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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

THAN ORN, an individual,

Plaintiff.

٧.

CITY OF TACOMA, a municipal corporation, and KRISTOPHER CLARK, in his individual capacity,

Defendants.

NO.

Superior Court of the State of Washington County of Pierce No. 13-2-13886-2)

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION FROM STATE COURT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), defendant hereby removes this action from the Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Pierce, to the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington at Tacoma. Defendants appear solely for the purpose of removal and for no other purpose, reserving all other defenses available to defendant and alleges on information and belief as follows:

Tacoma City Attorney Civil Division 747 Market Street, Room 1120 Tacoma, Washington 98402-3767 (253) 591-5885 / FAX 591-5755

1.	Plaintiff filed the above-captioned action against Defendants City
of Tacoma	and Kristopher Clark in the Superior Court of the State of
Washington	, County of Pierce, on October 10, 2013. The defendants were
served with	a copy of the Summons and Complaint on October 16, 2013, a
copy of whic	ch is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

- 2. This Notice of Removal is being filed within 30 days after the matter was filed in the Superior Court and served on the defendants, and thus is timely filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).
- 3. This is a civil action for which the United States District Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331, as plaintiff, Than Orn, has asserted a violation of his civil rights as secured by federal law.
- 4. Plaintiff has also asserted state tort actions. Defendants request that all claims be removed from the Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Pierce, and that this Court exercise supplemental jurisdiction over these claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) and 28 U.S.C. §1441(c).
- 5. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), copies of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon defendant to date are attached.
- 6. The defendants will promptly file a copy of this Notice in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, County of Pierce, and will serve a copy of the same on the plaintiff in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).

WHEREFORE, the defendants give notice that the above-captioned 1 action commenced against it in the Superior Court of the State of Washington. 2 County of Pierce, has been removed to this Court. 3 DATED this _\$\frac{\mathcal{P}\mu}{\text{day of November, 2013.}}\$ 4 5 ELIZABETH A. PAULI, City Attorney 6 7 By: JEAN P. HOMAN 8 WSBA# 27084 **Deputy City Attorney** 9 Attorney for Defs. City of Tacoma and Kristopher Clark 10 11 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 //- 8 - 13 ______, I electronically I hereby certify that on __ 13 filed, through my staff, the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the attorneys of 14 record on file. Sean Home 15 16 JEAN P. HOMAN 17 WSBA#27084 Attorney for Def. City of Tacoma 18 Tacoma City Attorney's Office 747 Market Street, Suite 1120 19 Tacoma, WA 98402 (253) 591-5885 Fax: (253) 591-5755 jhoman@ci.tacoma.wa.us 21 22 23 24 25

Case 3:13-cv-05974-MJP Document 1 Filed 11/08/13 Page 4 of 16

OCT 16 2013 TACOMA CITY ATTORNEY WE CIVIL DIVISION

E-FILED
IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

October 10 2013 10:57 AM

KEVIN STOCK COUNTY CLERK NO: 13-2-13886-2

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY

THAN ORN, individually,

Plaintiff,

VS.

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NO.

CITY OF TACOMA, a municipal corporation, and; KRISTOPHER CLARK, in his individual capacity.

SUMMONS

Defendants.

TO ALL NAMED DEFENDANTS:

A lawsuit has been started against you in the above entitled court by Plaintiff. Plaintiff's claims are stated in the written Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you with this Summons.

In order to defend against this lawsuit, you must respond to the Complaint by stating your defense in writing, and serve a copy upon the person signing this Summons within 20 days after the service of this Summons, excluding the day of service, or a default judgment may be entered against you without notice. A default judgment is one where a Plaintiff is entitled to what he asks for because you have not responded. If you serve a notice of



SUMMONS 1 of 2

911 Pacific Avenue, Suite 200 Tacoma, WA 98402 Phone: (253) 777-0799 Facsimile: (253) 627-0654 www.pcvalaw.com

appearance on the undersigned person, you are entitled to notice before a default judgment may be entered.

Any response or notice of appearance which you serve on any party to this lawsuit must also be filed by you with the court within 20 days after the service of Summons, excluding the day of service.

If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time.

This Summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of Civil Rules for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.

Dated this 10th day of October, 2013.

