IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA

PHILIP LOWE and SARAH THOMPSON-LOWE,	CASE NO.:	2016 CA 000180
Plaintiffs,		
v.		
BRYAN STREETMAN,		
Defendant.	_/	

COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

COME NOW, the Plaintiffs, PHILIP LOWE and SARAH THOMPSON-LOWE, by and through the undersigned counsel, and hereby file this Complaint for Injunctive Relief to enjoin the Defendant, BRYAN STREETMAN, and as grounds therefore state the following:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This action is subject to the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court under Section 26.012, Florida Statutes, as it involves an action seeking equitable (i.e., injunctive) relief.
- 2. The cause of action complained of in this case arose in the City of Palm Coast in Flagler County, Florida.

PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff, PHILIP LOWE, is an individual who resides at 29 Collingwood Lane, Palm Coast, Florida 32137.
- 4. Plaintiff, SARAH THOMPSON-LOWE, is an individual who resides at 29 Collingwood Lane, Palm Coast, Florida 32137.
 - 5. The Plaintiffs, PHILIP LOWE and SARAH THOMPSON-LOWE, are married.

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6. The Defendant, BRYAN STREETMAN, is an individual who resides at 25 Collingwood Lane, Palm Coast, Florida 32137.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 7. The Plaintiffs and Defendant are next-door neighbors on Collingwood Lane in Palm Coast, with each of their respective properties located on the canal waterway.
- 8. The Plaintiffs have owned and resided at the property located at 29 Collingwood Lane in Palm Coast since 1999.
- 9. The Defendant has owned and resided at the property located at 25 Collingwood Lane in Palm Coast since 2013.
- 10. Throughout the duration of their residency at 29 Collingwood Lane, the Plaintiffs have maintained bird gourds on their dock, which have served as nesting sites for Purple Martin birds, a species protected under several federal statutes, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) and the Lacey Act (1980).
- 11. Purple Martin birds provide several benefits to the public and neighborhood, including, but not limited to, a reduction in mosquitos during the summer months.
- 12. Many of the Plaintiffs' and Defendant's neighbors are senior citizens, who enjoy spending time outdoors and often participate in recreational bird watching on the canal waterway.
- 13. The Plaintiffs maintain a total of twenty-four (24) bird gourds, in three (3) sets of eight (8) placed at the top of metal poles, which are affixed to the Plaintiffs' dock seasonally and are typically set up by the Plaintiffs in January and taken down in July.
- 14. Several other neighbors, including those residing at 31 Collingwood Lane and 11 Collingville Court, seasonally maintain bird gourds on their respective docks and/or properties.

- 15. Shortly after the Plaintiffs set up bird gourds on their dock in late January 2016, the Defendant, BRYAN STREETMAN, began broadcasting loud predatory bird sounds daily from an outdoor speaker beginning at dawn and continuing until dusk in an effort to discourage all types of birds from coming near his or the Plaintiffs' properties.
- 16. On or about January 17, 2016, the Plaintiffs filed a complaint with the City of Palm Coast Code Enforcement Division regarding the Defendant's actions described in Paragraph 15 above.
- 17. On or about January 28, 2016, a neighborhood group opposed to the Defendant's actions was formed and created a Petition that was signed by approximately eighteen (18) members of the surrounding neighborhood community. (A copy of the Petition is attached hereto as "Exhibit A").
- 18. Throughout January and February of 2016, the Defendant flew a drone aircraft in the rear portion of his property and on several occasions flew the drone aircraft on or above the Plaintiffs' property or very close to the bird gourds affixed to the Plaintiffs' dock where Purple Martin birds had begun nesting, resulting in several altercations between Plaintiffs and the Defendant.
- 19. On or about February 14, 2016, Delphine Meyers, a neighbor residing at 11 Collingville Court, directly across the canal waterway from the Plaintiffs' residence, observed a powerful, bright red and green laser beam being emitted into her residence from a laser bird deterrent system mounted on the second floor rear deck of the Defendant's residence and filed an Incident Report with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office. (A copy of the Incident Report/CAD Narrative is attached hereto as "Exhibit B").

