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Defendants.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. Plaintiffs bring this action for declaratory relief, injunctive relief and damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983; the First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; Article I, §§ 2, 3, 7 and 13 of the California Constitution; and California Civil Code § 52.1. Jurisdiction lies under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, and 1367.
- 2. Venue is proper in the Central District of California under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). Defendants reside in the Central District, and the acts or omissions complained of herein have occurred in the Central District.

FACTS

- 3. This action seeks declaratory and injunctive relief restraining the Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD") from disrupting the exercise of First Amendment rights in public assemblies and marches through the unlawful dispersal of permitted assemblies, unreasonably using and unreasonably threatening to use "less-lethal" munitions to disperse peaceful demonstrators, unreasonably using and unreasonably threatening to use baton strikes against peaceful and dispersing demonstrators, unreasonably using and unreasonably threatening to use motorcycles against peaceful demonstrators as a means of crowd control, unreasonably using and unreasonably threatening to use other forms of physical force against peaceful and dispersing demonstrators, all without any warning, a deficient and improper declaration of an unlawful assembly and insufficient time to comply with the patently unlawful order to disperse. So, even if there were some arguable justification for declaring an unlawful assembly in this instance and there was not the police action on May Day in MacArthur Park violated the law in every possible respect.
 - 4. This action also asks for damages to compensate plaintiffs and the class they

seek to represent for violations of their First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights (and corollary state rights), caused by policies, practices and customs of the Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD") and the City of Los Angeles. Plaintiffs and the class they seek to represent were peaceful protestors, members of the media, delegates, legal observer, persons lawfully enjoying the use of MacArthur Park and other persons (hereafter collectively "peaceful participants") who were injured after the LAPD purportedly declared an assembly they were attending or nearby to unlawful, shot plaintiffs with "less-lethal" projectiles, hit them with batons and otherwise used force against them and injured them while they attempted to disperse.

- 5. The events giving rise to this action occurred at approximately 6:15 p.m. during a permitted immigrants' rights march and rally on May 1 in MacArthur Park, located at Wilshire Boulevard and Alvarado Boulevard.
- 6. On May 1, 2007, the Multi-ethnic Immigrant Worker Organizing Network ("MIWON") conducted a march and rally, beginning at approximately 2 p.m. at Vermont Avenue and Third Street, traveling through multi-ethnic communities along Olympic Boulevard, then north on Alvarado Boulevard to a scheduled rally in MacArthur Park. The event was permitted to continue until 9:00 p.m. The marchers began on the sidewalks, as required by their permit, but by the time the group reached Olympic and Vermont, the number of marchers was so great that the police then closed two lanes of traffic to facilitate the march. The main rally was held at the soccer field in MacArthur Park, located in the northwest quadrant of the Park. Approximately 5,000 people participated in the march. Prior to the event, MIWON obtained a permit from the City of Los Angeles and met several times with representatives of the LAPD to work out the details of the planned demonstration.
- 7. At approximately 6:17 p.m., on May 1, 2007, an announcement was made from a helicopter that the permitted rally had been declared an unlawful assembly and

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English and heard the garbled order, there was no direction as to how to disperse other than to leave the park. As a result, chaos ensued as people began to run, and the 10 police began to chase them, indiscriminately shooting less-lethal munitions and using 11 baton strikes against the media, peaceful participants in the First Amendment 12 assembly, women with their children, and others lawfully using the Park. 13 8. The pretext for the LAPD's action was the purported behavior of a small 14 number of individuals who reacted to the sudden presence of riot-gear clad officers 15 - their identities obscured by face shields and vests and other equipment covering 16 their badges - with weapons drawn at what had been a peaceful and lawful assembly 17 for nearly an hour before the appearance of the officers along Alvarado on the east 18 side of the Park. These few individuals posed no harm to any police officers or 19 civilians, at worst threw a few empty water bottles, paper and oranges at police, and 20 were in an area away from the bulk of the persons assembled, and could easily have 21 been isolated from the peaceful participants gathered in the soccer field. Rather than 22 isolating and dealing with the small number of people who were throwing things, 23 LAPD declared the entire gathering an "unlawful assembly" and ordered all of the 24 peaceful participants to disperse. There was no lawful justification for this police 25

those present were ordered to disperse. The announcement was inaudible to most of

those in the park, including the LAPD officers present. Radio traffic between LAPD

officers indicated that many of them could not hear the order and were not sure that

a declaration of an unlawful assembly had been made. The order given was in

English only, even though many, if not most, of the people in the park did not

understand English. In addition to members of the media, legal observers from the

National Lawyers Guild and peaceful participants in the assembly, families from the

surrounding neighborhood were using the park facilities. Even for those who spoke

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action as even the limited response of a few persons to the earlier police

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demonstration of force had ended approximately 30 minutes before the police swept through the park, assaulting anyone in their path.

- 9. Shortly after the march first arrived at the MacArthur Park rally site at approximately 5:00 p.m., the LAPD made a show of force with officers positioned across the west end of Wilshire near Park View. The officers wore riot helmets with face shields down and batons drawn. Victor Narro, who had obtained the permit for the event and met with the police in the weeks before the event to discuss its implementation, was told by Defendant Deputy Chief Carter to move the demonstrators off the street or the police would do it. As the demonstration organizers began to move the remaining marchers into the park, riot-gear clad officers with batons drawn began marching east on Wilshire toward the demonstrators. The marchers in the street were delayed in entering the park because the sidewalk was crowded with families and other marchers who stopped to watch the police line. After advancing approximately 50 to 100 feet, the police stopped. Over the next 5 to 10 minutes, the marchers continued to move into the park and clear the street. When nearly all of the marchers had left the street, the police then returned to their prior position at Park View and Wilshire Boulevard.
- 10. Organizers of the rally attempted to cooperate with LAPD to ensure the lawful assembly would continue. Only a handful of individuals remained in the street. At the request of Deputy Chief Carter, a representative of the rally organizers utilized the amplification system on a police vehicle to advise the few individuals still in the street to enter the park. The vehicle was parked behind the police line. All but approximately two dozen individuals complied with the order. The remaining persons in the street were isolated and isolatable from the lawful assembly, which continued peacefully.
 - 11. It took a considerable time for all of the thousands of marchers to reach the

