1			Page 611
1 2	TF	HE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	
2	THE UN	NIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK	
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5		In the Matter of	
C	THE NEW	YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
6		V THEODORE SMITH	
7		THEODORE SHITH	
8	Section 3020-	-a Education Law Proceeding (File)
O	DATE:	March 20, 2007	
9			
10	TIME:	10:45 a.m. to 11:32 a.m.	
	LOCATION:	New York City Department of Educat	ion
11		Office of Legal Services	
		49-51 Chambers Street, 6th Floor	
12		New York, New York	
13	BEFORE:	JACK TILLEM, ESQ.	
1 /		Hearing Officer	
14		20 West Marie Street	
15		Hicksville, New York 11801	
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1	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007	1	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
2	FOR THE DEPARTMENT.	2	INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS
3	FOR THE DEPARTMENT:	3	Marisa Russo Aragonez; Sworn 616
J	SUSAN JALOWSKI, ESQ., Of counsel		Direct Examination by Mr. Kearney 616
4	MICHAEL BEST, ESQ., General Counsel	4	Cross Examination by Ms. Jalowski 621
	New York City Department of Education	5	
5	Office of Legal Services	6	
_	49-51 Chambers Street, 6th Floor	7	
6	New York, New York	8	
7 8	FOR THE RESPONDENT: DAVID KEARNEY, ESQ.	9	
Ü	317 Madison Avenue, 21st Floor	10	
9	New York, New York 10017	11	
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1	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney	1	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney
2	MARISA RUSSO ARAGONEZ; Sworn.	2	A. He was my colleague at New
3	THE HEARING OFFICER: They're	3	York City Museum School.
4	going to ask you questions.	4	Q. Did you have any interaction
5	Your witness.	5	with Mr. Smith while you taught at the Museum
6	DIRECT EXAMINATION	6	School?
7	BY MR. KEARNEY:	7	A. Yes.
8	Q. Ms. Russo Aragonez, are you	8	Q. And what was the interaction?
9	currently employed?	9	A. During professional
10	A. Yes.	10	development.
11	Q. And by whom?	11	Q. And what can you tell me
12	A. By the New York City Board of	12	how often did you interact with him at
13	Education.	13	professional development?
14	Q. And what is your job?	14	A. Once a week.
15	A. I'm a Spanish teacher at	15	THE HEARING OFFICER: Tell us
16	Richmond Hill High School.	16	what professional development is, because I
17	Q. How long have you taught	17	don't know.
1 <i>1</i> 18	9 , 9	18	THE WITNESS: Professional
	Spanish?		
19	A. I've been teaching Spanish	19	development are the hours that we we have
20	for eleven years.	20	for preparing different teaching strategies.
21	Q. Do you know the Respondent in	21	It's
22	this case, Mr. Smith?	22	THE HEARING OFFICER: Is that
23	A. Yes, I do.	23	ten people meet three people meet?
24	Q. And how do you know him?	24	THE WITNESS: No; all the
	P (10		P (10
1	Page 618	1	Page 619
1	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney	1	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney
2	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney teachers.	2	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
2	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney teachers. THE HEARING OFFICER: In the	2	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead.
2 3 4	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney teachers. THE HEARING OFFICER: In the school?	2 3 4	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead. BY MR. KEARNEY: (Cont'g.)
2 3 4 5	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney teachers. THE HEARING OFFICER: In the school? THE WITNESS: In the school.	2 3 4 5	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead. BY MR. KEARNEY: (Cont'g.) Q. And did you attend all of the
2 3 4 5 6	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney teachers. THE HEARING OFFICER: In the school? THE WITNESS: In the school. THE HEARING OFFICER: Meet	2 3 4 5 6	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead. BY MR. KEARNEY: (Cont'g.) Q. And did you attend all of the professional development meetings?
2 3 4 5 6 7	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney teachers. THE HEARING OFFICER: In the school? THE WITNESS: In the school. THE HEARING OFFICER: Meet for professional development.	2 3 4 5 6 7	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead. BY MR. KEARNEY: (Cont'g.) Q. And did you attend all of the professional development meetings? A. Yes. It was required.
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1	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney	1	Aragonez - Direct - Kearney
2	Q. Can you explain?	2	Q. Did there come a time when
3	A. We were not supposed to	3	you gave Mr. Smith a letter of reference?
4	submit I mean, lesson plans, it wasn't a	4	A. Yes.
