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Case 5:25-cv-00629-KK-DTB

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Plaintiff VEM MILLER ("**Miller**" or "**Plaintiff**") is a political supporter of the 45th and 47th President of the United States of America, Donald John Trump.
- 2. Mr. Miller is deeply involved in political support for the President and has been since 2016, including websites, podcasts, political rallies, meetings, and involvement at the local, state, and national Republican parties.
- 3. As a long-time resident of Nevada, and Second Amendment supporter, Mr. Miller owns firearms.
- 4. On October 12, 2024, just before the historic presidential election, in his enthusiasm for President Trump, Mr. Miller requested and received tickets to the President Trump rally at Coachella, Riverside County, California.
- 5. In accordance with his experience of attending political rallies in Nevada, Mr. Miller did what he believed to be the right thing by approaching Riverside County Sheriff's Department deputies approximately one mile from the site of the rally to announce that he was in possession of firearms.
- 6. Instead of simply issuing a citation to a fully compliant citizen, the Defendants chose to violate Mr. Miller's constitutional rights when they detained him so he would miss the rally, excessively searched his vehicle, ignored his medical distress, arrested him, and repeatedly failed to grant him his request for a statutorily required telephone call.
- 7. Subsequently, Defendant Sheriff Chad Bianco ("Bianco") chose to make this incident a news story when he reported to and appeared on local and national news outlets to falsely proclaim that the Riverside County Sheriff's Department stopped the third "would-be Trump assassin": even though the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Secret Service decided not to interview Mr. Miller because there was no reason to interview him as Mr. Miller was NOT an attempted Presidential assassin.

- 8. By the morning hours of October 13, 2024, Defendant Bianco knew that the FBI and the Secret Service had already dismissed the idea that Mr. Miller was an assassin, and still Defendant Bianco proceeded to falsely and maliciously inform The Epoch Times in a text message; "We arrested a man trying to get in the perimeter with two firearms who ended up *saying he was going to kill the president*." Subsequently, Defendant Bianco told the Southern California News Group that they "stopped another assassination attempt," and that Mr. Miller had "multiple phony passports and driver's licenses." Defendant Bianco continued these false assertions during a news conference held that very afternoon at 3 p.m. Following the news conference and proceeding the next day, Defendant Bianco appeared on many news outlets, including renown Fox News Channel and News Nation, where he falsely proclaimed that Mr. Miller was there to assassinate President Trump, and that he and his department prevented Mr. Miller from becoming the "third assassin."
- 9. Defendant Bianco took advantage of a perceived golden opportunity to boost his own political career and jumpstart his campaign for Governor of California¹ by falsely claiming he stopped an attempted assassination of President Trump, demonstrating an outrageous, reckless disregard for Mr. Miller and his rights.
- 10.Even worse, Defendant Bianco continued to change his story about what happened on October 12 and October 13, 2024, adding to his lies and impeachability about what transpired.
- 11. The aftermath of being falsely accused as an attempted presidential assassin has been utterly devastating to Mr. Miller: destroying his previous work opportunities, receiving threats which have led him into hiding, his parents' home (property) being raided by the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on

¹ Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco announces run for California governor, ABC 7 Eyewitness News (Feb. 17, 2025, 11:16 PM) https://abc7.com/post/riverside-county-sheriff-chad-bianco-announce-run-california-governor/15921418/

1 October 14, 2024, leaving him unable to obtain work, his ex-wife used those 2 allegations to prevent him from having any contact with his own children, and, 3 to this day, consistently receiving multiple weekly threats and harassment. 4 5 **PARTIES** 12.Plaintiff VEM MILLER is and at all times relevant to this Complaint an 6 7 individual residing in the County of Clark, State of Nevada. 8 13.Defendant CHAD BIANCO is sued in his official capacity as the present 9 Riverside County, California Sheriff, and individually. As the Sheriff, Defendant 10 is responsible for employment practices and procedures within the Riverside 11 County Sheriff's Department. 12 14. Defendant COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ("Riverside"), California, is the county 13 responsible for Defendant Bianco and the Riverside County Sheriff's 14 Department. 15 15. The true names or capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or 16 otherwise of the Defendants named herein as DOES 1-100, are presently 17 unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sue said Defendants by such fictitious names. 18 Plaintiff prays for leave to amend this Complaint to show the true names or 19 capacities of these Defendants if and when the same have been determined. 20 21 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 22 16. This action arises under Title 42 of the United States Code Sections 1983 and 23 1988. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court as conferred by Title 28 of the United 24 States Code Section 1331. 25 17. The jurisdiction of this court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 26 1343(a)(4), and 29 U.S.C. § 794(a). 27 18. Venue is proper in this United States District Court for the Central District of 28 California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 in that County of Riverside, California

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is where a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to all the actions complained of herein took place.

CALIFORNIA TORT CLAIMS ACT

- 19. Plaintiff Miller exhausted his California Tort Claims Act statutory requirements under California Government Code Sections 910, et seq. in order to bring this action before this Court.
- 20. First, Plaintiff mailed his California Tort Claims Act Letter on January 16, 2025, via USPS Certified Mail to Riverside County, California; Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Attention Claims Division, PO Box 1628, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Fl., Riverside, CA 92502-1628. Plaintiff also mailed his California Tort Claims Act Letter on January 16, 2025, via USPS Certified Mail to the Riverside County Sheriff-Coroner at 4095 Lemon St., Riverside, CA, 92501-3600.
- 21.Second, Plaintiff received a NOTICE OF REJECTION OF CLAIM from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors dated January 22, 2025.
- 22. This action was brought within the six (6) months from the date of the Notice in accordance with California Government Code Section 945.6.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 23. Plaintiff Vem Miller is a media professional who operates The America Happens Network, a conservative media entity. Between 2020 and 2024, Mr. Miller attended over twenty (20) events for President Donald J. Trump in both journalistic and social capacities.
- 24.Mr. Miller has consistently demonstrated support for President Trump through:
 - a. Production of pro-Trump media content since 2020;
 - b. Service as a Trump team leader and captain;
 - c. Campaign work as an America First Republican candidate in 2022; and
 - d. Active engagement in voter outreach efforts.
- 25.At approximately 3:15 PM on October 12, 2024, Mr. Miller approached the 52nd Street parking lot, approximately a one mile drive from the Trump rally venue in

- to pull in here because I told him I have two firearms in the back, and I'm just letting you guys know."
- 29. Deputy 2 then ordered Mr. Miller to exit his vehicle, immediately restrained Mr. Miller in handcuffs, stated the detention was "for his own safety and protection", and placed Mr. Miller in the back of a patrol vehicle.
- 30.Mr. Miller had an audio recording device recording in his vehicle. The audio captured many other statements from RCSD Deputies. A complete, true, and accurate recording of the first 3 hours, 26 minutes, and 58 seconds from Mr. Miller's audio device captured on October 12, 2024 can be downloaded from https://drive.google.com/file/d/14RNILF2sbGvc2_SQRlxbqsbJ-Hw8RvhX
 - a. A RCSD Deputy stated, "I don't want to unnecessarily detain him [Mr. Miller]." This statement indicated there was insufficient cause to detain Mr. Miller.
- 31. During his detention in the patrol vehicle, Mr. Miller:
 - a. Was subjected to temperatures exceeding 110 degrees Fahrenheit;
 - b. Experienced and reported to one of the Deputies symptoms of a prediabetic incident;
 - c. Repeatedly requested medical attention due to his pre-diabetic condition;
 - d. Was denied access to his supplements; and
 - e. Was denied access to bathroom facilities despite multiple requests.
- 32.Mr. Miller was informed by RCSD Deputy Coronado that the officers' only concern was to ensure that the firearms were purchased lawfully. Although Mr. Miller consented only to the turnover of his firearms, and expressly described their location in the vehicle to Defendant Coronado, Defendants subsequently proceeded in conducting an extensive search of Mr. Miller's vehicle without his consent, wherein:
 - a. Approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) officers, including RCSD officers, FBI agents, and Secret Service agents participated;

1	b. Officers deployed forensic tools including bomb-sniffing dogs and
2	chemical swab tests;
3	c. Officers removed, dispersed, and damaged Mr. Miller's personal
4	belongings in a haphazard manner, including electronics, clothing, and
5	medical supplies;
6	d. This vehicle search lasted approximately one hour and twenty minutes;
7	e. Officers left Mr. Miller's vehicle in complete disarray, in contrast to the
8	orderly and clean condition upon Mr. Miller's arrival.
9	33. At no time before, during, or after said search did Defendants:
10	a. Provide probable cause for the extensive nature of the search;
11	b. Document any contraband in the vehicle or on Mr. Miller's person, or
12	evidence of criminal activity;
13	c. Explain the necessity for the duration or scope of the search; or
14	d. Receive express consent by Mr. Miller to do so.
15	34.At approximately 5:00 PM, Mr. Miller was transported to Thermal Police Station.
16	Records indicate:
17	a. Booking Number: 202445251
18	b. Arrest Time: 17:00
19	c. Booking Time: 20:44
20	d. Location: Ave 52 x Celebration Indio
21	e. Facility: John Benoit Detention Center
22	35.Defendants denied Mr. Miller his statutory right to a telephone call pursuant to
23	California Penal Code Section 851.5, notwithstanding that:
24	a. The aforementioned penal code was clearly posted on the walls of the
25	detention facility;
26	b. Mr. Miller specifically demanded his statutory right under Penal Code
27	Section 851.5 to a telephone call while referencing the posted penal code;
28	c. Upon Mr. Miller's second demand for his telephone call, Deputy Coronado

