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                 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
    FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA - WESTERN DIVISION
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   HOLLYWOOD CHARACTERS,
                                  ) CASE NO. CV 10-5848 DDP (CWx)
   et al..
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                                    MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
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                                    AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF EX
              Plaintiffs,
                                    PARTE APPLICATION FOR A
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                                    TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
   VS.
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                                    ORDER
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   CITY OF LOS ANGELES, et al.,
                                    DATE:
                                               TBD
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              Defendants.
                                    TIME:
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                                    Ctrm:
                                               Hon. Dean D. Pregerson
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                                    Action Filed: August 6, 2010
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                                    Trial Date: None
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### I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs are an unincorporated association of individuals who adopt the persona of, and dress as comic book movie characters, including among others, Wolverine, Batman, Superman, Catwoman, Iron Man, the Joker, and Transformer. They perform on Hollywood Boulevard. They challenge two recently implemented enforcement policies directed at them by defendants. The first is a restriction to "passive" solicitation for tips from individuals who stop to take their photograph with plaintiffs. The second is the threat of arrest and their arrest based on claims that they are in violation of Los Angeles Municipal Code ("LAMC") §41.18(a) for allegedly "obstructing" pedestrian traffic and "loitering" on the sidewalk when tourists stop to take plaintiffs' pictures.

#### II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Over the course of the past two months, the Los Angeles Police Department ("LAPD") has enforced a deliberate policy to arrest plaintiffs for violating Los Angeles Municipal Code §41.18(a) for "obstructing" or "loitering" on a sidewalk. The arrests occurred along the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard, a must-see location for tourists visiting Los Angeles. Plaintiffs perform as various movie characters on the Walk of Fame on the sidewalk in front of the Hollywood and Highland shopping center and Grauman's Chinese Theater. They stand on the sidewalk and entertain by impersonating famous actors and characters.

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on June 4, 2010, Plaintiffs Balke, Beithan and Harrell were standing on the curb, facing away from the street. Dec. of Balke ¶3 Beithan ¶3, Harrell ¶2. There was light pedestrian traffic, with no pedestrians at all some of the time. Plaintiffs observed that all pedestrians could freely walk and move about on the

sidewalk. At no point were they obstructing the sidewalk in any way. Defendants Chacon, Gonzalez, and Machado ordered plaintiffs to leave and, when they did not, arrested them. *Id.* Just a few days earlier, defendants Jordon and Rutkowski made a custodial arrest of Plaintiff Tomey, holding him for a day and then releasing him without charges. Dec. of Tomey at ¶¶3-5. Plaintiff Dennis was on the sidewalk in costume as Superman, passing out flyers for two stores on Hollywood Boulevard, when he was arrested for loitering. Dec. of Dennis at ¶2. Plaintiff Junt was arrested on June 4, 2010 and initial told he was arrested for loitering, then told he was arrested for soliciting donations. Dec. of Junt at ¶3. None of the defendants was convicted of any criminal acts and none have pending criminal charges. Balke ¶9, Beithan ¶6, Dennis ¶3, Harrell ¶4, Junt ¶4, Tomey ¶5.

## III. PLAINTIFFS' ARRESTS VIOLATE THE FIRST AMENDMENT

# A. Plaintiffs Were Engaged in Fully Protected First Amendment Activity

As the Ninth Circuit recently held, street performances are protected expressive activity under the First Amendment. *Berger v. City of Seattle*, 569 F.3d 1029, 1037 n.4 (9th Cir. 2009) ("Music and performance art are forms of expressive activity protected by the First Amendment.") (citations omitted). Like the balloon artist in *Berger*, the Hollywood Characters are performers who engage in constitutionally protected activity.

First Amendment protections are not diminished if donations are solicited. *ACLU* v. City of Las Vegas, 466 F.3d 784, 792 (9th Cir. 2006). "It is beyond dispute that solicitation is a form of expression entitled to the same constitutional protections as traditional speech." *Id.* (citations omitted). As Perry v. Los Angeles Police Dep't, 121 F.3d 1365, 1368 (9th Cir. 1997), held about performers on Venice Boardwalk, speech

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"do[es] not lose [its] constitutional protection simply because [it is] sold rather than given away." 121 F.3d 1365, 1368 (citations omitted) (bracketed edits supplied).

#### Unwritten Time, Place and Manner Restrictions on First Amendment В. Activities in Public Fora Impermissibly Create Unbridled Discretion

Defendants have no written regulations governing performers on Hollywood Boulevard. The government's ability to restrict the First Amendment in traditional public for such as streets, sidewalks, and parks is very limited. *United States v. Grace*, 461 U.S. 171, 177 (1983). In such areas, speech may only be constrained by the enactment of reasonable time, place or manner regulations. Id. To be valid, such rules must be "content-neutral, \(\Pi\) narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest, and leave open ample alternative channels of communication." Id.

A regulation is not reasonable if it grants unbridled discretion to an enforcement agency. See e.g. Forsyth County v. Nationalist Movement, 505 U.S. 123, 133 (1992); Seattle Affiliate of the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation v. City of Seattle, 550 F.3d 788, 793 (9th Cir. 2008); Gaudiva Vaishnava Soc. v. San Francisco, 952 F.2d 1059, 1065-1066 (9th Cir. 1991). Unbridled discretion impermissibly "grants officials the power to discriminate and raises the spectre of selective enforcement on the basis of the content of speech." Id. at 1066 (citation omitted). The First Amendment prohibits such laws. Forsyth County, 505 U.S. at 133.

