OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

County Government Center 70 West Hedding Street East Wing, 9th Floor San José, California 95110-1770

(408) 299-5900 (408) 292-7240 (FAX)



James R. Williams COUNTY COUNSEL

Greta S. Hansen CHIEF ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL

Robert M. Coelho
Tony LoPresti
Steve Mitra
Kavita Narayan
Douglas M. Press
Gita C. Suraj
ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL

February 25, 2021

Hon. Scott S. Harris Clerk of the Court c/o Ms. Mara Silver Supreme Court of the United States One First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20543

Re: Gateway City Church, et al. v. Gavin Newsom, et al. No. 20A138

Dear Mr. Harris:

I write regarding the application for injunctive relief in the above-captioned case.

The Applicants seek to enjoin the enforcement of the County of Santa Clara's current prohibition on indoor gatherings under the County's Capacity and Gatherings Directives as applied to religious entities. In its Opposition to the Application filed earlier this week, the County represented that it expected that the time "to lift the prohibition on indoor gatherings" would "come very soon." *See* Opposition at 31.

Over the last several days, rates of COVID-19 in the County continue to decline. Today, the County's Health Officer announced that if the data continues to trend in a positive direction, the County will—as soon as next Wednesday, March 3, 2021—allow all indoor gatherings, including indoor worship gatherings, to resume up to the same capacity as all other indoor facilities that are open to the public in Santa Clara County. *See* Press Release, County of Santa

Letter to Hon. Scott S. Harris Re: *Gateway City Church, et al. v. Gavin Newsom, et al.*, No. 20A138 February 25, 2021 Page 2

Clara Emergency Operations Center, *Public Health Department Announces Major Changes in Santa Clara County Health Order Directives* (Feb. 25, 2021), https://tinyurl.com/4n35nfj4.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ James R. Williams
JAMES R. WILLIAMS
County Counsel
Counsel of Record for Respondents
County of Santa Clara and
Sara H. Cody, MD

cc: Kevin T. Snider
Pacific Justice Institute
P.O. Box 276600
Sacramento, CA 95827-6600
ksnider@pji.org

Marlis McAllister
McAllister Law Group
P.O. Box 756
Pine Grove, CO 80470
marlis@mcallisterlaw.net

Sharonrose Cannistraci Cannistraci Law Firm 236 N. Santa Cruz Ave., Suite 217 Los Gatos, CA 95030 Cannistracilaw@gmail.com

Counsel for Applicants

Xavier Becerra
Mark Beckington
Todd Grabarsky
California Department of Justice
300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Todd.grabarsky@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Defendants-Respondents Gavin Newsom and Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón