1 2 3 4 5	Gina M. Austin (SBN 246833) E-mail: gaustin@austinlegalgroup.com Tamara M. Leetham (SBN 234419) E-mail: tamara@austinlegalgroup.com AUSTIN LEGAL GROUP, APC 3990 Old Town Ave, Ste A-112 San Diego, CA 92110 Phone: (619) 924-9600 Facsimile: (619) 881-0045	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego 10/26/2017 at 12:39:00 PM Clerk of the Superior Court By E- Filing, Deputy Clerk
6 7	Attorneys for Defendants San Diego United Holdings Group, LLC, Nind And Balboa Ave Cooperative	us Malan
8		
9		THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
	COUNTY OF SAN D	IEGO- CENTRAL DIVISION
10	<b>(</b> -	
11		
12	MONTGOMERY FIELD BUSINESS CONDOMINIUMS ASSOCIATION, a	CASE NO. 37-2017-00019384-CU-CO-CTL
13	California Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation,	Assigned to the Honorable Ronald L. Styn  DECLARTION OF GINA M. AUSTIN
14	Plaintiff,	DECLARITON OF GIVA W. AUSTIN
15	VS.	[IMAGED FILE]
16 17	BALBOA AVE COOPERATIVE, a California corporation; SAN DIEGO	<b>DATE:</b> October 27, 2017 <b>TIME:</b> 11:00 a.m.
18	UNITED HOLDINGS GROUPS, LLC, a California limited liability company;	<b>DEPT:</b> C-62
19	NINUS MALAN, an individual; RAZUKI INVESTMENTS, LLC, a California limited liability company; SALAM	
20	RAZUKI, an individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive;	
21	Defendants.	
22		
23		
24	I, Gina M. Austin, declare:	
25	1. I am a member in good standing	ng of the California state bar and am the Managing
26	Attorney at Austin Legal Group, APC. I have	e personal knowledge of the facts stated in this
27	declaration, except as to those facts stated upo	on information and belief, which facts I believe to be
28	true.	

1 DECLARATION OF GINA M. AUSTIN 1

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- 2. Late evening on October 17, 2017, I received an e-mail from Bobby Uppal that contained proposed insurance information.
- 3. On October 18, 2017, my office e-mailed this information to Plaintiff's attorneys, Mandy Hexom and Rian Jones. That day, and multiple times thereafter, our office informed Ms. Hexom that Mr. Uppal would not be available after the evening of October 24, 2017 and we would like to meet and confer with the Association and its insurance salesman, Arthur Hopkins, prior to this time.
- 4. On October 24, 2017, Ms. Hexom provided our office with draft objections to the insurance policy proposed by the Defendants and analyzed in Exhibit A to the supplemental declaration of Bobby Uppal. My understanding is that these objections did not include observations made by the Association's insurance salesman Arthur Hopkins. Our office turned Plaintiffs original draft objections produced into what is not marked as Exhibit "A" to the declaration of Mr. Bobby Uppal.
- 5. On October 25, 2017, Ms. Hexom provided a table that combined the original objections (provided on October 24, 2017) with a few additional objections. Our office turned the October 25 2017 objections into Exhibit "A" to this declaration. All text within Exhibit A to this declaration that is double underlined is new text. Text that was removed is stricken. The new questions that Mr. Uppal has not been able to review are highlighted in yellow.
- 6. Exhibit A to this declaration is an effort by this office to provide the court with a comprehensive document of all of the objections by Plaintiff, including the objections that have not been responded to by Mr. Uppal due to timing.
- 7. Exhibit B to this declaration is a true and correct copy of an e-mail between Douglas Jaffe (attorney for defendants Salam Razuki and Razuki Investments) and the attorney for Arthur Hopkins/Abdou Insurance Agency.

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8. Exhibit C to this declaration is a true and correct copy of an e-mail between Rian Jones and Arthur Hopkins.

I declare under penalty of perjury under California state law that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Diego, California, on October 26, 2017.