5	requirement. Once, I asked him why he was in	5	Q. And based on your eleven
6	the morning Monday morning, I asked him wha	t 6	years as as a Spanish teacher, would you
7	are you doing? And he said I was making	7	is Mr. Smith, in your opinion, fit to teach?
8	photocopies for what was her name Lindy.	8	A. Yes.
9	I was making photocopies of my lesson plans for	. 9	MS. JALOWSKI: Objection.
10	the week.	10	THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll
11	Q. And did you ever see Mr.	11	take it. Go ahead.
12	submit Mr. Smith submit those plans to	12	MS. JALOWSKI: How does she
13	Lindy?	13	know if he's fit to teach? She's just a
14	A. I saw him make copies and	14	she's just a, but her own testimony, that
15	giving those copies to her, but I never saw the	15	she's she's not a gym teacher.
16	actual procedure of the lesson plan. I just	16	THE HEARING OFFICER: You can
17	saw him giving her the lesson plan.	17	cross examine her on that.
18	Q. And to the best of your	18	MR. KEARNEY: I have nothing
19	recollection, how often did you see him giving	19	further for this witness.
20	lesson plans to Lindy on Monday morning?	20	CROSS EXAMINATION
21	A. Monday morning. Monday	21	BY MS. JALOWSKI:
22	morning.	22	Q. Good morning Ms. Russo
23	Q. Every Monday?	23	A. Hello.
24	A. Pretty much, yes.	24	Q I'm sorry Aragonez?
	Page 622		Page 623
1	Page 622 Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski	1	Page 623 Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski
1 2		1 2	
	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski		Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski
2	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Right?	2	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Q. And and and at the
2	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Right? All right. So now, you	2	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Q. And and and at the time, it was actually part of the school day?
2 3 4	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Right? All right. So now, you never you're not a gym teacher, correct?	2 3 4	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Q. And and and at the time, it was actually part of the school day? A. Yes.
2 3 4 5	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Right? All right. So now, you never you're not a gym teacher, correct? A. No, I'm not.	2 3 4 5	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Q. And and and at the time, it was actually part of the school day? A. Yes. Q. Now, it would be fair to say
2 3 4 5 6	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Right? All right. So now, you never you're not a gym teacher, correct? A. No, I'm not. Q. And now, during the 2005-2000	2 3 4 5 6	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski Q. And and and at the time, it was actually part of the school day? A. Yes. Q. Now, it would be fair to say that if Mr. Smith was absent, he would would
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	Page 624		Page 625
1	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski	1	Aragonez - Cross - Jalowski
2	just remember the days that he was on my team	n 2	Q. Now now, your own
3	and that we worked together in different	3	testimony is that you just told me you
4	projects.	4	said every Monday morning you were in the in
5	 Q. And how many people were on 	5	the office the same time as Mr. Smith?
6	your team?	6	 A. Pretty much everybody was
7	A. We were working like in	7	pretty much at the same time and I saw him. I
8	four four people group four or five	8	recall him doing that because it surprised me.
9	people group.	9	That's all.
10	Q. You don't recall him not	10	Q. Every Monday?
11	being there?	11	A. Pretty much pretty much
12	A. No. I only remember the	12	every morning, he was there. We were like
13	times that he was there working with me in the	13	close in the room together and I saw him
14	group and I recall specifically after this	14	submitting the lesson plans and it it
15	year I recall specifically two professional	15	shocked me and I asked him because I was
16	development that we worked together. I mean,		surprised.
17	we worked most of the time, we worked	17	Q. My question was that you were
18	together, but I remember a specific project	18	saying that every Monday?
19	that we worked together I recall two.	19	A. Practically every Monday,
20	Q. Okay. But during the school	20	not no I can't imagine it had been two
21	year, it's fair to say that you had	21	years I don't remember every detail.
22	approximately I would say about over thirty	22	Q. But pretty much when you
23 24	professional developments? A. Yes.	23 24	come into school, why would you come into the office?
24	A. Tes.	24	Office?
	Page 626		Page 627
1	Page 626 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007	1	Page 627 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
1 2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007	1 2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 A. We had to sign in.	2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 care. Thank you.