Park. The last group of marchers were the Aztec dancers, who have participated in nearly every major march and rally in the City for the past several years. The dancers are predominantly women and children. When the Aztec dancers reached MacArthur Park, they closed the march with a symbolic dance circle in Alvarado. As they engaged in their traditional dances on May 1 at approximately 5:30 to 5:40 p.m. in Alvarado Boulevard, LAPD motorcycle officers used their motorcycles as a means of crowd control, riding their vehicles into the marchers and those gathered to watch them, which included many women and small children. At about the same time, riotgear clad officers moved in on foot and shoved the group with batons even as the peaceful dancers and onlookers repeatedly stated that they were moving as directed. All of this was done without warning and without sufficient opportunity for the Aztec dancers to collect their drums and other property. Although the people were angry with the police action, they complied with orders, stepping on to the sidewalk adjacent to Alvarado.

- 12. At approximately 6:00 p.m., the police presence began to build even more on Alvarado Boulevard between 7th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, forming a near solid line of officers in the street. Several hundred people were gathered on the public sidewalk and the adjoining grass, watching the police line. The police then ordered everyone to get off the public sidewalk and move onto the grass. As those in the park watched, additional officers arrived and lined Alvarado.
- 13. At approximately 6:15 p.m., still more officers in riot gear appeared along 7th Street, south of the park. The pretext for this increased police presence was to address a small group of demonstrators who were "taunting" the police but in reality the deliberate intention of the LAPD was to break up a lawful demonstration. The police could readily have isolated this group and removed them from the Park. Instead, the police pushed the supposed "agitators" into those lawfully assembled in

the park. As the peaceful participants simply stood in the park, behind the sidewalk, the police line at 7th Street and Alvarado began moving north into the park. At this point in time, no dispersal order had been given and no objects had been thrown at the police other than a single can that LAPD radio transmissions minimized and stated fell far short of striking an officer. With riot helmets on, batons drawn and rifles aimed to shoot less-lethal munitions, the officers advanced on the peaceful participants. As they neared the peaceful participants, the officers used their batons to shove anyone in their path and to hit people with batons, indiscriminately.

- 14. As the line of police officers advanced, people began to walk away from them. The line of officers had advanced only a few feet into the park when several officers began shooting foam batons and other munitions at the people in front of them. In response, nearly everyone in the area began to run. Some of the children who had been in the park began crying as they ran with their mothers to escape the shots being fired.
- 15. Dozens of individuals were shot at close range as officers simply unloaded their weapons at anyone in the area. At the same time, officers shoved and struck virtually anyone with whom they came in contact. The indiscriminate actions of the officers were exemplified when they came upon a homeless man who had been sleeping in the park. Officers grabbed him, dragged him to his feet, then started shoving and hitting him to force him to leave the park.
- 16. Only after the police line had assaulted the peaceful participants for several minutes was any announcement made of an "unlawful assembly." The announcement was made from a helicopter overhead. The purported announcement was largely unintelligible, particularly with the noise of the helicopter compounded by the screaming and crying of the peaceful participants who were being shot, beaten and shoved by the line officers. Many of those present, including LAPD officers, did not

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hear the announcement. The announcement was made only in English, despite the fact that both the neighborhood where the rally was held and most of the rally participants are primarily Spanish-speaking immigrants. Finally, the announcement gave no directions regarding dispersal other than to declare an "unlawful assembly."

- As the officers moved north, anyone in their path was the target of baton strikes and other force as the officers continued to fire less-lethal rounds indiscriminately into the crowd. While the peaceful participants ran in an attempt to elude the projectiles and baton strikes, lines of officers blocked Alvarado and Wilshire Boulevards, preventing people from leaving the park to the north or the east, forcing some individuals back toward the advancing officers who were using force. Although the LAPD officers were forcing people out of the park on to 6th Street, the LAPD did not stop vehicular traffic on 6th Street, creating a dangerous situation for peaceful participants as they attempted to comply with some unknown orders to disperse. In one incident, a car traveling on 6th Street stopped short to avoid hitting a woman attempting to flee with one of her children in tow.
- against peaceful participants, a small group of demonstrators, numbering no more than a dozen or so, occupied the northeast corner of the intersection of 6th and Alvarado. In response to the earlier incident in which the police rode their motorcycles into the Aztec dancers, the group chanted at the police in the intersection and lobbed empty water bottles and small objects in the direction of the police. With approximately 600 officers on hand, the LAPD outnumbered this small group of demonstrators nearly 15 to 1, yet no attempt was made to isolate the group and permit the lawful assembly to continue. Instead, the LAPD used an unwarranted and unlawful show of force against peaceful participants to intimidate them into foregoing

