1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Kevin S. Conlogue, SBN 285277 (Kevin@LOKSC.com) Ashley M. Conolgue, SBN 292083 (Ashley@LOKSC.com) CONLOGUE LAW, LLP 292 S. La Cienega Blvd., Ste. 207 Beverly Hills, CA 90211 Tel: (213) 255-8837 Fax: (213) 477-2069 Attorney for Plaintiff DEBORAH MOLLER	
8 9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
10	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
11	DEBORAH MOLLER., an	Case No.:
12	individual and successor-in-interest	Cuse Ivo
13	of BRET BREUNIG, deceased;	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES
14	Disintiff	FOR:
15	Plaintiff,	1) Failure to Protect (42 U.S.C. §
16	v.	1983)
17	COLDITY OF CAN DEDNA DDDA	2) Due Process—Interference
	COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, a public entity; UNIDENTIFIED	with Parent/Child Relationship (42 U.S.C. §
18	DEPUTIES, individuals; CITY OF	1983)
19	REDLANDS, a public entity;	3) Due Process—State Created
20	UNIDENTIFIED OFFICERS,	Danger (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
21	individuals; LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL	4) Due Process – Special Relationship (42 U.S.C. §
22	CENTER, a non-profit corporation;	1983)
23	UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE	5) Monell Claim (42 U.S.C. §
	PROFESSIONALS, individuals; and	1983)
24	KENNETH BREUNIG, a nominal	6) Violation of EMTALA (42
25	Defendant,	U.S.C. § 1395dd) 7) Negligence
26	Defendants.	8) Bane Act Violation (Civil
27		Code § 52.1)
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9) Violation of California's Public Records Act (Cal. Gov't Code §§ 6250, et seq.)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

DECLARATION OF DEBORAH MOLLER

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, DEBORAH MOLLER, an individual and successor-in-interest of BRET BREUNIG deceased, for her claims against Defendants, COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO, a public entity; UNIDENTIFIED DEPUTIES, individuals; CITY OF REDLANDS, a public entity; UNIDENTIFIED OFFICERS, individuals; LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, a non-profit corporation; and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, individuals, and each of them, complains and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This civil rights action seeks compensatory and punitive damages from Defendants for violating various rights under state law and the United States Constitution in connection with the death of BRET BREUNIG during and after he was taken into custody on or about August 18, 2021, and released while BRET BREUNIG was unable to care for himself, and was a danger to himself and to others.

PARTIES

2. At all relevant times, Plaintiff, DEBORAH MOLLER (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), an individual and successor-in-interest of BRET BREUNIG, deceased (hereinafter "Decedent"), is and was a resident of the County of San Bernardino, State of California. Plaintiff is the natural mother of Decedent. Decedent died without issue, and thus Plaintiff has the superior right to bring this lawsuit as an individual and as a successor-in-interest pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure §§ 377.11, 377.30.

3. At all times herein relevant, Plaintiff is informed and believes, Defendant COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ("COUNTY"), is and was a duly organized public entity, form unknown, existing under the laws of the State of California.

- 4. At all times herein relevant, Plaintiff is informed and believes, Defendant CITY OF REDLANDS ("CITY"), is and was a duly organized public entity, form unknown, existing under the laws of the State of California.
- 5. At all times herein mentioned, Defendant CITY and COUNTY have possessed the power and authority to adopt policies and prescribe rules, regulations and practices affecting the City of Redlands' Police Department ("RPD") and the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department ("SBSD"), and particularly said Departments' Patrol, Internal Investigations and Training, and Personnel Divisions and other operations and subdivisions presently unidentified to Plaintiff, and their tactics methods, practices, customs and usages.
- 6. At all times herein relevant, Plaintiff is informed and believes, Defendant LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER (hereinafter "LOMA LINDA"), is and was a nonprofit public benefit corporation existing under the laws of the State of California.
- 7. The true names of defendants UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names as Defendant LOMA LINDA refused to properly identify said deputies as alleged *infra*. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this complaint to show the true names and capacities of these defendants when they have been ascertained. Each of the UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS are health-care professionals who are responsible in some manner for the conduct and liabilities alleged herein.
- 8. The true names of defendants UNIDENTIFIED DEPUTIES and UNIDENTIFIED OFFICERS are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names as Defendants CITY and COUNTY refused to