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2 3 4	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 A. We had to sign in. MS. JALOWSKI: I just need a	2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 care. Thank you. (Off-the-record discussion)
2 3 4 5	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 A. We had to sign in. MS. JALOWSKI: I just need a moment.	2 3 4	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 care. Thank you. (Off-the-record discussion) THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.
2 3 4	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 A. We had to sign in. MS. JALOWSKI: I just need a moment. THE HEARING OFFICER: Sure.	2 3 4 5	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 care. Thank you. (Off-the-record discussion) THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We're ready to call another witness.
2 3 4 5 6	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 A. We had to sign in. MS. JALOWSKI: I just need a moment. THE HEARING OFFICER: Sure. (Off-the-record discussion)	2 3 4 5 6	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 care. Thank you. (Off-the-record discussion) THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We're ready to call another witness. Off the record.
2 3 4 5 6 7	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 A. We had to sign in. MS. JALOWSKI: I just need a moment. THE HEARING OFFICER: Sure. (Off-the-record discussion) THE HEARING OFFICER: Let's	2 3 4 5 6 7	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 care. Thank you. (Off-the-record discussion) THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. We're ready to call another witness. Off the record. (Off the record)
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Page 628 Page 629 1 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 1 2 (Off the record) 2 here again. You know, obviously Mr. Leachy 3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. does not want to testify. Mr. Kearney has, you 4 know, an opportunity to go -- to bring forth In in-camera discussion, Mr. Kearney, 4 5 Respondent's attorney, has requested another 5 and compel him to testify, which I doubt he's 6 date for the hearings to continue given that going to do, but the point. I don't think we 7 his witness who was supposed to come today 7 have enough days going through the --. 8 hasn't shown up, a Mr. Leachy. And he's asked 8 THE HEARING OFFICER: Wait --9 if another date can be given for the -- Mr. 9 wait. Let me just ask you a question. At some Leachy, hopefully, to show up. And in any 10 point, you should be able discern before that 10 11 11 event, the Respondent may have some other day whether Mr. Leachy is going to show up. So 12 witnesses. So he would like another day for is it possible we can give you that day, but if 12 13 the hearings to continue. 13 you know he doesn't show up or we don't have 14 What saith, Ms. Jalowski? 14 any more witnesses, we can use that day to --15 MS. JALOWSKI: One, they did for closing. Why don't you prepare your 15 16 not say they have witnesses. They may have 16 closings for that date and that way it'll take 17 witnesses so I'm objecting to them having 17 care of both problems? And if indeed, your 18 anymore witnesses. I mean, this is -- I think 18 witnesses take the whole day, then we'll give 19 day three of them being able to bring another day for closings. How's that? Can we 19 20 do that? A day of closing. witnesses. 20 21 And I'm also objecting to 21 MS. JALOWSKI: All right. having another day for Mr. Leachy since he was 22 22 That -- that -- I wouldn't necessarily object 23 supposed to be here on the last date and we 23 to that, but even Mr. Leachy does come in, adjourned for today to have him and he's not 24 it'll be -- we should go forward. It's just Page 630 Page 631 1 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 2 going to be character witnesses, I'm presuming, School of Art and Design, Jonathan Lessick. who's the Union President, who will present testifying that during the time he was 4 supervisor, Mr. Smith, he would find him to be, 4 testimony as to the illegality of the lunch 5 5 program at the Museum School. That's it. you know --. 6 THE HEARING OFFICER: She has 6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. 7 7 So you will know whether they are going to come a point. If his testimony is going to be 8 rather expeditiously handled, couldn't we have 8 in which case if it takes the whole day, we'll 9 the closings that day if you don't have any set another date for the closing. Otherwise, 10 more witnesses then? 10 if we only have one or two witnesses and we have the whole afternoon looming ahead of us, 11 MR. KEARNEY: We can 11 let's do the closings and finish up the case. 12 absolutely have the closings that day. I think 12 13 that your request is sensible and Mr. Smith has 13 Okay? identified at least four other witnesses. I 14 14 MR. KEARNEY: Thank you. 15 have not spoken to them. Mr. Smith, 15 One -- one more -- there are actually two more 16 apparently, has and they have things to say. issues. I have been directed to -- to state 17 MS. JALOWSKI: Who are these 17 for the record that it is unacceptable that we 18 witnesses? 18 have not received the transcripts -- the 19 MR. KEARNEY: These witnesses 19 complete set of transcripts. We do need them 20 are Lynn Fernandez, apparently a basketball 20 in order to present our defense to these charges. We have some of them. We have some 21 coach that coached with Mr. Smith, a Dr. Durban 21 22 in Long Island, who treated Mr. Smith during of them at later dates, where there were 22 his period for fibrillation and related earlier hearings. And I just want to state for symptoms, Hope Eisman, former Principal at the 24 the record that we need those transcripts and

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                                                                                                   Page 633
 1
            Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
                                                      1
                                                                 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
 2
    we're making every effort to obtain them. And
                                                      2
                                                                     THE HEARING OFFICER: Oh.
