#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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REPORTER'S RECORD VOLUME 1 OF 1 VOLUMES TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 25-DCV-327154

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5 CONCERNED OWNERS OF PROVIDENCE 6 Plaintiffs,

> FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS VS.

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PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC., WILLIE A. JONES, MICHAEL ATES, PATRICK MEURER, LAURA L. DAWSON, STEVEN G. MCSWAIN,) Defendants.

400TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT

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HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

On the 20th day of March, 2025, the following proceedings came on to be held in the above-titled and numbered cause before The Honorable EDWARD M. KRENEK, Judge Presiding, held in Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas.

Proceedings reported by computerized stenotype machine.

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1 APPEARANCES 2 3 MR. MITCHELL AVILA KATINE SBOT NO. 11106600 4 KATINE NECHMAN MCLAURIN LLP 2000 Bering Drive 5 Suite 700 Houston, Texas 77057 6 Telephone: (713) 808-1001 Fax: (713) 808-1107 E-mail: mkatine@lawknm.com Counsel for PLAINTIFF 7 8 9 MR. WILL A. JONES, Pro Se Defendant 10 MR. MICHAEL ATES, Pro Se Defendant MR. PATRICK MEURER, Pro Se Defendant MS. LAURA L. DAWSON, Pro Se Defendant 11 MR. STEVEN G. MCSWAIN, Pro Se Defendant 12 13 1 4 15 16 17 18 19 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3 2 4 2.5

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| 3   | VOLUME ONE OF ONE                                 |
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| 5   | Appearances                                       |
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| ,   | Cunthia Martinoz CSP                              |
|     | Cynthia Martinez, CSR                             |

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THE COURT: Okay. Cause Number
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 2
   25-DCV-327154, Concerned Owners of Providence v.
 3
   Providence Community Association, Inc., et al, a
 4
   number of individual Defendants.
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                   Who's all here for that matter?
                   MR. KATINE: Your Honor, my name is
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 7
   Mitchell Katine, and I'm the attorney for the
 8
   Plaintiff, Concerned Owners of Providence.
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                   THE COURT: Okay. Anyone else here
10
   on that matter?
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                   MR. MEURER: Yes. This is the valid
12
   Board of Directors currently for Providence
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   Community Association.
1 4
                              Okay. So, are any of you
                   THE COURT:
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   Willie Jones, Michael Ates -- I hope I pronounced
16
   that right -- Patrick Muerer --
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                   MR. MEURER: Very good.
18
                   MR. JONES: Yes, sir.
19
                   THE COURT: -- and Laura Dawson and
2 0
   Steven McSwain?
2 1
                   Okay. So, all of y'all are here.
22
   you have counsel?
2 3
                   MR. MEURER: Yes, sir. We received
   this Notice less than 24 hours ago.
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THE COURT: Understood. Okay.

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you guys want to be here, because you're 1 2 individually sued, and come up to this counsel 3 table, that's fine or if some of you want to or if 4 you want to just visit from there. 5 MR. MEURER: We have a couple of 6 spokesmen, if that will help, so we don't have so 7 many voices. Will that be acceptable? 8 9 THE COURT: It would be, but I want 1 0 to make sure that you say enough so that I can put on the record who's all here --11 1 2 MR. MEURER: Sure. 13 THE COURT: -- for the matter. 1 4 And if you have counsel, then just 15 counsel needs to identify themself. If it's individuals without counsel, I would like that each 16 1 7 of you identify yourself. 18 MR. MEURER: No problem. 19 THE COURT: So, I've called the case. 2 0 I'm going to ask for announcements from counsel 2 1 and/or parties starting with the Plaintiff. MR. KATINE: Your Honor, my name is

2 2 2 3 Mitchell Katine. And I'm the attorney representing 2 4 the Plaintiff, Concerned Owners of Providence. 2.5

THE COURT: Okay. And then as far as

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1 the Defendants, could you stand, state your name for 2 the record, spell it if -- yeah. And I'd ask that 3 you spell it just so that we have a record of who's 4 all here. 5 MR. JONES: My name is Willie Jones. 6 W-I-L-I-E, middle initial "A," last name 7 J - O - N - E - S. 8 MR. MCSWAIN: Steve McSwain, 9 M-C-S-W-A-I-N. 1 0 THE COURT: Okay. 11 MS. DAWSON: My name is 1 2 Laura Dawson, L-A-U-R-A D-A-W-S-O-N.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ATES: Michael Ates, A-T-E-S.

MR. MEURER: My name is Pat Meurer,

M-E-U-R-E-R.

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THE COURT: Okay. And, as far as the individual Defendants that just identified themselves, are you guys here in your individual capacity? Or are you any of you also purporting to be here because of the Providence Community Association, Inc.?

MR. MEURER: Well, we -- our answer to that is, according to our Bylaws, the official Providence Association -- Community Association,

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1 Inc. is the Board led by the president.

They are the representative of PCA.

3 THE COURT: And are one of you five

4 | the president?

MR. JONES: I am.

THE COURT: Tell me your name again.

MR. JONES: My name is Willie Jones.

THE COURT: Okay. So, Mr. Jones, you

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contend you're now currently the president of that

10 | Association?

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MR. JONES: That is correct, yes.

12 THE COURT: But, just so you know, as

13 it relates to an entity, unless any of you are

attorneys, you can't officially represent the

15 entity. And that's why it would be very important

16 that you have counsel.

But, nonetheless, you're here on the

18 Individual Capacity, which is perfectly fine.

19 Anyone who wishes to come to the counsel table to

20 speak just so that we can hear you a little easier,

21 you're welcome to do that.

I will encourage someone to do it,

23 but that's up to you.

24 MR. ATES: Your Honor, can I ask you

25 a question?

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1 THE COURT: Sure.

MR. ATES: The point you just brought

up about --

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THE COURT: Can you stand up, please,

because I can't quite hear it?

MR. ATES: Yes. The point you just brought about us being here without an attorney, we didn't get Notice of this until like -- I got this on my door yesterday.

THE COURT: Understood.

MR. ATES: I've spoken to my

attorney, but he requested that we ask for some sort of an extension where we could be represented. We had no way of doing that in one day.

THE COURT: Understood. I
understand. And really what we're here for today is
what is referred to as a Temporary Restraining
Order, which the Court can actually hear and take
action on ex parte with one side only being here or
just the presentation of what's been filed.

But I wanted to give an opportunity for everyone to be able to say what their position will be and try to see if it's something that the Court is inclined to want to grant any injunctive relief on.

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Keep in mind, all we're here today on is what is a TRO, Temporary Restraining Order, which will be effective for only 14 days, unless extended.

And we'll set at the same time a Temporary Injunction Hearing that will allow you, if it's even granted, to make a more full presentation of whatever you believe is appropriate because the relief being sought on a temporary basis, whether it's a TRO or a Temporary Injunction, is just the maintenance of a status quo pending a final determination of the underlying claims.

That's all it is. It is not intended to be a fact finding of any sort. It's not intended to necessarily bind someone on a position they wish to take later in the case. But if there's any evidence that is presented, I would caution everyone that that is something that you're presenting on the record that would be potentially something that you can be bound to later.

So, just recognize it, but I also understand the short notice. I don't have a problem with that. And I will try to, at least, gain an understanding of what the relief is being sought and see if I can't figure out a status quo that makes sense based upon the Law and the facts.

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MR. KATINE: Your Honor, in regards to parties, I just want -- as an officer of the Court, I want to let you know that I have been in touch with the attorneys for the Association, David Berk, who I spoke with yesterday to find out whether he will be attending today.

And he said that he has not been authorized by the Board of Directors to come today. So, he is not planning to be here.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KATINE: But there is such an attorney. And I have sent him copies of this because I wanted to, of course, have full disclosure with everyone that's involved.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you for letting us know about that.

Give me just one moment here. You can stand, you can sit, whatever you're more comfortable with, I'm perfectly fine with that. And that goes for everyone here except, if y'all are going to be back there, I would ask that you stand when you speak just so that we can hear.

MR. MEURER: Do you want the two spokesmen to sit up there or does it matter to you whether we are there?

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THE COURT: It doesn't matter, but it 1 2 would probably be better if you were a little 3 closer. 4 MR. MEURER: We don't mind. 5 MR. JONES: Yeah. 6 THE COURT: Yeah. 7 MR. MEURER: And I have another 8 question, if you don't mind. 9 THE COURT: That's fine. That's 10 And, just so the record is clear, everyone is fine. entitled and invited to be here around this area. 11 12 I know it's not a lot of room for 13 everyone. You're also perfectly fine for the 1 4 remaining of the Defendants to be exactly where 15 you're at in the courtroom. 16 So, wherever you feel more 1 7 comfortable with, you're welcome to be at. And you 18 have one more question, sir? 19 MR. MEURER: Yes. Do you want me to 2 0 stand here or can I sit and just ask it from here? 2 1 THE COURT: You can do that. 22 when you do say anything, say, "This is." Tell me 23 your name so the court reporter can take the record 2 4 better.

MR. MEURER: This is Pat Meurer.

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able to explain one simple question that we have? A short time ago on this very same dispute -- this is an internal dispute between Members of the Board.

Okay. We were filed against on a small claims court case, 25JSC41 dash triple zero ten.

We rebutted to that on January 27th. It is fundamentally the same issues, same things. And, now, just yesterday we received a different set of papers on a different court filing in the civil court.

And, so, we're trying to understand the relationship here, if any, whether we are dealing with the same fundamental dispute between the boards.

Is it in small claims court? Is it in civil court? The small claims court says damages of 14,000. This one says one-quarter million.

We don't understand and we would ask can you help us understand that before our attorneys -- when we go to them, I am sure they can tell us. But is it simple that you can let us know?

THE COURT: Well, typically in

litigation, nothing's simple but --

MR. KATINE: May I respond, your

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Honor? 1 2 THE COURT: Yes, you can. I was 3 going to ask. 4 MR. KATINE: My understanding is 5 that an individual Board Member whose name is 6 Nadeem -- n-A-I-K is his last name -- before the 7 Owners came to hire me, did file a justice of the 8 peace court case. 9 THE COURT: An individual did? 10 MR. KATINE: An individual did. 11 THE COURT: Okay. MR. KATINE: And, as far as I know, 1 2 13 he is actually not part of the Concerned Owners 1 4 Group. 15 THE COURT: Different Plaintiffs? 16 MR. KATINE: Yes. Different 1 7 Plaintiffs. 18 THE COURT: And it may be related matters, but it's still a different Plaintiff? 19 2 0 MR. KATINE: Yes. Of course, JP 2 1 courts don't have jurisdiction to issue Injunctions. 22 So, this is the proper Court. I am not involved in 2 3 the JP court case. 2 4 THE COURT: Understood. And that

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does explain a lot.

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Basically, what Counsel for the 1 2 Plaintiff is saying is an individual decided to file 3 certain claims in Small Claims Court, which they are 4 entitled to do. 5 It is a separate matter. Although, it may be related or have the same genesis of 6 7 factual basis --8 MR. MEURER: Okay. 9 THE COURT: -- it is definitely a 1 0 separate matter. And matters can be going on 11 concurrently if they're different parties. 1 2 Now, if it was identical same 13 parties, it would be a different issue. But they're 1 4 entitled to do that and it's something that your 1 5 group, the Board -- or whoever's claiming to be the 16 Board -- would need to make sure that they address. 1 7 So, whatever we do here today does 18 not impact that Small Claims Court matter. 19 MR. MEURER: Okay. If I may clarify? 2 0 It's not one name. There are two. 2 1 THE COURT: Yeah. 22 MR. MEURER: Nadeem Naik and 2 3 Karen Blakeman. 2 4 THE COURT: Sure.

MR. MEURER: Okay. And I don't if

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1 either one of them are a part of this group. I 2 see --

THE COURT: And even if they were, it's still a different party because you have an entity that is moving as a Plaintiff here as opposed to individuals and those are identified under the Law --

MR. MEURER: We understand that.

THE COURT: -- as different parties.

MR. MEURER: We understand that.

THE COURT: Okay. I have read everything and looked at what the application is indicating, but I still want to give you an opportunity to explain what your concerns are and what relief you're seeking.

And I also -- I mean, will note that there's a series of factual events that occurred.

No one is contending here that that is an absolute.

It's just what someone's pleading and contention is.

So, don't take offense with anything that's being said either way. They won't take offense with what you guys are saying and vice versa. It's each side's positions, which I need to know about that.

And, again, once I hear from both

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1 sides -- and I do appreciate, Counsel, that we did 2 bring this to a hearing as opposed to granting ex 3 parte relief.

Once players are involved and counsel's involved, you did the right thing to notify the appropriate side. It just would be better to have an opportunity to have a hearing on the TRO as opposed to doing it ex parte.

Since it's your Motion, go ahead and proceed.

MR. KATINE: Thank you, your Honor.

I want to begin, your Honor, by setting forth a few things that I think are uncontested.

I did attach a copy of the Bylaws to the Petition, but I do also have a certified copy of the Bylaws for the Court to look at. It's a little larger print.

THE COURT: I would love to have that if you have a copy for the Court unless you need it.

MR. KATINE: Okay. I will use my

22 copy.

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THE COURT: Wonderful. Thank you.

That helps.

MR. KATINE: And, your Honor, just

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сору.

for some background, this is a Community -- involves
a Community and a Homeowner's Association in Fort
Bend County.

