DISTRICT COURT CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER STATE OF COLORADO LINDSEY-FLANIGAN COURTHOUSE 520 WEST COLFAX DENVER, COLORADO 80204-2609 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ^COURT USE ONLY^ COLORADO, Case No. 21CR20000 and 21CR20001 VS. Courtroom No. 5A KEVIN BUI, Defendant. THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, VS. GAVIN SEYMOUR, Defendant.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT

This matter came on for Motions Hearing on November 16, 2022, before the HONORABLE MARTIN F. EGELHOFF, Judge of the District Court.

Wendy Evangelista, RPR

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AFTERNOON SESSION - NOVEMBER 16, 2022 * * * * * * *

(The following proceedings commenced at the hour of 1:40 p.m. with all parties present, the defendants appearing in custody:)

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THE COURT: All right. Calling case number 21CR20000, People versus Kevin Bui, as well as case number 21CR20001, People versus Gavin Seymour.

Entry of appearances, please.

MR. MORALES: Good afternoon. Joe Morales and Courtney Johnston on behalf of the People.

MR. JUBA: Michael Juba and Jenifer Stinson on behalf of Kevin Seymour. Mr. Seymour dues appear in custody to our right.

Your Honor, we do have cocounsel, Michael Price. He is out of state. If the Court would allow, he is able to appear over Webex.

THE COURT: I don't think we have the Webex turned on. And this is an in-person hearing. So if counsel wants to participate, I think counsel needs to be here.

So Mr. Bui is set on 21CR20000 for a disposition hearing and in 22CR3079 for an arraignment.

Mr. Seymour appears on 21CR20001 for a hearing

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which is the Court's ruling with respect to outstanding motions, which I'm prepared to do at this time.

You're standing, sir.

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MR. EARLE: Yes, Your Honor. Christian Earle and Ms. Rachel Lanzen on behalf of Mr. Bui, who is in custody on the other matters.

THE COURT: I'm sorry. Thank you.

All right. So I'm going to start with the attendant item regarding the outstanding motions, and I'm prepared to resolve them at this time.

So as to Mr. Seymour, the Court is in receipt of a variety of motions, which I have lumped into three basic categories for purposes of my analysis.

Our first broad category are motions to suppress search and seizure based on -- involving, essentially, the collection of electronic or digital type of evidence. Those motions involve a motion to suppress a geofence MAC identifier, cell phone tower -- cell tower data. Excuse me.

There's a motion to suppress the keyword search warrant and request for a veracity hearing.

There's a motion to suppress the search and seizure of certain cell phone records and cell phone data and certain provider accounts and certain social media accounts.

So that's the broad category of motions that
I've considered or have been filed. I'll consider those
motions pretty much as a group because I think the
issues regarding those motions are all interrelated and
similar in terms of the analysis and the resolution.
Then there's also a motion to suppress the search
warrant for a home, which is subject -- well, and
there's a motion to suppress statements.

And so those are the three categories of motions the Court is in receipt of, and I'll address them based upon that categorization.

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Starting with the biggest group of motions -and these have to do with searches and seizures
involving certain electronic and digital evidence, and
these all involve the analyses of the search warrants
that were issued with respect to the various categories
of evidence.

So I'm first going to start out by just recognizing some well-established principles that govern search and seizure, in general, and search warrants, in particular. So I'll just start out by acknowledging and articulating those particular standards that the Court is obliged to and has applied.

And so we start out with the proposition that the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and

Article II, Section 7 of the state -- Colorado

Constitution prohibits unreasonable searches and
seizures.

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Neither of these respective constitutional provisions explain exactly what constitutes an unreasonable search, but the U.S. Supreme Court has inferred from the text of the Fourth Amendment that a warrant must generally be secured before a police officer may conduct a search.

Under both constitutions, a search warrant may only be issued upon a showing of probable cause supported by oath or affirmation that particularly describes the place to be searched and the things to be seized. An affidavit submitted in support of a search warrant must set forth particular facts and circumstances underlying the existence of probable cause so as to allow the magistrate to make an independent evaluation.

Probable cause exists when an affidavit sets forth sufficient facts to warrant a person of reasonable caution to believe that contraband or evidence of criminal activity is located at the place to be searched. A magistrate or judicial officer's probable cause determination must be based on facts contained within the four corners of the affidavit that is

submitted in support of the search warrant.

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With respect to that magistrate's review of the affidavit in issuance of the search warrant, the magistrate's probable cause determination is generally given, quote, great deference and is not subject to a de novo review by a review in court. The deference is consistent with the preference for police to seek a judicial determination of probable cause rather than resort to warrantless searches in the hopes of relying on one of the narrowly defined exceptions to the warrant requirement.

And as a consequence, a review in court, such as this Court, should not attempt to put itself in the shoes of the magistrate and consider whether it would have found probable cause. Instead, the usual question for a review in court whether the issuing magistrate had a substantial basis for issuing the search warrant, and any doubts must be resolved in favor of the magistrate's probable cause determination.

Those are all propositions of law, the statements of law which are well settled, well engrained in our system. I didn't include individual sites for each of the propositions, but they're all summarized in, for example, the case of *People versus Hebert*, H-e-b-e-r-t, 486 P.3d 473, Colorado Supreme Court, 2002.

That's just one of a zillion cases that articulate those various principles of law which the Court has considered and relies upon and endeavors to honor.

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So with that legal framework, I'm going to just generally summarize kind of the factual context of these motions, how they came up chronologically and factually, just to put the Court's rulings in some form of context.

These facts have been discussed in detail in the various affidavits that appear in support of the search warrants. They also appear in detail in previous orders of this Court and the pleadings. And so by this recitation, I don't purport to list all of the facts here. I'm just providing a skeletal summary of the factual context of how these issues arose.

So the factual context is that in August of 2020, August 5th, the police and fire were dispatched to a house located at 5312 Truckee Street on a call of a house fire. The police -- the responders arrived at the house to find it fully enveloped in fire.