PFAU COCHRAN VERTETIS AMALA, PLLC

Darrell L. Cochran, WSBA No. 22851

Darrell@pcvalaw.com

Loren A. Cochran, WSBA No. 32773 loren@pcvalaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS A. BALERUD

By: /s/ Thomas A. Balerud

Thomas A. Balerud, WSBA No. 19539 Attorney for Plaintiff



OCT 16 2013 service or when you at the civil division

E-FILED |
IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

October 10 2013 10:57 AM

KEVIN STOCK COUNTY CLERK NO: 13-2-13886-2

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY

THAN ORN, individually,

Plaintiff,

VS.

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CITY OF TACOMA, a municipal corporation, and; KRISTOPHER CLARK, in his individual capacity,

Defendants.

NO.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
JURY DEMANDED

COMES NOW Plaintiff Than Orn, by and through his attorneys, Darrell Cochran, Loren Cochran and Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala PLLC, and Thomas Balerud and The Law Office of Thomas A. Balerud and hereby alleges as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Thirty-four year old Than Orn was unlawfully shot multiple times in the back, the back shoulder and the back of his neck by Tacoma police officer Kristopher Clark for failing to obey police instructions.
- 1.2 As a result of his injuries, Plaintiff Orn is paralyzed below the waist and requires continuing medical and respite care. Orn has also lost his ability to work in his chosen profession and has experienced severe mental and emotional injuries including the collapse of his marriage as a result of Kristopher Clark's excessive and unlawful use of force.



COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES 1 of 9

911 Pacific Avenue, Suite 200 Tacoma, WA 98402 Phone: (253) 777-0799 Facsimile: (253) 627-0654

1.3 The City of Tacoma conducted a Pursuit Review of the police response involving Than Orn and concluded that all officers needed; 1) Additional Pursuit Immobilization Technique (PIT) Training; 2) Improved radio communications relaying relevant information; 3) To review of the number of responding vehicles, and; 4) Improved command and on-scene supervisory directions. In addition, the City of Tacoma conducted a Use of Deadly Force review and concluded that Officer Clark needed additional training in environmental awareness, tactical positioning and officer safety. The systemic failures of the Tacoma Police Department, including but not limited to those areas addressed above, resulted in an unnecessary and unlawfully excessive use of force which has left Than Orn permanently disabled, in constant physical pain and mentally and emotionally devastated. The City of Tacoma and its police department were deliberately indifferent to the constitutional rights of Than Orn by failing to adequately train its officers, and/or are believed to have express policies, and/or are believed to have widespread practices which encouraged and enabled the use deadly force in an unconstitutional manner that jeopardizes the safety of all citizens.

II. PARTIES

- 2.1 Plaintiff Than Orn was a resident of Pierce County, Washington at all times relevant to this action.
- 2.2 Defendant City of Tacoma is a Washington municipal entity with police powers existing pursuant to the Washington State Constitution and the Constitution of the United States. Defendant City of Tacoma is responsible for formulating and implementing the Tacoma Police Department's policies and procedures and ensuring its officers are properly and adequately trained.



2.3 Defendant Kristopher Clark is or was at all relevant times a City of Tacoma police officer who, all times relevant hereto, was acting under color of law.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3.1 Venue is proper in Pierce County under RCW 4.12.020.
- 3.2 Jurisdiction is proper under RCW 4.96.010 and 4.96.020. A City of Tacoma claim for damages form was presented to the City of Tacoma, City Clerk's Office as directed on the tort claim form. More than sixty (60) calendar days have elapsed since the filing of the tort claim form such that filing of this action in allowed pursuant to Pursuant to RCW 4.96.020.

IV. JURY DEMAND

4.1 Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial on the causes of action set forth herein.

V. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 5.1 On October 12, 2011, at or around 8:30 p.m., Plaintiff Than Orn was driving his family car, registered to his wife at his home address, in South Tacoma.
- 5.2 At or about that same time, upon information and belief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD) Patrol Sgt. Alan Morris began following Orn allegedly because Orn was driving without lights.
- 5.3 A short time later, Morris called over the police radio system to report that Orn allegedly would not stop the vehicle. Approximately five (5) minutes after he began following Orn, Morris told dispatch the vehicle was not driving recklessly, just that driver allegedly would not stop.