THE COURT: Excuse me. Just so I know, is this the certified copy or a copy?

MR. KATINE: That's the certified

THE COURT: Okay. Are you working off a copy of the certified copy?

MR. KATINE: I will be working off of a copy of what I filed with my Petition.

THE COURT: Because I tend to

13 highlight things, but I don't want to highlight

14 this.

MR. KATINE: You can have that, your

Honor. You can highlight it. That's not a problem.

THE COURT: If you need the original

one, I don't want to do that.

MR. KATINE: I can get another one.

It's not a problem, your Honor. So, seriously, you

can do what you want with it. I'd rather the Court

be comfortable with it because the Bylaws are the

key document here, your Honor. And I can get

another one.

THE COURT: Okay.

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1 MR. KATINE: All right. Your Honor, 2 so, what I wanted to start with is to let the Court 3 know that this is a residential single-family community of about 630 homes in Fort Bend County. 4 5 According to the Bylaws -- and what 6 I'm going to try to do, even though these aren't too 7 complex, but I'm going to point out the sections. 8 On page three of the Bylaws on 9 Article Roman Numeral Four this talks about the 10 Board of Directors. Section One says that: 11 affairs of the Association shall be managed by a 1 2 Board of five Directors." 13 THE COURT: Tell me the page again. 1 4 MR. KATINE: Page three of the -- oh, 15 excuse me. Page three of the Bylaws. The Bylaws 16 are like the second document. 17 THE COURT: Yeah. Three and it's 18 under Article Four? 19 MR. KATINE: Article Roman Numeral 2 0 Four. 2 1 THE COURT: Okay. 22 MR. KATINE: Section One. 23 THE COURT: Got it. 2 4 MR. KATINE: So, I think we all agree 2 5 that this Board of Directors consists of five

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people. Under Section Two, it says that: "The Board of Directors shall be elected and they are elected by Homeowners." Every lot gets one vote.

THE COURT: Is that Article Two or

5 | Section Two of Article Four?

6 MR. KATINE: Section Two of Article

Four.

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THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. KATINE: Section Three of Article

10 Four talks about: "Directors may be removed from

11 the Board with or without cause by a majority vote

12 of the Members."

So, I certainly understand the purpose of a TRO is to preserve the status quo of the last peaceable period of time.

In this case there are two events that formed the basis of the dispute and of our case.

THE COURT: If it expedites your argument, the Court readily notes and will take action to bring in the appropriate status quo. Not necessarily the last status quo.

MR. KATINE: That is fine, your

24 Honor.

THE COURT: So, it might save you a

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1 little bit of time on that part. 2 MR. KATINE: Okay. 3 THE COURT: You don't have to 4 convince the Court that we need to go to a proper 5 status quo based upon the Bylaws. 6 MR. KATINE: Okay. Not a problem, 7 your Honor. So, I will just summarize where we are because I appreciate the Court reading what I filed. 8 9 It is our position that, based upon 1 0 an improper appointment of -- I believe, it was 11 Patrick -- that two Board Members claimed to appoint 1 2 a third Board Member named Patrick Meurer. 13 THE COURT: Before you get to that, 1 4 what about the termination or exclusion of some 15 Board Member? What happened on that part? MR. KATINE: Yes. At the 16 November 1st meeting, the two Board Members -- and, 1 7 18 you know, there were only two Board Members present. THE COURT: So, there was a quorum 19 2 0 issue to begin with? 2 1 MR. KATINE: Quorum issue to begin 2 2 with. 2 3 THE COURT: Okay. 2 4 MR. KATINE: And then two --

THE COURT: And then two Board

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1 Members terminated someone? 2 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 3 Board Members terminated two other Board Members. 4 THE COURT: And your position is 5 that's not the way the Bylaws require that to be done? 6 7 MR. KATINE: That is correct. 8 THE COURT: Okay. 9 MR. KATINE: Our position is that two 1 0 Board Members do not have authority to conduct any Association business. 11 1 2 THE COURT: Or, even if there was a 13 quorum, you couldn't terminate someone that way. 1 4 The Association has to vote on it? 15 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead. MR. KATINE: And, so, the events at 17 18 the November 1st Board Meeting were not valid. 19 Therefore, that appointment is not valid. 2 0 We then move on to the Annual 2 1 Meeting, which was called in January. And at that 22 January meeting the now three Board Members 2 3 purported to conduct an Annual Meeting that was to 2 4 be managed and controlled by Chaparral Management. 2.5 At that meeting a few serious

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1 problems occurred:

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The first is that the meeting room was not large enough for all the Owners to attend. There was a security guard at the door who prohibited Owners who had a right to vote to enter the meeting.

THE COURT: So, there were people that attempted to obtain entry that were denied?

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

MR. KATINE: Additionally, there were approximately 150 proxies because Annual Meeting voting is permitted in person or by proxies. There is approximately 150 proxies that were never considered, were never received, were never counted.

The property manager, who I have subpoenaed here today just in case we need her involvement, after arriving with 50 proxies, was told by, at least, one or more of the Defendants who are here to leave and was dismissed summarily that evening.

And she left, and the proxies that were told to her -- the proxy form said that these proxies are to be turned in to her. She left with 50 proxies that were, again, not counted, not

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1 considered. 2 THE COURT: Who left with those? 3 MR. KATINE: The property manager. Well, did she try to 4 THE COURT: 5 tender them for counting? MR. KATINE: I don't know that. 6 She 7 was pretty shocked, and she said she was dismissed. 8 She had arrived, and she was dismissed. 9 THE COURT: Was she denied entry? 10 MR. KATINE: She was told to leave. She's here, your Honor. I don't know. I think she 11 12 arrived ready to do her job and was told to leave 13 and she left. 1 4 THE COURT: And, again, I understand 15 that it's a different position you guys have. 16 MR. MEURER: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Take your notes and then 17 you can tell me all about it in a moment. 18 19 MR. MEURER: Okay. 2 0 MR. KATINE: There were also 2 1 Homeowners who had proxies that they were to deliver 22 to the manager who, when the manager was dismissed, 2 3 they had not given their proxies to the manager. 2 4 So, again, it's about 150 proxies, 2.5 150 Homeowners were disenfranchised from voting that

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day. But we also have people who we have confirmed were not allowed in, were not allowed to vote. And, as far as what we understand, is they went on with the meeting with their select people and claimed to have elected two more Board Members.

So, our position, your Honor, is for the status quo to go back to the four Board Members. The two that are Defendants and the other two who were improperly removed.

So, we have those four Board Members, and those four Board Members should call a new Annual Meeting in a location where everyone is permitted to attend either in person or by proxy.

And that all Owners under the Property Code have a right to vote. And, however that vote comes out for those two positions, will be the new Board Members. And then we'll see at that point whether there's still an issue or not.

THE COURT: Well, what about the fifth position?

MR. KATINE: The fifth position is to be appointed by the Board, your Honor, to fill the vacant spot.

The problem is, your Honor -- and this is something, since we're in this Court, may

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1 come up later -- in the event you have a split
2 Board, two in favor and two against or -- you can't
3 do that.

We may actually at that point have to come back to the Court because, if you have only four of the five, the Association can't operate.

And we may need the Judge, the Court, to appoint a receiver, a neutral person to fill that vacant spot.

THE COURT: And what will be the

10 Authority for that relief?

MR. KATINE: What would the Authority

12 be?

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Your Honor, I already thought of that. It will be a type of receivership. You will appoint a receiver to help manage this until we then have another election to break the deadlock. But under --

THE COURT: Is that because the Bylaws don't speak to that situation?

MR. KATINE: They don't. And, actually, I've done a few HOA receiverships where you have a corporation that is in jeopardy of waste or falling into disarray because of a deadlock in a board, that's actually a ground for a receivership because it can't function.

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So, that's not part of our case at this time because we don't know, once we have a valid election for those other two spots, there may not be a deadlock.

We just don't know that. So, I haven't even put that in the lawsuit.

THE COURT: Understood.

MR. KATINE: So, what I am asking for today is a TRO that does two things:

That it prohibits the Defendants from conducting any Association business with the three disputed Directors: Patrick Meurer, Laura Dawson and Steven McSwain.

The second thing that I would ask for is prohibit the Association from conducting any Board of Director Meetings without proper notice to the Owners under 209. That's just putting a sign up in the normal open-meeting thing.

And the attendance of, at least, three of the four Board Members that are undisputed. So, we have to have a quorum.

THE COURT: And those four that are listed, the last two names are the ones that are no longer on the Board?

MR. KATINE: Your Honor, they are

# HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 still the Board. Those are the people that were 2 improperly removed.

THE COURT: Understood.

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. And that's all we're asking for in the TRO is simply that.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KATINE: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I will have

10 some questions for your side, but I want to first

11 give you an opportunity to tell me anything you want

12 to tell me about it.

MR. MEURER: Yes, sir. Let me start

14 at the beginning. Just for the record, we are not

 $15 \mid 630$  homes. We are 653 homes, to be correct.

THE COURT: So, it will be 653

17 | votes --

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18 MR. MEURER: Correct.

19 THE COURT: -- so to speak?

MR. MEURER: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: And each property gets

22 one vote, correct?

MR. MEURER: Each lot.

THE COURT: Each lot.

MR. MEURER: Right.

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 THE COURT: So, if there's two 2 owners, it's still one vote? 3 MR. MEURER: That's correct. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 MR. MEURER: On the subject of November 1 meeting, we would like to contest as 6 7 incorrect almost every item that was just addressed. 8 First of all, the issue of a quorum 9 at that clubhouse, we have had our Annual Meeting at 10 that clubhouse for 38 years, since the start of 11 Providence. 1 2 That clubhouse has served that 13 purpose successfully for 38 years. There's a 1 4 precedent been set. We've always had our meetings 15 there. If not, we have to force Homeowners to drive 16 somewhere. We won't get people. THE COURT: Let me ask you a question 1 7 18 about that. What happens if you have -- I don't you 19 how big this facility is, but, if there were 650 2 0 people that showed up, how many would it hold? 2 1 MR. MEURER: It has a Fire Code sign

THE COURT: 35?

Bend County Fire Marshall, is 35 people.

on it that the capacity, per the Fire Code, Fort

MR. MEURER: It is a small clubhouse,

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1 but it's what it is. 2 THE COURT: Well, what happens then 3 on any due process issues of people who do want to 4 vote that show up? 5 MR. MEURER: Your Honor, believe it 6 or not, in 38 years we have never had that many 7 people show up for any meeting of any type. 8 THE COURT: Understood. But what happens if that does happen? And if there's a 9 10 hundred people that show up and only 35 are allowed 11 in, what happens? 12 MR. MEURER: Well, number one, I have 13 to meet the Fire Code. I -- I cannot allow that 1 4 many people in that room than the Fort Bend County 15 Fire Marshal allows. 16 THE COURT: I understand. 17 MR. ATES: May I say something, your 18 Honor? 19 We have never -- I am stressing this 2 0 because it's a point here the sign does say 35 2 1 But what happened during that particular 22 meeting was we had a deputy there to control -- we 2 3 thought might be an overflow of crowd or whatever. 2 4 He allowed to 35 people in. After

those 35 people, that was all that we could do in

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1 terms of the amount allowed.

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THE COURT: And recognize, I'm not critical. I don't think anyone here is critical of the fact that it's a building that only allows 35 people.

The real question I'm trying to get to is, under the rights of the Bylaws, I mean, we would all agree that no one should be deprived of a vote, right?

MR. ATES: We agree.

THE COURT: So, what happens in a situation where you have more than 35 people show up and they can't get in?

What happens?

 $$\operatorname{MR.\ MEURER:}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{We've}}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{never}}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{had}}\ \ensuremath{\mathsf{that}}$  happen. So, we don't know.

THE COURT: Don't know.

MR. MEURER: But what have had, in lieu of that, is proxies. Okay. Because so many people -- unfortunately, I will admit our subdivision is rather apathetic, okay, to Annual Meetings. Any type of meeting.

MR. ATES: Our average meeting is anywhere from 10 to 15 people.

MR. MEURER: Okay. So, the Annual

# HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 Meeting typically have had less than 35 people, 2 okay, where -- plus proxies.

Okay. And, so, I -- I can't answer your question because we've never had the experience of that in 38 years.

THE COURT: Okay. Would the Board or whoever contends they're on the Board agree that everyone still should have a right to vote?

MR. ATES: Yes.

MR. MEURER: They have a right to,

11 but we don't have the ability to build a bigger

12 clubhouse.

THE COURT: I'm not critical of that.

MR. MEURER: We can certainly call

15 the meeting at a -- or rent some larger space

16 somewhere.

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The logistics of that and the results
of that, which will be a decrease in attendance
because, now, de-incentivizing people who just want
to come, now they've got to go drive somewhere.

We're talked about that in past

22 Boards.

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THE COURT: Here's the concern the

24 Court has --

MR. MEURER: Excuse me?

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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THE COURT: Here's the concern the Court has:

Even if it's one person that is deprived of a vote, that's enough to pose a problem here. If you've got multiple people that are deprived of a vote, it's problematic.

MR. ATES: Your Honor, can I make a point here?

We did not, under any circumstances, deprive anyone of a vote. What -- to answer your -- address your question:

Should we need to provide the ability for those other people to vote, it would have been, at that point, very easily for us to remove those people that had already voted and bring in the other folks as well.

But it never got to that point because what happened was the gentleman that we had hired -- the deputy -- to try to keep this under control, he allowed 35 people in. At that point, he stopped and said, "Okay. I can't allow anybody else in."

And -- and this proceeding that went on there was some objections and a group of people decided to get up and leave. When they left, other

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people would have been allowed to come in but there were no other folks other than a particular group that came and that group got a little out of hand.

So, the officer determined that -- went out there.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ATES: Because we -- if there is a way that -- like you just said, we could have had this -- this meeting could ave been held somewhere but that's not what we would have done in the past.

We have never done that.

THE COURT: Keep in mind, I'm not critical. I don't think anyone's critical of what had to happen.

14 MR. MEURER: Uh-huh.

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THE COURT: Where the criticism comes in is how do we ensure that everyone has a right to vote and has a vote?

MR. MEURER: We've -- we've talked

about other options in the past. Never had to use

them because we've never had the attendance.

THE COURT: I understand.

MR. MEURER: But right outside, is
pool patio with seats. And we've talked in the past
about rigging that up for overflow crowds should it
happen.

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But, your Honor, it never happened.

But it is -- that is one option is just to let

people sit out and rig up a meeting for everyone to

hear what's going on.

That could seat an additional, I don't know, 50 to 80 people. We've never had to do that. And, so, I don't have any experience doing that.

THE COURT: Would y'all on this side generally agree that, if there were people that wanted to vote and didn't get a right to vote, that it's problematic to the point where maybe something needs to be undone and redone?

MR. MEURER: No. Because we don't agree that people were locked out of that room, and we don't believe anybody that wasn't going to get to vote didn't get a chance to vote.

THE COURT: Okay. I understand that's y'all's position. My question's a little different because we're not here to decide what really happened yet.

We're just here to decide what the Court can do on a temporary basis if that happened. And the Court has to take as true and accurate a contention that something happened until we can

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 ferret it all out in the trial or in the Discovery 2 process.

We're not there yet. So, I'm not here to say something did or didn't happen.

MR. MEURER: That is --

THE COURT: I have to take as accurate and true what they're contending happened and what's the implication on the Bylaws.

And if I have to take as true, what they contend happened -- and I know you dispute it --

MR. MEURER: Uh-huh.

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THE COURT: -- what's the implication on these Bylaws and their rights under the Bylaws and fashion a remedy on a temporary basis until we can get into the heart of what the litigation will really be about.

And maybe in that process, fashion a different remedy that everyone can live with so we can short circuit and minimize costs to everyone.

That's the goal. And I'm here to help facilitate that. But I'm also here to follow what the Law requires me to do. Not only from the statutes and the Common Law, but also fact based. What I'm required to do under these Bylaws.

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So, you've told me a lot about the fact that this never happened in the past. A lot of things like that. And I don't doubt that you're a hundred percent accurate on that. But the real inquiry that we're here for today is fashioning a remedy if what they're saying did happen.

MR. ATES: I would like to address more thing, your Honor. I'm secretary of this Board. I've held that position since Day One.

Part of my responsibility on the Board is to keep records of everything that transpires, which I have to do -- you know, generally do and did bring to Court. You may not need those.

But what he just implicated about the proxies, the reason why we objected to those proxies was those proxies were never presented to me, which they should have been by the Bylaws as secretary to look at. And we don't know -- no way to verifying whether they were legal.

We also can show and there are witnesses to show that various Homeowners were going through the neighborhood with potential proxies asking people to sign those proxies without putting a name of the person who is going to run for that

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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They were also told not to include Mr. Meurer's name on those proxies. This went on through our neighborhood on a daily basis with people coming up.

I can -- I have witness that we will bring to trial that will state that there were people who were knocking on their doors asking for proxies to be signed.

And in our covenant you will see, your Honor, it says all those proxies would have to have been turned over to the secretary. And we never -- I never saw a single one. Not a single one was turned over to me. They were going to Chaparral.

It is our contention that those proxies should have come to me. But it is also our contention that those proxies were made null and void by the misinformation that the management company allowed these two individuals to put out into our subdivision.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ATES: It's totally tainted at

24 this point.

THE COURT: I'm not here to say

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whether that happened or didn't happen. I'm not
here to say whether that has an implication because
people can politic on who they want as a general
proposition.

So, I'm not disagreeing with you or agreeing with you. I'm just saying that I still have to look at, if what the Plaintiff is saying is -- I have to take as true, is it something that I have to do under this scenario.

MR. MEURER: Well, your Honor, there is a difference between politicking and proper campaigning for a position and --

THE COURT: But we're not there yet.

MR. MEURER: -- and spitting

defamatory and violence. I understand we're not there.

THE COURT: We're not there at that stage.

MR. MEURER: And that really doesn't matter. The -- the -- the proxies are covered by our Bylaws, and they were in violation of the Bylaws by not turning those in to the secretary so that -- THE COURT: But how do they turn them in if they're not allowed in the meeting?

MR. ATES: No. No. No, your Honor.

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1 Those proxies could have been turned in at any given 2 time.

THE COURT: You said something that Court wants to ask you about.

MR. ATES: Yes, sir?

THE COURT: "At any given time"

before that vote occurs or is concluded? And if they're given time that they want to do it is inside the meeting, but they're not allowed to attend, then how is it that they weren't deprived?

MR. ATES: Well, in addressing your question about the proxies themselves, what our Bylaws state that those proxies need to be in my hands as secretary.

THE COURT: At what time? Before the meeting starts or any time during the meeting? Does it say before the meeting starts or does it say at any time before the decision is made --

MR. ATES: No.

THE COURT: -- and the vote is

21 counted?

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MR. MEURER: Before the meeting.

MR. ATES: It says -- it simply says

24 that those proxies must be in the hands of the

25 secretary.

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1 THE COURT: Which provision are you 2 referring to in the Bylaws? 3 MR. ATES: Let me go to that. MR. KATINE: It's Article Three, 4 5 Section Five. 6 MR. ATES: "All proxies" -- "each 7 Member may vote in person or by proxies. All 8 proxies shall be in writing and filed with the 9 secretary. Every proxy shall be revocable and shall 1 0 automatically" -- they were never filed. 11 And they were never filed with me 1 2 prior to the start of that meeting and they simply 13 came in --THE COURT: Well, you're adding 1 4 1 5 something to that. You didn't say "prior to the meeting" in it. 16 17 MR. ATES: But they were never given 18 to us. Period. 19 THE COURT: Okay. Again --2 0 MR. ATES: To verify if they were 2 1 even residents. 22 THE COURT: -- and I understand 2 3 that's your --2 4 MR. ATES: And there was no -- there

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was no verification.

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THE COURT: 1 And that may be true. 2 MR. ATES: It is true. 3 THE COURT: Well, I don't know 4 because I wasn't there. I didn't see it. But what 5 I'm saying is, if they wanted to give it to you at 6 the meeting and couldn't get in, how is that going 7 to happen then? 8 MR. ATES: They -- that was not the 9 There were people that -- when the 35 1 0 members -- there was one particular young lady who 11 had her proxy in her hand and asked that question. "You know, I have a proxy. What's 1 2 1 3 the deal with that?" 1 4 I said, "None of the proxies" --15 "your proxy's here, but I have now way of verifying 1 6 whether you are a member or whether you are a 1 7 financial, whether you have a right to vote even in 18 the election." 19 Okay. So --2 0 THE COURT: So, you wouldn't have 2 1 counted that proxy? 22 MR. ATES: I would not have counted 2 3 any -- any proxy that was given to me -- that was 2 4 not given to me to check beforehand whether or not 2.5 they were legal residents, they were financial and

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 they were available to use those proxies.

And, once we found out what was happening with the contamination of the proxies, I mean, it goes beyond --

THE COURT: But can you appreciate from the Court's viewpoint how that might be problematic because you're telling the Court at this point in time that those were not counted.

 $\hbox{And, if they were a proper property} \\$  Owner, they had a right to be counted and --

MR. ATES: But we don't know that.

We had no way of --

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THE COURT: That's my point. That's my point. You did not know whether it was proper or not. And, because you didn't know, you didn't count it. But if it was a proper vote and you are telling me you didn't know and you didn't count it, isn't that problematic?

MR. ATES: Well, we never got to the point of being able to know whether it was a proper vote.

THE COURT: Okay. And, now, you're telling me you never got to that point, yet you concluded the vote without ever getting to the point of knowing whether it's proper. And that alone in

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 itself is a problem.

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MR. ATES: Well, we -- we -- we considered that the contamination of our neighborhood through these -- there's a lot more involved than just that particular issue.

This -- this -- this was circulating through the neighborhood. We know that the proxies that were being asked for were in some cases contaminated.

We would have -- if I could have gotten those in my hand and sat there and looked and verified through our records whether these are citizens of our neighborhood, whether they were actually financial and available to use those proxies, nothing would have gone on with all this elicit stuff going on.

THE COURT: And everyone's going to --

MR. ATES: None of this.

a fair opportunity to flesh all that out. But for purposes of what we do in the meantime, if indeed what the Plaintiff is saying is true and you guys on the Association side continue to take action as a Board that is later might be found to be improper,

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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1 what is that you're going to do with all of the 2 decisions that y'all have taken?

MR. ATES: We have taken no action yet.

THE COURT: Then you're going to make it easy for the Court. So, I'm going to get to the next point.

What is it that is urgent for the Board? As it's currently constituted, what is it that is so urgent for the Board to take pending a better opportunity to resolve this dispute?

Is there anything? Is there anything urgent that the Board needs to take?

MR. ATES: The only thing that we consider to be urgent at this point is getting our community continuing to function as it should.

We have -- we have had some instances where we have submitted information to Ms. Horacefield and Chaparral regarding some of the

We've gotten no answers whatsoever.

We've gotten no cooperation, your Honor, since

October basically on that particular end. We

don't -- we -- we can't --

THE COURT: Tell me about the quorum

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problems that we have had.

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issue on that meeting. Was it only two people 1 2 present? 3 MR. ATES: Oh, which meeting? THE COURT: The November meeting. 4 5 MR. ATES: Oh, the November meeting? 6 MR. MEURER: No. Let me address 7 that. 8 On the November --9 THE COURT: What I really want to 10 know is was there a quorum? 11 MR. MEURER: According to 1 2 David Berk, our attorney, yes, sir. He said so. 13 THE COURT: Okay. How is two people 1 4 of five a quorum? 15 MR. MEURER: He's explains it in his 1 6 letter. Do you want me to read it out loud or just 1 7 not get into the details? 18 THE COURT: No. I would like to 19 know. 2 0 MR. MEURER: I will quote him. This 2 1 is an e-mail from the Tele Horacefield. 22 requested clarity on separate -- on three different 2 3 elements that were requested by President

Willie Jones and Treasurer Karen Blakeman.

THE COURT: You know, I think I can

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1 read it quicker, if you'll just hand it to me.

2 MR. MEURER: Yeah. I'm yelling it

3 for you -- for your -- just wanted you to know the

background of where it came from.

THE COURT: Sure. I understand.

MR. MEURER: David Berk -- oh,

there's a second page. Let me get it.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KATINE: Your Honor, may I ask

what the date of that is?

MR. MEURER: October 22nd.

THE COURT: It's an October 22nd

e-mail correspondence from Tele Horacefield to

David Berk.

THE COURT: Let me read it real quick

first.

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MR. KATINE: May I approach, your

18 Honor?

19 THE COURT: Sure.

MR. KATINE: I'm sorry but since this

is -- this is very unusual but, since the Defendants

22 | have waived the Attorney-Client Privilege, I wasn't

planning to use this, this is actually an e-mail

from David Berk back to her that, if the Court will

read, I think it will be --

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Okay. 1 THE COURT: 2 MR. KATINE: -- helpful. 3 THE COURT: Give me just a moment. 4 MR. KATINE: Yes. 5 THE COURT: Let me take a quick look 6 at this. 7 MR. MEURER: Yes. 8 THE COURT: Okay. So, with respect 9 to person that's in the military, you guys have a 10 policy or a Bylaw, either way, that if someone 11 misses three consecutive regular meetings, then 12 they're subject to being removed? 13 MR. ATES: That's in the Bylaws. 1 4 MR. MEURER: It is in the Bylaws. 15 THE COURT: Okay. 16 MR. KATINE: It is in the Bylaws. 1 7 Subject to being removed by a valid Board of 18 Directors' decision. 19 THE COURT: Okay. So, the 2 0 Association did not provide notice of the November 2 1 meeting to the Association's Homeowners? 22 MR. KATINE: That's correct, your 23 Honor. 2 4 MR. ATES: That's incorrect and we

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did. And we have that right here.

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1 THE COURT: Well, but that's 2 David Berk saying that. 3 MR. ATES: Well --4 THE COURT: Is David Berk your 5 counsel? 6 MR. MEURER: He works for 7 HoltTollett. 8 THE COURT: I'm sorry? 9 MR. MEURER: HoltTollett is the --10 MR. KATINE: That's the name of the law firm. 11 1 2 MR. MEURER: -- is the legal firm 13 that serves us. 1 4 THE COURT: Okay. Is he an attorney 15 there? 16 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 17 MR. MEURER: Yes. 18 THE COURT: Okay. Is this the same 19 counsel that you were providing information to? 2 0 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 2 1 THE COURT: Is this an extra copy? 22 MR. KATINE: You can have that copy, 2 3 your Honor. 2 4 THE COURT: Do you want to mark it 2 5 and put it on record?