In working the fire, they -- "they" being the first responders -- were almost immediately aware that there was one deceased person inside the front of the house, and they were aware that three other people had escaped from the back of the house by jumping through a

second-story window. And as they further worked the scene, they discovered the tragic scene of four other deceased people inside the house.

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The police began a substantial investigation with respect to this house fire. Among the evidence that they were able to obtain were surveillance videos from various neighbors in the neighborhood, and they were able to ascertain -- or obtain evidence with respect to those surveillance videos.

They were able to ascertain that in the minutes prior to this fire -- they were able to identify that there were three individuals that were in the -- that came to the side of the yard of the house that was on fire prior to the fire. They were wearing masks. They were looking around. They were observed pointing towards the house, moving towards the house. They were observed later -- or shortly thereafter running from the backyard out a gate and towards the front.

All of this occurred within a span of about three to four minutes based upon video. And then not long after that, the videos depicted flames coming from the house and screams coming from the house as the house was set on fire. In the course of the police investigation, there was a determination that an accelerant was used to start the fire, which apparently

began in the rear of the house in the vicinity where these three people were observed.

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As part of the investigation, the police became familiar with the nature of the neighborhood where this house was. It was a single-family home. It was in a subdivision -- a rather populated subdivision. The house was not unique in the sense that it wasn't conspicuous on any lot. It was located among a variety of other homes, not on the corner, but within this development.

As part of a rather extensive investigation that occurred over several months, the police were not able to identify any motivations that were apparent with respect to why this fire was started, what motivations underlay it.

Based upon the investigation and based upon the expertise of the investigators, a theory was developed that the house was in some fashion targeted for some reason given just the nature of the neighborhood, the nature of the fire, all of the circumstances. It was the police's theory that there was some connection to the perpetrators of the fire and the house, and they came up with the theory that this house was somehow targeted.

In pursuance of this investigation, there

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being no other suspects and then no suspects that were developed given kind of traditional investigative techniques, the police began to use, I guess, more novel methods of investigation, which included -- or which focused on obtaining electronic evidence that may be available to assist them in locating and identifying suspects that might lead to some information as to the identity of the perpetrators.

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As I understand it, the starting point was to try and issue -- or obtain information with respect to what's known as geofence or cell tower data, which essentially fences in certain areas and tries to identify those folks coming in and out of that particular area. That investigation, as I understand it, didn't yield any productive results or any suspects.

The police then went to another source; they went to the internet. Essentially, they went to Google to conduct what's been described as a keyword query, essentially, to attempt to identify people that may have conducted internet searches pertaining to the location of 5312 Truckee and, specifically, those that may have researched that address or endeavored to get directions to that address.

This was done, again, based upon the location, based upon the police's belief that there had been an

appreciable amount of planning that was most likely involved in the crime, the fact that it was probably a personal -- the theory was that it was a personal type of attack, the house being targeted. They felt that it was reasonable that given the nature of all these things, there was the potential that or the likelihood that the perpetrators may have used the internet and Google searches to find out information with respect to the house and the neighborhood.

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This was based largely on the police's experience in terms of investigating, their training, their reasonable inferences and understanding with respect to both how the internet works and how the internet is used in modern society.

In doing so, the police endeavored to -- they went to Google and endeavored to draft appropriate warrant affidavits to obtain appropriate information. Here again, this was a novel approach, as I understand it, something the police hadn't used a lot in the past. They struggled to some extent to come up with an affidavit and an approach with Google that was productive and comported with various considerations, including Google's own internal requirements.

And so they went -- they essentially went to Google three times. They first went with a drafted

affidavit and worked with Google to come up with the appropriate language. Google would not accept that affidavit because it was, essentially, too broad in the sense that it asked for specific identifying information, which was contrary to Google's policies and procedures and such. And so according to Google, any search that they would be able to do had to be, essentially, anonymous.

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And so the police then went a second time with a revised draft, which was again reviewed by Google and was rejected by Google because it was more to akin to the kind of geofence type of search that was rejected by Google.

They went back a third time. At this point in time, they were able to come up with a draft affidavit that was accepted by Google, which resulted in an affidavit being prepared and submitted to the police to a magistrate, a county court judge. This was, essentially, a warrant that was based on certain keywords that the police, in connection with Google, came up with to try and meet the criteria of those who may have done research with respect to either the house or the directions to the house.

A search warrant was indeed approved by the county court judge. As a result, Google produced an

anonymized list of IP address of users who had conducted that relevant keyword search within the parameters of the search warrant. That produced, ultimately, three qualifying potential suspects. And through further legal process, the police were able to identify the three specific users associated with that IP address.

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Then upon defining those three suspects, the police then began issuing additional search warrants. These were search warrants for cell phone records, as I alluded to, to AT&T. There were search warrants issued to social media accounts, including Instagram and Facebook and Snap [sic]. There was ultimately a search warrant with respect to Mr. Seymour's cell phone data.

So I'm setting this kind of factual context because what essentially began as a rather, I guess, novel, new police investigative technique -- that really being the keyword search warrant -- really then evolved into more traditional investigative techniques, i.e., search warrants of cell phones and cell phone data and social media data, which is not novel and has been used rather extensively.

The result of all this was -- I can only describe it as a rather extensive and intricate and interconnected series of affidavits and search warrant requests and search warrants, and I think it's a fair

inference to have these various search warrant affidavits and search warrant returns -- essentially, they were connected, and they also built on one another. One provided context to get others, and they kind of built on each other.

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What's highly significant in this process is that in every step of this process, in this investigation, the investigators involved resorted, in the first instance, to the legal process and to obtain an authorization to require that information. This wasn't a situation where the police are -- I don't know -- trying to get subpoenas issued or trying to get these various entities to just voluntarily surrender information. Instead, they are using the legal process. They are using the search warrant process which is -- obviously, the search warrant process is to obtain this information.