To pass constitutional muster, a restraint on expression must "contain adequate standards to guide the official's decision and render it subject to effective judicial review." Thomas v. Chicago Park District, 534 U.S. 316, 323 (2002). There must be

"narrowly drawn, reasonable and definite standards" to provide guidance. *Forsyth County*, 505 U.S. at 133 (citation omitted). Unwritten restrictions necessarily lack standards and leave room for differential application, inevitably vesting unbridled discretion in officials. *See Sentinel Communications Co. v. Watts*, 936 F.2d 1189, 1198-1199 (11th Cir. 1991) (unwritten news rack regulations gives unfettered discretion).

Under threat of arrest, Plaintiff Junt was told he may not only accept unsolicited donations for performing. Junt ¶3. There is no authority for this policy. LAMC § 41.59 prohibits only aggressive solicitation, but this is different from active solicitation. "Aggressive solicitation" is the conduct or manner in which people solicit while active solicitation refers to what people can say.¹ Without written rules, the police have unlimited authority to decide when a street performer has violated their rules. Such an informal, standardless scheme is an unreasonable time, place, and manner restriction.

# C. The Restriction on Active Solicitation Violates the First Amendment

1. The restriction is an unreasonable as a content-based time, place, and manner regulation.

The restriction on active solicitation limits speech based on its content. *Grace*, 461 U.S. at 177. A regulation is content-neutral if it is "justified without reference to the content of the regulated speech." *Clark v. Community for Creative Non-Violence*, 468 U.S. 288, 292 (1984). "A regulation is content-based if either the underlying

Defendants will likely argue that restrictions their actions are needed to address complaints about the conduct of some street performers. As *Berger* instructed, broad prophylactic measures may not be used when "most street performers are not problematic." 569 F.3d at 1045. The restrictions and enforcement efforts here would "burden[] all performers to root out the occasional bad apple" and, "[b]y doing so, ... fails to 'target [] and eliminate [] no more than the exact source of the 'evil' it seeks to remedy." *Id.* at 1045-1046 (citation omitted).

purpose of the regulation is to suppress particular ideas, or if the regulation, by its very terms, singles out particular content for differential treatment." *Berger*, 569 F.3d at 1051 (citations omitted). In *Berger*, the court held that the ordinance banning active solicitation was a content-based restriction because "[i]t specifically restricts street performers from communicating a particular set of messages — requests for donations, such as 'I'd like you to give me some money if you enjoyed my performance." *Id*.

The active solicitation restriction on Hollywood Boulevard is indistinguishable from the ban struck down in *Berger*. Here, as in *Berger*, defendants single out for differential treatment speech that expressly requests tips and restricts performers from communicating certain messages. Because it is not content neutral, this unwritten rule fails to meet the first requirement of a reasonable time, place, and manner restriction.

# 2. The Active Solicitation Ban Fails Strict Scrutiny.

Just as the content-based ban in *Berger* limiting street performers to "passive" solicitation failed to meet strict scrutiny, defendants' arbitrary ban also fails in this instance. "As a content-based regulation, the ban on active solicitation is valid only if it serves a compelling government interest in the least restrictive manner possible." *Berger*, 569 F.3d at 1052. "Although the government 'may have a substantial interest in preventing solicitors from harassing pedestrians on public streets and sidewalks[,] ... these substantial interests ... may not be compelling" *Id.* (quoting *S.O.C., Inc. v. County of Clark*, 152 F.3d 1136, 1146 (9th Cir. 1998)). *See also, Perry Educ. Ass'n v. Perry Local Educators' Ass'n*, 460 U.S. 37, 45 (content-based restrictions are valid only if they can show "regulation is necessary to serve a compelling state interest and that it is narrowly drawn to achieve that end") (citation omitted).

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No compelling interest exists to meet strict scrutiny. The only justification that could possibly exist for the active solicitation ban is to prevent the street performers from harassing pedestrians. Preventing harassment of pedestrians is a significant government interest but not a compelling one, so the restriction on active solicitation is unconstitutional. Berger, 569 F.3d at 1052.

#### The arrest of Plaintiffs for "obstruction" pursuant to L.A.M.C. D. §41.18(a) violated their First and Fourth Amendment rights

Plaintiffs were wrongfully arrested for "obstructing the sidewalk" under Los Angeles Municipal Code §41.18(a) when they refused orders to leave the area. These arrests were unconstitutional for two reasons. First, plaintiffs did not bar the free flow of pedestrian traffic while on this very wide sidewalk. Second, if anyone blocked the sidewalks, it was the tourists who stopped to look not only at plaintiffs, but at the "stars" in Hollywood Boulevard. Yet, they were not threatened with or arrested.

LAMC §41.18(a), captioned "Sidewalks, Pedestrian Subways – Loitering," was last amended in 1968. It states:

> "No person shall stand in or upon any street, sidewalk or other public way open for pedestrian travel or otherwise occupy any portion thereof in such a manner as to annoy or molest any pedestrian thereon or so as to obstruct or unreasonably interfere with the free passage of pedestrians."

The decisions In Shuttlesworth v. City of Birmingham, 382 U.S. 87 (1965) and Foti v. City of Menlo Park, 146 F.3d 629 (9th Cir. 1998), compel the conclusion that defendants' enforcement of §41.18(a) is unconstitutional. Shuttlesworth invalidated a conviction under a similar sidewalk obstruction statute and held that a person's "mere

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refusal to move on after a police officer's requesting that a person standing or loitering should do so is not enough to support the offense ... [T]here must also be a showing of the accused's blocking free passage." Id. at 91. Shuttlesworth had been standing with a group of approximately a dozen people on the sidewalk. Id. at 89. They were ordered to disperse three times for allegedly blocking pedestrians, id. at 89, even though they occupied only half of the sidewalk. Id. at 100. Only Shuttlesworth refused to leave and was arrested. Id. at 89. Even if the larger group had obstructed passage, a single individual (Shuttlesworth) could not physically do so. Id. at 101 (Fortas, J. concurring). Here, as In Shuttlesworth, pedestrians could easily pass the group on the sidewalk without having to step into the street, id. at 97, particularly because plaintiffs were small in number and standing at the curb. Dec.