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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                   MR. KATINE:
                                 Yes, your Honor.
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                   MR. MEURER:
                                Do you -- are you taking
 3
   mine, too?
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                   THE COURT:
                                I'm happy to. Is that
 5
   okay? Unless that's your only copy?
                   MR. MEURER: I -- I can get another
 6
 7
   one.
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                   THE COURT:
                               All right.
 9
                                May I continue with that
                   MR. MEURER:
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   November 1 meeting that you have asked us to
   address -- the other complaints?
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                   THE COURT: Hold on. How about if we
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   do it after I read a couple of things?
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                   MR. MEURER:
                                Sure.
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                   THE COURT: Because some of it may be
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   dispositive of what I'm referring to here.
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                   Have you seen a copy of that e-mail
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   from the attorney?
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                   MR. MEURER: All -- all we got is
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   what Tele sent the Board, and you can see her
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   distribution.
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                   THE COURT:
                               Okay.
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                   MR. MEURER: Okay.
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                   THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to call
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it "Defendant's Exhibit 1."

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

MR. MEURER: 1 Okay. 2 THE COURT: The October 22, 2024, 3 correspondence. 4 MR. MEURER: Yes, sir. 5 THE COURT: And is it my 6 understanding that you're requesting it be admitted 7 into evidence as a part of this record? 8 MR. MEURER: Absolutely. 9 THE COURT: Okay. So, Defendant's 10 Exhibit No. 1 is admitted. 11 And then I'm marking as Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 1 the David Burke November 7, 2024, 12 13 correspondence to Lindsey or Kensey cc'q 1 4 Tele Horacefield and Valerie Overbeck. 15 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 16 THE COURT: And do you wish to admit 1 7 it? 18 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. And that is admitted? 19 2 0 THE COURT: Plaintiff's Exhibit 2 1 Number 1 is admitted. 22 Now, just so that I can expedite this 2 3 just a little bit -- but I will give everyone a 2 4 full, fair opportunity to say whatever they want --

but it's a little bit instructive on the positions

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 that people take here today.

Because I wasn't there to note all this stuff, so I have to take as true what the Plaintiffs are alleging. But this correspondence from the counsel for the Association is dispositive on some of the issues from the perspective of their read and their interpretation of the Bylaws as applied to this factual scenario.

MR. MEURER: Understood.

THE COURT: With respect to the

11 November 1, 2024, meeting it states that: "The

12 meeting of November 1, 2024, did not of constitute a

13 valid meeting of the Providence Community

14 Association, Inc.'s, Board of Directors at which

Association business could be conducted. The

16 meeting of November 1, 2024, was not properly

17 noticed to the Association's Homeowners."

18 MR. MEURER: That is incorrect.

19 THE COURT: I understand that is your

20 position.

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MR. MEURER: Sir, we have an agenda

issued as a Special Meeting of Membership by

23 Ms. Tele Horacefield.

THE COURT: What's the date?

MR. MEURER: October 30th.

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 THE COURT: And what's the date of 2 the meeting? 3 MR. MEURER: November 1. 4 THE COURT: Did you meet the 72-hour 5 requirement for open meetings? 6 MR. ATES: We -- we did. We sent it 7 to her. 8 MR. MEURER: It was sent out on the 9 29th. I have the e-mail. 10 THE COURT: Well, how was it sent out on the 29th and it's dated the 30th? 11 1 2 MR. MEURER: Give me one second here. 13 THE COURT: Okay. 1 4 MR. MEURER: I need to make sure I'm 1 5 not misinforming you. 16 THE COURT: Okay. 1 7 MR. KATINE: Your Honor, just for 18 purposes of expediency, it is undisputed that there 19 were only two Board Members at that meeting. 2 0 THE COURT: Yeah. I'm getting to 2 1 that now. 22 MR. KATINE: Okay. THE COURT: So, let me move forward. 23 2 4 It also states that: "A quorum of

Directors was not present at the November 1, 2024,

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1 meeting." 2 It further states that: "The 3 November 1, 2024, meeting did not effectively 4 appoint Association Officers or filled a vacancy 5 created by Paul Leader's resignation." 6 Further states: "The November 1, 7 2024, meeting did not effectively declare Nadeem Naik's Board Seat vacant." 8 9 And, under each of these, it gives an 10 explanation under various sections of the Texas 11 Property Code, as well as some references to the 1 2 Bylaws. 13 I'm just skipping over and giving you 1 4 the highlights because the document will be in 15 evidence. 16 And it further states that: "The 17 Providence Community Association, Inc.'s, Board of 18 Directors cannot remove Directors from the Board and the vote to remove Blakeman is therefore 1 9 2 0 ineffective." 2 1 And it gives a very long recitation 22 for why. Now, with that said, I fully understand 2 3 and recognize the current-constituted Board 2 4 Association's position here, but we have a problem. 2.5 And the problem is, fundamentally, a

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lack of compliance with the Property Code and with
the Bylaws. And, if that indeed did happen, any
action that's taken from that point forward is
improper, ineffective, void, amongst other things.

MR. MEURER: Your Honor, you've lost
me with respect to -- are you -- are you going back

me with respect to -- are you -- are you going back to the actual validity of the meeting with respect to how it was called, when it was called, was it properly noticed?

And you have my e-mail,

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unfortunately, that you took from me. Could I come look at it?

THE COURT: Sure. I don't think it's going to change anything.

MR. MEURER: Well, that's -- I'm just trying to make the point and answer the question you asked.

THE COURT: And, again, what I'm really saying here is --

MR. MEURER: Here, it was actually October 29th. It's an E-blast that's particularly to me. Every 653 person got that. And this is the notice. And what I have is the agenda, all put out by Ms. Tele Horacefield. That's her job.

THE COURT: Do you have a reason why

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1 your counsel would say otherwise? 2 MR. MEURER: Other than I don't think 3 they are aware or they don't understand what they're 4 reading, but it was a 72-hour notice. And it was 5 coordinated --6 THE COURT: But how do you address 7 the quorum issue of two people? 8 MR. MEURER: At the meeting? 9 THE COURT: Yeah. Go ahead and step 1 0 back. 11 MR. MEURER: It didn't show up, your 1 2 Honor. I mean, are you saying why did no one show 13 up at the meeting? 1 4 THE COURT: No. What I'm saying is, 15 if you've got two Board members, that's not a quorum 16 under the Bylaws or under the Property Code. 17 MR. MEURER: We took direction from 18 Mr. David Berk, the attorney. We did not say that -- he said it's a -- it constitutes, under 19 2 0 those conditions, a quorum. We took that --2 1 THE COURT: You took directions from 2 2 David Berk? 2 3 MR. MEURER: He's the attorney --2 4 THE COURT: Okay. 2.5 MR. MEURER: -- and through Tele.

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 What else were we to do?

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meeting.

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THE COURT: You're confusing me. Was

David Berk there or not?

MR. MEURER: Where? At the meeting?

THE COURT: Yes.

MR. MEURER: Was David there?

MR. ATES: David Berk was at our

October 20 -- at our Regular Meeting. He came in with in Ms. Kensey through -- they came into the

At that point, that's when we got to this point where Mr. Berk was issuing his opinions

He did not show up for the November 1st meeting.

THE COURT: Okay. But you're telling us, on the record, that Mr. Berk is the Association's attorney and will be the attorney acting on behalf of your group here today?

MR. MEURER: I don't know.

MR. ATES: That's a question? Maybe I should -- maybe, your Honor, you're saying that he will be acting for us or for PCA?

THE COURT: All I'm asking is --

MR. ATES: I don't know.

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Well, I'm hearing 1 THE COURT: 2 conflicting things here. And I think you said, sir, 3 that he was your attorney and y'all were listening 4 to him as your attorney? MR. MEURER: At that time. But in 5 6 the month of November, sir, HoltTollett issued a 7 letter to Chaparral and to PCA saying we are --THE COURT: 8 Stop. Stop. Stop. 9 MR. MEURER: -- no longer your 10 attorneys. So, at the time, we did, yeah. 11 THE COURT: Okay. Hold on. Are you 12 saying then that Mr. Berk is no longer your 13 attorney? 1 4 MR. MEURER: He's saying it. 15 Luke Tollett, the owner of the company, issued a 16 letter saying, "We're backing away from PCA. We no 1 7 longer serve you." 18 They haven't charged our Association 19 for any services. 2 0 THE COURT: When do you contend they 21 were no longer your attorneys? 22 MR. MEURER: The day we got that 23 letter from them, they said they backed away. 2 4 THE COURT: Okay. And what's the 2.5 date of the letter?

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MR. MEURER: It's -- I don't have it
with me, but I can get it. It's some time in
November.

THE COURT: Okay. Nonetheless, we have in evidence here a problem with the meeting, a problem with the quorum, a problem with the notice that is noted by counsel at the time for the Association.

We've got a problem. So, now,
let's fix it. Is there anything more you want to
tell me about these issues? Or do we want to spend
a little bit of time on trying to find a status quo
that maybe is more amenable to both sides?

MR. MEURER: Well, I don't want to waste anybody's time here. I'm simply saying that we dispute everything about this being an invalid meeting because have -- we feel we demonstrated even on -- that may not be the purpose of this hearing, I understand, sir. But --

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MEURER: But we've shown you that it's properly noticed. We took direction from the attorney at the time. We aren't qualified to make that. Only the attorneys are.

On October 22nd, they answered both

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Ms. Karen Blakeman and Willie Jones, the president, and the rest of Board that, Yes, you have a quorum even with two per your Bylaws.

And that was on October 22nd. We ran with it on the November 1 meeting. So, if -- you know, I don't know what else we could be expected to do other than to take direction from the experts and we're not attorneys. Mr. Berk is.

MR. ATES: At the meeting that -- at our meeting -- and, prior to that meeting, Mr. Berk came in with some representatives from Chaparral.

We -- we kind of feel like we are at a disadvantage here because, basically, what we had go on here is the attorneys, once they realized we were at issue with what was being done -- and I'm not -- I'm not trying to say there's collusion here. But I will say that the attorneys were looking at representing Mr. Nadeem and Ms. Blakeman in our community more than they were representing the Community because, basically, what they did was they told us, "We are no longer available to help or to add anything."

And you see the e-mails where they said that. So, at that point we're wondering, Well, who are they serving. Are they serving the

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 Community Association or they severing these two 2 individuals?

THE COURT: Okay. Look, the Court wants to get this right.

MR. MEURER: Yeah. So do we.

THE COURT: And I'm going to make it right one way or the other. I know everyone here wants to get it right.

Let me just state something else that I'm relying upon both the Bylaws and a legal interpretation from counsel for the Association's position on those Bylaws.

Article Six, Section Three of the Bylaws requires a quorum of a majority of the number of Directors for meetings at the Association's Board of Directors.

We can all agree on that, can't we?

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: You've got to say "yes"

20 for the record.

MR. MEURER: What article again? I'm

22 sorry.

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THE COURT: Let me make sure he's

24 citing it right.

MR. MEURER: Yes. These articles can

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 get confusing. 2 MR. KATINE: Article Six, Roman --3 Section Three under Meeting of Directors it does say 4 "quorum." And it's on page four of the Bylaws. 5 THE COURT: And it states: "A 6 majority of the number of Directors shall constitute 7 a quorum." 8 "A majority in the number of 9 Directors." 10 MR. MEURER: That's correct. 11 THE COURT: Can we further agree 12 that, as of the start of that meeting, there were 13 still four Board Directors -- a four Director Board? 1 4 MR. KATINE: Actually, your Honor, if 15 I may? Just because there's a vacancy, it doesn't 16 change the total number of Board Members. 17 THE COURT: I understand. 18 MR. KATINE: Okay. But there were 19 four actual people. 2 0 THE COURT: Yeah. I think we can 2 1 dispose of this issue both ways. 22 MR. KATINE: Okay. 23 THE COURT: Because, either way, it's 2 4 going to take care of the issue. 2.5 MR. KATINE: Yes, sir.

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

THE COURT: And I understand your 1 2 position is it should be the proper quorum number, 3 but I don't think it changes the number even if it's 4 five or four. 5 It's going to be the same number. 6 So --7 MR. MEURER: I don't want to sound 8 like a broken record, I agree with what it says. '' A 9 majority," but there's no number indicated. 10 That's why Ms. Blakeman and Mr. Jones asked for clarification, and we got it from 11 1 2 David Berk. 13 THE COURT: Okay. I've moved on from 1 4 that. I've already went to the second question. 15 MR. MEURER: Okay. 16 THE COURT: And my next question was: 17 We can all agree there were four 18 Members of the Board at that time? 19 MR. ATES: At which time? 2 0 MR. MEURER: At which time? At the 2 1 start of that meeting. 22 THE COURT: That's correct. 23 MR. MEURER: Or before that meeting? 2 4 THE COURT: That's correct.

MR. MEURER: Yes, you're right.

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                   THE COURT: And what would be a
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   majority of four?
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                   MR. MEURER: Three.
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                   THE COURT: Okay. What three people
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   present?
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                   MR. MEURER: No. Because two refused
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   to show.
 8
                   MR. ATES: Refused to show.
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                   THE COURT:
                               Okay. So, you don't have
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   a quorum?
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                   MR. MEURER: So, we can never have a
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   meeting, according to that logic, because, if two
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   never show up --
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                               Unfortunately --
                   THE COURT:
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                   MR. MEURER: -- our meeting is dead?
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                   THE COURT: Unfortunately, that is a
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   problem.
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                   MR. ATES: Yes, it is.
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                   THE COURT:
                               But that's the Law, and
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   that's the way it works.
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                   MR. MEURER: Well, your Honor, the
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   whole purpose of that meeting really was the
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   president had resigned seven days before.
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                   Without a president, our Bylaws say
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   the Vice-President immediately and temporarily steps
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1 into and -- but the Board has to decide that and 2 vote for it.