- 19. At or around this same time, a man in a motorized wheelchair entered the intersection twice to criticize the police. Officers at one point pinned the man's hands behind his back, but then released him.
- 20. LAPD officers chased hundreds of people assembled in the park, regardless of whether they had engaged in any unlawful activity, participated in the rally, or simply come to the park for fresh air with their children, hitting them with baton, shooting them with so-called "less lethal" munitions, including foam batons and sponge rounds designed to incapacitate the target, and driving all in their path, including those not participating in the march, from the Park. LAPD officers did not use such force to effectuate arrest, overcome resistence to arrest, or in self-defense. The peaceful participants did not resist arrest, attempt to escape arrest, use force upon any person, or threaten to use force upon any person.
- 21. LAPD officers fired their "less lethal" weapons indiscriminately into the people in the park, aiming at and striking in the upper torsos of peaceful participants, contrary to manufacturer's warnings. Although the munitions used on May Day were "target specific," as opposed to the "stinger" rounds used at demonstrations in the past, virtually none of the "targets" had committed any unlawful act, justifying such use of force. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that LAPD officers deliberately fired at the upper torsos of peaceful participants, based on their training and with the approval of LAPD command staff. But even if the officers had done nothing more than shoot indiscriminately at the lower torso area of the adults, that put them in direct range of the upper torsos and heads of the children in the park. It was sheer luck that no child was struck with a projectile given the indiscriminate deployment of more than 140 rounds of less-lethal munitions at a peaceful, fleeing assembly. Despite their denomination as "less-lethal", such weapons have the

potential to cause death or great bodily injury under certain circumstances. The manufacturer's specifications describe these munitions as designed for the incapacitation of aggressive, non-compliant subjects and designed to inflict serious pain.

- 22. There was no probable cause or reasonable suspicion to believe that peaceful participants posed an immediate or credible threat of injury to police or any other person.
- 23. As they swept through the Park removing everyone in sight, LAPD officers deliberately singled out peaceful participants who were members of the media, attempting to report on the actions of the police, and subjected them to the same brutal force as was directed to anyone in the path of the LAPD.
- 24. Hundreds of peaceful participants including men, women, and children, who had been engaged in no criminal activity and who were attempting to comply with the LAPD's legally deficient orders to disperse were physically injured as they were shot with foam batons, struck with batons and/or shoved by the advancing police lines.
- 25. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis allege that the conduct complained of herein was undertaken pursuant to the policies, practices and customs of the LAPD, an agency of the City of Los Angeles, and the City of Los Angeles and ratified by defendants.

THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IN NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

26. In June, 2005, the City of Los Angeles entered into a settlement agreement in *National Lawyers Guild, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al.*, CV 01-6877 FMC (Cwx), an action arising from the disruption of lawful assemblies and use of unlawful force, including the use of less-lethal munitions, during the Democratic

National Convention ("DNC") in Los Angeles in 2000 and a subsequent demonstration on October 22, 2000. The settlement provided for six changes in the policy and practices of the LAPD as applied to demonstrations. At least four of those provisions were violated in this instance.

- 27. Under the terms of the settlement in *National Lawyers Guild*, demonstrators, while participating in lawful assemblages, are not to be prevented from using public sidewalks adjacent to a lawful march route.
- 28. The terms of the settlement also expressly provide that LAPD officers are not to use their motorcycles as a weapon of crowd control against peaceful demonstrators.
- 29. The terms of the settlement also expressly provide that less lethals may only be deployed on "aggresive and/or combative suspects in a crowd control situation, on suspects who are a potential physical threat to themselves or others, on suspects armed with weapons other than firearms, or suspects displaying 'aggressive and/or combative' actions."
- 30. The settlement agreement entered into by the City expressly provided that "less lethal weapons should not be used on a lawfully dispersing crowd or individual." In addition, the agreement prohibited the use of less lethal munitions "against a person or a crowd that is retreating unless the person or crowd continues to engage in unlawful activity that is aggressive and/or combative."
- 31. Finally, the settlement provided that, prior to declaring an unlawful assembly, the LAPD Incident Commander should evaluate the feasibility of isolating and arresting those responsible for any unlawful conduct, and if feasible, shall take such action.

MONELL ALLEGATIONS

32. The City, through Chief Bratton and the Los Angeles Police Department, has failed to train its officers in the permissible use of less lethal weapons to disperse a demonstration. The need for training in this instance was obvious. The City has known of the deficiencies in its training since at least 2000 and entered into a settlement agreement in June 2005, agreeing to revised policies, yet the City has failed to promulgate policies effectuating the terms of the settlement agreement and/or to train its command staff and its officers on the revised policies, if any exist 33. Chief Bratton, as well as those members of his command staff officers to whom he has delegated his responsibility to enact and implement lawful policies on the declaration of an unlawful assembly, the use of less lethal weapons, and the use of motorcycles as a crowd control tool, are aware of the unlawful policies, practices and customs of the City and the LAPD which resulted in the settlement in *National Lawyers Guild v. City of Los Angeles* in June, 2005. Moreover, Chief Bratton and his

the declaration of an unlawful assembly, the use of less lethal weapons, and the use of motorcycles as a crowd control tool, are aware of the unlawful policies, practices and customs of the City and the LAPD which resulted in the settlement in *National Lawyers Guild v. City of Los Angeles* in June, 2005. Moreover, Chief Bratton and his delegated command staff are aware that the use of force to break up lawful protests is a custom so ingrained in the marrow of the LAPD that it was critical to take all steps necessary to ensure that official policy was implemented in a manner sufficient to address the deeply rooted custom to violate First Amendment rights in the specific ways identified in the *National Lawyers Guild* settlement agreement. The failure to

34. The City paid more than \$4,000,000 in damages as a result of these same unlawful practices during the DNC. Subsequent to the DNC, the City paid nearly \$1,000,000 for injuries arising from the use of less-lethal weapons during a permitted demonstration on October 22, 2000. Prior to the DNC, the City paid nearly \$2,000,000 in damages arising from the dispersal of peaceful demonstrations through force and intimidation. In all of its actions, the City has acted with deliberate

take such steps directly lead to the injuries suffered by the Plaintiffs.