Foti invalidated a portion of municipal ordinance enacted to force anti-abortion protestors off of a public sidewalk in front of a women's health care provider. The ordinance singled out for regulation picketers with signs, while pedestrians, other protestors and leafletters were unrestricted. Id. at 640-43. In addition to limits on the size of signs, the law required picketers carrying signs to keep moving on the sidewalk so as not to impede the "free flow of pedestrian traffic on public sidewalks." Id. at 642. Foti recognized a valid government interest in regulating use of the sidewalks, but held that this provision was not narrowly tailored since pedestrians could easily "negotiate around a stationary picketer" as "[a] peaceful picketer carrying a sign creates no more of an obstacle than a picketer carrying a cross or a pedestrian waiting for a bus." Id.

The same is true here. Only those in costume are alleged to be "obstructing" on Hollywood Boulevard while tourists and other pedestrians walking, standing, and milling about on the sidewalk are not threatened with arrest. Tourists stand still, alone

and in groups, all along the sidewalk to take photos of themselves on the Walk of Fame, the foot and hand prints in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater, and the Hollywood Characters. Here, as in *Foti*, there is no lawful basis to apply LAMC §41.18(a) to the Hollywood Characters for allegedly obstructing the sidewalk when tourists, shoppers and those leaving the Metro station are not subject to the regulation.

## E. The "Loitering" Arrests Also Violate the First Amendment

Plaintiff Dennis was charged with a violation of LAMC §41.18(a) based on an allegation of "loitering." Plaintiffs have an absolute right to stand in public fora, including the sidewalk on Hollywood Boulevard, dressed in costumes without risking arrest for "loitering." A conviction for "loitering" requires proof that the individual was present for an unlawful purpose. See e.g., Papachristou v. City of Jacksonville, 405 U.S. 156 (1972); Coates v. Cincinnati, 402 U.S. 661 (1971); City of Chicago v. Morales, 527 U.S. 41 (1999). As set forth above, there is no unlawful purpose here. In fact, Dennis was engaged in the very conduct validated by the Ninth Circuit in S.O.C. v. County of Clark, 152 F.3d 1136, 1148 (9th Cir. 1998) (off-premise commercial leafletting on Vegas strip was protected).

## IV. A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER SHOULD ISSUE

A temporary restraining order is appropriate because (1) plaintiffs have shown a likelihood of success on the merits; (2) they will suffer irreparable injury and have no adequate remedy at law if injunctive relief is not granted; (3) the balance of hardships tips in plaintiffs' favor; and (4) granting the injunction is in the public interest. Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky, 586 F.3d 1109, 1127 (9th Cir. 2009).

Evidence that "police misconduct flow[s] from a policy [or] plan" supports injunctive relief. Easyriders Freedom F.I.G.H.T. v. Hannigan, 92 F. 3d 1486, 1500 (9th

Cir. 1996). Injunctive relief is necessary in this instance to protect plaintiffs from the ongoing threat of unreasonable search and seizure. The individual plaintiffs have all been arrested once. Plaintiffs should not have to endure the indignities of arrest, property confiscation and legal defense costs every time the LAPD falsely arrests them in a concerted effort to drive them away from Hollywood Boulevard. "[T]he wrong that the Fourth Amendment is designed to prevent is completed when a[n individual] is cited without probable cause." Id., at 1501. Neither defense to criminal prosecution nor monetary recompense remedies this injury to a fundamental constitutional right.

Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm unless Defendants are enjoined from enforcing the unwritten "solicitation" ban and arresting them without probable cause. They want to continue to perform on Hollywood Boulevard, a right protected by the First Amendment in public fora, but they are afraid to do so for fear of arrest again. They were threatened and intimidated with arrest if they return to the area to perform. Balke ¶11; Biethan ¶8; Dennis ¶¶4,6; Harrell ¶6, Junt ¶5; Tomey ¶¶6,7.

A temporary restraining order should issue to protect Plaintiffs' lawful rights to be in this archetypal forum and communicate with the public unencumbered by unfounded and unreasonable arrests on allegations of "obstructing the sidewalk." Plaintiffs have shown a strong probability of success on the merits, and they have demonstrated that the City is presently enforcing LAMC 41.18(a) in a manner that violates their constitutional rights. They have suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury from the loss of these rights. Each individual plaintiff has been arrested and or cited under the challenged plan. *See Foti*, 146 F.3d at 643. It is black letter law that "the loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time

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unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury." Elrod v. Burns, 427 U.S. 347, 373 (1976), Foti, 146 F.3d at 643.

The balance of hardships tips sharply to Plaintiffs. While they will suffer irreparable harm to their First and Fourth Amendment rights if an injunction is not granted, the City will not suffer at all if it is ordered to follow the law. Moreover, the public interest also favors an injunction, as "it is always in the public interest to prevent the violation of a party's constitutional rights." G&V Lounge v. Michigan Liquor Control Commission, 23 F.3d 1071, 1079 (6th Cir. 1994). Accord, Iowa Right to Life Committee v. Williams, 187 F.3d 963, 969 (8th Cir. 1999).

#### The Requirement of a Bond Should Be Waived V.

When there is no likelihood of harm to the party enjoined, bond may be dispensed with entirely. Barahona-Gomez v. Reno, 167 F.3d 1228, 1237 (9th Cir. 1999).

#### VI. **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant the temporary restraining order enjoining defendants from interfering with Plaintiffs' constitutionally protected rights under the First and Fourth Amendments.