THE COURT: With a quorum.

MR. MEURER: Yes.

THE COURT: And without a quorum, you

can't take action.

MR. MEURER: And, so, any two rogue Board Members can shut down a Board forever by never showing up?

THE COURT: Not forever. Someone comes to the Court and gets a receivership and then we take care of it.

MR. MEURER: Yeah. Well --

MR. ATES: We understand that.

THE COURT: Yeah. I didn't make the

16 Bylaws.

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MR. MEURER: No. I -- I just --

we're getting into interpretation and --

THE COURT: And anything that I do, I

mean, I've have got an Appellate Courts that looks

over what I do, too.

MR. MEURER: I know.

THE COURT: So, I want to get it

right for everyone here.

MR. MEURER: Well, all we can do is

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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1 take -- take our direction from the experts and 2 we -- we -- we received that and we --

THE COURT: And from the Court. From the experts and the Court.

Okay. Let's deal with the problem we have here. We have an issue of concern with the lack of a quorum and some other things that are happening. But that fact that there's a lack of a quorum in and of itself is dispositive of any action being taken by -- from that point forward.

And that's just the Law. No way we are going to get around that. So, if that's the case, I've got to put in place and fashion a remedy on a temporary basis that I'm hoping that everyone can agree to so that we don't have to come back in 14 days or less and do another argument on a Temporary Injunction Hearing because that's the way that Law works.

When I grant a TRO, then that's a Temporary Order that lasts up to 14 days at which time I'm going to set a Temporary Injunction Hearing and we're going to come back and argue this on something that's pretty dispositive.

And I'm going to grant the Temporary
Injunction unless there's something more that

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changes. And, given Plaintiff's Exhibit Number 1, it's going to be difficult to change this because it is a duly-authorized representative of this constituted Association's Board at the time, before they were terminated, which, as your agent and representative, is going to be problematic for you 7 to distance yourself from.

So, let's fix it. Let's just figure out a way to fix this.

MR. MEURER: Well, you asked the question further that we never answered. You said, "How is the Association being" -- well, what are the problems right now? What's -- what's damaging? THE COURT: Okay. Any action taken by that Board is --

MR. MEURER: How about inaction is problem -- how about the fact that our insurance policies, General Liability, Property Damage, D&O Insurance had lapsed on February the 18th? Our Association is now without

insurance coverage. We took action. We took action -- okay -- with the broker because the broker contacted us.

> And if you will allow me? THE COURT: Okay.

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                   MR. MEURER:
                                He said he's been
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   contacting Chaparral. They don't respond all
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   through December. Your policies are coming up.
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   They are commercial in nature. They're commercial
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   insurance. And you probably well know, is in a
 6
   state of flux. They are not going to renew those
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   unless you update the information. And if you don't
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   do something, you're going to lose your policy.
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                   THE COURT: But what you're telling
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   the Court is your strengthening why we have to have
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   more emergent action of this Injunctive relief --
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                   MR. MEURER: No. Well -- I'm --
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   I'm -- well --
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                   THE COURT: Let me finish, sir.
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                   MR. MEURER: -- we need somebody in
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   charge.
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                   THE COURT: Hold on. Let me finish.
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   And I will ask y'all to please don't speak over the
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   Court --
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                   MR. MEURER: No. I'm -- I'm --
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                   THE COURT: -- because we can't get a
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   good --
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                   MR. MEURER: Yeah.
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                   THE COURT: -- record.
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                   MR. MEURER: Yeah.
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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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THE COURT: You're doing it again.

You're doing it again. Try not to, and I will give you the latitude to speak until at some point in time.

You're telling the Court why it needs to grant emergency relief because you have urgent action that needs to be addressed.

So, you kind of just made the case even stronger for the Plaintiff.

MR. MEURER: No. May I speak? Are you --

THE COURT: What do you want to say?

MR. MEURER: I don't agree with that statement. What we are doing is trying to protect the PCA from going without insurance when our -- our property manager will not take action to pay the bills.

THE COURT: Okay. Here's the problem you got, sir, and I want to make it very abundantly clear:

You and your group cannot operate as a Board if it's not a properly-constituted Board.

End of story. You cannot do that.

MR. MEURER: Okay.

THE COURT: I don't know how much

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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clearer I can make it, but that is the Law. And if I were to tell you differently, a Court above me is going to say, "Krenek, you in 400th Court got it wrong," because the Law is that strong.

MR. MEURER: Okay.

THE COURT: You cannot operate if you don't have a properly-constituted group. That's fundamentally how we start.

It's not me saying that. It's what the Law in the State of Texas says. It's in the Property Code. It's further supported by your Bylaws, and the Texas Supreme Court tells us this.

MR. MEURER: Okay.

what I can do. And that's why I get back to let's fashion a remedy that everyone can live with in a way that makes sense, that tries to hold down costs for everyone, that gets the action you need taken on a more timely basis, that does not waste judicial or your resources or judicial resources in a way that's unnecessary if we can avoid it.

I am perfectly happy to deal with any issues that anyone that disputes what's about to happen wants to deal with. But I want to also find a better way for everyone in this courtroom and the

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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1 Association and a properly-constituted Board to take 2 action.

That's all I'm here to try to do and fundamentally help both of you.

MR. MEURER: And -- and we would agree with you, your Honor.

MR. KATINE: Your Honor, I have an idea that I'd like to just ask the Court.

THE COURT: Please.

MR. KATINE: Because I'm looking for a solution as well. And I know this is done sometime because sometimes I'm appointed by a Court.

What I'd suggest and maybe we can get an agreement from all parties is that the Board of Directors -- that the parties not take any further action and that the Court appoint someone that the Court knows to call and conduct a new meeting, an election, so that it can be done in a place because they may not trust my client -- the people with us.

And sometimes that's just the easiest thing to do is to have a third-party who will be paid by the Association to call, run the meeting, have an election as soon as possible and let's see what the results are after that.

THE COURT: Okay. Part of what

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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1 counsel just said -- and let me say it in different 2 terms:

That was a kind of an end-all to fix the entire situation because, if a properly-conducted meeting occurs and then a properly-constituted Board comes into existence, they don't have much more they can argue about to this Court.

And, so, there's no improper action that's going to be taken after I fix what has already occurred. No further improper action.

So, the way the Court would view that is, once that properly-conducted meeting occurs and a properly-constituted Board is established and action that was taken by a questionably-constituted Board is undone, there's no more anyone can come to this Court for.

MR. KATINE: I agree.

THE COURT: Because it's already done. It saves everyone time, money and gets you your quick relief.

With that said, however, the Court's going to enter some injunctive relief today. Now, if it's by agreement based upon what counsel for the Plaintiff said, which is ultimately, probably what's

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going to happen if y'all can't agree otherwise, but
I have the authority to, at least, undo what has
happened and put the four Members back on. But
that's not going to get you anywhere because you're
going to be in a deadlock unless we go to the next
step that counsel for Plaintiff is saying.

I'm not going to necessarily do that today unless you have input into it.

MR. ATES: Could I ask one question, your Honor?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. ATES: I really want to see us work as a Board. I really want to see that because, right now, we're not doing anything to help the Community. But I do have a concern, after what we've gone through for the last three or four months in our Community and what's been happening.

My only concern is that I don't believe that there can be a fair election based upon what has happened at this point.

Now, maybe if we had a way to get our opinions out into the subdivision as to what they have been doing -- using, we might be able to come to a fair election.

But, right now, the lies and the

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1 stuff that's been put out, people are confused. 2 They don't know what to believe. 3 I've got Neighbors knocking on my 4 door saying, "Well, what about this? What about 5 this?" 6 THE COURT: Here's how we address 7 that situation: 8 A meeting gets set in a timeframe 9 where both sides have an adequate opportunity. But 1 0 there's some urgency here. Let's deal with the 11 urgency. 12 You mentioned insurance policies. Right now, is insurance in place or not? 13 1 4 MR. KATINE: Your Honor, insurance is 15 in place. The property manager has told me and will 1 6 tell you that it was renewed on February --17 MS. HORACEFIELD: 18th. MR. KATINE: 18th. 18 19 THE COURT: So, that issue is 2 0 addressed, at least. Whether you know about it or 2 1 not, we now have them saying it's in place and

22 that's a representation to the Court.

23 Anything else urgent that you guys

24 need on the Defendants' side?

MR. JONES: Just the ability to --

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1 to -- I -- no problem with having our Members our 2 Homeowners elect the other two officers. But I'm 3 just stating, your Honor, from what I have seen and 4 from what I've been told by members of my Community, 5 it's been with all that stuff that's come down. 6 Over 150 texts that went out to our 7 Neighbors about this. We never had a chance to 8 respond. We were given any opportunity to respond 9 whatsoever. 10 So, I'm saying I -- I feel it's 11 tainted. But, yeah, I do think we need -- if you 12 say we need another election, fine. But I'm just 13 saying we would have no chance whatsoever at this 1 4 point of getting a fair election because of what has 15 been done. 16 I mean, I -- it's just -- and your 17 Honor can see --18 THE COURT: Are you telling the Court 19 you need some additional time? 2 0 MR. ATES: Yes, please, your Honor. 2 1 All right. So, let's THE COURT: 2 2 come to terms on when we can have this --23 MR. ATES: Okay. 2 4 THE COURT: -- that makes sense --

MR. ATES: Correct.

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1 THE COURT: -- if there's nothing 2 else urgent. 3 Are you, Plaintiff, have anything 4 else urgent that needs to be done? 5 MR. KATINE: No, your Honor. We know 6 of nothing else urgent. 7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. 8 MR. ATES: Your Honor, may I ask one 9 more question? 10 THE COURT: Yeah. MR. ATES: The information that has 11 1 2 been distributed to our Community by Chaparral, they 13 have the control of whatever information goes out into the Community. 1 4 15 We have been denied the implicity 1 6 every time -- every time we've asked for something 1 7 to be put in --18 THE COURT: That's something I can do 19 something about. Look, are you talking about e-mail 2 0 access? 2 1 MR. ATES: Yes, sir. THE COURT: Okay. Both sides should 22

THE COURT: Okay. Both sides should be able to have e-mail access. I don't think that's anything that problematic.

MR. ATES: We've had none. We've

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#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 been shut out completely.

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THE COURT: I'm giving it to you. I will give it to you before the end of this hearing is over.

Anything else?

MR. MEURER: Yes. There -- under the -- under the assumption, as you -- it's not an assumption. It looks like directive.

are all four Board Members not being communicated with, with respect to element we just discussed?

The insurance policies are either in place or they are not. We don't know.

There are four Board Members.

THE COURT: Okay. I can do something about that by making it very clear that everyone is to be provided notice.

MR. MEURER: All four Board Members?

THE COURT: Okay. The four Board

Members being Willies Jones, Michael --

MR. ATES: Ates.

THE COURT: -- Ates, Nadeem Naik and Karen Blakeman. Those are the four we are all in agreement in with?

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. So, that's easy

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1 enough. All four Board Members -- I can fashion a 2 remedy that makes sure all Board Members that are a 3 part of what both sides -- while you might not like 4 it but still will be the case of who's on this 5 Board -- they will get notice of everything. 6 MR. ATES: Your Honor, may I ask you 7 a question? 8 THE COURT: Yes. 9 This is important. MR. ATES: 1 0 reference to the Board Members, I'm kind of confused 11 as to how these two individuals can still be Board 1 2 Members when their terms expired? 13 THE COURT: Because there was not 1 4 another duly-authorized and constituted election, 1 5 and they retain that position until they are 1 6 replaced. 17 MR. ATES: Okay. 18 THE COURT: That's typically what 19 happens; is that correct? 2 0 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 2 1 THE COURT: Okay. I have someone 22 here who's part of a Defendant. So, sir, stand up 23 and tell me your name and then tell me what you want 2 4 to say? 2.5 MR. JONES: My name is Willie Jones,

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

and I just had a couple of questions here because 1 2 I'm a little confused myself.

It says here -- what I'm trying to find out is are the Bylaws being totally ignored or what?

And, on this particular situation, I will say on a -- the Bylaws state that, after you miss three consecutive meetings, you're automatically off the Board.

THE COURT: No. No. It doesn't say "you're automatically." I think you can be voted.

MR. JONES: You can be voted off and does that "unless" decide that?

THE COURT: Which provision is that? MR. KATINE: It's under the Powers of

the Board.

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THE COURT: Article?

MR. KATINE: That's Article Seven,

Section One-D.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KATINE: This is a power that the

Board of Directors has. So, that's something that

would have to be a Board -- a valid-Board

discussion. It's.

Not nothing happens automatically.

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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                   THE COURT:
                                Yeah.
                                       So, sir, to answer
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   your question, the way the Bylaws are written, it's
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   not an automatic happens upon the missing of the
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   third meeting.
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                   A properly-constituted Board would
   have to vote and declare it that way, and there was
 6
 7
   no properly-constituted Board. Formalities but the
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   technicalities matter on this.
                   MR. JONES: On the November 1st
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10
   meeting David Berk had stated that two Members --
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   two Board Members constituted a quorum.
1 2
                   THE COURT: He was wrong. He was
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   wrong, and he admitted he was wrong.
1 4
                   MR. JONES:
                               Well, that's what I'm
1 5
   saying. That's how we had a quorum.
16
                   THE COURT: Okay. But because he was
1 7
   wrong, we have to undo it.
18
                   MR. JONES:
                                Okay.
19
                   THE COURT: If that's what he said,
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   we have to undo it.
2 1
                   MR. JONES:
                               Question Number Two:
22
                   How can we not have a quorum if
2 3
   Pat Meurer was legally appointed by the remaining
2 4
   Members of the Board after Paul Weeder --
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                   THE COURT: Here's why, sir:
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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 Because there was no legal 2 appointment if you don't have a quorum to appoint 3 him. 4 MR. JONES: It doesn't say that, 5 though. 6 THE COURT: Yeah, it does. 7 Bylaws do say that. You cannot act without a proper 8 No association can act without a proper 9 quorum, and any action taken without a proper quorum 1 0 is void. MR. JONES: It said in Section Three 11 1 2 of Article Four, it states that: 1 3 "In the event of death, resignation 1 4 or removal of Director, his successor shall be 15 elected by the remaining Members of the Board and 16 shall serve for the unexpired term of his 1 7 predecessor." 18 THE COURT: You have no Board because 19 you didn't have a quorum. There was no quorum 2 0 there. 2 1 MR. JONES: It doesn't say anything 2 2 about the quorum. 2 3 THE COURT: Another section says you

MR. JONES: Thank you.

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can't act without a quorum.

2 4

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THE COURT: You're welcome.
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 2
                   Okay. Someone wants to talk on this
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   side behind you, but I'm not sure that's --
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                   MR. KATINE:
                                This is actually Karen.
 5
   This is one of the Board Members. This is
 6
   Karen Blakeman.
 7
                   Yes, ma'am. Did you want to say
 8
   something to the Judge?
 9
                   THE COURT: Okay. Just for the
10
   record, this is Karen Blakeman, B-L-A-K-E-M-A-N.
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                   MS. BLAKEMAN: Yes. Thank you.
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                   So, in terms of the proper notice
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   that was given for the November 1 Board Meeting, the
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   things that were done at that meeting, per the
15
   meeting minutes that we received, are things that
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   need to be properly noticed per the Texas Property
1 7
   Code to the entire residents saying that they're
18
   going to talk about those 15 things.
19
                   THE COURT: So, basically, you're
2 0
   saying a proper agenda needs to be part of the
21
   notice?
22
                   MS. BLAKEMAN: Exactly.
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                   THE COURT: I understand that.
2 4
                   MS. BLAKEMAN: All right. Thank you.
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                   MR. KATINE: Thank you.
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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. KATINE: So, your Honor, at this point, what I would like to propose is that our two requests for the TRO be granted and that is from conducting any Association business with the three disputed Directors, which are Patrick Meurer, Laura Dawson and Steven McSwain.

That they can no longer act as

Directors of the Board of Directors. And that the
other thing is, is that any Board of Directors'
meeting must include proper notice in accordance
with the Property Code. And that you have to have a
quorum, which is, at least, three of the following
Board Members: Willie A. Jones, Michael Ates,
Nadeem Naik, N-A-I-K, and Karen Blakeman. So, that
will be a quorum of the three of them.

I would like to ask that, in addition to this, based on our discussion today, that the Court order a new Annual Meeting, an Election, to fill the two positions that are up for election.

And either appoint a neutral third-party to be an Officer of the Court to run the meeting and conduct the Election unless the Court feels that he wants to leave it to the four Board Members at this time?

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                   THE COURT: Well, we're going to deal
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   with that now.
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                   MR. KATINE: Okay.
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                   THE COURT: But let me first make
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   some findings on the record here.
                   MR. KATINE: Just one other thing,
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 7
   your Honor, just for clarification, Chaparral
 8
   Management is still the management company that has
 9
   the records, that has the money of the Association.
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                   They were not properly dismissed by
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   the invalid --
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                   THE COURT: I got that. I understand
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   that.
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                   MR. KATINE: Okay. I just wanted to
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   let -- we have a management company that could help
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   with the 600 Homeowners.
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                   THE COURT: I understand. But,
18
   depending upon what you guy are wanting on this
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   Defense side -- look, I know you may not agree with
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   the ruling but it's the Law and it's the Bylaws.
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                   What I'm trying to do is help y'all
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   on this Defense side put something in place that
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   gives you what you articulated to the Court that you
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   need and that's:
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                   Access to database, proper notice and
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#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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an opportunity and time to do whatever you guys want to do just like you contend the other side did.

Alternatively, one way or the other, we're going to sign a TRO here today. And then I'm going to leave it to y'all to figure out, which I'm not so sure y'all are going to be able to figure this out in a way that's going to get it done timely.

I'm going to grant a TRO. And then we're going to go into the second part of what the request was to see if you guys want to figure out a neutral fifth person to conduct this meeting and then come up with a timeframe based upon your input or you guys are just going to try to figure it out yourselves with the two-to-two deadlock and it may never happen.

MR. MEURER: May I ask a question?

The three of us, Ms. Dawson,

Mr. McSwain and myself, that are not involved in this, should we be excused? Because you -- this is amongst the four Board Members that you're now going back in time to prior to November 1 and you're saying those are the Board.

Since I am not on the Board, I should have no say in any of this, correct?

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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                   THE COURT:
                              Willie Jones,
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   Michael Ates.
                   That's the two that would still be
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   remaining, right?
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                   MR. MEURER: That's what I'm saying
 5
   and I'm asking.
 6
                   THE COURT: Okay. Nadeem Naik,
 7
   Karen Blakeman.
 8
                   MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.
 9
                   THE COURT: Are both of y'all here?
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                   MR. KATINE: Nadeem is not here.
11
                   THE COURT: Okay.
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                   MR. KATINE: But Karen is here.
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                   THE COURT: All right. I'll tell you
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   what then, Mr. Jones, why don't you come on up
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   because I'm going to ask you something in just a
16
   minute.
                               Yes.
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                   MR. JONES:
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                   THE COURT: Where he's sitting.
19
                   Yes, ma'am. State your name before
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   you say what you're going to say.
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                   MS. DAWSON: My name is Laura Dawson.
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   and, unfortunately, I was at the meeting and we
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   got -- I got elected. I haven't done one thing, not
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   one because of all this.
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                   So, when you said "don't act as the
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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

Board," I haven't done one thing. But what I would like to know with this case what neighbors are the friends of -- who is the -- what is it called -- Concerned Citizens, I'd like to know who all those Concerned Citizens are.

THE COURT: Okay. That's going to be for another time. Not for today.

MS. DAWSON: Can I get it one day?

THE COURT: You're involved in

litigation. You need to talk with your counsel

about the best way to obtain that information in

MS. DAWSON: Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay. The Court at this TRO Hearing notes that all of the individual Defendants are present, along with the Plaintiff, Providence Community -- I'm sorry -- along with Concerned Owners of Providence.

After hearing the arguments and the presentation of certain evidence, including

Defendant's Exhibit Number 1 and Plaintiff's Exhibit Number One, the Court finds and concludes that a quorum was not properly constituted at the time that the November 1 meeting occurred or any of the meetings from that point forward.

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Discovery.

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And, accordingly, any of the action
that's taken as a result of an
improperly-constituted quorum or lack of a quorum
therefore void and ineffective.

Any action that was taken from that
point forward, is action that is void and

The Court further finds that the Plaintiff has met its burden to establish entitlement to the Temporary Restraining Order and other Injunctive Relief sought.

And the Court, therefore, orders and enjoins and orders the Providence Community

14 Association, Inc., or any of the named five

15 Defendants from conducting any Association business.

16 That includes any Members of a purported Board that are not Willie A. Jones, Michael Ates, Nadeem Naik

Therefore, anyone that purports to act on behalf of the Board is enjoined from taking such action.

MR. MEURER: Meurer.

THE COURT: -- Meurer, Ms. Dawson and

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and Karen Blakeman.

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ineffective.

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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any of the other people that are not Willie Jones
and Michael Ates indicated that they have not taken
any action and don't intend to.

So, it shouldn't be a problem enjoining you from doing that.

The Court further enjoins the Providence Community Association, Inc., from conducting any Board of Director's meetings without proper notice to Owners in accordance with Section 209.0051 of the Texas Property Code and without the attendance of, at least, a properly-constituted quorum. That, in this case because there are four Members that still remain on the Board, will be three of the following Board Members present. Those being Willie A. Jones, Michael Ates, Nadeem Naik, N-A-I-K, and Karen Blakeman.

(The Court speaking to court staff.)

MR. KATINE: Your Honor, if we could have it the week of March 31st, which is the second week?

I'm in trial the first week.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to set a Temporary Injunction Hearing for April the 3rd at 3:00 o'clock.

I'm required to set that hearing to

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give people an opportunity to present any evidence they wish to present at a Temporary Injunction Hearing to determine whether the Temporary Restraining Order relief will continue beyond 14 days.

Under that Law, you are entitled -both sides are entitled to an agreed one additional
extension of 14 days or you can agree to maintain
the status quo and do what's called an "Agreed
Temporary Injunction" just to continue the same
status quo.

However, you guys work it out, I will encourage y'all to have counsel involved from the Association or Defendants' side in order to properly effectuate what we're doing, but I have to, at least, note that for the injunctive relief that we're granting here today.

I'm also going to require the

Plaintiffs post a bond of a hundred dollars. I

don't find that there's any negative relief,

negative damages or other concerns that granting

this Temporary Restraining Order relief would cause

to the Association given that there's nothing urgent

or emergent and there's no monetary aspects that

granting this Temporary Restraining Order would

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#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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So, not effective till a hundred dollars posted.

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. I'm going to

enter that today.

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Before you leave, you can

get that.

It will just take me a moment, but I want to move to the next phase of what you're asking for. That is how do we deal with the ability for everyone to move forward. And, if it's your desire to do this, which, ultimately, the Plaintiff is entitled to have and that is a new Election. I can't tell you you are required to do it, but you can't act until it's done.

So, with that in mind, if you wish to move forward and you wish to have other relief that I think the Plaintiffs are agreeable to here today and that is your input on when that next Election would occur to give you enough time to do whatever you need to do to send out your messaging.

I will grant that you are entitled to access to the Homeowners' database. That will be

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- 1 the database of all 653 voters. And that I will
- 2 further grant the requirement that all
- 3 currently-constituted four Board Members are
- 4 entitled to all information and action taken bi the
- 5 | management company, Chaparral Management.
- So, they are required to provide all
- 7 of you notice so that you're kept abreast of what's
- 8 happening.
- 9 So, the only remaining issue is what
- $10 \mid$  do you want to do about the fifth person to conduct
- 11 the Election and to act on a temporary basis until
- 12 that vote occurs by a properly-constituted quorum?
- MR. KATINE: Your Honor, I would ask
- 14 the Court to appoint a neutral person that the Court
- 15 selects.
- 16 THE COURT: Okay. Is that going to
- 17 be a neutral that is a Homeowner or just a neutral
- 18 | person?
- 19 MR. KATINE: I would say just a
- 20 neutral person. It's just going to be temporary.
- 21 It's really for business purposes and someone to run
- 22 the Election.
- 23 THE COURT: And what is the two other
- 24 Board Members' position on that?
- MR. ATES: I have to say, your Honor,

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

my only objection to to any cooperation here is that
if we are allowed to voice our position to the
Community that has been voiced over us.

That's -- I -- I know from talking to neighbors abut what has been going on, but that is so getting us any kind of --

THE COURT: Okay. How much time do you need to voice your efforts to communicate with the Homeowners before this meeting were to occur?

MR. ATES: Well, in the effect that

this has been going on since October.

THE COURT: 30 days?

MR. ATES: How about 60 days?

THE COURT: 60 days?

MR. KATINE: We can do 60 days.

agreement. So, thank you for you asking for it, and you're going to get that relief.

So, 60 days.

MR. ATES: 60 days.

THE COURT: So, what I'm about to say

THE COURT: All right. Everyone's in

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No meeting can occur prior to 60 days from now. Y'all can set it whenever you want to after that, but you will have, at least, a minimum

# HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 of 60 days. 2 Thank you, your Honor. MR. ATES: 3 THE COURT: Okay. 4 MR. KATINE: Your Honor, would the 5 Court appoint a fifth person to serve on the Board 6 for 60 days just in case a decision needs to be 7 made? 8 And, also, that same person would 9 chair the meeting and run the Election? 10 THE COURT: Okay. It makes sense to 11 do that. 1 2 MR. JONES: So, you're saying you're 13 appointing a new president? 1 4 THE COURT: No, I'm not. 15 MR. JONES: Well, that's what he 16 said. 17 THE COURT: Hold on. Hold on. 18 I'm appointing someone to act temporarily in the position to run the meeting 19 2 0 because who's going to run that meeting if you two are not in agreement by the other two and the other 2 1 two are not in agreement with you? Who's going to 2 2 2 3 run the meeting? 2 4 MR. ATES: Well, you're saying that 2 5 you will appoint someone not under the Community?

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 It's just a neutral person to come in say, "This is 2 what we're going to do?"