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indifference to the rights of the public to engage in lawful expressive activity in traditional public fora within the City.

35. Despite its knowledge that the LAPD has had a history of unlawful conduct at demonstrations, and its knowledge that there has been a traditional lack of training of LAPD line and command staff on proper law enforcement conduct at demonstrations, and its agreement in the National Lawyers Guild case, supra, regarding the use of force at peaceful demonstrations, the City failed to adequately train its officers and command staff in, among other things, the rights of demonstrators, lawful crowd control, dispersal orders, separating those engaged in unlawful conduct from those engaged in lawful conduct, the permissible use of batons in crowd control/demonstration situations, the permissible use of "less-than-lethal" weapons in crowd control/demonstration situations, and the permissible use of force and circumstances justifying it in such situations. This failure amounted to deliberated indifference to the rights of persons with whom the police come into contact, and constituted a conscious choice by the City not to properly train its law enforcement personnel on these issues.

36. On information and belief, Chief Bratton delegated final responsibility and authority to persons within his command staff to act as the final policy maker at the May Day March to decide whether to declare the assembly unlawful and whether to use force. The persons who made these decisions acted as the delegated policy maker for the City of Los Angeles on these issues. There was no time, opportunity or procedure for anyone to review or revise the decisions made by these delegated policy makers prior to their final implementation.

COMMON ALLEGATIONS

37. Defendants improperly declared the assembly unlawful. All with the

possible exception of but a handful of the approximately 5,000 people assembled in MacArthur Park on May Day for the immigrant workers rally, as well as the families using the park for recreational purposes, were peaceful. The few protestors who verbally criticized the police, and the even fewer who threw inocuous objects at the riot-gear clad police, did not present sufficient, if any, justification for declaring the assembly unlawful or justify defendants' infringement on the First Amendment rights of the vast, peaceful majority. All force used to disperse class members after defendants improperly declared the assembly unlawful was illegal because said force was a proximate result of an illegal, unconstitutional dispersal order.

- 38. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that defendants declared the gathering an "unlawful assembly," and ordered the peaceful participants to disperse, and used force upon the peaceful participants, and singled out persons perceived to be members of the media, for the purpose of interfering with the First Amendment rights of the peaceful participants.
- 39. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that, in declaring the gathering an "unlawful assembly," and ordering the peaceful participants to disperse, and using force upon the peaceful participants, and singling out persons perceived to be members of the media, defendants engaged in content-discrimination and viewpoint-discrimination. Defendants' actions were motivated and influenced by the political content, message, and viewpoint of plaintiffs, or by defendants' perception of the political content, message, and viewpoint of plaintiffs. Defendants treated plaintiffs less favorably than others whose speech has a different content, message and viewpoint.
- 40. Assuming that a dispersal order could have been legally justified under all of the facts and circumstances, the order given was, nonetheless, deficient as it was not given until after the officers began advancing on and firing at those present in the

park, was unintelligible as delivered from a helicopter, was given only in English, and the order failed to specify how peaceful participants were to disperse and failed to give the peaceful participants sufficient time or opportunity to disperse. All force used to disperse peaceful participants was unreasonable because defendants failed to provide peaceful participants with sufficient time and opportunity to disperse.

- 41. Assuming the dispersal order was lawful, and that defendants provided peaceful participants with sufficient time and opportunity to disperse, the use of force was nonetheless unlawful because class members never presented any threat to the police nor any other person, and were not committing any act which would justify any use of force. All force used to disperse peaceful participants was unreasonable because peaceful participants did not present any threat justifying the use of any force. None of the class representatives were arrested for acts committed on May 1, 2000.
- 42. Defendants' use of force against peaceful participants was unreasonable because defendants used force indiscriminately, including shooting peaceful participants with projectiles, hitting them with batons, and shoving them, all without any individualized justification for the use of such force.
- 43. Defendants' use of force was unreasonable because defendants gave no warning before using force, including shooting peaceful participants with projectiles or hitting them with batons.
- 44. Defendants use of force was unreasonable because defendants utilized weapons in an improper and unreasonable manner. Guidelines for the "less lethal" projectile weapons carried by defendants specify that, in order to avoid serious injury, such projectiles should not be aimed at the upper torso and should not be used in a non-target specific manner. Defendants improperly fired projectile weapons directly at peaceful participants' upper bodies, causing physical injuries.

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- 45. As a result of defendants' actions, hundreds of peaceful participants were deprived of their First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights (and corollary state law rights) and physically and emotionally injured.
- 46. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the LAPD officers acted in accordance with orders given them by supervisors from the highest command positions, in accordances with policies and procedures instituted by the LAPD and the City of Los Angeles.

PARTIES

The Class Representative Plaintiffs

Plaintiff Multi-Ethnic Immigrant Workers Organizing Network 47. ("MIWON") is a collaborative effort of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles ("CHIRLA"), the Korean Immigrant Workers Alliance ("KIWA"), the Pilipino Workers Center ("PWC") and the Garment Workers Center ("GWC"). MIWON was formed for the purpose of organizing and educating immigrant workers on their rights. In support of this purpose, MIWON has organized a march and rally every year for the past several years on May Day, which is international workers' day. MIWON obtained the permit for the event at MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007, which forms the basis for this action. MIWON suffered injury to its organization work when the defendants arbitrarily and capriciously declared an end to the permitted assembly nearly 3 years hour before its expiration. The action of the Defendants has interfered with MIWON's right to assembly and speech. MIWON plans to hold similar events in the future and is fearful that the unlawful police actions of May 1, 2007 will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the practices, policies and customs of the LAPD that resulted in the police action against peaceful demonstrators on May 1, 2007 at MacArthur Park. MIWON seeks injunctive and declaratory relief

only.