- 5.5 Upon information and belief, TPD police units were ordered to conduct a Pursuit Immobilization Technique (PIT) maneuver on Than Orn's vehicle but failed to do so.
 - 5.6 At approximately 8:43 p.m., all units were ordered to stay in vehicles.
- 5.7 At or about this same time, Than Orn continued on toward his apartment complex located at 6634 Tacoma Mall Boulevard. Upon information and belief, Orn's speed never exceeded 30 miles per hour.
- 5.8 At approximately 8:46 p.m., Orn pulled into his apartment complex with TPD K-9 Officer David Johnson directly behind him. Officer Johnson later testified under oath that Orn's vehicle speed was little more than a crawl. Upon information and belief, Officer Johnson ordered all units again to stay in their vehicles.
- 5.9 At or about this same time, Defendant Kristopher Clark was positioned, along with approximately twelve (12) additional police units, at or very near the parking lot of Than Orn's apartment complex waiting for Orn to arrive.
- 5.10 As Plaintiff Orn pulled into his apartment complex at little more than a crawl, Defendant Kristopher Clark exited his police vehicle, despite orders to stay in his vehicle, and according to TPD Officer Robert DeNully, Clark began "running and shooting" at Plaintiff Than Orn. Defendant Clark is the only TPD officer to draw and fire his weapon at Orn.
- 5.11 Defendant Clark shot ten (10) times. According to a ballistics investigation, eight (8) of Clark's shots entered through the rear of Than Orn's vehicle as Orn's vehicle was moving away from Defendant Clark. The other two (2) shots by Clark were fired through the rear passenger window or the rear passenger window. These two other shots were again fired while Orn's vehicle traveled away from Defendant Clark.



5.12 Plaintiff Than Orn was struck multiple times in the neck, right shoulder and back by Defendant Clark's gunshots. According to medical reports, Orn suffered complete spinal cord injury (SCI) at the first lumbar vertebra due to a bullet lodged in his spine. Plaintiff also suffered severe cervical spine trauma including fractures of the fourth, fifth and sixth cervical vertebrae transverse process, as well as a fracture to his right scapular. Plaintiff Orn is not expected to recover any function below the L1 level of his spine.

VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

A. Unconstitutional Use of Excessive Force by Defendant Kristopher Clark.

- 6.1 Plaintiff re-alleges the paragraphs set forth above.
- 6.2 The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures of the person. This protects citizens and members of the community and prohibits the government from using excessive force against those citizens. The shooting of a fleeing suspect constitutes a Fourth Amendment "seizure." The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution applies the Fourth Amendment's provisions against state and local actors.
 - 6.3 At all material times, Officer Clark operated under color of law.
- 6.4 Officer Clark violated the Fourth Amendment's clearly established prohibitions against excessive force when he employed the use of deadly force against Than Orn for failing to yield or failing to obey instructions without any objectively reasonable belief that Orn posed an immediate threat of harm to himself or others. Than Orn was unarmed and was not suspected of a violent criminal offense. Moreover, Orn was driving out



of the path of police officers at an extremely slow speed but was nonetheless shot by a chasing Officer Clark in the back, back shoulder and the back of the neck.

- 6.5 As a direct and proximate result of these constitutional violations, Than Orn was shot and seriously and permanently injured, and continues to suffer, experiencing substantial physical, mental and emotional pain, anguish and anxiety.
 - B. Violations of Constitutional Rights by Defendant City of Tacoma.
 - 6.6 Plaintiff re-alleges the paragraphs set forth above.
- 6.7 Defendant City of Tacoma Police Department violated Plaintiff's Constitutional rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, as set forth herein, and in other respects as well.
- 6.8 Defendant City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department have customs, policies, and practices that amount to deliberate indifference to the rights of persons with whom its officers regularly come into contact, including nonviolent suspects like Than Orn.
- 6.9 Defendants City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department, with deliberate indifference, failed to train the Tacoma Police Department's law enforcement officers and failed to adopt and implement policies for, among other things, the use of deescalation techniques, non-lethal tactics, proper nonviolent suspect apprehension techniques, and the decision-making process that should accompany use of deadly force.
- 6.10 The failure by Defendant City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department to adequately and appropriately train its officers and employee amounts to deliberate indifference to the rights of the persons with whom the Tacoma Police Department's employees regularly come into contact, including nonviolent suspects like Than Orn.