- properly identify said deputies as alleged *infra*. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this
- 2 complaint to show the true names and capacities of these defendants when they have
- 3 | been ascertained. Each of the UNIDENTIFED DEPUTIES and UNIDENTIFIED
- 4 OFFICERS are responsible in some manner for the conduct and liabilities alleged
- 5 | herein.
- 6 | 9. At all relevant times, CITY and COUNTY were the employers of Defendants
- 7 | UNIDENTIFIED DEPUTIES (hereinafter the "Responding Deputies") and
- 8 UNIDENTIFIED OFFICERS (hereinafter the "Responding Officers"), and said
- 9 | individuals were employees and agents of CITY and COUNTY.
- 10 | 10. At all relevant times, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding
- 11 Officers, and each of them, were duly authorized employees and agents of the CITY
- 12 and COUNTY, who were acting under color of law within the course and scope of
- 13 their respective duties as Peace Officers and with the complete authority and
- 14 | ratification of their principal, Defendants CITY and COUNTY, which are additionally
- 15 | liable in respondent superior pursuant to section 815.2 of the California Government
- 16 Code for the acts of said Defendants which are alleged herein.
- 17 | 11. At all times relevant, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding
- 18 Officers, and each of them, were duly appointed officers and/or employees or agents
- 19 of CITY and COUNTY, subject to oversight and supervision by CITY's and
- 20 COUNTY's elected and non-elected officials.
- 21 | 12. In doing the acts and failing and omitting to act as hereinafter described,
- 22 Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of them, were
- 23 acting on the implied and actual permission and consent of CITY and COUNTY.
- 24 | 13. At all times herein relevant, Defendants CITY and COUNTY were the
- 25 | employer and/or principal of the Responding Deputies and Responding Officers
- 26 herein, and/or were and are legally responsible for the acts, omissions, and conduct of
- 27 | the Responding Deputies and Responding Officers herein, within the meaning of

- Government Code §§ 815.2(a), 815.4, 820(a), among other provisions, and are liable to Plaintiff by reason thereof.
- 3 | 14. At all times herein relevant, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding
- 4 Officers, and each of them, were and are legally responsible for their acts, omissions,
- 5 and conduct that gives rise to this lawsuit, within the meaning of Government Code §
- 6 | 820(a), among other provisions, and are liable to Plaintiff by reason thereof.
- 7 | 15. Defendants Responding Deputies, Responding Officers, UNIDENTIFIED
- 8 | HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, LOMA LINDA, and each of them, did the acts
- 9 and omissions hereinafter alleged willfully, intentionally, maliciously, in bad faith and
- 10 with knowledge that their conduct violated well established and settled law and
- 11 constituted a willful and conscious disregard for the rights and safety of Decedent.
- 12 | 16. At all times mentioned herein, each and every defendant was the agent of each
- 13 and every other defendant and had the legal duty to oversee and supervise the hiring,
- 14 conduct and employment of each and every defendant herein.
- 15 | 17. Prior to the commencement of this action, Plaintiff presented a government
- 16 tort claim with COUNTY in full and timely compliance with the California Tort
- 17 Claim Act. Said claim has been expressly denied or denied by operation of law by
- 18 COUNTY. Plaintiff has complied with the requirements of the Government Code for
- 19 the timely filing of formal claims with COUNTY.
- 20 | 18. Prior to the commencement of this action, Plaintiff presented a government
- 21 | tort claim with Defendant CITY in full and timely compliance with the California Tort
- 22 | Claim Act. However, Plaintiff has not received a response to Plaintiff's tort claim.
- 23 | Plaintiff will amend this pleading based upon the of Plaintiff's government tort claim
- 24 against Defendant CITY for the state claims alleged herein.
- 25 | 19. At all times herein relevant, nominal Defendant KENNETH BREUNIG, an
- 26 | individual and the father of decedent, is and was a resident in the State of California,
- 27 and is joined herein as a nominal defendant in accordance with California Code of
- 28 || Civil Procedure section 382.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2 20. This civil action is brought for the redress of alleged deprivations of constitutional rights as protected by the U.S. Constitution, the Fourteenth Amendment, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331,
 - 21. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because Defendants reside in, and all incidents, events, and occurrences giving rise to this action occurred in County of San Bernardino, State of California.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