As I've gone through these various search warrant affidavits and search warrants, the police went to multiple judicial officers who were involved in reviewing and ultimately authorizing these various search warrants that we're talking about.

I think that is significant because it certainly guides the Court -- and restricts the Court in a lot of respects -- with respect to its analysis of

these various search warrants. Here again, the preference -- there is a preference under the law for the State to resort to search warrants with respect to these kinds of -- any kind of search, essentially. I mean, that's what the police did here.

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And before I go on to address these issues separately, I also think it's important to keep in context -- keep in mind the application of the exclusionary rule and what the exclusionary rule is and what it's designed to do. Again, the purpose of the exclusionary rule is to provide, through judicial creation, some remedy to essentially address and deter police misconduct. And so to the extent that the police obtained evidence contrary to the law, there's this rule that allows the exclusion of evidence based upon that.

I think the corollary to that is that when the police actually do exactly what we ask them to do, i.e., resort to the judicial process to get authorization, there is certainly no word that minimizes or reduces the necessity to deter any sort of misconduct and -- which, here again, leads to the requirement that the Court be deferential with respect to the various search warrants that were issued here.

This is a long-winded way of saying that in terms of the investigation here, what we have is the

police doing exactly what we want the police to do, i.e., investigate their case. If they need to conduct searches that implicate Fourth Amendment issues, go first to the courts to obtain authorization to do so, and then go from there. So that's the context of all this.

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So in looking at the specific motions that are before the Court, the first one -- and this appears to me -- from what I understand, this appears to have been sort of the starting point, is this motion to suppress evidence regarding geofence MAC identifier data and cell tower data.

With respect to this particular motion, the police certainly went and obtained a warrant based on the affidavit, but I can't figure out what, if anything, resulted from that. No one has been able to identify anything that was obtained with respect to that particular warrant.

It didn't yield any suspects. It didn't yield, to my understanding, any evidence that was seized, let alone seized absent proper authorization. And from what I can ascertain -- and it sounds like the Defense is simply asking the Court to invalidate the warrant just for purposes of invalidating the warrant without any evidence sought to be suppressed, and that's

not what courts do. Courts don't issue these kinds of rulings in a vacuum or just to send a message or to create a policy.

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I don't find that there's any either evidence or fruits of evidence that are implicated by these search warrants. And so regardless of the sufficiency of the affidavit and search warrant, I don't find that there's any basis to issue any further orders with respect to it simply because there's no evidence, I find, that's implicated.

I think the real starting point with respect to all this relates to the keyword search that was conducted pursuant to the search warrant because, by and large -- at least this is my understanding of how this all played out -- based upon the results of that keyword search, the other searches, the other information, the other avenues of investigation flowed from that particular search and search warrant and was revealed from it.

So I think the real starting point is this keyword search warrant. By and large, I think the remaining warrants either rise or fall on the validity of that particular search warrant. So that's my starting point really in terms of analyzing these various motions.

In terms of my analysis, I think it's, first of all, important to really understand and articulate what this warrant and what the search is and what it is not. Because by doing so, I think that really simplifies and clarifies the analysis here. And having reviewed these pleadings in detail over and over again and trying to understand it, I'm not persuaded that this keyword search is the kind of search that's been characterized by the Defense.

I don't find that -- well, first of all, the search that was requested and the search that was conducted pursuant to the warrant was not a search of any individual user account. It wasn't a search of any particular person or user. As I understand it, it wasn't even a search for any specific content of any -- of the information in the internet.

And so the Court understands that the internet is a huge thing with an infinite amount of information in it, much of which is personal and private and everything else. I can certainly envision any number of ways to penetrate that vast amount of information and obtain the kind of personal private individualized content or information of an individual user, but that's not what the search warrant was.

What we're talking about, as I understand it,

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is, essentially, a database query submitted to the custodian of the database, which was Google, which established certain search parameters that were within the capacity of this database. That query and those search terms, which were developed by law enforcement in connection with Google related to specific search terms that were specific both to the address involved here, 5312 Truckee, and various variations of that address and the specific event that made that address relevant and significant.

With respect to that search, the investigators neither requested nor received any specific data from that search. What they obtained in connection with it -- and this is what was authorized by the search warrant -- was an anonymized list of IP addresses, and those addresses were ones that comported with the specific search parameters that were identified in the search warrant.

So that's what the search was, was a search for certain IP addresses that was authorized and what was produced. And then once that search yielded results, then additional legal process was resorted to with respect to finding the specific users. So that's what we're really talking about here.

I think my understanding of the nature of this

particular search that really, at least in my mind, demystifies much of this and makes the analysis of the search warrant simply that which is not with every search warrant, i.e., to review it in the context of the legal principles I've articulated with respect to whether it comports with the requirements of the Fourth Amendment.

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With respect to that search warrant -- first of all, there was some suggestion or some argument that was made by the Prosecution that maybe the Court doesn't even need to go that far, that maybe with respect to this kind of a search, given the way the internet works, given the ubiquity of Google and internet searches and how information is derived, that there isn't some expectation of privacy with respect to that information and such.

And while the Court certainly understands and agrees that an individual defendant doesn't have the standing to assert a violation of some expedition of privacy as to other accounts to the extent that other information of other users may have been uncovered, he certainly has standing to challenge information that pertains to him.

And with respect to the suggestion that this sort of search does not implicate a reasonable

expectation of privacy, I don't -- I reject that. I'm not prepared to say that simply by availing oneself of the internet, that the users surrender all expectation of privacy with respect to that use.

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And there are, no doubt, limits to what that expectation of privacy entails. But I certainly think that as a general matter, while Google or some other provider may ultimately use the information submitted to it for commercial or other purposes -- and I think people, in general, understand that that's what happens when you access the internet -- I think that's well understood.