1	expressly refused said request; and
2	d. Mr. Miller made additional demands for his telephone call, none of which
3	were granted.
4	36. With respect to Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and United States Secret
5	Service interviews:
6	a. Mr. Miller expressly consented to the FBI and Secret Service agents
7	request to interview, subject only to his statutory right to first make one
8	telephone call;
9	b. The federal law enforcement agents departed without conducting any
10	interview and no federal agent has ever interviewed Mr. Miller regarding
11	the allegations against him.
12	37.Defendants RCSD and its Deputies thereafter:
13	a. Transported Mr. Miller to jail without any form of formal questioning
14	being conducted;
15	b. Proceeded with booking despite the absence of any federal investigation;
16	c. Failed to document any legitimate basis for continuing Mr. Miller's
17	detention.
18	38. During the booking process, Defendants:
19	a. Attempted to conduct medical tests on Mr. Miller to which he expressly
20	denied consent;
21	b. Subjected Mr. Miller to x-ray examination after his express refusal of
22	medical testing;
23	c. Failed to inform Mr. Miller of the x-ray examination prior to its
24	administration; and
25	d. Conducted the x-ray examination without obtaining required consent or
26	providing any medical necessity.
27	39.Mr. Miller was charged with two misdemeanor violations:
28	a. CPC 25850(A) - Carrying/Loaded Firearm; and
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8 FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

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- b. CPC 32310(A) Large Capacity Magazine
- 40. Both misdemeanor charges resulted in his cite and release.
- 41. Early in the morning of October 13, 2024, Defendant Bianco falsely told The Epoch Times in a text message, "We arrested a man trying to get in the perimeter with two firearms who ended up saying **he was going to kill the president**" (emphasis added.)² Mr. Miller never said those words or anything remotely like those words at any time on October 12 or October 13, 2024.
- 42. Additionally, during the early morning of October 13, 2024, Defendant Bianco gave an interview to the Riverside Press-Enterprise, which was published at 10:37 am that same day³. In this interview to the media, Defendant Bianco made many false statements, including but not limited to:
 - a. "...the sheriff called the arrest a thwarted assassination attempt";
 - b. "...he said [Mr. Miller] identifies with a right-leaning anti-government group";
 - c. Mr. Miller "planned to kill Trump and that deputies thwarted the plan";
 - d. "Bianco said they also found he had multiple phony passports and driver's licenses"; and
 - e. "...arrested with guns and fake I.D.s about a quarter mile from former President Donald Trump's campaign rally." The distance was actually six-

² Brad Jones, *UPDATE: Riverside County Sheriff Says Suspect Never Said He Was* 'Going to Kill the President', (Originally published October 13, 2024, Updated October 24, 2024) https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/armed-man-who-allegedly-said-hewanted-to-kill-the-president-arrested-outside-trump-rally-5740578

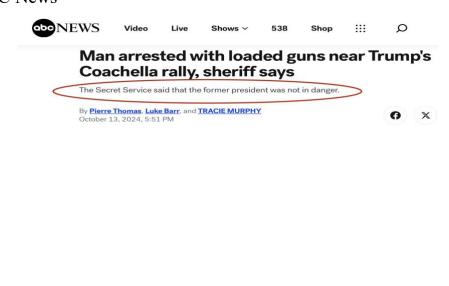
³ Brian Rokos, Mona Darwish, Beau Yarbrough, *Man with guns arrested near Trump rally in Coachella; Riverside sheriff says they stopped assassination attempt*, (Originally Published: October 13, 2024 at 10:37 AM PDT, UPDATED: October 17, 2024 at 2:57 PM PDT) https://www.pressenterprise.com/2024/10/13/las-vegas-manfound-with-loaded-firearm-high-capacity-magazine-near-trump-rally-in-coachella-valley/