- 20. In mid-February 2016, a copy of the Petition (See, "Exhibit A") was mailed to the City of Palm Coast Code Enforcement Division, the Mayor of Palm Coast, and the City Manager of Palm Coast.
- 21. On or about February 19, 2016, the City of Palm Coast Code Enforcement Division sent the Defendant a Notice of Violation, citing violations of Section 35-76(d)(1) of the City of Palm Coast Code of Ordinances for nuisance related to the Defendant's use of the laser bird deterrent system and Section 35-52(6) for Loud and Raucous Noise. (A copy of the Notice of Violation is attached hereto as "Exhibit C").
- 22. On or about February 22, 2016, the undersigned attempted to resolve this matter by sending the Defendant a Cease and Desist Letter requesting that the Defendant cease flying his drone on the Plaintiffs' property or near the Plaintiffs' bird gourds and cease his use of the laser bird deterrent system. (A copy of this correspondence is attached hereto as "Exhibit D").
- 23. Shortly following the Defendant's receipt of this letter, the Defendant placed an inflatable "air dancer" device, which emits considerable noise from the blower that keeps the device inflated, in a further attempt to deter birds from the Defendant's and Plaintiffs' properties and to cause annoyance to the Plaintiffs and neighbors.
- 24. The Defendant has ceased his use of the light system of the laser bird deterrent device, however, the Defendant continues to fly his drone aircraft near the Plaintiffs' property and now employs two (2) grey box devices, which emit high frequency noise for approximately thirty (30) seconds every five (5) minutes, and such use is systematic and continuous.
- 25. This high frequency noise is audible within the Plaintiffs' residence and has affected the behavior of the Plaintiffs' dogs while in their backyard.

- 26. The high frequency noise and actions of the Defendant have affected the nesting habits of the Purple Martin birds, which have consistently nested on the Plaintiffs' property for over a decade.
- 27. The Defendant has retained counsel and the undersigned has attempted to resolve these issues with opposing counsel, but has been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement.
- 28. The undersigned has requested that Defendant's counsel provide the make and model of the devices in use by the Defendant to determine the type/decibel levels of the noise(s) being emitted, but has been unable to obtain such information.

<u>COUNT I</u> INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- 29. The Plaintiffs restates and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 28 of the above Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 30. The actions of the Defendant are in violation of the City of Palm Coast Code of Ordinances and federal statutes, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) and the Lacey Act (1980).
- 31. The Defendants systematic and continuous broadcasting of high frequency noise has affected the Plaintiffs' ability to sleep at night and the constant and continual repetition of the noise is a serious discomfort, distress, and inconvenience to the Plaintiffs and other neighbors and would be a source of discomfort, distress, and inconvenience to any person of normal sensibilities.
- 32. The constant repetition of the noise has caused and continues to cause the Plaintiffs serious annoyance and discomfort, in addition to mental and physical distress. The

noise will, if permitted to continue, cause serious and irreparable injury to the comfort of any person of normal sensibilities occupying the Plaintiffs' residence.

- 33. The noise and impairment of the comfort and health of any person occupying the Plaintiffs' residence has caused and will continue to cause the value of the Plaintiffs' property to depreciate.
- 34. The constant repetition of the noise has caused harassment to the local Purple Martin birds during their nesting season in violation federal statutes, specifically, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) and the Lacey Act (1980), and has resulted in a considerable reduction of nesting birds.
- 35. The Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law that will prevent the irreparable harm cited above.
- 36. It is in the public interest that this Court grant preliminary and permanent injunctive relief preventing the Defendant from taking the arbitrary and unlawful actions cited above.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs demand judgment against the Defendant as follows:

- A. That the Court enter preliminary and permanent injunctive relief enjoining the Defendant: (1) from continuing the use of his laser bird deterrent system such that beams of light are broadcasted onto the Plaintiffs' property; (2) from continuing to fly his drone aircraft on the Plaintiff's property or near the Plaintiff's bird gourds; (3) from continuing to emit predatory bird sounds and/or high frequency noises from his property; and (4) from taking any actions to harass Purple Martin birds during their nesting season;
- B. That the Court issue a temporary restraining order enjoining the Defendant: (1) from continuing the use of his laser bird deterrent system such that beams of light are

broadcasted onto the Plaintiffs' or other neighbors' properties; (2) from continuing to fly his drone aircraft on the Plaintiff's property or near the Plaintiff's bird gourds; (3) from continuing to emit predatory bird sounds and/or high frequency noises from his property; and (4) from taking any actions to harass Purple Martin birds during their nesting season;

- C. That the Court award the Plaintiffs' court costs incurred herein; and
- D. That the Court award the Plaintiffs such other relief as determined to be just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 1ST day of APRIL, 2016.

BY:

MARCUS THOMPSON, ESQ.

Florida Bar No.: 0110643

Law Office of Marcus Thompson, PLLC

320 High Tide Drive, Suite 101A

Saint Augustine, FL 32080

Phone: (904) 342-8262 | Fax: (904) 512-0230 Email: service@marcusthompsonlaw.com

Secondary: marcus@marcusthompsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via electronic mail to **Ryan Mitchell**, **Esq.**, of McCullough & Mitchell, PLLC, 7463 Windermere Road, Suite A. Orlando, Florida 32835, to ryan@mmlawpa.com, on this 1ST day of APRIL, 2016, in accordance with Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.516.

MARCUS THOMPSON, ESQ.

Florida Bar No.: 110643

Law Office of Marcus Thompson, PLLC

320 High Tide Drive, Suite 101A

Saint Augustine, FL 32080

Phone: (904) 342-8262 | Fax: (904) 512-0230 Email: service@marcusthompsonlaw.com Secondary: marcus@marcusthompsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiffs

January 28, 2015

We, the undersigned, Homeowners in the C Section of Palm Coast, north of Palm Harbor Parkway and bordered by Cimmaron and Cottonwood, do file the following petition of complaint against Bryan Streetman of 25 Collingwood Lane for broadcasting a recording of shrill and screeching predatory bird sounds to discourage birds from nesting in our area. This noise starts approximately at 7:15 am and continues all day until after dark. This has gone or for more than two weeks. He also did the same thing last summer for a short time.

These sounds are affecting our quality of life and makes the outdoor areas of our homes unusable. The volume of this recording has been increasing daily. At least two City employees, John Beaudet and Michael Hadden, have heard these annoying sounds. This is a harassment of Palm Coast senior citizens and is a major annoyance to all of us tax payers.

This was first reported to Code Enforcement on January 17, 2016. 10 Colling of Ct Manager **EXHIBIT**



Flagler County Sheriff's Office

James L. Manfre SHERIFF

Accountability • Integrity • Respect

CASE CARD

If you have additional information that can assist in the investigation, please call 386-313-4911 and ask to speak with a deputy.

CONTACT INFORMATION

 Investigative Services Division
 386-586-4801

 Victim Advocate
 386-586-4801

 Records
 386-586-4815

 Property & Evidence
 386-586-4824

 Communications
 386-313-4911

EXHIBIT

For Emergencies, Call 911

How are we doing? Complete a Citizen's Survey online at www.flaglersheriff.com

A State Accredited Law Enforcement Agency



Incident Report

2016-00013491

Flagler County Sheriff's Office 901 East Moody Blvd Bunnell, FL 82110 386-437-4116

Print Date/Time:

02/15/2016 14:18

Login ID:

VCochran

Flagier County Sheriff's Office

ORI Number:

FL0180000

Incident Date/Time:

Location:

2/14/2016 7:28:00 PM 11 COLLINGVILLE CT

PALM COAST FL 32137

Phone Number:

(386)446-3142

Report Required: Prior Hazards: LE Case Number:

No

Nο

Incident Type: Venue:

Civil Palm Coast

Source: Priority: Status:

Phone

Phone Code 1 investigate

Nature of Call:

Unit/Personnel

Unit

Personnel

A321 A322 376-Bender 545-Castanheira

Person(s)

No. Role

Name

Address

Incident:

Caller

MYERS, DELCI

<UNKNOWN>

Vehicle(s)

Role Турв

Year Make Model

Color

License

Race

State

DOB

Disposition(s)

Disposition

Count

AT1

2

Property

Date Code Make

Type

Model

EXHIBIT

Description

Tag No. Item No.

CAD Narrative

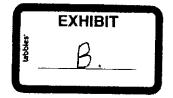
02/14/2016 19:29:13 Sisti, Amy Narrative: RP ADV HER NEIGHBOR IS TRYING TO GET RID OF BIRDS WITH A LASER LIGHT AND HE KEEPS POINTING IT AT HER HOUSE

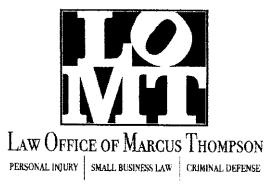
02/14/2016 19:29:37 Sisti, Amy Narrative: HE LIVES AT 25 COLLINGWOOD LN HES ACROSS CANAL FROM RP 02/14/2016 19:31:43 Castanheira, John Narrative: Dispatch received by unit A322

02/14/2016 19:31:56 Sisti, Amy Narrative: RP ADV THIS IS AN ON GOING PROB W MALE THE CITY HAS BEEN INVOLVED W THIS TOO

02/14/2016 20:13:19 Bender, George Narrative: Dispatch received by unit A321

02/14/2016 21:06:16 Castanheira, John Narrative: Upon arriving on scene, I made contact with the caller, Delci Myers. She explained to me that a neighbor of hers which house is positioned behind hers across the canal recently installed some sort of laser device in a second floor window. I observed the device illuminating a green and red laser beam which rotates in a circular direction. The laser beams were peering through the windows in the callers home. The caller feels that the laser beams are violation her privacy and space. The caller further explained that her neighbor is doing this to deter a bird which migrates on her property and several other properties in the area. There only appears to be a statute for pointing a laser at an individual driving a vehicle or pointing it at a plane. I attempted to make contact with the resident which has the light but noone answered the door. The device appears to be on a timer as it only comes on approx every 5 minutes.





www.marcusthompsonlaw.com

Marcus Thompson, Esq.

February 22, 2016

VIA UPS OVERNIGHT DELIVERY

Mr. Brian Streetman 25 Collingwood Lane Palm Coast, Florida 32137

RE:

CEASE AND DESIST - PRIVATE NUISANCE/TRESPASS

Dear Mr. Streetman:

My firm represents Mr. Philip Lowe, Mrs. Sarah Lowe-Thompson, and Ms. Delphine Meyers with regard to a potential claim against you for Private Nuisance and/or Trespass arising out of your recent use of a drone aircraft and laser deterrent system surrounding their respective properties. It is respectfully requested that any and all future correspondences regarding this matter be directed to my firm at the address listed below.

It is my clients' contention that your recent actions involving the flight of a drone aircraft and your persistent use of a laser bird deterrent on or near their property constitute a private nuisance and/or trespass under Florida law. My clients demand that you immediately cease and desist such activity; otherwise, they shall be forced to petition the court of competent jurisdiction for an injunction enjoining such activity and seeking any applicable damages.

Under Florida law, a "private nuisance" is defined as an unreasonable, unwarranted, or unlawful interference in the use and enjoyment of another individual's property. Whether or not an action or conduct is a private nuisance depends on whether the use of the property is reasonable under the circumstances and whether there is actual physical discomfort. Beckman v. Marshall, 85 So. 2d 552 (Fla. 1956). By contrast, a "trespass" acts that interfere with a plaintiff's exclusive possession of real property. A trespass is a direct infringement of one's right of property while with respect to a nuisance; the infringement is the result of an act that is not wrongful in itself, but only in the consequences that flow from it.

Specifically, it is my clients' contention that your action of flying a drone equipped with propellers along the edges of my clients' property lines creates excessive noise that interferes

320 High Tide Drive, Suite 101A Saint Augustine, Florida 32080

Office: (904) 342-8262 Fax: (904) 512-0230 Direct: (904) 377-7261



Mr. Brian Streetman February 22, 2016 Page 2 of 3

with the use and enjoyment of my clients' respective properties, thus constituting a private nuisance. Furthermore, in several videos obtained from my client, it appears that the drone you are operating is equipped with a camera. I would draw your attention to the recently enacted Fla. Stat. § 934.50, which provides that:

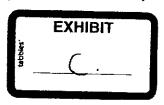
"A person [. . .] may not use a drone equipped with an imaging device to record an image of privately owned real property or of the owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of such property with the intent to conduct surveillance on the individual or property captured in the image in violation of such person's reasonable expectation of privacy without his or her written consent."

The statute further provides that "the owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of privately owned real property may initiate a civil action for compensatory damages for violations of this section and may seek injunctive relief to prevent future violations of this section against a person, state agency, or political subdivision that violates paragraph (3)(b). In such action, the prevailing party is *entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees* from the nonprevailing party based on the actual and reasonable time expended by his or her attorney billed at an appropriate hourly rate." [*Emphasis added*].

My clients also contend that your use of a laser bird deterrent system pointed in the direction of my clients' respective properties constitutes both a "private nuisance" and a "trespass." Of particular concern is a recent incident that occurred on February 14, 2016, from which a Incident Report was prepared by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office ("FCSO"). On this date, my client, Delphine Meyers, contacted FCSO to report bright laser beams coming through the rear windows of her home. Upon arrival, Officer John Castanheira personally observed your device illuminating a green and red laser beam which rotates in a circular direction. Officer Castanheira further observed the laser beams peering through the windows of Ms. Meyers' home. I understand that the laser deterrent system is set up to pan at approximately one hundred eighty (180) degrees and affects both Ms. Meyers residence and the Lowe residence. It is quite clear that use of this laser deterrent system constitutes an unreasonable interference with my clients' use and enjoyment of their respective properties thus qualifying as a "private nuisance and the laser's unjustifiable intrusion into my client's home constitutes "trespass."

I understand that these actions taken by you are center around your concerns about a native bird, the Purple Martin, that commonly nest in the area and have done so for a significant amount of time. As you are likely aware, the Purple Martin is a federally protected native species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) and the Lacey Act (1980). As such, it is unlawful to "kill, trap, or *harass*" Purple Martins. Should your actions continue, my clients shall ensure that any federal violations are adequately documented, reported to the appropriate authorities, and that you are prosecuted accordingly.

It is our hope that these issues can be resolved peacefully and respectfully, without the necessity of litigation. My clients and I request that you take steps to address these concerns and discontinue these actions immediately. Please contact my office via telephone at (904) 342-



Mr. Brian Streetman February 22, 2016 Page 3 of 3

8262, or in writing to: <u>Law Office of Marcus Thompson, PLLC, 320 High Tide Drive, Suite 101A, Saint Augustine, Florida 32080</u>, to further discuss these issues and work towards an amicable resolution. Should you fail to respond to this letter or remedy the aforementioned nuisances within ten (10) days, I shall be forced to file a Petition for Injunction in Flagler County Circuit Court. I look forward to working with you to find a peaceful solution to this matter.

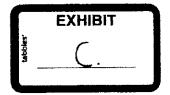
Sincerely Yours,

MARCUS THOMPSON, ESQ.