THE COURT: A neutral person that has no bias one way or the other.

MR. ATES: Okay.

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And what's your position, the two of you guys that are currently on the Board, Mr. Jones and Mr. Ates?

MR. ATES: In reference to that?

THE COURT: That one point. Who

would you want to have appointed if it's not a neutral person?

MR. ATES: Well, we would want a -- we -- I agree one hundred percent we would like to have a neutral person.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ATES: My only -- again, I'm only -- I'm rounding back, again, to the point that, yeah, we've got 60 days now to express ourselves to the community.

THE COURT: A minimum of 60 days.

You might have more.

MR. ATES: A minimum of 60 days.

25 Yes, sir.

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

Now, one more question:

2 At that -- even though it says 14 3 days on the paperwork here, if we get to 60 days and 4 we hold this Election, what happens in terms of the 5 Board? Because the Board Members that are previously -- they served out terms. 6 What happens 7 This is a whole new Election? Or are they then? 8 still at that point until our Election is held 9 considered Members of the Board? 10 THE COURT: Until they're replaced, 11 they continue serving even though their term may be

MR. ATES: And at the point that we hold that -- that Election -- I'm looking for some clarity on the counting.

THE COURT: Okay. Typically, when you hold an election, I don't know how you can miss it, but it's at the canvassing.

If you do it at that meeting, I don't know. I doubt that you can do it at that meeting because there's a lot of votes to count.

MR. KATINE: They actually do, your

Honor. So, HOA meetings, you vote in person or by

proxy with the help of the management company. That

it's all electronically.

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over.

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The chairperson that the Court is considering appointing can bring staff with them to assist as well because, again, we don't want anybody to have any fears of impropriety. So, that person and their staff can run the meeting.

THE COURT: Would they have the ability to determine the results of the vote at that meeting?

MR. KATINE: It usually is done that night. Sometimes, if it's close, they will say,
"These are the preliminary results, and we're going to recount them and certify them."

But usually that night Owners like to know who won the election.

THE COURT: Okay. So, is it after the certified count occurs that you would then that declare the vote winners?

MR. KATINE: Yes. It's usually that night unless there's some problem. And then, within a couple of days, the person who counted them, certifies it and sends -- the management company sends an e-mail.

THE COURT: So, my question is:

When do you declare and have the new voted-upon Board take their seats?

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 MR. JONES: Would that not be after 2 the election? 3 MR. KATINE: So --4 THE COURT: Would it be that night or 5 a few days later? That's my question. 6 MR. KATINE: So, typically, again, 7 sometimes it's not close. And, so, the person 8 running it says, "This is clear. These are the winners." And they take effect immediately. 9 10 THE COURT: Okay. And what's your 1 1 position, Mr. Ates? 12 MR. ATES: My position, your Honor, 1 3 is that I don't feel at this point that, without --1 4 whoever the neutral person may be, I -- I'm 15 concerned that, because of what's happened in the 1 6 past with Chaparral, there is some degree of 1 7 uncertainty here as to what might be valid and what 18 might not be valid. 19 THE COURT: Okay. 2 0 MR. ATES: I just want to make sure. 2 1 THE COURT: So, maybe what you're 2 2 asking the Court then is that they don't take their 2 3 seat that night and we set a certain time after it. 2 4 But understand, the same Board Members -- the four 2.5 Board Members remain in that position until that

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 happens. So, there's not activity that's going to 2 occur until y'all can do that.

MR. ATES: We understand that. And I'm just pleading that your Honor understands of what I'm saying is I feel like our positions have been so nefariously compromised.

THE COURT: Oh, and I'm getting you relief on it.

MR. ATES: We need that -- we need that 60 days. In terms of what he was asking, when would these Members be seated; is that the question?

THE COURT: Yeah. And you're telling me you need more time than just that night, and I'm giving you that.

MR. ATES: Okay.

THE COURT: So, how much time after

that?

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MR. ATES: You mean after the

meeting?

THE COURT: After the meeting, how many days after do you want to call another meeting where they're going to be certified and a new Board takes their seat?

MR. ATES: Well, if -- if I'm understanding correctly, we are going to be given 60

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 days to transition from where we are right now. And 2 then we will have that meeting; is that correct? 3 THE COURT: That will be a meeting 4 where a vote will occur with a fifth neutral person. 5 MR. KATINE: Mr. Meurer ---- Mr. Meurer -- Mr. Meurer, excuse me. Before you 6 7 leave, we may need to agree to something since 8 you're still a party. 9 MR. MEURER: I need to go --10 MR. KATINE: Oh, yes, sir. Yes, sir. 11 Thank you. 12 MR. ATES: I think my question was 1 3 is: 1 4 We have 60 days in which we can 15 negotiate ourselves in a position where we feel 16 comfortable with this Election; is that correct, 1 7 your Honor? 18 THE COURT: You have a minimum of 60 19 days. 2 0 MR. ATES: A minimum of 60 days? 2 1 THE COURT: It could be more. 22 MR. ATES: Okay. So, in that period, 23 once that 60 days has come and we hold this 2 4 Election, okay, I think is the question being asked 2.5 is whether -- when do these people be -- when are

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 they going to be seated?

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THE COURT: Yes.

MR. ATES: I would think that, if we hold the Election until the other Election, that they will be seated immediately. We don't have a problem with that.

THE COURT: Okay. Then we're all in agreement.

MR. KATINE: That's fine, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. ATES: But we -- we do request, your Honor, that -- I don't know if I'm getting over to you what -- what I'm feeling here in terms of what's been done --

THE COURT: You are.

MR. ATES: -- to me. I've been in that Community since 1990, your Honor. And I joined this Board last year because I had a --

THE COURT: You didn't know what you were getting into, did you?

MR. ATES: I had no idea. And, right now, I just feel like it's -- it's our Community that's at stake here.

We're fighting for -- my reputation has been slandered. In fact, I have an attorney

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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who's going to be filing a lawsuit on this. But

I -- I really just feel like what's been said about

me and the way I've been thrown against the wall

that, yeah, if we're going to do 60 days and we feel

like in that 60 days we've accomplished some sort of

certainty and some sort of equality, then that will

be no problem with the Election.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. ATES: I'm just -- I'm just saying, from what we've seen in the last two months with Chaparral not cooperating with us, not giving us -- requesting -- issues requesting, we've had no cooperation whatsoever.

And, on the other hand, those two individuals have been posting using that platform to attack us the whole time.

I just don't think that that's -- the way the Community has been tainted that, until we get some sort of clarity as to who's doing what and who's doing what, it wouldn't be fair to us or it wouldn't be fair to anyone in this Community.

MR. KATINE: Your Honor, just from my client's perspective, we disagree with that. They feel like they have not been able to convey accurate information.

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

So, both sides needs to communicate with these Homeowners.

THE COURT: Yeah. And the Court

THE COURT: Yeah. And the Court fully recognizes and make no mistake -- if I didn't communicate this better, I apologize -- the Court has not taken a position of what's right or wrong or accurate or inaccurate. And the Court fully recognizes that both sides have their positions.

So, I'm not minimizing your concerns or your position at all. It's fully respected here in this Court.

MR. ATES: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: What I'm saying is,

based upon just the evidence that is before the Court, the Court believes that there is sufficient evidence in the Findings the Court has made to warrant the Injunctive Relief given the time being.

MR. ATES: Okay.

THE COURT: That's all.

MR. JONES: I have a question, sir,

on the another note:

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Where do we stand as far as getting documentation from Chaparral Management?

What I'm looking for is I'm trying to get copies of our insurance if they have insurance

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 like they said because we need that.

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Also, I need to find out about how we go about -- as still with our -- our pool has been shut down by the County. And it was shut down because of negligence on the part of the directors of who were not taking care of it.

We have a major -- we have major problems. We have got contractors that have not been paid since November.

These people are a breathing down our neck every day because Chaparral Management refused to pay them.

THE COURT: Okay. That's a little -excuse me. Those are issues beyond what we can do
here today.

MR. JONES: Okay.

THE COURT: But I fully recognize your concern about it. I want to make something very clear with respect to the current Members of the Board:

All Members should be equally entitled to all information and all documents without the need for any other request and a simple request.

I don't think the, you know, FOIA or

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anything like that is applicable here. But, if
anyone were to interpret that it requires a Freedom
of Information Act Request, the Court's making it
very clear that's not required.

So, every Member of this Board is entitled to all documents.

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And access to all documents. That includes you guys. Anything that you're requesting as a Board Member, you're entitled to it.

MR. JONES: We've got nothing. We've been requesting since November.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, we're making it clear now.

MR. ATES: So, your Honor, if we are indeed -- if this continues and we're not still allowed, would we come back to the Court and say, "Hey, look, we've still being denied"?

THE COURT: You have the right to come back and seek whatever relief. And if you show me a request that you weren't provided after a reasonable amount of time with the information or documents, then the Court's going to do something about that. And I don't think that --

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

MR. ATES: I can do that. I can do that.

THE COURT: -- the management company or anyone else here is wanting that to happen.

Okay?

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MR. ATES: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Now, I'm going to ask all five of you on this side, as well a representative on this side, if you're in agreement with what we're about to dictate on how we're going to move forward. And that includes the following:

That the Court is going to order that a new Election occur based upon what I understand to be the agreement of all parties seeking and wanting there to be a proper Election, if indeed one has not occurred, which the Court's finding it hasn't.

And, based on that, the Court's going to further require that that new Election not occur before 60 days from now.

And, further, based on the request of the parties or the agreement, that the Court will appoint a neutral fifth person to run the meeting on a temporary basis so that that meeting is conducted in light of the two-to-two -- what purports to be a two-Board-Member versus two-Board-Members logjam

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 that currently exists.

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That in the meantime, Chaparral Management, because there was no duly constituted-quorum, continues to be the duly authorized and acting management company. But not only do they have the right to conduct that management, they have the obligation to do the things that are required, including the dissemination of information.

Anything the Board Members wish, that are currently-constituted Board Members of the four, they request information of documents from the Management Company, they are to turn that over reasonably, promptly and timely.

The Court will obtain the name of that fifth person and provide it in a filing -- or actually it's going to be in what you're going to submit to me is going to be the Proposed Order.

MR. KATINE: I will propose a letter in there that also includes language that the Association will pay this person a reasonable fee.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. KATINE: And, your Honor, just for my clarification, this fifth person is really just to call and run the meeting?

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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                   THE COURT:
                              Limited only to calling
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   and running the meeting. Not taking action.
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   guys that are the four duly-authorized Board Members
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   take any action.
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                   MR. KATINE: Okay.
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                   THE COURT: Which is probably not
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   going to happen because you don't have a quorum yet
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   to do it.
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                   MR. ATES:
                             Okay. But this fifth
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   person is just for the one meeting; am I correct?
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                   THE COURT: That us correct.
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                   MR. ATES: Okay.
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                   THE COURT:
                              Just to conduct that
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   meeting and to
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                   MR. KATINE: Count the votes.
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                   THE COURT: -- count the votes and
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   come up with whoever the winner is. And, again,
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   this is being done so that we avoid further
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   litigation.
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                   MR. ATES: Your Honor, one more
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   question and this is -- this is -- I think what we
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   started with before we even got to this point is, in
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   terms of when that vote occurs -- I'm not against
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   proxies. I'm totally in favor. But in our covenant
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   my position, as secretary, is to receive those
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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 proxies and verify them.

THE COURT: Okay. Let's do this

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MR. KATINE: Your Honor, I would propose that this fifth person be the person who handles the proxies.

THE COURT: Well, if that's the case you're going to have to give them some time to do it to ascertain they're a proper Homeowner.

MR. KATINE: Actually, your Honor, that's typically not done.

THE COURT: Well, but he's brought up an issue about there being some impropriety there.

How do I know there hasn't been?

MR. KATINE: Okay. Okay. How about that all proxies -- because we can do this by Court Order -- have to be delivered by to this fifth person ten days before the meeting? And that it has to include either an e-mail or a phone number on the proxy so that the proxy gatherer can verify that it's a valid proxy?

THE COURT: Well, you start with database of Homeowners first.

MR. KATINE: Okay.

THE COURT: And someone has that

# HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 database.

2 MR. KATINE: The management company

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THE COURT: Then why don't y'all give a copy of the database of current Homeowners who are going to be provided -- does everyone get a proxy or do they have to request it?

MR. KATINE: No. It comes with -THE COURT: Okay. Everyone's getting
a proxy based on this list. The gentleman told me
there are 653 of these people. Give the list to
them so that all Board Members has the list and
y'all determine if there's anyone on that list that
you think is improper.

MR. ATES: And that, your Honor, I agree with one hundred percent. I'm saying, you know, prior to this -- in this meeting that we held, that was -- that was never was done.

THE COURT: Understood.

MR. ATES: And, quite frankly, by the Bylaws, it requires that my position as the secretary -- because I'm the person who goes over those proxies and certifies. It's in our covenant.