tenths of a mile directly or one mile by walking. ⁴

- 43.On October 13, 2024, Defendant Bianco held a press conference where he made numerous knowingly false statements about Mr. Miller, including but not limited to:
 - a. Falsely claimed that deputies had "prevented the third assassination attempt" on President Trump;
 - b. Falsely called Mr. Miller a "lunatic";
 - c. Falsely claimed that Mr. Miller possessed "fake IDs" and a "fake press pass";
 - d. Falsely stated Mr. Miller had "fake credentials";
 - e. Falsely asserted that Mr. Miller's vehicle was "in disarray" in support of his other allegations;
 - f. Falsely asserted that Mr. Miller did not have "legitimate identification"; and
 - g. Falsely implied that Mr. Miller was a member of the sovereign citizen movement based on nothing Mr. Miller said.
- 44.On October 13, 2024, Defendant Bianco appeared on at least one other live interview where he continued with his false allegations: News Nation. On information and belief, due to their lawyers' desire to not be subjected to a defamation lawsuit, News Nation has taken down the video of the interview with Defendant Bianco. A copy of the original video was preserved via download prior to its take down, and can be found on Rumble https://rumble.com/v5rqflb-dan-abrams-live-newsnation-bianco.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp.
- 45.On October 14, 2024, Sheriff Bianco appeared on Fox News Channel, where he made additional false statements about Mr. Miller. During this interview, Sheriff Bianco:

⁴ Google Maps, https://maps.app.goo.gl/jcXNweh6WbcsmLsY7

- a. When asked if he believed Mr. Miller's explanation, stated "...it doesn't change the fact that he brought the guns onto a Trump rally, and he was stopped before he got inside," falsely implying Mr. Miller attempted to enter the venue with firearms, which Mr. Miller did not;
 b. Maintained his false assertion that Mr. Miller's deputies "prevented another assassination attempt";
- c. Made prejudicial statements about Mr. Miller's legal dual U.S. and Canada citizenship documentation and court approved name change, which Mr. Miller had with him at the time of his detention, stating "I couldn't tell you what his real name is";
- d. Falsely suggested criminal intent, stating Mr. Miller was "only a few hundred yards, couple hundred yards from the stage where President Trump eventually was"; and
- e. Maintained the false allegations despite his acknowledgment, "we knew nothing about it."
- 46. The allegations and mischaracterizations made on behalf of Sheriff Bianco led to a number of incredibly damaging and facially harmful headlines on credible news outlets, including but not limited to:
 - a. ABC News



b. New York Post:

US NEWS

Armed man Vem Miller arrested outside Trump's Coachella rally — as local sheriff insists it was third assassination attempt despite letting perp walk on meager \$5K bail

By Alex Oliveira and Joe Marino
Published Oct. 13, 2024 | Updated Oct. 14, 2024, 7:12 a.m. ET



c. FOX 11 (Los Angeles):



d. FOX 5 (Washington DC):

Trump third assassination attempt thwarted in California



e. BBC News.



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15:40 13 October 2024

Suspect possibly a member of far-right group Sovereign Citizens

Suspect Vem Miller told authorities he was a member of the far-right group called Sovereign Citizens, sheriff Bianco says.

15:25 13 October 2024

Suspect was a 'lunatic', sheriff says

Sheriff Bianco says his office is still in contact with the Secret Service and the FBI to investigate the incident "until we get to the bottom of it".



- f. KTLA 5:
- g. Newsweek: "Vem Miller, Trump Assassination Attempt Suspect, Denies Plot to Kill."
- h. Daily Mail:

EXCLUSIVE Sheriff doubles down on Vem Miller 'red flags' after MAGA 'lunatic' is arrested at Trump rally with loaded gun

- Miller was arrested with two firearms outside Trump's Saturday rally
- Sign up here for DailyMail.com's U.S. Politics Newsletter
- Follow DailyMail.com's politics live blog for all the latest news and updates

By KATELYN CARALLE, SENIOR U.S. POLITICAL REPORTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C. PUBLISHED: 16:50 EST, 14 October 2024 | UPDATED: 08:23 EST, 15 October 2024

47. Over 300 total news outlets around the world carried the false statements from Defendant Bianco in their headlines and stories.

48.On information and belief, Defendant Bianco finally recognized the severity of his false statement that Mr. Miller said he wanted "to kill the President", sometime on October 14, 2024, and sent a text message to the Epoch Times which stated, "He never said it. It was bad info ... given to me. He never told a deputy that..."