Dated: August 31, 2010 Respectfully submitted,

LAW OFFICE OF CAROL A. SOBEL LAW OFFICE OF REBECCA F. THORNTON

BY: CAROL A. SOBEL Attornevs for Plaintiffs CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the City of Attorney has been served this date by facsimile service upon the following individual:

DEBORAH GONZALES POLICE LIABILITY

200 N. Main Street City Hall East, 6<sup>th</sup> fl. Los Angeles, CA 90012 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 31st day of August, 2010 at Santas Monica, California. CAROL A. SOBEL . 15 

DECLARATION OF BALKS

### **DECLARATION OF MATTHIAS BALKE**

### I, MATTHIAS BALKE, declare as follows:

- 1. I am a plaintiff in this action. The Hollywood Characters is an unincorporated association of costumed street performers on Hollywood Boulevard. I am one of them, as are the other plaintiffs in this action. The group formed this summer to represent the interests of and advocate against recent arrests of performers on Hollywood Boulevard. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below.
- 2. On June 4, 2010, at approximately 7:30 p.m., I was arrested outside the Fashion 21 store in the 6800 block of Hollywood Boulevard, at the Hollywood and Highland complex. I was dressed as the character Wolverine from the movie "X-Men." Approximately one week earlier, on or around May 28, 2010, I had been informed that a number of the characters on the Hollywood Boulevard were arrested, including an individual who wears a Bumblebee "Transformer" costume.
- 3. I was on Hollywood Boulevard with two friends who also are street performers in costume in this location. The area where we were standing is a very wide sidewalk. The three of us were standing on the public sidewalk, on the curb edge, facing away from the street. I could see that the public was freely able to walk up and down the sidewalk in front of us. At 7:30 p.m. that night, there was only light pedestrian traffic for most of the time that we were there and at some points there were no pedestrians in the area. Occasionally, a few people would stop and take photographs of us. Based on the arrests that had occurred a few days earlier, we did not engage the public taking our photos except to tell them it was fine to do so. We did not solicit any tip, donation or other form of monetary or non-monetary payment.
- 4. The reason we did not solicit any tips or donations was our understanding that Zach Junt, another Hollywood Performer who was performing as Spiderman, was arrested a few hours earlier for solicitation of money. I believed that if I did not seek money, and simply performed on the sidewalk, I would not be arrested. When I was

arrested and taken to Hollywood Station, I was put in the same cell with Zach Junt and learned directly from him that he had been arrested for solicitation.

- 5. After approximately 10 minutes, we were approached by three individuals wearing Los Angeles Police Department uniforms, badges and insignias. When we first saw the officers, they appeared to be arresting an individual they had brought out of the Hollywood and Highland complex. I observed that the individual was in handcuffs and saw him being seated in the back of a patrol car. At about the same time, at least one additional patrol car arrived. My best recollection is that there were four or five officers by the time the incident involving me ended in my arrest.
- 6. The officers approached us. I believe that it was Officer Chacon who first approached us. I observed Officer Chacon pointed his finger at one of my firends, Paul Harrell, who was dressed as "The Joker" from the Batman films. I was standing directly next to Paul at the time and close enough to observe and hear everything the officers said. As I observed Officer Chacon point to Paul, I heard him say "You are coming with us." Officer Chacon then pointed at me and said "You need to leave." When Officer Chacon told me to leave, I asked what law I was breaking at the time. Officer Chacon did not respond to me verbally. Instead, he motioned with his hand and said "come on," which I understood based on his words and his hand motion, as well, as his prior interaction with Paul, that I was being taken into custody by the officers and was no longer free to leave.
- 7. Immediately after indicating to me that I was in custody, I observed the officer point to Melissa Beithan, who had been standing with us, and ask her if she was going to leave. I observed Melissa say "no." After that, I observed Officer Chacon grab Paul Harrell by the arm, Officer Gonazalez grab Melissa Beithan by the arm, and a third officer grabbed me by the arm and walk us down the street to the west where two patrol cars were located near the Grauman Theater box office.
  - 8. When we arrived at this location in front of the Grauman, I was

- handcuffed. Within about 5 minutes, a third patrol car arrived. I observed that each of us was then placed in the back of a separate patrol car and driven to Wilcox station. There were three officers in the patrol car transporting me to the police station. Once we got to the police station, I was handcuffed to a wooden bench until I was put through the booking process. I was held at this location for approximately 30 minutes, after which I was taken in to be photographed and fingerprinted. I was held at the station for four hours and released around midnight after posting cash bail of \$250.
- 9. Because of my arrest, I had to obtain a criminal defense lawyer. On July 2, 2010, I appeared with my attorney at the Hollywood Criminal Court on a misdemeanor charge of violating Los Angeles Municipal Code §41.18(A), "blocking a sidewalk." All charges against me were rejected for filing.
- 10. Over the past four years, I have frequently been present in this area wearing the same costume as Wolverine. I work 50 hours a week at a full-time job. My costume is black leather. There are limited times when I go out in the costume because it is so hot and because I work full-time during the week. I was not out at all last summer. For me, being out on Hollywood Boulevard is an exercise in expressive activity for me. I identify with the character and enjoy being a street performer dressed up as a superhero and acting as the character. I am trained as an actor and view my interaction with the public on Hollywood Boulevard as a performance.
- 11. I want to be able to go back to Hollywood Boulevard in or out of costume without the risk of being arrested. I also want to be able to solicit donations from individuals who want to have their photographs taken with me. About a month after I was arrested, Christopher Dennis, who performs as Superman and has done so for about 20 years to my knowledge, was arrested for loitering. I reviewed his official bail receipt, which listed the charge as a violation of §41.18(a) ("loitering"). This is part of the same ordinance under which I was arrested: LAMC §41.18(d) ("blocking the sidewalk"). About a week after my arrest, James Carax was issued a citation for

"loitering." I learned of his arrest by speaking to James and viewing a videotape of his arrest. My understanding is that he was on the south side of Hollywood Boulevard and not wearing a costume at the time that he was arrested, although the police recognized him. James Carax is also one of the characters on Hollywood Boulevard, where he performs as Captain Jack Sparrow. After my arrest, and especially after James' arrest, I have avoided walking on the north side of Hollywood Boulevard because I am concerned that the police will arrest me again. For my performance as Wolverine, I had grown facial hair to look like Wolverine. After my arrest, I shaved them off and cut my hair to avoid recognition by the police.