Gina M. Austin

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Generally Association's Comment	Defendants' Response
1. The proposed policy premiums, including the D&O and Commercial package is \$43,271.16. The current premiums for the Farmer package policy for both D&O and liability and property is \$12,951.00. The proposed policies would increase the yearly premiums by \$30,320.16. This is unaffordable for the Association.	Defendants have repeatedly stated to the Association and its counsel that they would be willing to pay for the increased premiums. More recently, Defendants have offered to cover the entire premium creating an added benefit to the Association.
2. The Association has not received the application submitted on its behalf for the D&O proposed policy through AmTrust (via Euclid) despite requesting this application from counsel for Defendants multiple times.	Defendants have explained to Plaintiff's counsel that a new application was not created due to the fact that Plaintiff has not provided a complete application. Rather, the quotes have been based on the application discussed in Court on October 12, 2017. Additional insurance riders have been created based upon the original application to address Plaintiff's concerns.
3. The Association has not approved or accepted the proposed policies. Only the Association has the authority to accept and obtain insurance quotes for coverage. (Corp. Code § 7210; CC&Rs, Art. VIII. Secs. 1, 6.)	Defendants are aware of the Association's authority. The proposed quotes have been obtained in an effort to provide the Association with viable alternatives to its current coverage should that coverage terminate.
4. The Association requires full disclosure of all information and applications that are being submitted on its behalf by brokers and agents related to these proposed policies and it believes that the brokers or agents or the defendants are not providing all applications and quotes related to these two proposed policies.	Defendants and its agents have provided all information, applications, and quotes to Plaintiff in an effort to meet and confer and obtain a resolution. All information was sent to Ms. Hexom via email on October 18, 2017.
5. The Association's CC&Rs do not allow for owners to pay for deductibles. (CC&Rs at Art. VIII.) The current deductible on the Farmers policy is \$1,000 for the D&O claims against the directors or officers of the Association or any claims related to any wrongdoing against the Association or agent of the Association for indemnity or defense.	This is an inaccurate statement.  There is no provision in Art. VIII that prohibits owners from paying for deductibles.
6. The CC&Rs require waivers at Section 9 of Article VIII. It is unclear at this time whether the waivers provided in that section are included in the proposed policies. The Association has not yet had time to analyze this issue.	Blanket waivers can be added before the policy is bound.  Each waiver or endorsement requested can be added once the
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Association's Comment	
White of military	Defendants' Response
□□ Waiver of subrogation is required. (CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(a).) □□ Waiver of defense based on co-insurance is required. (CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(b).) □□ Waiver of right of set-off, counterclaim, apportionment, proration or contribution by reason for other insurance not carried by the Association. (CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(c).) □□ Waiver of "[a]ny invalidity, other adverse effect or defense on account of any breach of warranty or condition caused by the Association, any Owner or any tenant of any Owner, or arising from any act, neglect, omission of any named insured, or the respective agents, contractors and employees of any insured." (CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(d).) □□ Waiver of [a]ny right of the insurer to repair, rebuild or replace, and, in the event the building is not repaired, rebuilt or replaced following loss, any right to pay under the insurance an amount less than the replacement value of the improvements insured or the fair market value thereof." (CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(e).) □□ Waiver of "[n]otice of the assignment of any Owner of its interest in the insurance by virtue of a conveyance of any Unit." (CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(f).) □□ Waiver of "[a]ny right to require any assignment of any mortgage to the insurer." CC&Rs at Art. VIII, Sec. 9(g).)	policy is bound.
7. Only the Association has the authority to obtain insurance on its behalf. Michael Abdou Insurance Agency is the only authorized insurance broker and/or agent to obtain insurance policies or quotes on behalf of the Association.	Defendants are aware of the Association's authority. The proposed quotes have been obtained in an effort to provide the Association with viable alternatives to its current coverage.
8. Maintaining the correct types and amounts of insurance is very important. It can affect statutory immunity that is afforded volunteer board members of an association. (C.C. § 6840; Corp. Code § 7237.)	Defendants do not dispute this fact. For this reason Defendants have attempted to obtain insurance quotes that meet the needs of the Association.
9. The Defendants do not have standing to pursue new insurance policies for the Association nor do the Defendants have standing to force the Association to replace its insurance policies.	Defendants are aware of the Association's authority. The proposed quotes have been obtained in an effort to provide the Association with viable alternatives to its current coverage.
10. A policy application serves to help interpret the insurance policy. The insurance application may be used for this purpose when the policy in ambiguous. (See Bluehawk v. Continental Ins. Co., 50 Cal. App. 4th 1126,	Defendants are aware of the purpose of an application. The proposed quotes have been obtained in an effort to provide the Association with viable alternatives to its current coverage.