But I think that taking that principle to a further extent to suggest that the means that the government can intrude upon that pool of information, I think that certainly implicates Fourth Amendment concerns and the expectation of privacy. So I certainly reject the assertion that there is no expectation of privacy with respect to this type of information.

But I do so -- or I make that presumption -or I start with that presumption in this case with,
actually, the luxury of it not mattering that much
because what we have here is law enforcement going
through the proper legal process, i.e., using the legal
process to obtain a search warrant to access the

information. And so to the extent there is an expectation of privacy, which I think there is, the police, I think, recognized that and utilized the judicial process to obtain the search warrant that was authorized here.

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So with respect to -- so, here again, what I've concluded, what I draw from all this, is that the search that we're talking about -- the search warrant that we're talking about isn't something that's groundbreaking or innovative or anything else. I think it's a search warrant that's subject to traditional review and analysis, and that's how I'll proceed.

I kind of liken this search to kind of looking for a needle in a haystack, that being the internet is the haystack and what the police is looking for is the needle inside of it. The fact that the haystack may be big, the fact that the haystack may have a lot of information in it doesn't mean that a targeted search in that haystack somehow implicates overbreadth or anything like that.

The Court recognizes that to the extent that there's a way to search that haystack -- and, here again, Google certainly has that capacity through its various technologies that are well beyond my comprehension. They're able to look through that

haystack and try to identify where the needle is. That's how I kind of look at this.

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So, here again, what we're talking about is the police -- through Google accessing an enormous database, what they're looking for really is a very targeted, narrow needle that's relevant to the facts of this case.

Here again, this isn't just in looking through the affidavit for the search warrant and the search warrant itself, although the warrant authorizes a search of this vast resource -- what's being sought here is narrow. What's being sought through the affidavit and through the search warrant are these deidentified or anonymized accounts of -- that searched this narrow keyword search, i.e., this narrow group of users who searched for this particular address in this narrow time frame. It's looking for that information, and it's looking for the IP addresses associated with those searches.

So that's what's being looked at. That's the needle that the police are looking for. That is, in my view, a very particular, specific targeted category of data that's being sought here. And so with respect to how that comports with the Fourth Amendment, the entities being described, the custodians being described

and the specific information or data is being described with, in my view, very precise particularity.

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Here again, this isn't just a generalized search of: We want to search through Google and find out, you know, anything that might be helpful. This is a very targeted search -- or a targeted search term to obtain this information. That search is linked to what the magistrate found to be probable cause and what, in the Court's review of the affidavit, likewise establishes probable cause.

And even though the affidavit is broken down into a variety of different kind of sections, the affidavit talks about the general nature of technology and the internet and how the internet is accessed and used and such. It's broken down into how the police understand how it's used. But it also discusses very specifically why a particular keyword search of keywords being sought to be searched are relevant and are likely to yield any included information with respect to it.

The affidavit has very specific factual assertions with respect to why the police and why a magistrate would believe that there's a likelihood of included information, and much of that is -- much of what I discussed with respect to the factual context is included in that factual recitation, i.e., the nature of

the neighborhood, the nature of the crime, the likelihood that the address was being targeted, and the likelihood that -- because of that, there's a likelihood that folks would use the internet to do that research and find those directions and such. That's all stated specifically in the affidavit for the search warrant.

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And given that, given that the affidavit -well, the magistrate found that there was probable
cause. And the Court concurs that the issuing
magistrate had a substantial basis for finding that
there was probable cause, that this very narrowly
tailored keyword search request was likely to yield the
information requested pursuant to the affidavit. I find
that the issuing magistrate did indeed have a
substantial basis for issuing this warrant.

I guess I would mention it as an aside. As I've said previously, the police's use of these kinds of warrant requests or other kinds of electronic data is becoming more and more common. This Court has reviewed many search warrant affidavits for electronic data, information, et cetera, and this particular affidavit and this particular search warrant is one of the more detailed and specific and narrowly tailored affidavits that this Court really has encountered in a long time.

And so, here again, my analysis is restricted

by my analysis of the four corners of the warrant and affidavit, and it's my conclusion that this affidavit is not overbroad, it's narrowly tailored, it is particular in the specific evidence it seeks to obtain, and that is supported by probable cause to believe that the search of the Google database would yield that sort of information. And so I don't find any basis upon which the Court would invalidate this warrant in any fashion.

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There's the suggestion that, well, the warrant should be invalidated because there's been certain false or reckless or knowing representations or misrepresentations with respect to the affidavit, and I reject that.

First of all, there's a suggestion that the magistrate should have been involved, that this would involve a search of millions, if not billions, of people. That's just not what the search warrant does, and there would be no obligation to put that in a search warrant or affidavit because it's not true as I have previously characterized the nature of the search, nor is the fact that the police went to Google and worked with Google on multiple occasions to obtain proper language for a search warrant affidavit.

First of all, that information would not undermine probable cause because the magistrate is

obliged to review the affidavit as it comes to the magistrate and the four corners of its analysis. The fact that the police were working with Google, which basically narrowed and restricted the parameters of the search, I don't find that there's any reason/requirement that that information be contained in the affidavit for a search warrant because it wouldn't negate -- it wouldn't impact the probable cause determination of the magistrate. So I don't find that there's any knowing or reckless falsehoods that would somehow invalidate the search warrant.

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I'm going to make some findings almost in passing. The Prosecution has suggested that, well, if for some reason the Court would have invalidated the warrants, that there would be reason to invoke the good faith exception to the warrant requirement. That's not necessary here because I find this warrant is completely valid. But I make the observation that this warrant, in particular, for this keyword search I think was novel to law enforcement. It probably was novel to the magistrate that issued the warrant.

Here again, the police did exactly what they were supposed to do, and it, to me, would defy common sense and comprehension to believe that given that, given the novelty of this particular issue and given the

specificity of this particular warrant and the magistrate's review, that somehow any of the criteria for the good faith exception would come into play that would not allow that exception to be applicable.

