedings respectfully submit the following joint status pursuant to the Court's order of February 19, 2024. Dkt. 694.

1. Since the parties filed their last status report on February 12, 2024, they have taken 19 depositions in the Coordinated Proceedings. The remaining individuals expected to be deposed pursuant to the Court's January 13, 2024 order are listed on an updated chart that is being filed as Exhibit 1 to this status report. The chart also lists the expected dates of the depositions that have been scheduled.

2. In addition to the 19 depositions noted above, since the last status report was filed, the Defendants filed their motion to allow deposition questions about alleged misconduct by FBI agents during the investigation that led to criminal charges against Watts and Mohammed. The FBI has filed its response in opposition to that request, and Defendants' reply brief is due on March 29, 2024. Dkt. 699.

3. Other than two discs that had technical issues and two that are again subject to the Court's in camera review, Plaintiffs have completed their review of the 146 discs of FBI recordings discussed in the Court's January 13, 2024 order. Dkt. 657; Dkt. 696. Plaintiffs have requested that the FBI provide them with 35 discs that they believe are relevant to the Coordinated Proceedings. Plaintiffs understand that the FBI is considering their request. Separately, the Defendants are reviewing the discs provided by the FBI, and continue to work to complete their review of the FBI recordings.

4. Finally, since the last status report was filed, the following three test cases have been set

for trial in 2025, after the *Baker/Glenn* case: *Gipson*, Case No. 18-5120 is set for trial on April 21, 2025 before Judge Seeger; *Carter*, Case No. 17-cv-7241 is set for trial on May 27, 2025 before Judge Maldonado; and *White Sr.*, Case No. 17-2877 is set for trial on July 7, 2025 also before Judge Maldonado.

5. The parties also continue to prepare for the *Waddy* trial, which is scheduled to begin in state court on April 15, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

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