Association's Comment	Defendants Demons
best interest of the Association and its members," (CC&Rs at Art IV. Sec.	likelihood cancellation
2(b).)	
15 "No Unit , shall be occupied or used for any purpose or in any manner which shall cause such improvements to be uninsurable against loss or cause any policy or policies representing such insurance to be cancelled or suspended or the company issuing the same to refuse the renewal thereof or	The Association is choosing to selectively enforce this provision.  There are several Units that are currently being used in a way that  Would cause the insurance to be cancelled.
cause the premium for such insurance to be increased." (CC&Rs, Art. VI. Sec. 12.)	This argument is not ripe as the insurance has not been cancelled.
Proposed Century Watermark Policy - Liability and Property Policy	
1. The application submitted on behalf of the Association for this proposed policy is not accurate and has not been corrected. No other applications have been submitted by Defendants. See Art Hopkins comments on the ACCORD Application 140 that were previously submitted to counsel for Defendants.	Plaintiff mischaracterizes Defendants' attempts to assist the Association in obtaining insurance. Defendants have submitted an application based upon the best information available to it. As the Association has refused to submit a formal application it is not possible to determine facts that are only known to the Association. As such, Defendants have not submitted additional modified applications but rather obtained additional endorsements and/or statements from underwriters of ability to insure for each of the changes to the application the Association has identified or requested.
7 The meaning and form of multi-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	
current policy is with an A-rated admitted carrier within the State of California. This proposed policy is with a nonadmitted or surplus line insurer and is not subject to the financial solvency regulations and enforcement that apply to California Licensed insurers.	Plaintiff's statement is inaccurate.  Non-admitted carriers are held to a higher standard and are required to meet higher financial solvency standards. Insurance companies can be classified as admitted or non-admitted. The distinction resides in the insurer's way of doing business in a particular state. Regardless of admitted or non-admitted status, every insurance company including errors and omissions insurance companies must be licensed and approved in any given state(s) where it conducts business. Non-admitted insurers are able to operate with less state oversight and regulatory restrictions. Many of the best insurance companies in the world operate as non-admitted insurance companies are non-admitted carriers.
	otatus as a non-admitted insurer does not inean sub-standard. Non-

Association's Commons	
Association's Comment	Defendants' Response
	admitted carriers can often continue coverage in extreme circumstances where admitted carriers can't. Most professional liability (E&O) policies are written on a non-admitted basis.
	Neither admitted nor non-admitted status is an indication of stability or solvency. Many admitted insurers have failed in the past and some of those operating today are quite small. In contrast, many non-admitted carriers are members of the country's largest insurance companies and carry very high ratings from independent rating organizations like AM Best. Whether admitted or non-admitted, any carrier with an AM Best rating of "A" or better is financially strong. So, the key to picking the right insurer is really the financial strength and not whether the carrier is admitted or non-admitted.
	United Specialty Insurance Company GL -A Excellent Amtrust International Underwriters D&O - A Excellent
	Financial Size XV -(2Billion or Greater)
3. The location or property covered is listed as 8855 Balboa Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. However, the covered property should be all buildings listed as 8855-8873 Balboa Ave, San Diego, CA 92123. This could give rise to a denial of a claim based on only listing one building and not the other buildings within the Association. The Classification and Location Limitation Endorsement states, "coverage under this insurance is strictly limited to the classifications(s), code(s), and schedules locations(s) listed on the Commercial General Liability Coverage Declarations page and its endorsements and supplements." The proposed policy further provides, "No coverage is provided for locations which are not shown on the Commercial General Liability Coverage Declarations pages and its endorsements or supplements"	The coverage proposed is for all buildings per confirmation with the underwriters. If the Association would allow the submittal of an application it could be tailored to address each of their issues/concerns.
4. The proposed policy has an "Insured versus Insured" exclusion and the current Farmers' policy does not. Given the current litigation, if Ninus Malan becomes an officer or board member of the Association and makes a claim	As discussed on the record at the October 12, 2017 hearing, the only D&O exclusion is for officers and directors that engage in cannabis activity.
against the Association, any such claims are excluded from this policy.	If Ninus Malan were to seek to be elected as an officer or director the Association members would be informed of this risk.