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this affidavit and says it's sufficient, and if a reviewing court, such as this Court, were to make the analysis I've made and finds it to be sufficient, it defies comprehension how the police could be said to say, well, they couldn't reasonably rely upon this warrant. They certainly could. It's immaterial because I find the warrant to be perfectly valid. But I'm making that finding simply because, well, I think it should be on the record.

So with that, I'm finding -- here again, in looking at these various other searches, I think the other information -- other search warrants and information kind of stem from that. And the analysis with respect to the additional searches, i.e., the cell phone records and the service provider account information and social media accounts, I think flow from that and are straightforward and rather, in my view, unremarkable.

I find the same principles with respect to reviewing those warrants as I did the keyword search.

And so I deal with these largely in a -- well, I'll start with the cell phone records. Here again, the Court's looking at the particularity of the warrant itself and whether the information is -- or whether the evidence sought to be -- whether there's probable cause to believe that the information sought to be searched and obtained, there's probable cause to support that.

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With respect to the cell phone records, I mean, here again, that's been directed to the custodian, which is AT&T. And similar to the keyword search, it appears to the Court that the data to be seized is narrow and specific. It looks for information with respect to the identity of the subscriber of the cell phone records, the call history of the subscriber, and location data with respect to the device. That's the specific data that's being sought to be obtained.

And recognizing that the custodian has a vast amount of data evidence -- is in possession of a vast amount of data, i.e., the haystack, the affidavit and the warrant further limits what is being sought. It's limited to the specific time frame relevant to the crime involved here. So there's that limitation.

And so it is also limited as to information as it relates specifically to the address involved here, 5312 North Truckee, and the date -- well, the specific

crimes referenced. In other words, it's not just a list of: I want to look through the entirety of the records regarding the subscriber and the entirety of the call records. The affidavit for the search warrant is further restricted in terms of what is allowed to be searched for a limited time frame and information relevant specific to this address and this crime.

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And so given those limitations, I find that the warrant is sufficiently particularized. And when I say "sufficiently," I should say very particularized with respect to what it's searching for. This isn't some sort of a general rummaging around of all of these records pertaining to the subscriber. It's limited to this data in the context I've described. Here again, there's a specific articulation of what the probable cause is to support that belief or the likelihood that that information is contained in those records.

Similar to the keyword search, there's -- and with respect to the probable cause, the magistrate can rely upon a variety of sources. They can rely upon specific factual allegations which are contained in this affidavit. They can rely upon police experience in terms of -- or investigative experience of the investigator. The magistrate can rely upon the common understanding and the common sense with respect to how

the world works, et cetera.

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Here, similar to the other warrant, the affidavit identifies the fact that they were the three participants in this area, that the keyword search had narrowed it down to five and narrowed it down to three specific individuals. The affidavit tied up information or linked these three individuals together by way of where they lived, the schools they attended, the associates they had, the kind of social media postings that the police were privy to.

That, in connection with the other allegations in the affidavit and in terms of how, in a common-sense way, the police, in general, and society, in general, understand how the internet works and how people work and how juveniles work, establishes that there was reasonable grounds to believe that given all of this, that there was evidence likely to be found in these various subscriber accounts, information relevant to where certain devices were located at relevant times, who was associated with respect to those devices and accounts, their familiarity with locations, their relationships, et cetera.

And so I find that given my analysis, the affidavit in support of the search warrant for the cell phone records was sufficient, and the issuing magistrate

indeed had a substantial basis, given all that, to issue the search warrant. I don't find this to be anything near the kind of general search warrant or search request that is characterized by the Defense motions.

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My analysis with respect to the search warrants as to the provider accounts, i.e., the accounts for information issued to Google and Apple, and my analysis with respect to the search warrants as to the social media accounts -- that being Instagram, Facebook, and Snap -- my analysis with respect to those two motions really is identical in terms of -- well, is identical and substantially similar, if not identical, to my analysis with respect to the previous search warrant.

Here again, the location of the information is described with particularity in terms of who the custodian is. The types of data is described in detail with respect to that specific data that is being sought. Here again, it's a wide variety of kinds of data and areas to be searched, but that is then limited by, again, a specific time limitation/time period and pertaining to the specific crimes being investigated, i.e., the house at 5312 Truckee on the date this happened.

Certified Court Reporter's Transcript

And so, here again, although the police were

allowed to -- or the search warrant authorizes the search of a vast amount of information, what can actually be obtained from that vast amount of information -- the needle, if you will -- is described in detail and is proscribed in a manner that restricts that which can be obtained and reviewed by the State.

So I find that these affidavits and search warrants are sufficiently particularized and, again, likewise supported by probable cause. And these warrants and these affidavits are all substantially similar. They build on each other in some respects. There's some information contained in some that are not in others based upon how the investigation evolved.

But with respect to the factual allegations and the reasonable inferences that can be drawn from them, I think the issuing magistrate clearly had a substantial basis to find that there would be a reasonable likelihood of probability that the information pertaining though these crimes were contained within those records.

So given that, those -- that conclusion, I don't find any basis to in any way invalidate any of the warrants issued with the account data or the social media data.

With respect to -- I guess the last issue with

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respect to electronic data has to do with cell phone data that was obtained, again, pursuant to a search warrant. Here again, this is an area that is becoming more and more common as the police are incorporating this practice to obtain evidence of a crime.

2.1

This is an area where the state supreme court, our supreme court, has weighed in. Again, the analysis -- *People versus Coke* is the primary case that comes from the Colorado Supreme Court. I don't know if I've got the citation at my fingertips here. I don't have the cite right quick, but I'll come back to that.

Anyway, People versus Coke is a case that this Court has struggled with for quite some time with respect to what it actually means. Because as I understand the evolution of all this, the police in Coke, for example, issued a search warrant for a wide swath of information obtained from a cell phone, and Coke began to describe some of the limitations and parameters with respect to those kinds of searches.