- 22. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in the prior paragraphs, as though fully set forth herein.
- 23. On information and belief, on August 18, 2021, Decedent presented to LOMA LINDA and to UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS seeking emergency medical treatment. On information and belief, Decedent was then suffering from an acute emergency medical condition requiring emergency medical care, including but not limited to an infection impacting his left foot and leg. On information and belief, the infection, as well as a prior surgery from which Decedent had not yet recovered, impinged Decedent's ability to ambulate.
- 24. On information and belief, Decedent did not receive an appropriate medical screening evaluation under EMTALA or other statutory law, in that it, among other things:
 - a. was not calculated to identify critical medical condition(s);
 - b. did not provide the same level of screening to Decedent that other, substantially similar patients received,
 - c. on information and belief, did not meet LOMA LINDA's internal procedures for a screening examination, and;

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- d. did not afford Decedent the processes and remedies that were within the emergency room's capabilities.
- 25. On information and belief, Decedent was thereafter forcibly removed from
- 4 | LOMA LINDA's property, in that, among other things, LOMA LINDA called for
- 5 | SBSD and RPD officers and deputies to remove Decedent from the premises.
- 6 | 26. On information and belief, on or about 11:30 a.m. on August 18, 2021,
- 7 | Responding Officers and Responding Deputies arrived at LOMA LINDA and did in
- 8 | fact forcibly remove Decedent from the premises.
- 9 | 27. At or immediately prior to the time Responding Officers and Responding
- 10 Deputies made contact with Decedent, he was visibly impaired, was visibly in need of
- 11 | medical attention, could not take care of himself, and was a danger to his own safety
- 12 and to the safety of others.
- 13 | 28. Additionally, Responding Officers and Responding Deputies had made
- 14 contact with Decedent on multiple occasions in the several days prior to August 18,
- 15 | 2021, and were thus aware of the fact that Decedent posed a danger to himself or
- 16 others by virtue of this prior contact.
- 17 | 29. On information and belief, at the time Responding Deputies and/or
- 18 Responding Officers arrested Decedent, he was not wearing any clothing except for a
- 19 hospital gown and blanket, and was not wearing any shoes. Decedent also did not
- 20 have any personal effects, including any money or a cell phone, and was without any
- 21 | medical device such as crutches to help him ambulate, despite the injuries and trauma
- 22 | to his right leg.
- 23 | 30. At or about that same time, Responding Deputies and Responding Officers
- 24 | arrested Decedent and drove away with Decedent in custody in Responding Deputies'
- 25 and/or Officers' patrol vehicle. Responding Deputies' and/or Officers' custodial
- 26 duties required them to take Decedent to the station for booking and to maintain
- 27 Decedent in custody there until he was no longer a danger to his own safety and the

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- safety of others, and/or required them to take Decedent to an appropriate medical facility for medical attention.
- 3 | 31. Instead of doing so, Responding Deputies and/or Responding Officers dropped
- 4 Decedent off at or near the train crossing at or near the intersection of Alessandro
- 5 | Road and San Timoteo Canyon Road in Redlands, California when he was still visibly
- 6 unable to care for himself. There are no public services available in and around this
- 7 | area. And, there are no hospitals and/or medical providers in and around this area.
- 8 | 32. On information and belief, at the time Responding Deputies and/or
- 9 Responding Officers dropped Decedent off at or near the train crossing, a train was
- 10 approaching or in the process of traversing the train crossing.
- 11 || 33. On information and belief, almost immediately thereafter, Decedent, while
- 12 being in a state unable to take care of himself, wandered onto the train crossing where
- 13 he is struck by the passing train, ultimately leading to Decedent's death.
- 14 | 34. On August 18, 2021, Responding Deputies and/or Responding Officers knew
- 15 that Decedent was a danger to his own safety and the safety of others, knew that
- 16 Decedent must be kept in custody until he was no longer a danger, or transferred to an
- 17 appropriate medical facility, and knew that Decedent would face great bodily harm
- 18 and death if Decedent was not so treated. Yet in reckless disregard of that knowledge,
- 19 | the Responding Deputies and/or Responding Officers released Decedent even though
- 20 | a reasonable person in the Responding Deputies' and/or Responding Officers'
- 21 position would have appreciated the high degree of risk and harm involved. The
- 22 Responding Deputies and Responding Officers were deliberately indifferent to the
- 23 substantial risk of harm that Decedent faced.
- 24 | 35. Subsequent to Decedent's death, Plaintiff, the biological mother of Decedent,
- 25 | called SBSD and RPD to obtain information regarding Decedent's death.
- 26 | 36. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges Defendants Responding
- 27 | Deputies, Responding Deputies, COUNTY and CITY quickly reached a meeting of
- 28 minds to cover up their illegal behavior and conspired with one another to fabricate

