

**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 May 8, 2024. Dkt. 728.

1. **Depositions.** Since the parties filed their last status report, they have taken four 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, and it notes those depositions that have been attempted to date. The parties continued to work on scheduling depositions other than those where the scope of the deposition is subject to a pending motion.

2. **Dispute regarding two potential witnesses.** The Individual Defendants and Plaintiffs also completed the meet and confer process and are at impasse with respect to the deposition of two potential witnesses: Gerard Baker and Bryant Patrick. The next paragraph provides an overview of the dispute with respect to these witnesses. The parties do not believe that the briefing is necessary to resolve this dispute and instead request that the Court hear argument on the dispute at the next status conference. The parties are prepared to file motions or provide

additional information in writing if the Court instead prefers that approach.

3. In short, Plaintiffs previously listed Gerard Baker as a damages witness in the *Baker/Glenn* case, but they withdrew him as a witness before the December 2023 discovery cutoff. Plaintiffs therefore do not believe that he should be deposed. Defendants believe that Gerard Baker has relevant information about Mr. Baker's claimed damages and information about his role and observations in Mr. Baker's narcotics activity following his release from prison in 2016. In addition, Plaintiff's two other sons have already been deposed. The dispute with respect to Mr. Patrick is different. He is a Plaintiff but not in a test case. Plaintiffs agree that he will eventually be deposed once the stay is lifted in the non-test cases. The Individual Defendants are requesting to depose Mr. Patrick as a witness in the *Baker/Glenn* case based on Mr. Baker's testimony that Mr. Patrick sold drugs for him at Ida B. Wells. It is Defendants' position that Mr. Patrick is a witness and participant to Mr. Baker's illegal narcotics activity at Ida B. Wells. Mr. Patrick was previously included on Exhibit 1 based on a mistaken understanding by Plaintiffs as to why the Individual Defendants were requesting Mr. Patrick's deposition. Specifically, Plaintiffs were under the assumption that the Individual Defendants believed that Mr. Patrick was a fact witness for one or more of Plaintiff Baker's arrests that are at issue in this case.

4. **Expert disclosures.** Subject to the motions referenced in paragraph 5, both sides have completed their expert disclosures in the *Baker/Glenn* case. Plaintiffs are in the process of deposing Defendants' experts.

5. **Motions and briefs filed.** Finally, the parties filed numerous briefs and motions since the last status conference. Specifically, Plaintiffs filed their response to Defendants' motion to conduct a Rule 35 examination of Clarissa Glenn, as well their response to Defendants' motion to conduct forensic testing in the *Baker/Glenn* case. Defendants filed their reply brief in support

of the motion to conduct forensic testing, reply brief in support of their motion to conduct a Rule 35 examination of Glenn, and they filed a supplement relating to the Cook County State's Attorney's motion to quash deposition subpoenas.

6. The Defendants have completed their review of the disks/consensual recordings that have been made available to date at the FBI Chicago Field Office and have requested the production of all disks/consensual recordings. Defendants are awaiting the FBI's response to this request.

Respectfully submitted,

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