Here again, *Coke* followed up on various pronouncements of the U.S. Supreme Court which talk about the reality of phones and cell phone usage in this country in this world these days, and *Coke* certainly follows up and reiterates those concerns, which, to me, really is a double-edged sword; It cuts both ways.

I mean, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Colorado Supreme Court have recognized kind of the ubiquity of cell phones and how one's entirety of his or her life can be obtained or contained within the capacity of the cell phone, and that raises unique privacy concerns with respect to the cell phone and cell phone data protected by the Fourth Amendment.

And so there's certainly -- I don't know if it's exact to say there's a heightened concern, but there certainly is a significant concern that there be sufficient guardrails to make sure that in searching that kind of information and that the net isn't being cast too broadly, that the warrants be sufficiently particularized.

Again, *Coke* recognizes that ubiquity and that reality of kind of life in this century. But there's also -- by my reading of *Coke*, there's kind of a limitation with respect to how far *Coke* is willing to go. In *Coke*, the supreme court found the warrant to be overbroad.

But in addressing particularity, the supreme court said, Despite -- and I'm quoting, Despite these recent admonitions -- and this is referring to the various privacy concerns it articulated. The *Coke* court said, quote, The warrant at issue here contains no

particularity as to the alleged victim or to the time period during which the assault alleged occurred, closed quote, which suggests to this Court that a significant appreciable, I guess, limitation in a search warrant affidavit that would satisfy Fourth Amendment considerations would be to particularize not only the data that's being requested but to narrow that request for data by way of the alleged victim of the crime or the time period of those kinds of things, which is actually precisely what the police had done in the previous warrants, i.e., to request specific data in a vast network of information limited by time and crime.

2.1

With respect to, again, cell phone data, the Court is certainly cognizant of the fact that there's no way to take a cell phone and just somehow do a targeted search of that cell phone to obtain specific information. Essentially, the entirety of the cell phone, as the Court understands, needs to be obtained. And then once that's obtained and once the entirety of the information is obtained from the cell phone, then there needs to be a further process to target specific information within the cell phone.

The Court is also cognizant that within the cell phone, there are a wide variety of places within the cell phone. And this is a really blunt way of

describing this because I don't have the expertise. But there's a vast number of different areas within a cell phone and cell phone data that can contain specific information. Here again, I hate to keep coming back with this, but this is the proverbial haystack upon which information can be retained in a cell phone, and what's being sought here is a targeted search within that haystack for specific information.

2.1

With that context and having reviewed *Coke* and having reviewed the affidavit, similar to the other warrants, although this search warrant seeks to search a wide swath of the contents of the cell phone data, the target is narrowly -- is described with particularity within the warrant, which certainly limits what can be obtained and reviewed and used by the State.

Having reviewed the affidavit in support of it, the issuing magistrate certainly had probable cause -- there's a substantial basis for the reviewing court to have found there was probable cause that the cell phone would contain that specific data. And so similar to my conclusions with respect to the other warrants, I don't find any deficiency with respect to the resulting search warrant that was issued with respect to that search.

So having made those findings and those

conclusions, my conclusion is that the motions I identified as it pertains to the electronic data, those motions to suppress are all respectively denied.

2.1

The next issue has to do with a search warrant that was obtained for a search of a home. This is of --well, this is clearly just a straightforward four-corners analysis of the affidavit for a search warrant.

Having done so, by and large, the affidavit, in my view, clearly establishes -- well, it's particular with respect to what exactly is being sought or what specific items of evidence are being sought. The allegations -- the factual allegations, the inferences that can be drawn from the affidavit with respect to police experience and common sense, an understanding of how things work, establishes probable cause.

Here again, when I say "primarily," clearly, what's being sought are items including things like accelerants, gas containers, masks, hoodies, those kinds of things that were observed, and those are very specific items of evidence that the police are looking for and certainly have probable cause to believe would likely be found in the home given the inferences and facts alleged in the affidavit. Clearly, the warrant establishes probable cause for those.

There is the exception of, I guess, a more generalized request for the search for video surveillance equipment or firearms, which I don't know that the warrant necessarily establishes probable cause for those kinds of searches. And the Court can certainly sever those aspects of the warrant that may be overbroad or beyond the "can" of the affidavit. I would so sever those portions of the warrant.

2.1

I don't know that there's any such evidence that was recovered. But to the extent that they were, I think that's beyond the probable cause established by the search warrant. But with respect to other evidence described in the search warrant, there clearly was probable cause to search this home for these specific items articulated in the affidavit.

So I guess the Court denies in part and grants in part that particular motion based upon these conclusions.

The last issue has to do with the motion to suppress statements made by Mr. Seymour. I understand that Mr. Seymour was given the opportunity to speak with investigators about this case. He was interviewed while in custody or there was an attempt to interview him in custody, and Mr. Seymour essentially declined to make a -- to waive those rights and to make a statement,

which was entirely in his rights.

2.1

I think that which is being sought to be suppressed are statements made prior to the *Miranda* advisement as it pertains to police questions as to Mr. Seymour's cell phone number and account information and such. As I understand the facts of this, there was, essentially, a preinterview that was all taped, I believe, asking Mr. Seymour basic identifying information, i.e., name, address, date of birth, those kinds of things that preceded the *Miranda* advisement. Among those kinds of things is cell phone information, cell phone number and such, cell phone carrier or provider.

I think it's undisputed that that information was obtained prior to the *Miranda* advisement in this case. And so, certainly, absent some other reason, that information could be subject to suppression.

I find there's two reasons why it's not.

Reason number one is there are exceptions to the *Miranda* requirement in the sense of police are allowed to ask basic identifying questions to a suspect that don't implicate *Miranda* considerations.