- 1 | facts and details regarding Decedent's incident, withhold and/or destroy evidence of
- 2 | the incident, and put themselves in the best possible but false light, attempting to
- 3 | justify their failures as alleged herein, all in violation of Decedent's and Plaintiff's
- 4 | rights against this manner of misconduct under California and federal law.
- 5 | 37. The aforementioned incident caused Decedent's death and caused him to
- 6 suffer pre-death pain and suffering and loss of life, and Plaintiff to suffer damages, all
- 7 | to be proven at the time of trial.

FACTS RELATED TO PLAINTIFF'S PUBLIC RECORDS ACT REQUEST

- 9 | 38. Prior to the filing of this action, Plaintiff attempted to obtain records from
- 10 LOMA LINDA, CITY, and COUNTY pertaining to Decedent's death. However,
- 11 Plaintiff was denied records or, at best, provided heavily redacted and incomplete
- 12 || records regarding CITY, COUNTY, and LOMA LINDA's interaction(s) with
- 13 Decedent in and around the time of his death.
- 14 | 39. Plaintiff made further inquiries regarding the relevant documents, but was told
- 15 that further documents would not, or could not, be produced.
- 16 | 40. On May 26, 2022, Plaintiff submitted a California Public Records Act
- 17 ("CPRA", Gov't Code §§ 6250, et seq.) Request to the San Bernardino County
- 18 | Sheriff's Department, the San Bernardino County Coroner, and the City of Redlands
- 19 | requesting, among other things: (1) all incident, contact, and reports concerning
- 20 Decedent; (2) all probable cause declarations or reports related to Decedent's arrest or
- 21 || contact; (3) all photographs of Decedent's arrest or contact; (4) all videos concerning
- 22 | the arrest or contact of Decedent, including body camera videos and MVARS; (5) all
- 23 evidence gathered by Deputies; (6) the identity of the Deputies who contacted
- 24 | Decedent; (7) the identity of the Deputies who arrested Decedent; (8) all custody logs
- 25 of Decedent; (9) all booking evidence of Decedent; (10) all documents evidencing
- 26 Decedent's release from custody; (11) the identity of the Deputies who released
- 27 Decedent from custody; (12) the time in which Decedent was released from custody;

- and, (13) all witness statements related to the incident. Plaintiff's request fully complied with the CPRA.
- 3 | 41. No response was received from COUNTY, save an email message from
- 4 Defendant COUNTY requesting further time to process Plaintiff's request, sent on
- 5 || July 15, 2022.
- 6 | 42. No substantive response was received from CITY, save letters stating
- 7 | Plaintiff's request remained pending and under investigation, dated June 1, 2022 and
- 8 June 16, 2022.

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- 9 | 43. On information and belief, Plaintiff believes that other individuals are legally
- 10 responsible for the death of Decedent, but due to Defendant's failure to properly
- comply with the California Public Records Act, Plaintiff was precluded from properly
- 12 | identifying other culpable individuals.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Failure to Protect (42 U.S.C. § 1983)

(Against Responding Deputies and Officers)

- 44. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein.
- 45. Plaintiff brings this claim as the successor-in-interest of Decedent pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Sections 377.11, 377.30.
- 21 | 46. The actions and inactions of Defendants Responding Deputies and/or
- 22 | Responding Officers, as described above, deprived Decedent of the following clearly
- 23 established rights under the United States Constitution, including, but not limited to
- 24 | the right to be protected while in custody as secured by the Fourth and Fourteenth
- 25 Amendments, the right to be free from unlawful, reckless, deliberately indifferent, and
- 26 conscience shocking failure to provide safe conditions of confinement as secured by
- 27 | the Fourteenth Amendment, and the right to procedural and substantive due process as
- 28 secured by the Fourteenth Amendment.