- 48. Plaintiff Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles ("CHIRLA") is a non-profit organization founded in 1986 to advance the human and civil rights of immigrants and refugees in Los Angeles. As a multi-ethnic coalition of community organizations and individuals, CHIRLA aims to foster greater understanding of issues that affect immigrant communities, provide a neutral forum for discussion, and unite immigrant groups to more effectively advocate for positive change. CHIRLA is one of the member organizations of MIWON and co-sponsored the permitted event in MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007 that forms the basis for this action. The action of the Defendants has interfered with CHIRLA's right to assembly, association and speech. CHIRLA plans to hold similar events in the future and is fearful that the unlawful police actions of May 1, 2007 will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the practices, policies and customs of the LAPD that resulted in the police action against peaceful demonstrators on May 1, 2007 at MacArthur Park. CHIRLA seeks injunctive and declaratory relief only.
- 49. Plaintiff Korean Immigrant Workers Alliance ("KIWA") was founded in 1992 to empower low-wage immigrant workers and to work with other communities in a progressive constituency in Los Angeles' underrepresented immigrant communities for social change. KIWA is one of the member organizations of MIWON and co-sponsored the permitted event in MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007 that forms the basis for this action. The action of the Defendants has interfered with KIWA's right to assembly, association and speech. KIWA plans to hold similar events in the future and is fearful that the unlawful police actions of May 1, 2007 will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the practices, policies and customs of the LAPD that resulted in the police action against peaceful demonstrators on May
 - 50. Plaintiff IDEPSCA to create a more humane and democratic society by

responding to the needs and problems of disenfranchised people through leadership development and educational programs based on Popular Education methodology. IDEPSCA works to organize and educate members of low-income Latino immigrants concerned with solving their problems in their own communities.

IDEPSCA is one of the member organizations of MIWON and co-sponsored the permitted event in MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007 that forms the basis for this action. The action of the Defendants has interfered with IDEPSCA's right to assembly, association and speech. IDEPSCA plans to hold similar events in the future and is fearful that the unlawful police actions of May 1, 2007 will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the practices, policies and customs of the LAPD that resulted in the police action against peaceful demonstrators on May 1, 2007 at MacArthur Park. IDEPSCA seeks injunctive and declaratory relief only.

- 51. Plaintiff Pilipino Workers Center ("PWC") works to organize and educate low-income workers in the Pilipino immigrant community about their rights both within and outside of the workplace. PWC is one of the member organizations of MIWON and co-sponsored the permitted event in MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007 that forms the basis for this action. The action of the Defendants has interfered with PWC's right to assembly, association and speech. PWC plans to hold similar events in the future and is fearful that the unlawful police actions of May 1, 2007 will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the practices, policies and customs of the LAPD that resulted in the police action against peaceful demonstrators on May 1, 2007 at MacArthur Park. PWC seeks injunctive and declaratory relief only.
- 52. Plaintiff Garment Workers Center ("GWC") was opened in 2001 after 71 Thai garment workers were found working in a slave shop in El Monte. The Garment Workers Center advocated for the Thai workers and for Latino workers similarly forced to work in sweatshop conditions in Los Angeles' garment industry. The GWC

works to empower the low-wage workers in the political process. GWC is one of the member organizations of MIWON and co-sponsored the permitted event in MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007 that forms the basis for this action. The action of the Defendants has interfered with GWC's right to assembly, association and speech. GWC plans to hold similar events in the future and is fearful that the unlawful police actions of May 1, 2007 will be repeated absent injunctive relief to prohibit the practices, policies and customs of the LAPD that resulted in the police action against peaceful demonstrators on May

- 53. Plaintiff Kevin Breslin ("BRESLIN") is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and was serving as a Legal Observer at the MIWON march and rally on May 1, 2007 at MacArthur Park. He was struck at least 5 times on his legs by at least two officers from the and then hit in the chest.
- 54. Plaintiff Mario Cuellar ("CUELLAR") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was attending the MIWON rally. While he was listening to the rally program at the stage, he heard shots and then turned and saw people running. He also saw the police shooting at people and pushing them with batons. As he was trying to help a mother with a baby in a stroller, he was hit on the back with a club. He fell to his hands and knees from the force. He got up and ran. He was frightened because he could not find his wife, who is pregnant, and because the police assault reminded him of how the police had killed many of his friends in El Salvador.
- 55. Plaintiff David Gabriel Eng ("ENG") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was taking photographs of the events. He was struck multiple times on his head, face and buttocks with a baton and asp.
- 56. Plaintiff Luis Galvez ("GALVEZ") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. As he tried to help people escape from the park, he was hit on the head, neck and back multiple times, and knocked unconscious by a baton strike from

behind.

57. Plaintiff Gerardo Gomez ("GOMEZ") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was running from the police when he was hit with a baton. While giving a report of this to a legal observer, he was shot with rubber bullets.

- 58. Plaintiff Jorge Lopez ("J LOPEZ") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was with friends eating snacks when he heard yelling and shouting and saw people running. He was shot with a rubber bullet in the chest. When he tried to retrieve the ball that hit him, he was shot two more times in the leg.
- 59. Plaintiff Jaime Maldonado ("MALDONADO") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was going to eat at his favorite restaurant on 6^{th} and Alvarado. He saw people running, and then was hit on the knee and arm with a baton.
- 60. Plaintiff Leopoldo Ortiz ("ORTIZ") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was walking around the take when the police officers came. One officer hit him multiple times in the stomach, knocking the wind out of him. He fell to the ground and was kicked two times in the backside. He was worried for his life and afraid that the officers might shoot real bullets. Mr. Ortiz is a 76-year-old veteran.
- 61. Plaintiff Romuardo Pedro ("PEDRO") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. He was there with his wife and three children, ages 12, 9 and 6. He was taking photos of the rally when he saw police striking a man on the ground. When he began to take photos of that, he was struck twice with a baton on the leg. He began to run away from the officers and was hit multiple times with rubber bullets, including on his upper back. He ran to collect his family and they all ran out of the park. His children were terrified by the actions of the police and were crying uncontrollably.
 - 62. Plaintiff Ester Navarette Plata ("NAVARETTE PLATA") was in or around

MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. She was discussing with friends that the turnout for this year's rally was not as big as last time. They decided to leave. As they walked out of the park, she lost her friends and was in a crowd of people she did not know. Suddenly, she saw a lot of people running and she tried to run also, but fell amongst all of the people. Someone helped her up and told her to run. She fractured her wrist and forearm and sustained several cuts and bruises on her body.