6.11 It was highly predictable that Defendant's failures would result in constitutional violations, like those that occurred in this case. Plaintiff's permanently debilitating injuries are the foreseeable consequence of the Tacoma Police Department's failure to equip its law enforcement officers with the necessary training and tools to handle recurring situations, such as those involving a nonviolent suspect failing to yield or failing to obey an officer's instructions.

- 6.12 The actions of the officers involved, which deprived the Plaintiff of his Constitutional rights, conformed to official policy, custom, and practice of Defendant City of Tacoma. Defendant City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department's policy of shooting an unarmed individual failing to yield, but avoiding officers and driving at an extremely low speed is blatantly unconstitutional and jeopardizes the safety of all citizens, as evidenced by the police shooting of Than Orn. Moreover, Defendant City of Tacoma has ratified the conduct of Defendant Clark in relation to the injuries of Than Orn, by refusing to appropriately sanction Defendant Clark for his actions.
- 6.13 As a result of the actions and deliberate indifference of Defendant City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Police Department, Than Orn was shot multiple times in the back, back shoulder and neck, including the spine. Plaintiff Orn is permanently injured and continues to suffer, experiencing substantial physical, mental and emotional pain, anguish and anxiety.
- C. Negligent and Grossly Negligent Hiring, Training and Supervision of Employees and Agents.
 - 6.14 Plaintiff re-alleges the paragraphs set forth above.



//

- 6.15 Defendants have a duty to use reasonable care in hiring, training and supervising employees and agents.
- 6.16 Defendants breached this duty in a negligent and grossly negligent manner. As a proximate result of Defendants' breach, Than Orn is permanently injured and continues to suffer, experiencing substantial physical, mental and emotional pain, anguish and anxiety.

F. **Respondeat Superior**

- 6.17 Plaintiff re-alleges the paragraphs set forth above.
- 6.18 At all times material herein, Defendants were responsible for the actions of their agents and employees under the theory of respondeat superior.

VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests a judgment for Plaintiff and against Defendants Kristopher Clark and the City of Tacoma as follows:

- 1) Awarding general, special and punitive damages, including damages for pain and suffering, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988, in an amount to be proven at trial;
- 2) Awarding costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, or as otherwise available under the law;
- 3) General and special damages as allowed by Washington law, including but not limited to economic and non-economic injuries in an amount to be proven at trial;
 - 4) Awarding any and all applicable interest on the judgment; and
 - 5) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.



DATED this 9th day of October, 2013. PFAU COCHRAN VERTETIS AMALA, PLLC Darrell L. Cochran, WSBA No. 22851 darrell@pcvalaw.com Loren A. Cochran, WSBA No. 32773 loren@pcvalaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS A. BALERUD By: /s/ Thomas A. Balerud Thomas A. Balerud, WSBA No. 19539 Attorney for Plaintiff 4824-8909-5190, v. 1



TECE 13-cv-05974-MJP Document 1 Filed 11/08/13 Page 15 of 16

E-FILED
IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

OCT 16 2013 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR PIERCE COUNTY

October 10 2013 10:57 AM

No. 13-2-13886-2

KEVIN STOCK COUNTY CLERK NO: 13-2-13886-2

ORDER SETTING CASE SCHEDULE

Type of case:

PIN

Estimated Trial (days):

Track Assignment:

Standard

Assignment Department:

06

Docket Code:

ORSCS

CITY OF TACOMA

THAN ORN

Defendant(s)

Plaintiff(s)

Vs.