Certainly, most of what was discussed -- name, date of birth, those kinds of things -- are that kind of routine identifying information. I guess it's a closer

question whether in asking someone their cell phone number, their cell phone provider, whether that goes beyond that basic identifying type of information requesting that does implicate the *Miranda* considerations.

Quite frankly, in this day and age where one's cell phone and one's cell phone number is reported with identity, I think from a common sense standpoint, it may very well be. Even if it's not, even if that information would be subject to the strictures of *Miranda*, and even if information was provided absent a *Miranda* advisement, it's my conclusion that under the doctrine of inevitable discovery, that information would have inevitably been discovered by the police.

I think that finding is based upon the substantial investigation that was being conducted throughout the entirety of this investigation with respect to this vast network of search warrants seeking information with respect to all of this electronic information I've been discussing.

This was an ongoing -- this was a substantial part of the police investigation. I think it defies common sense to think that the police either did not have the information already or wouldn't get that information in due course given their substantial

investigation in terms of what they were doing in terms of the search warrants and the electronic data.

2.1

And so even if Mr. Seymour's information with respect to the cell phone number and phone carrier were obtained in violation of *Miranda* under the doctrine of inevitable discovery, it's not something to be suppressed. That motion is denied as well.

That, in my view, resolves the motions before the Court. So let's take the next step and get these cases on track.

So what's the next step?

Actually, before we do this, I want to circle back. I've said this before and I'm going to say it again. Here again, whatever I say here is certainly subject to some other court looking at this and saying -- coming to a different conclusion.

I just want to say, based upon my review of all this, it is my judgment that the police in this case did exactly what we want the police to do, i.e., be careful, be specific, be particular in terms of judicial process to obtain this information. Quite frankly, I think if the Court were to determine, based upon all of these things they did and the specificity which I found, if that somehow is beyond what the Fourth Amendment requires, that's -- I find that hard to understand and

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believe. I think the police here did exactly what we
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    want them to do. That's maybe gratuitous.
              Okay. So the next steps?
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              MR. MORALES: Your Honor, may I be so bold as
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    to just maybe take a five-minute break so that we can
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    confer with counsel to see how they would like to
 6
    proceed?
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              THE COURT: Sure.
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              MR. MORALES: And then -- well, you said
    "sure," so I'm not going to --
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              THE COURT: I think my reporter would really
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12
    appreciate that.
              MR. MORALES: Yeah.
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              THE COURT: I've been droning on for an hour
14
    and a half, so I think she would appreciate that.
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              MR. MORALES: Well, you said "sure," so I'm
16
    not going to make any further record and give her a
17
    break, Your Honor.
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19
              THE COURT: It's always a good idea, when
    you're ahead, to stop.
20
              All right. We'll take a 15-minute recess --
2.1
    actually, a 20-minute recess. We'll reconvene at 3:15.
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23
    Thanks.
              (Recess taken from 2:57 p.m. to 3:13 p.m.)
24
              THE COURT: Please have a seat.
25
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Okay. Mr. Morales? Or anybody?

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MR. MORALES: I think we should first take up the Seymour matter, Your Honor. I'll let them discuss, but I think what we're going to be requesting is that the Court not set a trial date on the Seymour matter at this point in time and give the parties a little time to meet. We have a meeting set to talk resolutions of this case on December 7th. And then --

MS. JOHNSTON: December 8th.

MR. MORALES: December 8th. We could then have a status date. I think the Defense is willing to continue to toll speedy trial if the Court is inclined to allow that happen.

THE COURT: That's -- as long as we address the speedy trial implications, I have no problem with that.

Is that what the Defense wishes to do?

MR. JUBA: Your Honor, for Mr. Seymour, he's willing to withdraw not guilty plea and just set it for arraignment. Alternatively, we could just set it for disposition in January and continue to toll speedy trial. I think the former would be our request.

THE COURT: I'd rather just keep the not guilty plea entered and toll speedy trial to the next date. You folks can decide if you want a trial or if

you want to do something besides the trial. I think the next date that I want is to get this set for trial or do something different, but I want to establish a goalpost.

I certainly understand you folks could perhaps benefit from the time between now and the next date to decide what you want to do. But as long as you're willing to toll speedy trial, we'll just have a status date and then go from there.

And our next date is when? I'm sorry.

MR. MORALES: We don't have a next date, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Oh.

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MR. MORALES: Again, we're meeting with Defense on December 8th. And then if there is a further need for VRA consultation, if the Court could give us a date in January, the second week, that would probably be best for us.

THE COURT: The second week we are in a homicide trial. So maybe the third week.

MR. MORALES: The third week is fine, if that's okay with counsel.

THE COURT: We set a homicide trial that week which is about a zillion years old.

Can we come up with a different date, please? What do you think?

MR. MORALES: January 20th? 1 THE COURT: Does the 20th work? 2 MR. JUBA: Yes. 3 THE COURT: What time? 8:30 or 1:30? Do you 4 care? 5 MR. MORALES: 1:30. 6 MR. JUBA: That's fine. 7 THE COURT: Okay. So ordered. 8 9 That's for Mr. Seymour? MR. MORALES: That is correct. And if we 10 could just have Mr. Seymour confirm that he is willing 11 12 to toll speedy trial to that date and that speedy will not start running until January 20th. 13 THE COURT: So, Mr. Seymour, what we're 14 talking about is you have the right to have a trial 15 16 within six months of your guilty plea. You can agree to either waive your right to a speedy trial or agree that 17 18 certain time periods are not counted in that speedy 19 trial time frame. What we're talking about is that 20 second thing, that the time between now and the next 2.1 date wouldn't count against the speedy trial deadline. Do you understand that, sir? 22 23 DEFENDANT SEYMOUR: Yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: And are you agreeing to that? 24 DEFENDANT SEYMOUR: Yes, Your Honor. 25