Association's Comment	Defendants' Decrence
2. No quote from AmTrust. There is nothing from AmTrust confirming that they are providing a quote for a D&O policy for the Association. Euclid provided a quote based on the problematic application that has false or misrepresented information.	Defendants represent to this court that the proposed policy from AmTrust was a quote for a D&O policy for the Association  The application is not false. All updated information received from Ms. Hexom has been communicated to underwriting.
3. The wrong policy forms are being used for the D&O proposed policy from AmTrust. The Association is an office condominium not a for profit private corporation. Most of the terms and conditions of this policy are 100% inapplicable.	It is written on Private Company Directors and Officers form—Claims made policy form is standard in any D&O/E&O Policy.
4. Happears there is a Property Association Rules and Regulations Exclusion. The current Farmers D&O policy does not have such an exclusion. The Association must have this for its directors and officers.	This exclusion is simply a lack of coverage for claims arising from tenants regarding the Association enforcing its own rules.
	The coverage afforded by this policy shall not apply to any claim based upon, arising out of or attributable to any setting of standards, specifications, dues, fees, assessments, bylaws, rules or regulations or the enforcement or collection of such, including but not limited to the enforcement of any rules regulations or standards governing the appearance, maintenance, use or occupancy of common or personal property—  A D&O Policy is intended to cover officers from claims resulting from their errors or wrongful acts. An association rule/regulation should not create a claim on D&O since it is a written contract already signed by both parties and rules are agreed on upon
5. It appears there is a Business Interference Exclusion. The current policy with Farmers does not have this exclusion. The Association must have this for its directors and officers.	someone choosing to operate a business in the complex.  This is covered under the proposed General Liability coverage.  There is no need for duplicate coverage.
6. Happears there is a Broad Form Contract Exclusion. The Association's CC&Rs are a contract under the law. The Association must have this coverage for its directors and officers.	This is exclusion is for claims alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any actual or alleged contractual liability of the Company or any other Insured under any express contract or agreement, including but not limited to the terms, conditions, representations or warranties made in any purchase or sale agreement.
	This Exclusion shall not apply to liability which would have

Association's Comment	Defendants' Response
	attached in the absence of such express contract or agreement;
7. There appears to be an Absolute Bodily Injury/Property Exclusion in the proposed policy. I do not believe the current Farmers policy has this exclusion. The Association must have this coverage for its directors and efficers.	This is covered under the proposed General Liability coverage.  There is no need for duplicate coverage.
8 <u>7</u> . There appears to be <u>is</u> a Specific Event Exclusion in the proposed policy. This would exclude "any portion of any claim alleging in whole or in part any wrongful act by the cannabis tenant." The Association's current Farmers policy does not have this exclusion. The Association must have this coverage for its directors and officers.	The current Farmers policy will not even cover a cannabis tenant. The tenant has his/her own insurance, therefore, it would not affect the D&O since the tenant/cannabis owner is not a member of the board/officers and carries his own insurance to absorb any claims relating to the cannabis business.
9g. It appears that there is a deductible of \$50,000 for any and all claims under Coverage B (Company Reimbursement Coverage) and C (Company Coverage) and C (Company Coverage) pursuant to the under this proposed policy, which are any claims against the officers and directors and any claims for wrongful act against the Association including claims for defense and indemnity related to its agents such as its managing agent, APS. This is not affordable for the Association and the Association cannot charge the owners for increased deductibles based on its CC&Rs. (CC&Rs. Art. VIII. Sec. 10), It is unclear what types of claims or coverages apply to this \$50,000 deductible. Regardless, this is not affordable for the Association.	Plaintiff is incorrect. There is no deductable. The prior proposal with a different carrier had a deductible for certain claims under B & C of \$35,000. The deductible does not apply to this policy. Current Farmers policy does not have any coverage for B &C
10. The proposed policy will not cover any claims made against the Association or is directors or officers "arisine out of based upon or attributable to the circumstances alleged or the same Wrongful Act or Related Wrongful Act of which has been reported or to any circumstances. Wrongful Act or Related Wrongful Act of which notice has been given under any prior insurer's policy. "This means that if a claim is made against the Association or the officers of faich or directors of the Association when the proposed policy is in effect that is in any way related to the Avila restraining order claim, the marijuana dispensary laysuit claims, there is zero coverage. The Association needs at least potential continual coverage related to the marijuana dispensary and the Defendants' claim that have been made or threatened against the Association and the proposed policy are problematic for similar reasons.	
11. The proposed policy exclused "emotional distress, mental anguish Loss	

