

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

# STATUS REPORT

The parties submit the following status report pursuant to the  
**THIRD AMENDED GENERAL ORDER 20-0012:**

1. This case is part of the *Watts Coordinated Pretrial Proceedings*, 19 CV 1717, which is assigned to Judge Wood and Magistrate Judge Finnegan. There are approximately 65 cases currently a part of those coordinated proceedings. The parties will file a joint status report on May 18, 2020 in that matter.

2. **Progress of Discovery:** Since the parties last filed a status report in this case on January 28, 2020, Dkt. 129, the parties have continued to engage in written discovery and have continued to engage in the Rule 37.2 meet and confer process on various issues.

3. The parties have conducted approximately 52 depositions, including two remote videoconference depositions since the stay-at-home

order has been put in place. By agreement, the Plaintiffs also plan to depose a Defendant via videoconference on May 18 and May 21, 2020. The parties have and will continue to confer regarding other depositions that may be appropriate to conduct via video.

4. **Status of Briefing on Any Unresolved Motions:** There are no currently pending motions in this particular case.

5. As set forth below, there are two pending motions in the Coordinated Proceedings or individual cases that are a part of the Coordinated Proceedings. Pursuant to paragraph 5(f) of the Third Amended General Order 20-0012, the parties submit that the one fully briefed motion may be resolved without a hearing. Judge Finnegan has indicated that she will decide whether the final motion requires a hearing once briefing is completed.

6. Plaintiffs' September 9, 2019 motion to compel the production of grand jury and Title III materials from the criminal proceedings brought against Ronald Watts and Kallatt Mohammed is fully briefed and remains pending in the Watts Coordinated Proceedings. (Coordinated Dkt. 46). The portion of the motion pertaining to grand jury materials is pending in front of Chief Judge Pallmeyer. The matters pertaining to Title III materials is pending in front of Judge Wood.

7. Plaintiffs filed a Motion for a Protective Order in the Coordinated Proceedings seeking to prohibit the Defendants from asking about uncharged alleged criminal activity at Plaintiffs' depositions. The Defendants' response was filed on May 8, 2020. Plaintiffs' reply is due May 15, 2020. (Coordinated Dkt. 136). The matter is in front of Judge Finnegan

8. **Settlement Efforts:** There are no current settlement discussions in this case or any of the other coordinated cases.

9. **Agreed Proposed Schedule for the Next 45 Days:** The parties do not believe any specific schedule need be set for the next 45 days. The parties will continue to conduct written discovery and depositions that are appropriate to conduct via video. The parties are waiting to conduct certain depositions that may concern the federal criminal investigation until rulings on Plaintiffs' motion for grand jury and Tittle III materials filed in the Coordinated Proceedings.

10. Fact discovery was scheduled to conclude on June 9, 2020 in certain coordinated cases before the automatic extensions set by the Court's General Orders regarding COVID-19. The parties understand that the COVID-19 General Orders have extended that deadline to August 25, 2020. The Court has not yet set an expert discovery or dispositive motion deadline. In light of the pandemic, the need to resolve pending motions,

and the additional written and oral discovery that needs to be conducted in the cases, the parties intend to request that the Court vacate the current fact discovery deadline. The parties intend to ask Judge Finnegan to set a status hearing for a date 60-90 days in the future to discuss a new fact discovery closure date. The parties are not requesting that this Court set expert discovery or dispositive motion deadlines at this time. The parties do not believe a hearing is necessary on this request, or any other issue, unless requested by the court.

Respectfully submitted,  
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