- 63. Plaintiff Jeremy Rothe-Kuschel ("ROTHE-KUSCHEL") was in or around MacArthu Park on May 1, 2007. When the police came into the park, he was standing around talking to people. He began walking backwards with his hands up and then when he turned around and started walking away fast, he was shot in the right lower back with a rubber projectile.
- 64. Plaintiff Maria Ester Tejada ("TEJADA") was in or around MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007. She was in the park watching people arrive for the rally. All of a sudden she saw the police in riot gear form several lines and begin pushing people telling them to go. She began running away and fell down. The police were still coming and she was scared, so she got back up and kept running. The incident evoked for her the nightmare of the war in El Salvador and she has become very anxious and preoccupied.

Defendants

65. At all times relevant hereto William Bratton was the Chief of Police of the Los Angeles Police Department. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereupon allege that Chief Bratton was responsible for the development, establishment and/or implementation of the procedures, policies, regulations, practices and/or customs of the LAPD with respect to the implementation of the settlement in *National Lawyers Guild v. City of Los Angeles*, its use of force in response to political protests, its use

of "less lethal" projectiles and its overall activities in regard to political protests. Upon information and belief, plaintiffs further allege that at all times relevant hereto, Chief Bratton participated in, approved, and/or ratified the unconstitutional or illegal acts complained of herein. Additionally, upon information and belief, plaintiffs allege that Chief Bratton failed adequately to train, supervise and monitor the actions of officers assigned to protest and/or riot details, or to promulgate adequate policies and regulations to prevent the unlawful acts complained of. Plaintiffs sue Chief Bratton in both his official and personal capacity.

- 66. Defendant Cayler Carter was a deputy chief of police with the LAPD on May 1, 2007 and served as the Commanding Officer of Central Bureau. Defendant Carter is sued in his official and individual capacities. He was tasked with supervising the permitted MIWON march and assembly at Mac Arthur Park on May 1, 2007. At all times relevant herein, Carter was acting under color of state law.
- 67. Defendant Louis Gray is a commander with the LAPD who was assigned to Central Division on May 1, 2007 and was the Incident Commander at the MacArthur Park rally. He is sued in his official and individual capacities. With Defendant Carter, Commander Gray was tasked with making decisions regarding the deployment of officers and munitions, as well as the decision to declare an unlawful assembly. Commander Gray was also the Incident Commander on October 22, 2000, who ordered the unlawful use of less-lethal munitions against peaceful participants in a lawful, permitted demonstration. At all times relevant herein, Gray was acting under color of state law.
- 68. Defendant City of Los Angeles is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of California. The LAPD is an agency of the City of Los Angeles, and all actions of the LAPD are the legal responsibility of the City. The City of Los Angeles is sued both in its own right and on the basis of

respondeat superior, under California Government Code § 815.2.

69. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and therefore sue these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon allege that defendants DOES 1 through 10 are responsible in some manner for the damages and injuries hereinafter complained of.

70. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereupon allege that at all times relevant hereto Chief Bratton and Deputy Chief Carter and Does 1 through 10 were the agents, servants and employees of defendant City of Los Angeles, and were acting at all times within the scope of their agency and employment and with the knowledge and consent of their principal and employer, the City of Los Angeles. At all times herein, defendants and Does were acting under the color of state law.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

71. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of a class of all other persons similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23(b)(1), (b)(2) and (b)(3), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The damages class is defined as those persons who were present on May 1, 2007 in MacArthur Park at any point between the hours of 5:30 and 7:00 p.m., who did not engage in any conduct justifying the Defendants' use of force against them, and who were subjected to the use of force, including those who 1) were shot with projectiles, struck with batons, 2) were physically injured by the use of other weapons or force in MacArthur Park, 3) were physically injured by the use of other weapons or force as they attempted to leave the park and/or disperse from the area of the park, 4) were physically injured by the use of other weapons or force as they attempted to disperse along Wilshire Boulevard, Alvarado Boulevard,

7th Street or Park View Street, or in the vicinity of those streets, 5) were physically injured by the use of other weapons or force as they observed the activities of protestors and the police in those areas, or 6) although not physically injured, were driven from the Park as a result of the LAPD's unlawful use of force were subject to the threat of force and driven out of the Park under the threat of the use of force. This class is inclusive of people present in order to peacefully protest and those otherwise there to observe or to enjoy the use of the Park.