Confirmation of Service	11/7/2013
Confirmation of Joinder of Parties, Claims and Defenses	2/6/2014
Jury Demand	2/13/2014
Status Conference (Contact Court for Specific Date)	Week of 3/6/2014
Plaintiff's/Petitioner's Disclosure of Primary Witnesses	4/3/2014
Defendant's/Respondent's Disclosure of Primary Witnesses	5/1/2014
Disclosure of Rebuttal Witnesses	6/19/2014
Deadline for Filing Motion to Adjust Trial Date	7/17/2014
Discovery Cutoff	8/21/2014
Exchange of Witness and Exhibit Lists and Documentary Exhibits	9/4/2014
Deadline to file Certificate or Declaration re: Alternative Dispute Resolution (PCLR 16 (c)(3))	9/11/2014
Deadline for Hearing Dispositive Pretrial Motions	9/11/2014
Joint Statement of Evidence	9/11/2014
Pretrial Conference (Contact Court for Specific Date)	Week of 9/25/2014
Trial	10/9/2014 9:00

<u>Unless otherwise instructed, ALL Attorneys/Parties shall report to the trial court at 9:00 AM on the date of trial.</u>

NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER

If the case has been filed, the plaintiff shall serve a copy of the Case Schedule on the defendant(s) with the summons and complaint/petition: Provided that in those cases where service is by publication the plaintiff shall serve the Case Schedule within five (5) court days of service of the defendant's first response/appearance. If the case has not been filed, but an initial pleading is served, the Case Schedule shall be served within five (5) court days of filing. See PCLR 3.

NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES

All attorneys and parties shall make themselves familiar with the Pierce County Local Rules, particularly those relating to case scheduling. Compliance with the scheduling rules is mandatory and failure to comply shall result in sanctions appropriate to the violation. If a statement of arbitrability is filed, PCLR 3 does not apply while the case is in arbitration.

Dated: October 10, 2013

Judge JACK NEVIN

Department 06

Case 3:13-cv-05974-MJP Document 1 Filed 11/08/13 Page 16 of 16

RECEIVED

OCT 16 2013

TACOMA CITY ATTORNEY WHAT A CIVIL DIVISION

CIVIL DIVISION

E-FILED IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

October 10 2013 10:57 AM

KEVIN STOCK COUNTY CLERK NO: 13-2-13886-2

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY

CASE COVER SHEET / CIVIL CASES

Case Title	Case Number 13-2-13886-2		
Atty/Litigant DARRELL L. COCHRAN	Bar # 22851 Phone (253) 777-0799		
Address 911 Pacific Ave Ste 200			
City_TACOMA	State WA Zip 98402		
Please check one category that best describes this call fyou cannot determine the appropriate category, pleas Miscellaneous cause which is not subject to PCLR 3.			
APPEAL / REVIEW Administrative Law Review (ALR 2) REV 6 Civil, Non-Traffic (LCA 2) REV 6 Civil, Traffic (LCI 2) REV 6 Land Use Petition (LUP 2) LUPA CONTRACT / COMMERCIAL	PROPERTY RIGHTS Condemnation (CON 2) STANDARD Foreclosure (FOR 2) REV 4 Property Fairness (PFA 2) STANDARD Quiet Title (QTI 2) STANDARD Unlawful Detainer / Eviction (UND 2) REV 4 Unlawful Detainer / Contested (UND 2) REV 4		
	OTHER COMPLAINT OR PETITION ◆Compel/Confirm Bind Arbitration, Deposit of Interpleader, Subpoenas, Victims' Employmen Wireless Number Disclosure, Miscellaneous (nt Leave, or	
JUDGMENT	Injunction (INJ 2) REV 4 Malicious Harassment (MHA 2) Non PCLR Meretricious Relationship (MER 2) REV 4 Minor Settlement/No Guardianship(MST2) RE Pet for Civil Commit/Sex Predator (PCC2) RE Property Damage Gangs (PRG 2) REV 4 Seizure of Property/Comm. of Crime(SPC2) RE Seizure of Proprty Reslt from Crime(SPR2) RE	V 4 EV 4	
Damage Only (TMV 2) STANDARD TORT / NON MOTOR VEHICLE Other Malpractice (MAL 2) COMPLEX ✓ Personal Injury (PIN 2) STANDARD Property Damage (PRP 2) STANDARD Wrongful Death (WDE 2) STANDARD • Other Tort, Products Liability or Asbestos (TTO 2) COMPLEX	TORT / MEDICAL MALPRACTICE ◆Hospital, Medical Doctor, or Other Health Car (MED2)COMPLEX WRIT Habeas Corpus (WHC 2) REV 4 Mandamus (WRM 2) REV 4 Review (WRV 2) REV 4 Miscellaneous Writ (WMW 2) REV 4	e Professional	