12. Attached to my declaration at Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of the "Bail Receipt &/or Notice of Appear" issued to me when I was released from the police station. When I appeared on July 2, 2010 at the Hollywood Courthouse, my case was not on calendar. I went to the City Attorney's office on the second floor of the courthouse, where the information in red was stamped and completed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 27th day of August, 2010 at Santa Monica, California.

Maynias Balke

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DECLARATION OF BIETHAN

### **DECLARATION OF MELISSA BIETHAN**

I, MELISSA BIETHAN, declare as follows:

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- 1. I am a plaintiff in this action. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and, if I were called to testify to those facts, I could and would do so competently.
- 2. On June 4, 2010, at approximately 7:30 p.m., I was arrested outside of the Forever 21 store in the 6800 block of Hollywood Boulevard, at the Hollywood and Highland complex. I was dressed as the character Catwoman from the movie "Batman Returns." Approximately one week earlier, on or around May 28, 2010, I had been informed that a number of the characters on the Hollywood Boulevard were arrested.
- 3. I was on Hollywood Boulevard with two friends who are also street performers in costume at this location. The area where we were standing is a very wide sidewalk. The three of us were standing on the public sidewalk, on the curb edge, facing away from the street. I could observe that members of the public were freely able to walk up and down the sidewalk in front of us. At 7:30 p.m. that night, there was only light pedestrian traffic for most of the time that we were there and at some points there were no pedestrians in the area. Occasionally, a few people would stop and take photographs of us. After a few minutes, a Marilyn Monroe character approached us to tell us that is was not safe to be out there because police officers were there arresting characters. Immediately after that, three officers of the Los Angeles Police Department approached us and told us to go home. I informed the police officer that I would not leave and asked the police officers why we should go home. The officers responded that we were going to be arrested. The police officers handcuffed us and walked us to the squad cars that were near the Grauman's Chinese Theater box office about a block away to the West. As we walked to the squad cars, people on the block who were observing yelled at the officers, "Why are you doing this?" and "What did they do?"

- 4. When we were standing outside the squad cars facing the street, the police officer who arrested me yanked my Catwoman mask from behind without even telling me he was going to yank it. My head flew back because the mask does not easily come off. The three of us were placed in separate patrol cars and were transported to the Wilcox station.
- 5. At the Wilcox station, I was placed in a holding cell for approximately one hour. After that, I was informed that I had been arrested for blocking the sidewalk and was told that I could call someone for bail but I had no one to call. The police officers told me I would have to wait for the judge on Monday if I could not post bail. I was then fingerprinted and put back into a holding cell for approximately 30-45 minutes.
- 6. I was then transported to the Van Nuys station by two officers because there is no women's jail at the Wilcox station. After waiting in two different holding cells for over an hour, a female police officer told me I was being released. They fingerprinted me again and released me late at night with three bus tokens to get home.
- 7. I started performing as a Hollywood Boulevard character in October 2009. After going out as a character a couple of times, I found I really enjoyed it and wanted to go out more often. I was a lifeguard at the time, but I went on reserve for this summer in order to be a Hollywood Boulevard character full time. Dressing like Catwoman is an expressive activity for me that requires me to know the character, know how to pose for pictures, and interact with the public. I enjoy performing on Hollywood Boulevard because I like talking to people and the look in children's eyes when they see their favorite movie characters means a lot to me. I identify with the Catwoman character because many people tell me I look like Michelle Pfeiffer.

8. I want to be able to go back to Hollywood Boulevard in or our out of costume without the risk of being arrested. Since the incident, I avoid the north side of Hollywood Boulevard even though I live nearby and often walk the area out of costume. Avoiding the area makes it inconvenient to go the grocery store, to the local stores, and to run errands because I am afraid that the police will arrest me again.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct under the laws of the State of California. Executed on this  $20^{10}$  day of August, 2010.

MELISSA BIBTHAN

DELEON

WHERE:

Arresting or Citing Officer

MACHADO (4206) 37048 to Date of Arresting Officer, it different from Citing Officer Serial No. Dates Off WITHOUT ADMITTING GUILT, I PROMISE TO APPEAR AT THE TIME AND PLACE INDICATED BELOW.

X signature

WHEN: ON THIS DATE: 7 / 2 / 2010 TIME: 0830

WHAT TO DO: FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE.