THE COURT: Okay. All right. 1 2 MR. JUBA: Your Honor, the last request is we -- we're inquiring if the Court is going to be 3 issuing written rulings regarding the motions. 4 THE COURT: No. The written -- the Court's 5 order is the transcript of what I just talked about. 6 7 So as to Mr. Bui, he has a trial date Okay. looming and also has an arraignment. There's also a 8 9 motion to continue that looming trial date; yes? MR. EARLE: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor. 10 Christian Earle on behalf of Mr. Bui. 11 12 We are still asking to -- requesting to vacate the current trial date and reset that matter as 13 long as -- as well as the motions hearing dates with a 14 waiver. 15 THE COURT: So as I understand it, Mr. Bui 16 has -- I've resolved the one issue, the search warrant 17 issue. There's an issue with respect to his statements; 18 yes? 19 MR. EARLE: That's correct. 20 2.1 THE COURT: So we can either do the same thing 22 we did with Mr. Seymour or we can set this for motions 23 and trial.

continue the jury trial, we're not taking a strong

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MR. MORALES: Your Honor, as to the motion to

objection to it, although I do have to say that we are not in VRA compliance on that completely. I do think the Court could make a ruling absent us objecting or agreeing to it.

Obviously, with the Court's docket and motions and having to hear a significant motion to suppress a confession and the trial date being less than a month away, it seems prudent that the Court would probably grant a motion to continue in light of that, particularly in light of the motion.

So I would -- we're not objecting, but we're also not agreeing, if the Court understands where I'm coming from.

THE COURT: Okay. And where I'm coming from is I've currently got about 150, maybe 200 potential jurors scheduled for the Friday before the trial date. I've got the time blocked off. So from the Court's standpoint, the Court can certainly proceed to trial.

I understand, given all kinds of considerations, that the Defense has great reason to ask the trial be postponed. And if you want me to wait to rule on that motion, Mr. Morales, until you get VRA compliance, I can do that. I can certainly say I would be inclined to grant it.

MR. MORALES: And many of the victims in the

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community are present here, and they have been advised that this would probably happen, even the last time we met with them at their place. So we would ask the Court to rule today on the motion to continue so that we know where we're headed.

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Again, we're not taking a strong objection to it, but we're also not agreeing to it.

THE COURT: Understood. I think there's good cause for Mr. Bui to postpone the jury trial for all kinds of reasons, not the least of which is I think there's a legal issue today and may be one in the future that needs to be resolved that may impact how he chooses to proceed. I don't know.

So I'll grant the motion with the understanding, Mr. Bui, that when you ask for a continuance of the jury trial, that operates as -- well, let me just ask you: Are you agreeing to waive your right to a speedy trial to accommodate that trial continuance?

And just to make sure you fully understand, as I mentioned to Mr. Seymour, you have the right to have a trial within six months of the date that you plead not guilty. If you would waive that right, that would afford the State six months from today, or until May 16th, as a deadline to resolve your case.

Do you understand that? 1 2 DEFENDANT BUI: Yes, sir. THE COURT: And are you agreeing to waive that 3 right? 4 DEFENDANT BUI: Yes, sir. 5 THE COURT: Are you doing that voluntarily? 6 DEFENDANT BUI: Yes, sir. 7 THE COURT: All right. With the waiver of 8 9 speedy trial, the speedy trial deadline is May 16th, 2023. 10 In terms of how to set, Mr. Morales, do you 11 want a trial date? A motions date? Both? 12 One or the other? 13 And I shouldn't say Mr. Morales. I should say 14 both parties. 15 How do you want this set. 16 MR. EARLE: Your Honor, honestly, I think we 17 would request a dispositional hearing or an arraignment 18 with a tolling of speedy trial until that next date to 19 see if there may be some resolution of this case, and we 20 2.1 would ask for that to be sometime in the next 60 days. THE COURT: Mr. Morales? 22 23 MR. MORALES: That's acceptable to the People. THE COURT: Can we do it on the same date, 24 January 20th at 1:30? 25

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MR. EARLE: It's okay with me.
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              MR. MORALES: That's fine. My understanding
    is -- and the Court will advise Mr. Bui that we will --
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    that speedy trial will not even start running today but
 4
    will start running on January 28th, which would give the
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    People until June 20th to try this case.
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              Is that what I'm understanding, Counsel?
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              MR. EARLE:
                         Yes.
8
9
              THE COURT: July 20th.
              MR. MORALES: July 20th.
                                         Sorry.
10
              THE COURT: I use the finger technique,
11
    counting on my fingers.
12
              Okay. And is that understood, Mr. --
13
              MR. EARLE:
                         Yes. As it relates to the other
14
    matter, we would ask that it be set for an
15
    arraignment/dispositional hearing on the same date.
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              THE COURT: Mr. Morales?
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              MR. MORALES: Yes, Your Honor. That case
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    should trail, obviously, the more significant case that
19
    we have.
20
              THE COURT: So ordered.
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22
              Okay. Anything else we need to talk about
23
    today?
              MR. MORALES:
                            No.
                                  I think we're all good.
24
              THE COURT: So, here again, just so that
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everyone understands, including the survivors and
1
    interested people, we're doing all this -- the cases
 2
    will either be resolved in some fashion or will be set
 3
    for trials on January 20th. Okay?
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               All right.
                           Thanks.
 5
               MR. MORALES:
                             Thank you very much, Your Honor.
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               THE COURT: Court's in recess.
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               (The proceedings were concluded at 3:28 p.m.)
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DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF DENVER STATE OF COLORADO Case Nos. 21CR20000 and 21CR20001

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Wendy Evangelista, Registered Professional Reporter and Official Court Reporter of the District Court, County of Denver, State of Colorado, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings in stenographic shorthand at the time and place aforementioned; that, thereafter, I reduced said shorthand notes to transcription form, and that the foregoing transcript is an accurate transcription of said shorthand notes and the proceedings had, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2022, in Denver County, Colorado.

/s/ Wendy Evangelista Wendy Evangelista Registered Professional Reporter