- 72. The injunctive relief class is defined as all persons who have in the past, or may in the future, participate in, or be present at, demonstrations within the City of Los Angeles in the exercise of their rights of free speech and petition. Without intervention by this Court, those class members are at risk of having their rights violated in the future due to the City's past and threatened future actions. The injunctive relief Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law to protect the future lawful exercise of their constitutional rights, and, without action by this court, will suffer irreparable injury, thereby entitling them to injunctive and declaratory relief.
- 73. In accordance with F.R.Civ. P. Rule 23(a), the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Plaintiffs do not know the exact number of class members. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that there are in excess of 200 members of the class.
- 74. In accordance with F.R. Civ. P. Rule 23(a), there are questions of fact common to the class. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the common questions of fact include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. What danger, if any, the peaceful participants presented when defendants declared the gathering an unlawful assembly and ordered the peaceful participants to disperse;
 - b. What defendants told the peaceful participants regarding the declaration of

an unlawful assembly and how they should disperse;

- c. What opportunity defendants gave the peaceful participants to disperse before attacking them with projectiles, batons and other weapons;
- d. What degree of force defendants used against the peaceful participants e.g., what degree of force does shooting a person with a "less than lethal" weapon actually represent;
- e. What warnings, if any, defendants gave before using force against the peaceful participants;
- f. Whether defendants declared the protest an unlawful assembly for the purpose of interfering with the peaceful participants right to freedom of speech;
- g. Whether defendants used force against the peaceful participants for the purpose of interfering with the peaceful participants right to freedom of speech;
- h. Whether defendants engaged in content-discrimination and viewpoint-discrimination.
- 75. In accordance with F.R. Civ. P. Rule 23(a), there are questions of law common to the class. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the common questions of law include but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Whether defendants were legally justified in declaring the gathering an unlawful assembly;
 - b. Whether (assuming the dispersal order was unlawful) any use of force was lawful;
 - c. Whether (assuming the dispersal order was lawful) defendants gave peaceful participants an adequate opportunity to disperse;
 - d. What degree of force (assuming the dispersal order was lawful), if any,

defendants were permitted to use to disperse the peaceful participants;

- e. Whether defendants were permitted to use force, including firing projectiles at peaceful participants, without warning;
- f. Whether defendants were permitted to randomly fire into the dispersing peaceful participants;
- g. Whether the force defendants used was constitutionally reasonable.
- 76. In accordance with F.R. Civ. P. Rule 23(a), the claims of the representative plaintiffs are typical of the class they represent. Each representative plaintiff was present in or about MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007, between the hours of 5:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Each representative plaintiff was subjected to force in the Park or as he or she attempted to disperse from the Park, or as she or he attempted to disperse along Wilshire Boulevard, Alvarado Boulevard, 7th Street and/or Park View, or in the vicinity of those streets. No representative plaintiff did anything to attack or threaten to attack any person, or interfere with any lawful action of anyone, or resist arrest, or escape. Except for their presence at the Park, and peaceful, verbal, non-violent protests, and observing defendants, plaintiffs did nothing. Defendants had no legal justification for ordering any representative plaintiff to disperse and no legal justification for using force against any representative plaintiff.
- 77. Each representative plaintiff has the same interests and suffered the same type injuries as the class members. The claims of each representative plaintiff arose because of LAPD's dispersal orders and use of force against the peaceful participants. The claims of the representative plaintiffs are based upon the same legal theories as the claims of the class members. Each representative class member suffered actual physical injuries as a result of defendants' dispersal orders and defendants' use of force.
 - 78. In accordance with F.R. Civ. P. Rule 23(a), the representative plaintiffs

will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. The interests of the representative plaintiffs are consistent with and not antagonistic to the interests of the class.

- 79. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(1)(A), prosecutions of separate actions by individual members of the class would create a risk that inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the class would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the parties opposing the class.
- 80. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(1)(B), prosecutions of separate actions by individual members of the class would create a risk of adjudications with respect to individual members of the class which would, as a practical matter, substantially impair or impede the interests of the other members of the class to protect their interests.
- 81. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(2), the Defendants have acted, threaten to act, and will continue to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or declaratory relief with respect to the class as a whole.
- 82. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(3), the questions of law or fact common to the members of the class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the questions of law and/or fact which predominate over any question affecting only individual members include whether defendants improperly declared an unlawful assembly depriving peaceful participants of their First Amendment rights, whether defendants used excessive force against peaceful participants, whether defendants' motivation was to deprive the peaceful participants of their First Amendment rights, and whether defendants engaged in content-discrimination and viewpoint-discrimination.

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83. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(3), this class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy between the parties. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the interest of members of the class in individually controlling the prosecution of a separate action is low, in that most class members would be unable to individually prosecute any action at all. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the amounts at stake for individuals are so small that separate suits would be impossible or impracticable. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that most members of the class will not be able to find counsel to represent them. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that defendants have no or virtually no records or evidence of any kind justifying any use of force against individual peaceful participants, and that defendants' only justifications for any use of force against peaceful participants is based on facts which apply to all peaceful participants equally.

- 84. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that it is desirable to concentrate all litigation in one forum because all of the claims arise in the same location, date and time, *i.e.*, in the vicinity of MacArthur Park on May 1, 2007, between 5:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and it will promote judicial efficiency to resolve the common questions of law and fact in one forum, rather than in multiple courts.
- 85. Plaintiffs do not know the identities of all of the class members. Plaintiffs are aware of the identities of approximately 50 class members. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the identities of most class members may be obtained from organizations which sponsored the march and rally, including MIWON, CHIRLA, KIWA, PWC, GWC and IDEPSCA. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the identities of class members may be obtained from calls for assistance made to MIWON, CHIRLA, KIWA, PWC, GWC and IDEPSCA.