THE COURT: Okay. Here's what we're

25 going to do --

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

That was never done. 1 MR. ATES: 2 was never done. And with this fifth person, your 3 Honor, would that person be able to go to Chaparral 4 and say, "I need verification of all these people"? 5 Would that person be responsible or 6 would the Board still be responsible for that? 7 THE COURT: Well, what would you 8 prefer? 9 MR. ATES: I would prefer that the 10 neutral person be responsible and take it out of the 11 hands of --1 2 THE COURT: And I think that's what 13 the Plaintiff would also prefer. So, everyone does 1 4 it where everyone has a semblance that they can 1 5 trust the process. 16 MR. ATES: Yes, sir. 17 THE COURT: And what you're saying is 18 very valid. So, I want to respect it. 19 Thank you, sir. MR. ATES: 2 0 Sir, one last question MR. JONES: 2 1 from me. On the topic --22 THE COURT: You should never say it's 2 3 the last question from you but go ahead. 2 4 MR. JONES: Yes, sir. But my main --2.5 THE COURT: I say that in jest.

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 MR. JONES: -- concern are the 2 proxies. Are renters allowed to vote? 3 MR. KATINE: No, your Honor. You 4 have to be a Homeowner. 5 MR. JONES: How do we then know who 6 the renters are coming from their list? Are they 7 indicated on the list that we're going to receive 8 that these are renters or is it just a list of 9 Homeowners? 10 THE COURT: I think the list of 11 Homeowners are the property owners. So, they own 1 2 the real property. The dirt. 13 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. That's 1 4 correct. 15 THE COURT: And so --16 MR. JONES: Renters can buy a home. 17 THE COURT: That is correct. So, 18 who's voting are going to be the property owners. 19 renter is not a property owner. 2 0 MR. JONES: I understand but what I'm 2 1 trying to figure out is how do we determine who are 22 the renters? 23 THE COURT: So, now, you're bringing 2 4 up an issue as to whether the proxy vote is a

legitimate proxy vote or a renter proxy vote.

And

Cynthia Martinez, CSR cmontalvo335@gmail.com

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#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 that's something that is inherent in every 2 situation.

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I think it's premature for the Court to do something about it. And, unfortunately, that's one of those things that, if you bring to the Court after the fact that there was improper votes being done with proof and evidence, any number that would have altered the election, meaning, it's a close election, you know, one side wins by three votes and you've got five renters who voted, that you can bring proof of, then that may invalidate the Election.

But I think we're putting the cart before the horse to have to do that yet. But your point is very well taken. We just don't have evidence of happening yet, and that's something you can cure after the fact. And I don't see a way we can cure it before the fact that the Election occurring.

But the Court's takes your concerns to heart. And if there's an issue about that, there's a mechanism that you can address it. And that's all that we can provide at this point.

MR. ATES: So, just so that we are understanding what your Honor is saying:

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 We now are given 60 days in which to 2 comply with this meeting that we would -- will be 3 required to hold? 4 THE COURT: No. What the Court is 5 saying is you will have a minimum of 60 days but 6 likely going to be more than sixty because it will 7 take us a few days to appoint someone. 8 And, by the time they come up with a 9 date, it's probably going to be more than 60 days 10 but maybe not too terribly more. 11 MR. ATES: But in that --THE COURT: But it won't be less than 1 2 13 60. 1 4 MR. ATES: It won't be less than 60? 15 THE COURT: Correct. 16 MR. ATES: Okay. THE COURT: 17 And that's going to be in 18 the Order you're going to propose and submit. 19 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor, it is. 2 0 I would like to make a suggestion to 2 1 see if we can do this by agreement on the record: 22 In order to save money and time and 2 3 the Court's time that this agreement that the Court 2 4 is going to enter and has recited for all of us that 2.5 this agreement remain in place until after the

### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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And that we do not need to come back on April 3rd at 3:00 o'clock and spend more time and money. And the Plaintiffs will be agreeable to that, if the Defendants will agree to that as well.

is, because the Law only allows a TRO to be effective for 14 days, I have to offer you and anyone who wants it a hearing date for a Temporary Injunction for us to come back and talk about the same things that, absent any new information, I will continue on a Temporary Injunction basis the same injunctive relief.

It's going to require you guys to show up again and/or have counsel and pay money and incur a lot of costs but that's your right.

More times than not, it's typical for parties to agree to extend it or to make it a Temporary Injunction basis. And I think that's all the Plaintiff is asking.

It does not minimize any of the relief that you're getting here today. And what he's saying is for this status quo that we're entering by the injunctive relief to remain in place until the Election takes place and a new Board is

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#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 constituted. 2 Is that agreeable to everyone? 3 MR. JONES: That's agreeable. 4 MR. ATES: It is. 5 THE COURT: Okay. I need to have 6 everyone of you stand up and say your name and say, 7 "Yes, I agree," starting with the first one. 8 MR. ATES: Michael Ates and I agree. 9 MR. JONES: Willie A. Jones and I 10 agree. THE COURT: Okay. And the other 11 1 2 three, it probably doesn't matter whether you agree 13 or not, but if you want to chime in, I'm happy to hear it. 1 4 15 MR. MCSWAIN: I agree. 16 THE COURT: Okay. What was your 17 name? 18 MR. MCSWAIN: Steve McSwain. Sorry. Steve McSwain. 19 2 0 THE COURT: And you're also in 2 1 agreement? 22 MR. MCSWAIN: Yes, sir. 23 MS. DAWSON: Laura Dawson. 2 4 Definitely agree. I'm not coming back. 2.5

MR. MEURER: Pat Muerer, whatever.

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#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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THE COURT: Okay. All right. So, we do have an agreement. And, so, what I'm going to ask you then do we need a TRO in place?

MR. KATINE: No. I will just submit a Temporary Injunction.

THE COURT: Let's make it an Agreed
Temporary Injunction Order that's going to give all
the relief I'm stating here today to both sides
including what these gentlemen here are asking for.

MR. KATINE: Okay.

THE COURT: And I think you took notes on it all. Okay. And if that's the case, then no bond is going to be required because it's a Temporary Injunction by Agreement.

MR. KATINE: And it's effective immediately here today?

THE COURT: It is effective immediately but you know what the difference is between what I orally state and what needs to be put in writing. And I will promptly put it to writing when you submit it.

MR. KATINE: Okay.

THE COURT: Now, what I'm going to ask that you also do is I don't know the status of

### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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1 the counsel for the Association. I think the
2 gentlemen here today have indicated that they may or
3 may not be counsel.

I still think you ought to provide them a copy --

MR. KATINE: Sure.

THE COURT: -- of what we're entering here today out of an abundance of caution. And if any new counsel comes on board for anyone here today, provide them a copy of it also.

And once it's signed and entered, you can download it or you can ask us to get a copy, either way. But I'm going to ask you to also provide to that to the Management Company so the Management Company has it readily available to provide to any Homeowner and to any of the Board Members that wish to have it.

So, you have a copy in your hands and you can rely upon it, too.

MR. KATINE: So, your Honor, with so many Defendants, I don't have their e-mail address. So, I'd like to run it by them to see if they have any changes. If each party would, please, give their e-mail address and, when I have a draft, I'll submit it to them.

### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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wants to afford you another courtesy that the Court would not require but it's a great thing that you're doing it and that is to give each of you an electronic copy of it sent to you via e-mail so you can see what he's submitting to the Court for the Court to sign.

And, that way, if you see it, you can have input.

MR. ATES: Okay.

MR. JONES: Sir, the management company has all of our info personally.

MS. HORACEFIELD: And anyone who has voluntarily registered on our portal and provided an e-mail --

THE COURT: Here's what I'm going to do, make it easy:

If you've got it and the management company has it, provide it the counsel here today so he can e-mail it to all you guys.

Alternatively, after we conclude this hearing, you can just tell him your e-mail addresses if you want a copy it. And anyone who doesn't want a copy of it, that's fine, too.

It's up to y'all. Whatever you want

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 to do, but I'm affording you an extra benefit of 2 give him your e-mail and he's going to be required 3 to send it to you in advance prior to or at the same 4 time he files it with the Court. It's just an added 5 benefit for you. 6 MR. JONES: Well, from our 7 standpoint, Chaparral has all our information. 8 THE COURT: Okay. 9 MR. JONES: That's -- nothing has 10 changed. 11 MR. KATINE: Does the Court need me 12 to put a signature line for everyone or not? 13 THE COURT: No. MR. KATINE: Okay. All right. Ι will share it with them and let them see it.

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16 THE COURT: We've got it on the record here what we're doing --17

18 MR. KATINE: Great. Thank you, your

19 Honor.

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2 0 THE COURT: -- on that part, but I 21 will sign it as long as it confirms with what we've 22 talked about.

Okay?

MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Is there any other relief

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 or any other issues that we need to address? 2 Because the way I'm concluding this 3 is, when I sign this Order and I provide -- make 4 sure there's a blank in there for the name. 5 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. THE COURT: Give me a couple blanks 6 7 so you've got a name and I can also put in an 8 e-mail address and phone number for this fifth 9 constituted person just to handle the one meeting. 10 And then you will be in touch with 11 them to organize whatever needs to be organized 1 2 through everyone. 13 MR. KATINE: Yes, your Honor. 1 4 THE COURT: Okay. 15 Yes, sir? 16 MR. JONES: I know you're ready to 1 7 conclude. 18 THE COURT: No. I'm here for you. Ι 19 work for you guys. This is your courtroom. This is 2 0 your public space. So, whatever you want to tell 2 1 me, I'm here to hear. 22 MR. JONES: I'm still trying to 2 3 understand how long we're going to have to go before 2 4 our contractors are paid.

We have got two contractors that are

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## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

1 trying to file lawsuits against us now because we 2 haven't paid them since October.

THE COURT: Okay. We want to avoid lawsuits. I hear what you're saying. What's the issue on these?

MR. KATINE: The manager said that the contracts that he's talking about are contracts that occurred after November 1st. And they refused to pay people that were hired by an illegal Board.

THE COURT: Okay. Here's the

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If they were to do that, that is
what we call an "ultravirus act" that will be
problematic, to say the least.

And, so, to pay someone and use Association money on an invoice that occurred because of an action taken by a Board that was not properly constituted is extremely problematic and exposes the Association but may expose more than just the Association.

21 And you don't want that exposure, 22 guys.

MR. JONES: No. I don't, sir. See, there's a point that's not being brought up by the Plaintiffs here.

#### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

The two invoices we have in question
is one about a fence that was blown down during
Hurricane Beryl.

Paul Weeder, who was our president, who got up and walked out of our meeting, authorized me to do this because one of the other Plaintiffs was in charge of this and they didn't do anything for like five months.

THE COURT: Did a

properly-constituted Board vote on it?

MR. JONES: The president told me to

do it.

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THE COURT: That's right and that's not the question, though.

Did a properly-constituted Board vote on it? And, if it didn't, wouldn't that be problematic for you to pay something that wasn't approved by the Board?

MR. JONES: I believe the Board did vote on it.

THE COURT: Okay. If the Board voted on it -- look, I know there's a dispute here but it's easy to see in your minutes, if the Board voted on it, there will be minutes of that action taken.

MR. ATES: Uh-huh.

### HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025

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                   THE COURT:
                              And, if it was a
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   properly-voted upon expenditure by a
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   duly-constituted Board, then that's for y'all to
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   address and take care of.
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                   MR. KATINE: I know we can't go into
   all these nitty-gritty things. The manager said the
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   Board voted for him to get bids. Not to decide on
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   which contractors to select.
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                   MR. ATES: Your Honor, as the
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   secretary of this Board --
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                   THE COURT: Okay. I don't --
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                   MR. ATES: -- and in anticipating
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   that that happened --
1 4
                   THE COURT: I don't dispute you on
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   that. What I'm saying is I don't know and here's
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   the only way I can leave it:
                   Y'all look at minutes. And, if it
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18
   was a properly-voted upon action, it needs to be
19
   followed.
2 0
                   If it wasn't, then everyone here is
2 1
   exposing themselves to paying something that wasn't
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   properly authorized. But, if there's an issue, file
23
   something with Court and I will deal with it.
2 4
                   MR. KATINE: Just for clarification
2 5
   purposes, the April 3rd hearing is canceled?
```

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025Mr. AtesARCH }

THE COURT: It will be canceled based upon what the agreement now is on the record.

MR. KATINE: Great. Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Anything else anyone else needs?

MR. MEURER: No.

MR. KATINE: Thank the Court for the time and assistance on behalf of all the Owners in the Subdivision.

THE COURT: You're welcome. If anyone needs a record, talk to the court reporter. That may help on what we need to do, and I will promptly address whatever's submitted.

MR. KATINE: Thank you, your Honor.

Are we discharged?

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THE COURT: Everyone is, unless there's anything anyone else needs?

Okay. Thank, everyone, for being here today.

MR. ATES: Thank you, sir.

(Hearing ended.)

## HEARING ON TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER MARCH 20, 2025Mr. AtesARCH }

1 STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF HARRIS

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I, Cynthia Martinez, Deputy Official Court
Reporter in and for the 400th District Court of Fort
Bend County, State of Texas, do hereby certify that
the above and foregoing contains a true and correct
transcription of all portions of evidence and other
proceedings requested in writing by counsel for the
parties to be included in this volume of the
Reporter's Record in the above-styled and numbered
cause, all of which occurred in open court or in
chambers and were reported by me.

I further certify that this Reporter's Record of the proceedings truly and correctly reflects the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.

I further certify that the total cost for the preparation of this Reporter's Record is \$700.00 and was paid by KATINE NECHMAN MCLAURIN LLP.

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#### /s/Cynthia Martinez

Cynthia Martinez, CSR
Texas CSR No. 6863
Deputy Court Reporter
5607 Knox Landing Drive
Rosenberg, Texas 77469
Telephone: (832) 620-1775
Expiration: 04/30/2027

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