

No. 18A1150

In The

Supreme Court of the United States

CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO,

Petitioner,

v.

FREE THE NIPPLE-FORT COLLINS, an incorporated association; BRITTANY HOAGLAND;
and SAMANTHA SIX,

Respondents,

APPLICATION DIRECTED TO THE HONORABLE SONIA SOTOMAYOR FOR A
SECOND EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

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June 6, 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES	iii
BACKGROUND	2
REASONS FOR GRANTING THE APPLICATION.....	3
CONCLUSION.....	5
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	6

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES	PAGE
<i>City of Jackson v. Lakeland Lounge</i> , 688 So.2d 742 (Miss. 1996).....	3, 4
<i>City of Seattle v. Buchanan</i> , 584 P.2d 918 (Wash. 1978).....	4
<i>Free the Nipple—Fort Collins v. City of Fort Collins</i> , 916 F.3d 792 (10 th Cir. 2019) (Attachment 1)	1, 2, 3
<i>Free the Nipple-Fort Collins v. City of Fort Collins</i> , 216 F.Supp.3d 1258 (D. Colo. 2016).....	2, 3
<i>Free the Nipple-Fort Collins v. City of Fort Collins</i> , 237 F.Supp.3d 1126 (D. Colo. 2017).....	3, 4
<i>Free the Nipple-Springfield Residents Promoting Equal. v. City of Springfield</i> , 2019 U.S. App. LEXIS 13481 (8 th Cir. May 6, 2019)	3
<i>Hang On, Inc. v. City of Arlington</i> , 65 F.3d 1248 (5 th Cir. 1995)	3
<i>State v. Lilley</i> , 2019 N.H. LEXIS 29 (N.H. Feb. 8, 2019)	4
<i>Tagami v. City of Chicago</i> , 875 F.3d 375 (7 th Cir. 2017), <i>cert. denied</i> , 138 S.Ct. 1577 (2018).....	3
<i>United States v. Biocic</i> , 928 F.2d 112, (4 th Cir. 1991)	3

STATUTES

28 U.S.C. § 1254(1)	1
28 U.S.C. § 1292(a)(1).....	2
28 U.S.C. § 2101(c)	1

OTHER AUTHORITIES

Fort Collins, Colo., Mun. Code § 17-142(b), (d).....2
Supreme Court Rule 13.5.....1
Supreme Court Rule 22.....1
Supreme Court Rule 30.3.....1

To the Honorable Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice of the United States and Circuit Justice for the Tenth Circuit:

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2101(c) and Supreme Court Rules 13.5, 22, and 30.3, Applicant City of Fort Collins, Colorado, respectfully requests a second 30-day extension of time, to and including July 17, 2019, within which to file a petition for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in this case. The Tenth Circuit issued its opinion on February 15, 2019. (A copy of the Tenth Circuit's decision, *Free the Nipple—Fort Collins et. al. v. City of Fort Collins*, 916 F.3d 792 (10th Cir. 2019), is attached as Attachment 1.) Applicant filed an Application for an extension of time which was granted on May 8, 2019. (A copy of the May 8, 2019, letter from the Clerk of this Court is attached as Attachment 2.) Currently, any petition would be due on June 17, 2019. This second application has been filed more than 10 days before the date a petition would be due. *See* Sup. Ct. R. 13.5. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1) to review the judgment in this case. The Tenth Circuit's decision raises complex and important issues related to the proper interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution concerning public nudity municipal ordinances and state statutes throughout the United States that prohibit female toplessness. The Tenth Circuit's decision conflicts with several other Circuit Courts of Appeal decisions and the decisions of the highest courts of several states.

On April 23, 2019, a new City Council for the City of Fort Collins was sworn into office with three re-elected incumbents and two new members of the seven-person City Council. This matter was addressed by the new City Council at its meeting on May 21, 2019. The City Council directed the City Attorney and undersigned counsel to attempt to negotiate a resolution of this

matter with counsel for the Plaintiffs if possible and if not possible to pursue the filing of a petition with this Court. The parties have been engaged in settlement discussions but have not yet reached a resolution. In addition, any resolution of this matter may need to be presented to and considered by City Council at a public meeting depending on the nature of the resolution. Accordingly, additional time is necessary for the parties to either complete a resolution of this matter and have it presented to City Council for approval or to prepare an appropriate petition for review by this Court in the event the City Council decides to proceed to authorize the filing of a petition with this Court if a settlement is not obtainable.

BACKGROUND

The City Council of the City of Fort Collins has in its municipal code the following ordinance prohibiting female toplessness in public:

No female who is ten (10) years of age or older shall knowingly appear in any public place with her breast exposed below the top of the areola and nipple while located: (1) In a public right-of-way, in a natural area, recreation area or trail, or recreation center, in a public building, in a public square, or while located in any other public place; or (2) On private property if the person is in a place that can be viewed from the ground level by another who is located on public property and who does not take extraordinary steps, such as climbing a ladder or peering over a screening fence, in order to achieve a point of vantage.