DIV JAII

TE CI PT

N1941

Metropolitan, 1945 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, 90007, (213) 744-4022
 Central Arraignment Court, 429 Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, 90012, (213) 974-6075
 South, 415 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, 90802, (562) 491-6226
 West Los Angeles, 1633 Purdue Avenue, West Los Angeles, 90025, (310) 312-6547

Van Nuys, 14400 Erwin Street Mall, Van Nuys, 91401, (818) 374-2903

North Valley, 900 Third Street, San Fernando, 91340, (818) 898-2407

☐ West Valley, 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, 91311, (818) 576-8555
☐ Hollywood, 5925 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, 90028, (323) 856-5747

Airport, 11701 South La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, 90045, (310) 727-6020

HOLLYWOOD COURT DEPT. 102

☐ HOLLYWOOD COURT
☐ TO BE NOTIFIE 5925 HOUTY WOOD BL, HOLLYWOOD

DEFENDANT COPY

Dates Off

NOTICE TO APPEAR FORM APPROVED BY THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA Rev. 09-20-05 (Pan. Code, § 853.9) SEE REVERSE TR-120 05.02.02 (01/06)

DECLARATION OF DENNIS

# **DECLARATION OF CHRISTOPHER DENNIS**

I, Christopher Dennis, declare and state as follows:

- 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below. If I were called to testify to those facts, I could and would do so competently.
- 2. I have been performing on Hollywood Boulevard as the character of Superman for the past 19 years. On July 8, 2010, I was on Hollywood Boulevard passing out flyers advertising two stores: Star World and The Hollywood Show Gallery. The stores hired me to do so in costume. Tourists would occasionally stop and ask me to take photos with them. At approximately 3:25p.m., LAPD officers surrounded me, handcuffed me, and transported me to the police station. They said I was being arrested for loitering. My costume was taken and I was given some scrubs to wear. After I was processed, I called my wife to bail me out. The bail was \$250. I was released at approximately 10 p.m. that evening.
- 3. As a result of the citation, I had to hire a criminal defense attorney. On July 29, 2010, I had a court date for the citation. I was represented by my attorney, Daniel Hustwit. He gave me a number to call which I believe was for the County Prosecutor's office. When I called, they informed me that the case was rejected for filing because the prosecutor didn't want to pursue the case. I went to the courthouse and got the ticket stamped with the rejection number. A true and correct copy of the Notice to Appear with the "Case Rejected" stamp is attached hereto as Exhibit & This document also shows the \$250 bail that was paid.
- 4. On August 11, 2010, I went out to Hollywood Boulevard with a film crew. I was there for about an hour and a half. Some people approached me to ask for photos. At one point, I heard a siren and it scared me to death. A police car was pulling someone over, but they didn't get out right away. They just sat there. The officers were watching me. It looked like the same officer that had arrested me. I felt that they were trying to intimidate me. I believe they could tell that I was wired for sound, which was to assist the film crew. I decided to leave the area because I feared

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- costume, I feel like an ambassador for Hollywood and I'm bringing a Superhero character to life for everyone to enjoy. I especially enjoy making children smile. They enjoy taking pictures with me and the other costumed characters.
- Since being arrested, I have only gone back to Hollywood Boulevard in 6. costume the one time on August 11, 2010, accompanied by a film crew. Besides that one time, I have not gone back out as Superman on Hollywood Boulevard based on what happened that day with the police watching me and because I am afraid I will be arrested. On that day, when I saw the officers watching me, I was terrified. I live right around the corner from the Kodak theater and even when I am not in costume, I am always looking over my shoulder and jump anytime I hear a siren. It makes my heart pound.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct under the laws of the State of California. Executed this 27 day of August, 2010.

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LAW OFFICES OF HUSTWIT & ASSOCIATES

> DANIEL THORR HUSTWIT ATTORNEY AT LAW

601 WEST FIFTH STREET

SUITE 333

LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

TEL (310) 788-2677

FAX (310) 203-2287

SBN 161749

DECLARATION OF HARRELL

# **DECLARATION OF PAUL LOUIS HARRELL**

I, PAUL LOUIS HARRELL, declare as follows:

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- 1. I am a plaintiff in this action. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and, if I were called to testify as a witness to those facts, I could and would do so competently.
- On June 4, 2010 at approximately 7:30 p.m., I was arrested outside the 2. Forever 21 store on the 6800 block of Hollywood Boulevard, at the Hollywood and Highland complex. I was dressed as the character The Joker from the movie "The Dark Knight." Approximately one week earlier, on or around May 28, 2010, I had been informed that a number of the characters on the Hollywood Boulevard were arrested, including an individual who wears a Bumblebee "Transformer" costume. I was on Hollywood Boulevard with two friends Matthias Balke and Melissa Biethan who are also street performers in costume at this location. The area where we were standing is a very wide sidewalk. The three of us were standing on the public sidewalk, on the curb edge, facing away from the street. We were doing what we normally do: performing, taking photos and greeting tourists. We could observe that members of the public were freely able to walk up and down the sidewalk in front of us. At 7:30 pm that night, there was light pedestrian traffic for most of the time we were there and at some points there were no pedestrians in the area. Occasionally, a few people would stop and take photographs of us. After approximately 10 minutes, we were approached by three officers of the Los Angeles Police Department. Officer Chacon approached me and immediately arrested me and my two friends. The officers did not give any reason for the arrest, nor did they give us a warning or tell us which law we were breaking. I was immediately handcuffed and transported to the Wilcox police station in a patrol car. My two friends were also handcuffed and they were transported in separate patrol cars.

- 3. At the Wilcox station I was put through the booking process and questioned. While I was at the station, an officer asked me if I knew why I was at the station, and I responded "No." Nothing was said to me at any point by any of the officers about why I was arrested. While I was at the station, I observed the officers debating in front of me what to charge my friend and me with. Only at the end of booking was I given a pink slip which stated the reason for arrest. The charge was for a misdemeanor under Los Angeles Municipal Code §41.18(A), "blocking sidewalk." After a few hours I was released from the station after I posted a cash bail of \$250.
- 4. Because of my arrest, I had to obtain a criminal defense lawyer. On July 2, 2010 my attorney appeared at the Hollywood Criminal Court to defend the charge against me. I did not attend this hearing. All charges against me were rejected for filing.
- 5. I have been performing on Hollywood Boulevard since Jan 5, 2009. I perform on Hollywood Boulevard as much as I can between auditions for acting jobs. I have been doing well with my acting career. Matthias Balke, other performers, and I were featured on the cover of a high end German travel magazine. The magazine featured the Hollywood performers as the reason to come to Hollywood, which I really believe is true. We draw people from inside and outside of Los Angeles to Hollywood. I pride myself on my work because it is very authentic. I put a lot of effort into my costumes and my performance because I really enjoy this work. The public and the tourists really respect and appreciate my efforts, and I love bringing this unique experience to people.
- 6. Since this incident, I have not gone back out on Hollywood Boulevard because I am afraid of being unjustly arrested. I fear that I will be harassed or detained if I am seen with or without a costume due to my experience of being arrested with my friends and also because of the experience of my friend James