- 86. In accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b)(3), class members must be furnished with the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice to all members who can be identified through reasonable effort. Plaintiffs contemplate notice through organizational "hotlines" devoted to the events of May 1, 2007, distribution of leaflets in MacArthur Park, as well as calls to the numbers for Plaintiffs' counsel provided in the Spanish language media. Plaintiffs contemplate that the notice will inform class members of the following:
 - a. The pendency of the class action, and the issues common to the class;
 - b. The nature of the action;
 - c. Their right to 'opt out' of the action within a given time, in which event they will not be bound by a decision rendered in the class action;
 - d. Their right, if they do not 'opt out,' to be represented by their own counsel and enter an appearance in the case; otherwise, they will be represented by the named plaintiffs and their counsel; and
 - e. Their right, if they do not 'opt out,' to share in any recovery in favor of the class, and conversely to be bound by any judgment on the common issues, adverse to the class.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION

(1st and 14th Amendments, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983)

(All the class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class they seek to represent, against all defendants)

- 87. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations set forth previously and subsequently in this complaint.
 - 88. The actions of the defendants, as set forth above, violated plaintiffs' right

to freedom of speech and association guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

- 89. As a proximate result of the wrongful, malicious and violent acts of defendants, and the fright caused plaintiffs, plaintiffs and each of them, suffered physical injuries and experienced shock and injury to the nervous system and were injured in their health, strength and activity, suffering extreme and severe mental anguish and physical pain, anxiety, humiliation and emotional distress.
- 90. By reason of the aforementioned acts and omissions of defendants and the City of Los Angeles, plaintiffs, and each of them, have incurred and will incur in the future, medical and related expenses, past and future lost earnings, loss of property and other special and general damages, in an amount according to proof, but in excess of the jurisdictional limits of this court.
- 91. In doing the foregoing wrongful acts, defendants, and each of them, acted in intentional, reckless and/or callous disregard for the constitutional rights of plaintiffs. The wrongful acts, and each of them, were willful, oppressive, fraudulent and malicious.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF THREATS, INTIMIDATION OR COERCION FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION

(Civil Code Section 52.1)

(All class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class they seek to represent, against all defendants)

- 92. Plaintiffs and each of them hereby reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations set forth previously and subsequently herein.
 - 93. The defendants by their conduct interfered by threats, intimidation, or

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coercion, or attempted to interfere by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment of plaintiffs rights of speech, assembly and association as secured by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or laws of the United States, and rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the state of California, including but not limited to state Constitution Article I, sections 2 and 3.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF EQUAL PROTECTION

(1st and 14th Amendments, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983)
(All the class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class

they seek to represent, against all defendants)

- 94. Plaintiffs them hereby reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations set forth previously and subsequently in this complaint.
- 95. The actions of the defendants, as set forth above, violated plaintiffs' right to equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF EXCESSIVE FORCE

(4th and 14th Amendments, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983)

(All the class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class they seek to represent, against all defendants)

- 96. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein the allegations set forth previously and subsequently in this complaint.
- 97. The conduct of each defendant violated the right of class members to be secure in home, person, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures and

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1	not to be subjected to the use of excessive force, as guaranteed by the Fourth and		
2	Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and entitles plaintiffs to		
3	bring suit and recover damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.		
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5	FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF		
6	THREATS, INTIMIDATION OR COERCION		
7	EXCESSIVE FORCE		
8	(Civil Code Section 52.1)		
9	(All class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class		
10	they seek to represent, against all defendants)		
11	98. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forth herein		
12	the allegations set forth previously and subsequently in this complaint.		
13	99. The defendants by their conduct interfered by threats, intimidation, or		
14	coercion, or attempted to interfere by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with the		
15	exercise or enjoyment of plaintiffs rights as secured by the Fourth Amendment to the		
16	United States Constitution or laws of the United States, and of the rights secured by		
17	the Constitution or laws of the state of California, including but not limited to		
18	California Constitution Article I, section 13.		
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20	SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF-DUE PROCESS		
21	(14th Amendment, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983)		
22	(All the class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class		
23	they seek to represent, against all defendants)		
24	100. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forh		
25	herein the allegations set forth previously and subsequently in this complaint.		
26	101. The actions of the defendants, as set forth above, shock the conscience		
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and violate plaintiffs' right to due process of law guaranteed by the Fourteenth 1 Amendment of the United States Constitution. 2 3 SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF 4 THREATS, INTIMIDATION OR COERCION - DUE PROCESS 5 6 (Civil Code Section 52.1) (All class representatives, individually and on behalf of the class 7 they seek to represent, against all defendants) 8 102. Plaintiffs hereby reallege and incorporate by reference as if fully set forth 9 herein the allegations set forth previously and subsequently in this complaint. 10 103. The defendants by their conduct interfered by threats, intimidation, or 11 coercion, or attempted to interfere by threats, intimidation, or coercion, with the 12 exercise or enjoyment of plaintiffs rights as secured by the Fourteenth Amendment 13 to the United States Constitution (due process) and laws of the United States, and of 14 rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the state of California, including but not 15 limited to California Constitution Article I, section 13 (due process). 16 17 18 PRAYER FOR RELIEF Wherefore, plaintiffs seek judgment as follows: 19 104. Compensatory general and special damages for themselves and the class 20 they represent, in an amount according to proof; 21 22 105. Exemplary damages (against each of the individual defendants) in an 23 amount sufficient to deter and to make an example of those defendants; 106. Attorneys fees and costs as provided for by 42 U.S.C. § 1988, Civil Code 24 25 § 52.1(h), C.C.P. § 1021.5, and whatever other provision of law may be applicable; 107. Costs of suit; 26

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	II .		
1	108. Such other relief as the Court finds just and proper.		
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3	1100	ectfully submitted,	
4	{/1	well Solel	
5	5 By: C	neys for Plaintiffs	
6	II .		
7	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
8	8	The Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial in this action.	
9	9 DATED: May 9, 2007 Resp	ectfully submitted,	
10	0 MAX	DAY LITIGATION TEAM	
11		wold Soll	
12	Bỹ: C Attor	CAROL A. SOBEL neys for Plaintiffs	
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