Association's Comment	Defendants' Response
of use or destruction of any tangible property" which is not excluded in the	
current Farmers' policy.	
12. The proposed policy excluded contractual liability. (Sec. III.O.#) Again.	
the current Farmers policy does not exclude contractual liability claims. The	
Association is bound by the governing documents and CC&Rs are considered	
contracts and are enforceable as equitable servitudes and interpreted using	
contract interpretation principles.	
13. The proposed policy excludes claim sunder Coverage C for injury	
resulting from libel, slander, etc which the current Farmers policy does not	
exclude (Sec. III.O.5.)	
14. The proposed policy excludes claims seeking fines, penalties, or non-	
monetary relief against the Association. (Sec. III.O.7.) The current Farmers	
policy does not exclude such claims.	
15. Section III.P.1. Section III.P.2. Section VI.A., and are [sic] problematic	
as well because they provide less coverage than the current Farmers policy.	

#### Leetham, Tamara

From: Sent:

Douglas Jaffe <douglasjaffe@aol.com> Monday, October 23, 2017 2:57 PM

To:

Leetham, Tamara; Ninus Malan; Austin, Gina

Subject:

Fwd: Montgomery Field Business Cond. Assoc. v. Balboa Ave Cooperative et al.

Douglas Jaffe, Esq.

#### Begin forwarded message:

From: Douglas Jaffe < douglasjaffe@aol.com > Date: October 23, 2017 at 2:56:12 PM PDT
To: Sandy Lemoine < slemoine@pettitkohn.com >

Cc: Rada Feldman < rfeldman@PettitKohn.com >, Doug Pettit < dpettit@PettitKohn.com >, Kathleen Boyer

<kboyer@PettitKohn.com>

Subject: Re: Montgomery Field Business Cond. Assoc. v. Balboa Ave Cooperative et al.

You called me last week and we discussed how critical it was for Defendants to take Arthur's deposition as noticed in his subpoena. I called you on Friday to further discuss this matter, but you failed to return my call on Friday. Instead you had objections served twenty minutes before the end of the business day on Friday before a Monday deposition.

Today you called me and said you had spoken with Ms Hexom and you would at some time you could not specify, be providing alternative dates for Arthur's deposition. You could not specify when you would be providing alternative dates and you had no alternative proposed dates. There was nothing for me to refuse since you provided nothing but objections.

The deposition of Arthur was held as noticed and his non-appearance taken. As a result, we believe he will be excluded as a witness by declaration and/or in person.

Douglas Jaffe, Esq.

On Oct 23, 2017, at 11:22 AM, Sandy Lemoine <<u>slemoine@pettitkohn.com</u>> wrote:

Dear Mr. Jaffe,

Attached please find correspondence from Rada Feldman. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Feldman.

Thank you.

<image001.png>
11622 El Camino Real, Suite 300
San Diego, CA 92130

Sandy Lemoine Legal Assistant to: Lauren E. Bates, Esq. Matthew C. Smith, Esq.

#### www.pettitkohn.com San Diego | Los Angeles | Phoenix

Erik T. Johnson, Esq. Main (858) 755-8500 Fax (858) 755-8504 slemoine@pettitkohn.com

### Register online for Pettit Kohn's 11th Annual Employment Law Symposium November 16, 2017

<image002.png>

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<Jaffee re Hopkins depo - pdf.PDF>

From: Rian W. Jones [mailto:RJones@epsten.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 2:40 PM

To: Arthur Hopkins <arthur@abdouinsurance.com>

Subject: Montgomery Field

Art:

Be prepared to point out the problems with the latest and greatest insurance quote. Also, have you seen the attached?

Rian

Rian W. Jones Senior Attorney at Law, Shareholder 10200 Willow Creek Road, Suite 100 | San Diego, CA 92131 Phone: (858) 527-0111 | Fax: (858) 527-1531 | www.epsten.com



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Making Strides in San Diego 5k Breast Cancer Walk



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## Exhibit C

From: Rian W. Jones [mailto:RJones@epsten.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 2:40 PM

To: Arthur Hopkins <arthur@abdouinsurance.com>

Subject: Montgomery Field

Art:

Be prepared to point out the problems with the latest and greatest insurance quote. Also, have you seen the attached?

Rian

Rian W. Jones
Senior Attorney at Law, Shareholder
10200 Willow Creek Road, Suite 100 | San Diego, CA 92131
Phone: (858) 527-0111 | Fax: (858) 527-1531 | www.epsten.com



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Making Strides in San Diego 5k Breast Cancer Walk



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