- 49.On Sunday, March 16, 2025, at the CAGOP convention in Sacramento, California, Defendant Bianco continued with his lies about what happened on October 12, 2024. After Shaun Frederickson asked Defendant Bianco about the events on October 12, 2024, Defendant Bianco falsely stated that "He [Vem Miller] didn't declare anything," regarding the firearms. He further lied, "This led my deputy to further investigate to which he discovered the weapon under the seat," and that, "they found a loaded handgun under the seat and the loaded shotgun in the trunk." A true and correct copy of the Declaration of Shaun Frederickson is attached herein as Exhibit "A."
- 50.On April 12, 2025, Defendant Bianco held an event which was recorded on video and audio in which his story about the events of October 12 and October 13, 2024, changed yet again⁵. Defendant Bianco said:
 - a. He falsely claimed that this entire case and international news story was because of Mr. Miller, not because of his own text message to The Epoch Times and his interview with The Riverside Press-Enterprise which set off the media firestorm and brought this entire incident to the public's attention. "So the bottom line is, is this was media generated. And if you really want to get really deep into it, it was Vem Miller generated and all of his friends and social media that then the media started picking up on."
 - b. He directly contradicted his own prior interviews and knowledge of the events regarding his false statements about Mr. Miller and an attempted

⁵ Sheriff Chad Bianco for California Governor Apr 12, 2025, https://rumble.com/v6s4373-sheriff-chad-bianco-for-california-governor-apr-12-2025.html

- c. Again, Defendant Bianco contradicted his own prior statements regarding his false claims of an attempted assassination his beliefs, "if the FBI and the Secret Service determines that he wasn't, awesome." There is no evidence the FBI and the Secret Service determined he was ever a threat, let alone someone who was going to commit a serious federal crime.
- d. Mr. Miller was only ever at the outside perimeter of the rally, approximately one mile from where President Trump would speak at the rally, outside of a parking lot, when he was directed into an alcove still outside the parking lot, by a Riverside County Sheriff's Deputy, yet Defendant Bianco falsely stated that, "We arrested him for bringing guns into a Trump rally."
- e. Ignoring his own interview on Fox News Channel on October 14, 2024, after his press conference on October 13, 2024, he said, "I have not said one single thing since then, since that press conference, other than answering crazy allegations."
- f. Continuing his baseless attacks on Mr. Miller, Defendant Bianco accused Mr. Miller of making this whole thing up for his own benefit, "Mr. Miller now apparently makes a living off of filing lawsuits. He filed a lawsuit against us the next business morning. Just the next business morning on a weekend and a holiday. How do you even find an attorney while you're in jail?" Mr. Miller was in jail for hours and was released early the morning of Sunday, October 13, 2024, and his own deputies wrongfully and illegally denied Mr. Miller's right to make a telephone call while he was

in their custody.

- 51. On April 11, 2025, podcaster Britt Mayer on her The Britt Mayer Show released an interview with Defendant Bianco wherein they discussed the events around this present case⁶. Defendant Bianco, yet again, chose to change his story and to repeat other false statements.
 - a. Defendant Bianco said, "when information started getting out that we arrested someone for, you know, with guns and everything else at a Trump rally after he's already been two attempts on his life. The media went nuts." The media went nuts because Defendant Bianco falsely told The Epoch Times that Mr. Miller said, "he was going to kill the president." The media went nuts because Defendant Bianco followed that with an interview with the Riverside Press-Enterprise where he made numerous false statements about Mr. Miller.
 - b. In direct contradiction to the evidence set forth above in ¶¶ 42-49,

 Defendant Bianco said, "the question went from was this a third assassination attempt to all of a sudden different outlets just started dropping the was and then saying this is a third assassination attempt."

 Then Defendant Bianco falsely claimed, "So we had that press conference the next day and I answered all of those questions." The press conference was held the afternoon of October 13, 2024, not the next day and he did not answer all of those questions.
 - c. In direct contradiction to his answers on April 12, 2025, wherein he said it was the Secret Service and FBI, Defendant Bianco said, "And so the question that was asked of me is, did we believe that we prevented an attack. And my answer was based on what the deputy found." He was

⁶ Ep 37 - Sheriff Chad Bianco: California's Next Governor? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvaeZVfUicg&list=PLU5w2frskedp8OA3XN-sM1UmIGhnfM64o&index=4

- back to pointing at a deputy for all of his false statements.
- d. Defendant Bianco continued with a new false statement, "But in the end, we arrested him for fake license plates on his car..." There is no record of a citation for fake license plates on his car.
- e. Instead of taking responsibility for what he has done, Defendant Bianco chose to blame the victim, Mr. Miller, for his false statements to the media "it's nonstop with him about this whole assassination attempt, the assassination investigation is up to the FBI and the Secret Service, not me. We arrested him for state crimes, and they do whatever it is they're going to do. And in the end, they chose to do nothing, which for local law enforcement, I don't care."
- 52. As a direct result of Sheriff Bianco's false statements and their widespread, global dissemination, Mr. Miller has suffered severe and ongoing harm including:
 - a. International media coverage falsely identified Mr. Miller as a potential presidential assassin;
 - b. Forced relocation due to credible threats to personal safety;
 - c. Severe reputational damage affecting professional relationships;
 - d. Loss of business opportunities and income;
 - e. Destruction of professional reputation built over decades;
 - f. Severance of family relationships, including with his children;
 - g. Ongoing harassment and threats from members of the public;
 - h. Rejection from social relationships and opportunities due to the severe reputation damage; and
 - i. Severe emotional distress as a result of all of the above.
- 53. The false allegations have resulted in specific documented damages including:
 - a. The eviction of Mr. Miller's elderly parents (ages 80 and 77) from their residence due to Mr. Miller's residence with them at the time of the false allegations;

1	b. Mr. Miller's inability to secure housing due to reputational damage;
2	c. Loss of business relationships and opportunities;
3	d. Ongoing security concerns, requiring Mr. Miller to maintain undisclosed
4	residence; and
5	e. Severe emotional distress and mental anguish.
6	54. Sheriff Bianco's statements specifically targeted Mr. Miller's dual citizenship
7	status and legal name variations, despite:
8	a. Mr. Miller having maintained proper documentation of all legal name
9	changes in the vehicle with him at the time of the detention;
10	b. Mr. Miller's Armenian heritage necessitating name variations for security
11	during international journalism work;
12	c. Such documentation being common among dual citizens and immigrant
13	families; and
14	d. Over 11 million U.S. residents maintaining dual citizenship status.
15	55. The actions of Defendants demonstrated a pattern of misconduct including:
16	a. Unlawful detention without probable cause;
17	b. Excessive use of force;
18	c. Deliberate indifference to medical needs;
19	d. Unlawful search and seizure;
20	e. Intentional defamation through media statements; and
21	f. Discriminatory treatment based on ethnic background.
22	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
23	42 U.S.C. § 1983 - First Amendment Violations
24	(Against all Defendants)
25	56.Plaintiff re-alleges as though set forth herein the allegations of Paragraphs 1
26	through 55.
27	57. The elements of 42 U.S.C. § 1983 are: (1) defendant acted under color of state
28	law, (2) defendant's actions deprived plaintiff of a constitutional right; and (3)
	18 5:25-cv-00629-KK (DTBx) FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

64.Mr. Miller is entitled to punitive damages for the malicious intent of the

1 Defendants. 2 65. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereafter provided. 3 SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION 4 42 U.S.C. § 1983 - Municipal Liability - Failure to Train 5 (Against Defendant Riverside County) 66. Plaintiff re-alleges as though set forth herein the allegations of Paragraphs 1 6 7 through 55, 59, and 60. 8 67. The elements in Municipal Liability Failure to Train are: (1) inadequate training 9 program, (2) deliberate indifference to constitutional rights, (3) and causal link 10 between inadequate training and constitutional violation. City of Canton v. 11 Harris, 489 U.S. 378 (1989) (failure to train standard); Connick v. Thompson, 12 563 U.S. 51 (2011) (pattern of violations); Board of County Comm'rs v. Brown, 13 520 U.S. 397 (1997) (deliberate indifference); Rodriguez v. Cty. of L.A., 891 F.3d 776 (9th Cir. 2018) (unreasonable searches). 14 15 68.Mr. Miller hereby repeats, realleges, and incorporates that Defendants Riverside County and RCSD: 16 a. Failed to adequately train employees regarding: (a) proper procedures for 17 18 voluntary firearm disclosure; (b) constitutional limits on searches; and (c) 19 medical care for detainees. 20 b. Maintained inadequate policies regarding: (a) public statements about 21 ongoing investigations; and (b) use of force protocols. 22 69. Defendants Riverside County and RCSD had inadequate training programs: (a) 23 Officers demonstrated lack of proper training regarding voluntary firearm 24 disclosure procedures; (b) inadequate training on constitutional search 25 limitations; (c) insufficient training on detainee medical care protocols; and (d) 26 improper training regarding public statements about ongoing investigations. 27 70. Defendants Riverside County and RCSD demonstrated deliberate indifference to 28 Constitutional rights through: (a) pattern of misconduct demonstrating systemic