Cc: Philip Lowe

Sarah Thompson-Lowe

Delphine Meyers





160 Lake Avenue Suite 141
Palm Coast, Florida 32164

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION NOTICE OF VIOLATION

☐ REPEAT VIOLATION ☐ RECURRING VIOLATION

ADDRESS: 25 Colling wood DATE: 2-19-16		NT. Streetma	an, B	
OFFICER'S NAME: Hadden	For additional	information, conta	ct Code Enforcement	
OFFICER'S SIGNATURE: My Hadda	at (386) 986-	3764 8:00 AM-5:00	PM (7 Days a Week)	
SECTION VIOLATION	CORRECTIVE ACTION	# DAYS/HRS	CASE NUMBER	
15-1 No Permit for (FBC 105.1)	Obtain Permit for Call (386) 986-3780 for permit information			
15-108(d) Weeds/Overgrowth	Maintain Lawn and Landscaping			
15-108(g) Shed/Fence/Wall Maint, 15-108(h) Inoperable/Unlicensed	Remove or Repair			
15-108(h) Inoperable/Unlicensed	Make vehicle(s) operable License or Remove Vehicle(s) from Propert			
15-108(i) Defacing Property i.e. Graff	iti Retum Property to Original Condition	·y		
15-110(a)(3) No House Number	Attach Number to Residence			
15-114(a) Rubbish/Trash/Garbage 17-39(a) Residential Rental Prog.	Remove from Premises	_		
24-159(a) Swale Maintenance	Register Rental Property (386) 986-3764 Replace and/or Maintain (Residential)			
24-162(c) Obstruction of Swale	MAINTAIN SWALE DRAINAGE (Const. Site)			
24-183() Landscape Imgation				
<u>y</u> 35-76 (d.)Nuisance 41-11(a) Trash Containers	Livability issues (Laser)	Joan :	2016020653	
41-17(a) Trash Containers	Conceal from Public View Out too early/ Out Too Long/Check Times			
42-56 R.O.W. Obstruction	out too early out 100 Long/Crieck Times			
44-34(c) Parking of Comm. Veh./Tra				
In Residential District 44-34(d)(2) Parking Boat/ Trailer/RV	Remove Comm. Veh./Trailer from Res. Dist.			
44-34(f) Vehicle/Trailer/Boat	Remove Vehicle/Trailer/Boat from Lawn/gra			
Improperly Parked		vei		
44-34(i) Parking in Median	Remove Vehicle from Median			
LDC 11.02.04(C1)Tree Barricade Viol.	Install/Reinstall Tree Barricades within 2			
LDC 11.02.05(A1)Removal of Trees w/o	Days and call Urban Forestry 386-986-3758			
Permit/Authorization				
LDC 11.02.05(D)(1))Clearing w/o Permit				
LDC 11.03.01 General Landscaping Req. LDC 11.03.02 Specific Landscaping	Ď.			
LDC 12Sign Ordinance Violation	Repair/Remove/Obtain Permit (386) 986-3751			
YOther: 35-52 (6) Loud +1	Raucus Noise	Idou 2	016020654	
Other Lawn Mower/Rot	6 Tiller			
Description:Photos;	Note: D - 1			
	Notes: Based as	a limberon	Complaint	
Your cooperation in having the conditions describ	peri above corrected within the stated time listed	about from the data		
Your cooperation in having the conditions described above corrected within the stated time listed above from the date of this notice is required in order to avoid further action by the City. In the event you do not comply with the requirements of this notice, the City will pursue any and all of the following actions:				
the state of the s				
•The City may cause the necessary work to be accomplished with cost and expense of the work becoming a charge and lien against the property, and/or:				
Present the matter to the Code Enforcement Board (CEB). The CEB is empowered to impose fines at the rate of up to				
10000000 for each day that any violations continue to exist beyond the date established for compliance in the Order Director				
come liens upon real property of the violator. There may also be an Administrative Cost imposed for EVERY CEB case.				
If the violation is corrected and then recurs or if the violation is not corrected by the time specified for the correction by the code inspector, the case may be presented to the enforcement board even if the violation has been corrected prior to the board hear-				
<u>ng.</u>				
Signature of Person Receiving Notice	Dale_	~		
Copy-Code Canary Copy-Mailed Pink Copy-Mailed Gold	EXHIBIT			

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE/POSTING/MAILING -- CONTINUED

Re: Case No. 2016020653

2016020654

On the 19 day of February, 2016, at 3 o'clock PM., I personally mailed the document/letter by 1st Class & Certified Mail # 91 7199 9991 7034 5421 3070 return receipt requested.

Signature

TH FLAMMER

Printed Name Cust. Svc. Rep.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 19 day of February, 2016, by <u>JUDITH FLAMMER</u>, who is personally known to me.

My Commission FF 07 1806

Avvi Expires 0 108/2018

Notary Public in and for the County and State Aforementioned

EXHIBIT