 3
    anything that the Arbitrator can say today to
                                                          okay. All right. It's noted for the record.
                                                      3
    the Associated Reporting service would be most
                                                          To the extent we can ask the Associated
                                                      4
 5
                                                      5
    appreciated.
                                                          Reporters please to see what you can do to make
 6
               THE HEARING OFFICER: Well,
                                                          sure the Respondent gets the transcripts and
                                                      6
 7
    I -- they did say they are going to get them to
                                                      7
                                                          the Department for those that have not been
 8
    you. If you don't have them in the next few
                                                      8
                                                          sent.
    days, might I ask Ms. Jalowski if you call Ms.
9
                                                      9
                                                                     MS. JALOWSKI: What don't you
10
    Jalowski, why don't you send him --?
                                                     10
                                                          have, yet?
               You don't have them, either?
11
                                                     11
                                                                     MR. KEARNEY: I don't -- as I
12
               MS. JALOWSKI: No, I don't
                                                          said to Associated, I don't have the 11th of
                                                     12
    have them either. They -- they said you know,
                                                          January. I only have February the 8th. I
13
                                                     13
14
    we're not -- you know, obviously, Associated
                                                     14
                                                          don't have anything after that.
    Reporters is not an employee of the Department
                                                                     THE HEARING OFFICER: You
15
                                                     15
16
    of Education.
                                                     16
                                                          only have one transcript?
                                                                     MR. KEARNEY: I have --
17
               THE HEARING OFFICER: But
                                                     17
    didn't you get transcripts for all the hearing?
18
                                                     18
                                                          sorry -- I have the -- I said this to
19
               MS. JALOWSKI: No -- no, I
                                                          Associates -- I have December 5th. I have
                                                     19
20
                                                          January 3rd, and those are just sort of brief
    haven't seen them since -- I think that there
                                                     20
    were some that Mr. Kearney didn't have that I
                                                     21
                                                          appearances. Then I've got January -- I don't
21
22 might have had because there was the problem
                                                          have January 11th. Then I have February 8th.
                                                     22
23
    where they were being sent to him, but he has
                                                     23
                                                          And I don't have any dates before or after
    those now. I don't have every transcript.
                                                     24
                                                          that.
                                             Page 634
                                                                                                   Page 635
 1
           Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
                                                      1
                                                                 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
2
               MS. JALOWSKI: I mean I'll
                                                      2
                                                          Okay?
 3
    try to give you what I have. Obviously, if I
                                                      3
                                                                     MS. JALOWSKI: I want to put
 4
    have some that Mr. Kearney doesn't have, I
                                                          on the record, on our last date when -- I'm
                                                      4
    certainly can provide copies.
 5
                                                          sorry: I don't remember the witness' -- when
                                                      5
6
               THE HEARING OFFICER: Please.
                                                      6
                                                          Mr. Ragusa testified, you, on your own accord,
 7
               MS. JALOWSKI: But I -- I
                                                      7
                                                          Mr. Tillem, deemed him to be an expert witness.
8
    believe that -- that we have the same.
                                                      8
                                                          That being -- and at the time, of course, I did
9
                                                          not object, but in retrospect, if you are
               THE HEARING OFFICER: Okav.
10
    Anything else? Did you have something else you
                                                          deeming him an expert, I am going to ask you
                                                     10
    wanted to say?
                                                          then to deem Lindy Uehling an expert, Susan
11
                                                     11
12
               MR. KEARNEY: Mr. Smith would
                                                          Shron an expert, and Victor Ramsey an expert or
                                                     12
13
    like to make a statement for the record.
                                                     13
                                                          else take away the expert status away from Mr.