- failures; (b) Sheriff's prioritization of political advancement over constitutional protections; (c) failure to have proper RCSD policies in place regarding Constitutional limits when detaining an individual; and (d) failure to implement proper RSCD training despite known risks.
- 71. The evidence shows a causal link between inadequate training and constitutional violations: (a) direct connection between training deficiencies and constitutional violations; and (b) Sheriff Bianco's improper training on public statements directly led to defamatory statements and false light.
- 72. Defendant Riverside County has a lengthy history of prior incidents:
 - a. Leon v. County of Riverside (2023) 14 Cal.5th 910, in this negligent infliction of emotional distress case, the California Supreme Court ruled that Government Code § 821.6 does not broadly immunize police officers or other public employees for any and all harmful actions they may take in the course of investigating crime.
 - b. *Estate of Richard Matus, Jr. v. County of Riverside,* Case No. 5:23-cv-00506 (C.D. Cal. 2023), involves extensive allegations of abuse by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.
 - c. *Genaro Bautista v. County of Riverside*, Case No. 5:24-cv-01658 (C.D. Cal. 2024), alleges unlawful detention, unlawful search of a vehicle, false arrest and excessive use of force.
 - d. The State of California Department of Justice and Attorney General Rob Bonta announced on February 23, 2023, that they opened a civil rights investigation into the Riverside County Sheriff's Office due to, "a pattern or practice of unconstitutional policing amid deeply concerning allegations relating to conditions of confinement in its jail facilities, excessive force,

and other misconduct.⁷" 1 e. Riverside city councilwoman Clarissa Cervantes filed a defamation 3 lawsuit against Defendant Bianco in 2022 for false statements he made 4 about the councilwoman.8 5 73. As a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful actions, Miller has suffered substantial mental and distress, 6 Mr. emotional 7 embarrassment, and overall discomfort. 8 74. Defendants committed the acts herein with malice against Mr. Miller with the 9 wrongful intention of injuring Mr. Miller with conscious disregard to his health, 10 safety, and rights. 11 75. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereafter provided 12 THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION 13 42 U.S.C. § 1983 - Failure to Intervene 14 (Against Defendant County of Riverside and DOES 1-100) 15 76. Plaintiff re-alleges as though set forth herein the allegations of Paragraphs 1 through 55, and 58 through 60. 16 77. The elements of a Failure to Intervene cause of action are: (1) officer present at 17 18 scene of constitutional violation, (2) officer had opportunity to intervene, (3) 19 officer failed to intervene; and (4) constitutional violation occurred. 78. Deputy Coronado and additional officers were present during Mr. Miller's 20 21 detention and search. Multiple officers: (1) witnessed Mr. Miller's medical 22 distress, (2) witnessed and participated in the unauthorized medical exam of Mr. 23 ⁷ Attorney General Bonta Launches Civil Rights Investigation into Riverside County 24 Sheriff's Office (February 23, 2023) https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-25 general-bonta-launches-civil-rights-investigation-riverside-county ⁸ Tom Coulter, *Riverside councilwoman files libel suit against Sheriff Chad Bianco* 26 over vandalism comments, Desert Sun (Oct. 1, 2022), 27 https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2022/10/01/riverside-28 councilwoman-clarissa-cervantes-libel-suit-sheriff-chad-bianco/8152766001/ 5:25-cv-00629-KK (DTBx)

⁹ Ryan Wesley Routh Indicted for Attempted Assassination of Former President Trump, U.S. Department of Justice (Sept. 24, 2024), https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/ryan-wesley-routh-indicted-attempted-assassination-former-president-trump

1	President would announce his firearms before committing the crime.
2	b. FBI and Secret Service declined to interview Mr. Miller because he was
3	deemed to be non-threatening.
4	c. Defendant Bianco knew the federal agencies had dismissed assassination
5	theory.
6	d. Mr. Miller possessed legitimate identification documentation.
7	e. Mr. Miller never stated that he was a "sovereign citizen."
8	f. Mr. Miller did not have a loaded handgun under his seat.
9	87.Defendant failed to use reasonable care to determine truth:
10	a. Defendant Bianco proceeded despite knowledge of federal agencies'
11	assessment.
12	b. Defendant Bianco with reckless disregard for the truth, allegedly relied on
13	only one deputy who informed him of the falsely attributed statement to
14	Mr. Miller.
15	c. Defendant Bianco made statements for his own political advancement and
16	media opportunities.
17	d. Defendant Bianco clearly demonstrated reckless disregard for factual
18	accuracy with his own contradictions and failure to determine facts before
19	spreading them to the media and beyond.
20	88.Mr. Miller suffered harm, including:
21	a. International media coverage as potential presidential assassin.
22	b. Forced relocation due to threats resulting from the false statements.
23	c. Severe reputational damage affecting livelihood.
24	d. Family relationship severance.
25	e. Ongoing harassment and threats.
26	89. Statements were substantial factor in causing Mr. Miller's harm:
27	a. Prima facie direct causal connection between Sheriff Bianco's statements
28	and Mr. Miller's damages.