Fort Collins, Colo., Mun. Code § 17-142(b). The ordinance includes certain exceptions to this prohibition, including breastfeeding in public and persons undergoing emergency medical treatment in public. Fort Collins, Colo., Mun. Code § 17-142(c), (d).

Respondents filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. The District Court granted in part the City's Motion to Dismiss, dismissing the Respondents' First Amendment challenge to the ordinance, but denied the Motion to Dismiss regarding the Respondents' Equal Protection claim. *See Free the Nipple—Fort Collins v. City of Fort Collins*,

216 F.Supp.3d 1258 (D. Colo. 2016).

Subsequently, following a hearing, the District Court granted the Respondents' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction after concluding the ordinance likely violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. *See Free the Nipple-Fort Collins v. City of Fort Collins*, 237 F.Supp.3d 1126 (D. Colo. 2017).

The City appealed the District Court's grant of the preliminary injunction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1292(a)(1). On February 15, 2019, the Tenth Circuit issued its decision affirming the District Court's grant of the preliminary injunction. *Free the Nipple—Fort Collins*, 916 F.3d at 795. Judge Harris Hartz dissented. *Id.* at 807.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE APPLICATION

1. The Tenth Circuit's decision in this case represents the first time any appellate court in the United States has determined any municipal public nudity ordinance prohibiting female toplessness was unconstitutional. In contrast to the Tenth Circuit's decision, earlier decisions from the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh and Eighth Circuit Courts of Appeal, including two very recent decisions, held public-nudity ordinances prohibiting female toplessness did not violate the Equal Protection Clause. *See United States v. Biocic*, 928 F.2d 112, 115-16 (4th Cir. 1991); *Hang On, Inc. v. City of Arlington*, 65 F.3d 1248, 1256 (5th Cir. 1995); *Tagami v. City of Chicago*, 875 F.3d 375, 377 (7th Cir. 2017), *cert. denied*, 138 S.Ct. 1577 (2018); *Free the Nipple—Springfield Residents Promoting Equal v. City of Springfield*, 2019 U.S. App. LEXIS 13481 (8th Cir. May 6, 2019). Similarly, earlier decisions from the highest courts of the States of Mississippi, Washington and New Hampshire also concluded similar public-nudity ordinances passed constitutional muster under the Equal Protection Clause. *See City of Jackson v. Lakeland Lounge*, 688 So.2d 742, 751

(Miss. 1996); *City of Seattle v. Buchanan*, 584 P.2d 918, 920 (Wash. 1978); *State v. Lilley*, 2019 N.H. LEXIS 29 (N.H. Feb. 8, 2019).¹ Based on this conflict of authority, this is the type of case warranting this Court’s review and clarification of the appropriate standard applicable for Equal Protection review of public-nudity ordinances generally and how that standard applies to the City’s public-nudity ordinance specifically. Many different municipalities and some States throughout the United States have similar public-nudity laws and all of them need to know from this Court whether they are unconstitutional.

2. A second extension of time is warranted in this matter, so the undersigned counsel may implement the directions of the City Council of May 22, 2019, and continue to discuss a resolution of this matter with counsel for the Plaintiffs and if unable to reach a resolution to proceed with the preparation and filing of a petition for certiorari in this case with this Court if the City Council chooses to proceed with a petition if settlement is unobtainable. Following receiving the directions of City Council, the undersigned counsel has engaged in negotiations with counsel for the Plaintiff to resolve this matter. Those negotiations are ongoing but have not yet achieved a resolution. Moreover, any resolution agreed to by counsel for the parties may need to be presented to the City Council for their review and consideration at a public meeting depending on the nature of the resolution. Such a public meeting must be scheduled and conducted. A brief further extension of time is warranted in this matter to allow the settlement discussions to continue and if a settlement is achieved for it to be reviewed and considered by City Council. Alternatively, if a

¹ Indeed, the dearth of authority supporting the District Court’s and the Tenth Circuit’s decisions was recognized by the District Court who noted, “[a]fter much thought, I have concluded that going out on this lonely limb is the right thing to do.” *Free the Nipple-Fort Collins*, 237 F.Supp.3d at 1133.

resolution is not possible, the City Council needs to retain the option of pursuing a petition for certiorari with this Court and the undersigned counsel then requires some additional time to prepare and file an appropriate petition with this Court if that is the choice ultimately made by City Council. Accordingly, counsel respectfully requests a second 30-day extension of time to prepare and file a petition that will best assist this Court's review.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the time for filing Applicant City of Fort Collins, Colorado's petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit in this case should be extended to and including July 17, 2019.

June 6, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY certify a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on counsel for the Respondents by electronic mail and by United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid and addressed to the following:

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