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#### **DECLARATION OF ZACHARY JUNT**

I, ZACHARY JUNT, declare as follows:

- 1. I am a plaintiff in this action. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below and, if I were called to testify as a witness to those facts, I could and would do so competently.
- 2. On June 4, 2010 at approximately 1:30 p.m., I was in front of the Kodak Theater on Hollywood Boulevard. I had been taking photos with people if they approached me. I usually stand in one place or roam up and down the street. I do not approach people for photos, call them over or ask for money. I simply say that tips are appreciated and I accept money if it is offered to me. Without warning, two officers approached me, ordered me to step towards them and put me in handcuffs. They told me I was being arrested for loitering, and after asking me a few questions about my costume, they transported me to the police station.
- 3. At the station, officers took my suit and gave me some scrubs to wear. I was held in a cell for about 45 minutes alone. Then an officer came in and told me that he was the officer who ordered the arrest. He stated that I was arrested for open solicitation because I was working on public property without a permit and demanding money. He said he had 45 minutes of surveillance footage of me demanding money which is not possible. I only say that tips are appreciated after someone approaches me. He said that if I ever went back to Hollywood Boulevard in costume, I would be arrested.
- 4. I was transferred to a couple of different holding cells, fingerprinted and booked. I spent the night in jail until bail was arraigned. I was released at approximately 11:30 a.m. the following morning. I paid bail of \$250.00. I had to hire a criminal defense attorney to represent me on the charges. The case was rejected for filing and all charges were dropped.
- 5. Since the incident, I have not been back to Hollywood Boulevard in costume. I also live in the neighborhood, but since the incident, I avoid the Hollywood &

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Highland area altogether because I am afraid that the police might recognize me even out of costume and I could be arrested.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct under the laws of the State of California. Executed this 22 day of August, 2010.

ZACHARY JUNT

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1. BAIL:

On a MISDEMEANOR CHARGE OR A BAILABLE FELONY CHARGE, you may be released on bail.
On a WARRANT ISSUED IN ANOTHER COUNTY, you have the right, upon demand, to be taken before a magistrate in this county for the purpose of being admitted to bail. If you wish to go to court for this purpose, or do not know if you are arrested on an

county for the purpose of being admirted to bail. If you wish to go to court for his purpose, or do not know if you are stable out-of-county warrant, contact your jailer.

2. RELEASE FROM CUSTODY: You will only be released from custody (bail, bond, own recognizance, etc.) after positive identification has been established. Positive identification has to be based on fingerprints. Refusal to submit to fingerprints will delay a person's release from custody.

3. COURT APPEARANCE: You may ask the jailier when you are scheduled for court appearance.

4. TELEPHONE CALLS: Within 3 hours from the time of your arrest, you may make the following telephone calls:

A. At City expense within the local dialing area, or at your own expense to other locations, to THREE of the following:

(1) An attorney of your choice, the Public Defender, or any attorney assigned by the court.

(2) A bail bondsman.

(3) A relative or other person.
 B. For information regarding additional telephone calls, you may ask the jailer.
 5. ATTORNEYS AND BAIL BONDSMEN: You may be visited by an attorney or bondsman upon your request or the request of a relative or friend. Beware

ATTORNEYS AND BAIL BONDSMEN: You may be visited by an attorney or bondsman upon your request or the request of a relative of mend. Beware of any person interested in procuring a lawyer or bondsman for you.

VISITORS: Inmates are permitted a maximum of one visitor each day. Exception: One minor child may accompany each responsible adult visitor. Visitation rules do not apply to visits by attorneys, bail bondsmen, personal physicians, or members of the clergy, who may visit at any time. Hours may vary and are subject to cancellation.

FOREIGN NATIONALS: You may contact your Consular Office at any time. If you need assistance in contacting your Consular Office, notify the jaller. Visits from the Consular Officers are permitted at any time.

YOUR PROPERTY: Your property will be returned to you immediately upon your release from LAPD custody.

ILLNESS: If you need medical attention, or are aware of another prisoner in need of it, notify the jaller at once.

READING AND RECREATION: A general circulation daily newspaper and a non-English language publication are available during the hours set by the jall supervisor. Hours may vary and are subject to cancellation.

VOTING: Notify the jailer of any request to vote in a local, state, or federal election.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE: Notify the jailer of any request for religious material. Visits from members of the clergy or other bona fide religious advisors are permitted at any time.

INMATE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE: Any complaint or grievance must be reported to a jail supervisor without delay.

MAIL: Mail to and from an inmate may be opened and inspected for contraband.

INMATES WITH DISABILITIES: Should you require any special assistance, notify the jailer.

JAIL RULES: Any obstruction, willful resistance, destruction of jail property, or other unlawful conduct towards custody staff may result in additional criminal charges being filed against you. Prosecution will be pursued regardless of the disposition of your original charges.