1	b. Specific documented damages resulting from Sheriff Bianco's statements.
2	90.WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereafter provided.
3	FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
4	Libel Per Se
5	(Against Defendants Bianco and Riverside County)
6	91.Plaintiff re-alleges as though set forth herein the allegations of Paragraphs 1
7	through 55.
8	92. The elements of libel per se are: (1) a false and unprivileged publication; (2) by
9	writing; and (3) naturally tending directly to injure a person; (4) libel per se
10	statements are those "without the necessity of explanatory matter, such as an
11	inducement, innuendo or other extrinsic fact." California Civil Code Sections 45,
12	45a.
13	93.Defendant Bianco texted the Epoch Times the malicious, false statement
14	regarding Mr. Miller, "He was going to kill the president."
15	94.Defendant Bianco with reckless disregard for the truth, allegedly relied on only
16	one deputy who informed him of the falsely attributed statement to Mr. Miller.
17	Defendant Bianco later tried to blame the FBI and Secret Service for that false
18	information.
19	95.A sheriff alleging an attempted assassination of a major presidential candidate
20	needs no explanation, as it is prima facie libelous and harmful to Mr. Miller.
21	96.WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereafter provided.
22	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION
23	Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
24	(Against Defendants Bianco and Riverside County)
25	97.Plaintiff re-alleges as though set forth herein the allegations of Paragraphs 1
26	through 55, 58-60, 83-87, and 93-95.
27	98. The elements of Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress are: "(1) extreme and
28	outrageous conduct by the defendant with the intention of causing, or reckless
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- disregard of the probability of causing, emotional distress, (2) plaintiff's suffering severe or extreme emotional distress; and (3) actual and proximate causation of the emotional distress by the defendant's outrageous conduct." *Hughes v. Pair*, 46 Cal. 4th 1035, 1050-1051 (2009).
- 99.Defendants' conduct constitutes extreme and outrageous behavior exceeding all bounds of decency tolerated in a civilized society, as evidenced by:
 - a. Defendant Bianco's deliberate and calculated decision to publicly label Mr. Miller as a "would-be presidential assassin" despite contemporaneous knowledge that federal authorities had explicitly declined to investigate Mr. Miller as a potential threat, constituting conduct so extreme as to be utterly intolerable in a civilized society.
 - b. The timing of Defendant Bianco's false accusations during the heightened political tensions of the final weeks of a presidential election cycle, a period when Defendants knew or should have known such accusations would generate maximum public outrage and threaten Mr. Miller's safety.
 - c. Defendants' exploitation of Mr. Miller's status as a documented supporter of President Trump to create a particularly damaging narrative of "betrayal" that Defendants knew would subject Mr. Miller to unique forms of public hatred and condemnation.
 - d. Defendants' reckless disregard for the entirely foreseeable consequences of falsely labelling someone as an attempted presidential assassin in the contemporary political climate, including death threats, family estrangement, and professional destruction that have forced Mr. Miller to change his life.
 - e. Defendant Bianco's calculated expansion of defamatory statements into multiple high-profile national media appearances, demonstrating a deliberate intent to maximize harm rather than isolate it to local jurisdictions.

- f. Defendant Bianco's on-going statements at events and in media appearances which demonstrate his knowledge of the severity of his statements and the damage it has been causing.
- 100. The extraordinary severity of emotional distress inflicted by Defendant Bianco's conduct, including, but not limited to: (i) acute psychological trauma, (ii) profound social isolation, (iii) persistent fear for personal safety, (iv) severance of parent-child relationships, and (v) comprehensive destruction of professional identity and livelihood prospects, all of which no reasonable person should be expected to endure.
- 101. There is a clear, direct connection between Sheriff Bianco's statements and the ongoing media coverage of Mr. Miller which have resulted in specific damages flowing from public allegations and the ongoing consequences of nationwide publicity harming Mr. Miller's reputation and professional opportunities, severe mental distress, and other harms to be proven at trial.
- 102. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as hereafter provided.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

103. Plaintiff prays this Honorable Court to declare and adjudge that Defendants' conduct alleged herein constitutes violations of Plaintiff's constitutional rights under the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; statutory violations under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and California Civil Code § 52.1; and tortious conduct constituting defamation per se, false light invasion of privacy, and intentional infliction of emotional distress under California law, all of which have caused Plaintiff to suffer severe, continuing, and irreparable damages to his reputation, employment prospects, family relationships, personal safety, and psychological well-being.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for Judgment against Defendant as follows:

A. To declare Defendants' actions unlawful;