14
               MS. JALOWSKI: I'm going to
                                                     14
                                                          Ragusa.
15
    object. He testified.
                                                     15
               THE HEARING OFFICER: He
                                                                     THE HEARING OFFICER: I don't
16
                                                     16
17
    already testified already. Application is
                                                     17
                                                          recall what exactly the reason I ruled Mr.
    denied. You can submit a closing brief if you
18
                                                     18
                                                          Ragusa --.
    wish. I'll grant that request and make the
19
                                                     19
                                                                     MS. JALOWSKI: I think he
20
    points you wish, but insofar as Mr. Smith has
                                                     20
                                                          said he had thirty years experience.
21
    already testified and the process is one in
                                                     21
                                                                     MR. KEARNEY: I attempted to
22
    which is done by examination and cross
                                                     22
                                                          qualify him as an expert and to give an expert
    examination not by making statements drafted by
                                                     23
                                                          opinion based on his thirty years of experience
24 the Respondent prior to his appearance here.
                                                          and Mr. Tillem said that he's got thirty years
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	Page 636		Page 637
1	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007	1	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
2	with the Department and on that basis	2	MS. JALOWSKI: That might be
3	THE HEARING OFFICER: I'll	3	a little too
4	stand on that and to the extent that your	4	THE HEARING OFFICER: I think
5	witnesses have that type of experience and I	5	that's too quick for you guys to put your
6	believe I recall he's a very a veteran	6	closing statements together.
7	professional pedagogues, I would deem are	7	MS. JALOWSKI: What do you
8	experts also.	8	have in April?
9	MS. JALOWSKI: Thank you.	9	THE HEARING OFFICER: When do
10	THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.	10	we want to do the closing statements?
11	MR. SMITH: Can I say	11	MS. JALOWSKI: No no;
12	something off the record?	12	let's say we go as far as
13	THE HEARING OFFICER: You	13	THE HEARING OFFICER: Why
14	want to go off the record? Only if your	14	don't we figure that we'll come back here
15		15	
	attorney says you I have		excuse me for Mr. Smith, the next one I have
16	MS. JALOWSKI: No. Mr. Smith	16	is April 17th. Does that sound right? I can
17	is going to make a statement to you. I'm	17	give you April 12th. You want it?
18	objecting to there being any statement to you.	18	MS. JALOWSKI: Yes.
19	THE HEARING OFFICER: Yeah,	19	MR. KEARNEY: I'd rather take
20	it's inappropriate. It's inappropriate.	20	the 12th. What day is it?
21	Anything else?	21	THE HEARING OFFICER: The
22	Okay. We're going to	22	12th is a Thursday.
23	reconvene on well, I'm showing Thursday. I	23	MS. JALOWSKI: So yes, we
24	don't know if that's right.	24	need dates anyway, so I'll keep the 17th also,
	Page 638		Page 639
1	Page 638 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007	1	Page 639 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
1 2		1 2	
	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007	-	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007
2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 but	2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 don't have
2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 but THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay.	2	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 don't have THE HEARING OFFICER: All
2 3 4 5	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 but THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. MR. KEARNEY: April 12th,	2 3 4	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 don't have THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. I'll mark it next time. I'll put it
2 3 4 5 6	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 but THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay. MR. KEARNEY: April 12th, closing for THE HEARING OFFICER:	2 3 4 5	Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 don't have THE HEARING OFFICER: All right. I'll mark it next time. I'll put it it's in evidence. MS. JALOWSKI: Then I also
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Page 640 Page 641 1 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 1 Theodore Smith - 3-20-2007 2 April 12th, ten o'clock here 2 STATE OF NEW YORK 3 at Chambers. I, Amy Douglas, do hereby certify that the 3 4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at (The hearing adjourned.) 4 5 5 the time and place, and in the presence of Pkic counsel, as stated in the caption hereto, at 6 6 7 7 Page 611 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of pages 8 8 9 9 number 611 through 640, inclusive, was prepared 10 10 under my supervision and is a true record of 11 11 all proceedings had at the hearing. 12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have 12 hereunto subscribed my name, this the 3rd day 13 13 of April, 2007. 14 14 15 15 16 16 17 17 Amy Douglas, Reporter 18 18 19 19 20 20 21 21 22 22 23 23 24 24

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