DECLARATION OF TO MEY

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#### **DECLARATION OF TERRELL ANTHONY TOMEY**

I, Terrell Anthony Tomey, declare and state as follows:

- 1. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below. If I were called to testify to those facts, I could and would do so competently.
- 2. I am a performer on Hollywood Boulevard as the character of Batman. I have been performing as that character for the past 3 years. Prior to that, I have performed as many other characters in that location during the last 7 years. I enjoy performing on Hollywood Boulevard because I like to entertain people. People from all over the world and all ages smile and enjoy the performance. Prior to this incident, I would perform on Hollywood Boulevard approximately 5 days a week.
- 3. On June 2, 2010, at approximately 2:30 p.m., I arrived on Hollywood Boulevard between Orange and Highland, in front of Madame Tussaud's. I was wearing my batman costume. Upon my arrival, I was approached by a Channel 4 news reporter and cameraman. The reporter interviewed me about what had been happening lately to the Hollywood Boulevard characters. Some bystanders were stopping and asking to take photographs with me. No more than about 15 minutes went by when I noticed an LAPD police vehicle stop in the middle of the street and two officers got out. The two officers immediately approached me and told me to come to their vehicle and lead me by the arm to the car. The officers instructed me to interlace my fingers and put my hands on my head, and proceeded to handcuff me. The officers asked for my ID and I told them it was in my pouch. They

retrieved it. They put me in the vehicle and transported me to the Hollywood police station. I asked what I was being arrested for and they did not respond. I never received any citation or other information about what the basis was for my arrest. The officers repeatedly asked me questions about how long I had been performing on the boulevard, how much money I make and what my biggest tip was for my performances on the boulevard. I told them that I wished to remain silent and that I wanted a lawyer. The arresting officers were Officer Jordan (Serial No. 32285) and Officer Rutkowski (Serial No. 40290).

- 4. While I was in custody at the Hollywood station, one of the officers who arrested me asked me "do you know why you're here?" I said no. After waiting a while, one of the officers came back and informed me that the charge would be "blocking the sidewalk."
- 5. I informed the officers at the station that I have a medical problem that requires blood thinning medication. I was transported to a medical facility for that treatment and remained there until the next morning. The next day, I was transported to another facility. Towards the end of the day on June 3, 2010, an officer informed me that I was released and let me out. I was never given any citation or any date on which to appear in court.
- 6. Since this incident, I have not been back to Hollywood Boulevard to perform because I am afraid that I might get arrested.

7. I reside in the neighborhood of Hollywood and Highland and prior to this incident would often go to restaurants and shops on Hollywood Boulevard because they are close to home. Since this incident, I am too afraid to go to Hollywood Boulevard because I do not want to be arrested.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct under the laws of the State of California. Executed this 16th day of August, 2010.

TERRELL ANTHONY TOMEY

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A On a MISDEMEANOR CHARGE OR A BAILABLE FELONY CHARGE, you may be released on ball.

B. On a WARRANT ISSUED IN ANOTHER COUNTY, you have the right, upon demand, to be taken before a magistrate in this county for the purpose of being admitted to ball. If you wish to go to court for this purpose, or do not know if you are arrested on an out-of-county, varrant, contact your jailer.

RELEASE FROM CUSTODY: You will only be released from custed (bail, bond, own recognizance, etc.) after positive identification has been established. Positive identification has to be based on fingerprints. Refusal to submit to fingerprints will delay a person's release from custody. COURT APPEARANCE: You may ask the jailer when you are schouled for court appearance.

TELEPHONE CALLS: Within 3 hours from the time of your arrest you may make the following telephone calls:

A. At City expense within the local dialing area, or at your own opense to other locations, to THREE of the following (1) An attorney of your choice, the Public Defender, or any automy assigned by the court.

(1) An attorney of your choice, the Public Defender, or any eigeney assigned by the court.

(2) A ball bondsman.

(3) A relative or other person.

B. For information regarding additional telephone calls, you may ask the jailer.

ATTORNEYS AND BAIL BONDSMEN: You may be visited by an attorney or bondsman upon your request or the request of a relative or itend. Beware of any person interested in procuring a lawyer or bondsman for you.

(ISTORS: Inmates are permitted a maximum of one visitor each cay. Exception: One minor child may accompany each responsible adult visitor. Visitation rules do not apply to visits by attorneys, bail bondsmen, personal physicians, or members of the clergy, who may visit any time. Hours may vary and are subject to cancellation.

FOREIGN NATIONALS: You may contact your Consular Office at portains. If you need assistance in contacting your consular Office, notify the lailer. Visits from the Consular Officers are permitted at any time. Your property will be returned to you immediately upon your release from LAPD custody.

YOUR PROPERTY: Your property will be returned to you immediately upon your release from LAPD custody.

It NESS: If you need medical attention, or are aware of another prisoner in need of it, notify the jailer at once.

READING AND RECREATION: A general circulation daily newspaper and a non-English language publication are available during the hours set by the jail supervisor. Hours may vary and are subject to cancellation.

YOTING: Notify the jailer of any request to vote in a local, state or federal election.
 PELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE: Notify the jailer of any request for fulgious material. Visits from members of the clergy or other bona fide religious advisors are permitted at any time.
 INMATE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE: Any complaint or grievang a must be reported to a jail supervisor without delay.
 MAIL: Mail to and from an inmate may be opened and inspected for contraband.
 INMATES WITH DISABILITIES: Should you require any special assistance, notify the jailer.
 JAIL RULES: Any obstruction, willful resistance, destruction of jail property, or other unlawful conduct towards custody staff may result in additional criminal charges being filed against you. Prosecution will be published regardless of the disposition of your original charges.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE The undersigned hereby certifies that the City of Attorney has been served this date by facsimile service upon the following individual: **DEBORAH GONZALES** POLICE LIABILITY 200 N. Main Street City Hall East, 6<sup>th</sup> fl. Los Angeles, CA 90012 213 978-8787 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 31st day of August, 2010 at Santas Monica, California. CAROL A. SOBEL