- 1 | 47. During all times mentioned herein, Defendants Responding Deputies and
- 2 Responding Officers, separately and in concert, acted under color and pretense of law,
- 3 under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, practices, customs and
- 4 usages of their principals, Defendants CITY and COUNTY. Each of the individual
- 5 Defendants named herein, separately and in concert, deprived Decedent of the rights,
- 6 | privileges and immunities secured to him by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments
 - to the United States Constitution, and by the laws of the United States.
- 8 | 48. The above acts of omissions of Defendants Responding Deputies and
- 9 Responding Officers were undertaken while under color of state law and resulted in
- 10 the violation of Decedent's constitutional rights, as stated herein.
- 11 | 49. The actions of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and
- 12 | each of them, deprived Decedent of his right to be free from state actions that shock
- 13 | the conscience under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause.
- 14 | 50. As a result of the conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and
- 15 Responding Officers, and each of them, they are liable for Decedent's harm and death,
- 16 either because they were integral participants in the violations described herein, or
- 17 because they failed to intervene to prevent these violations. Defendants actions and/or
- 18 omissions were the direct and proximal cause of Decedent's damages and death.
- 19 | 51. As a direct and proximate result of the death of Decedent by the above-
- 20 described conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, the
- 21 Decedent sustained general damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, and loss
- 22 of enjoyment of life and other hedonic damages in an amount according to proof at
- 23 | trial.

- 24 | 52. The conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers
- 25 was willful, wanton, malicious and done with an evil motive and intent and a reckless
- 26 disregard for the rights and safety of Decedent, and therefore warrants the imposition
- 27 of exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants.

53. Accordingly, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers are 1 liable to Plaintiff for compensatory and punitive damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. 2

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Due Process—Interference with Parent/Child Relationship (42 U.S.C. § 1983) (Against Responding Deputies and Officers)

- 54. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein.
- This claim arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the United States Constitution, 55. 9 the laws of the State of California, and common law principles to redress a deprivation 10 under color of state law of rights, privileges and immunities secured to Plaintiff by said statutes, and by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution Due 12 Process Clause. 13
 - 56. Parents and children possess a constitutionally protected liberty interest in companionship and society with each other.
 - 57. Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of their, actions and inactions deprived Plaintiff of both procedural due process and substantive due process as guaranteed to the Plaintiff under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution when Defendants Responding Deputies' and Responding Officers' actions and inactions proximately caused Decedent's death. Defendant Responding Deputies' and Responding Officers' actions and inactions did not further any legitimate state interest and were oppressive and shock the conscience under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause and were done with deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's right to be free from state actions.
 - The above acts of omissions of Defendants Responding Deputies and 58. Responding Officers were undertaken while under color of state law and resulted in the violation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights, as stated herein.

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- The actions of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of them, deprived Plaintiff of her right to be free from state actions that shock the conscience under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause.
 - 60. As a result of the conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of them, they are liable for Decedent's harm and death, either because they were integral participants in the violations described herein, or because they failed to intervene to prevent these violations. Defendants actions and/or omissions were the direct and proximal cause of Decedent's death and Plaintiff's damages.
 - 61. As a direct and proximate result of the death of Decedent by the above-described conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, Plaintiff has sustained substantial non-economic damages of pain and suffering and emotional distress resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, and moral support damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial.
 - 62. The conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers was willful, wanton, malicious and done with an evil motive and intent and a reckless disregard for the rights and safety of Decedent and the rights of Plaintiff, and therefore warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants.
 - 63. Accordingly, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory and punitive damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Due Process—State Created Danger (42 U.S.C. § 1983) (Against Responding Deputies and Officers)

64. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein.

Plaintiff brings this claim as an individual and the successor-in-interest of Decedent pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Sections 377.11, 377.30, 377.62.

Constitution Due Process Clause.

- This claim arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the United States Constitution, the laws of the State of California, and common law principles to redress a deprivation under color of state law of rights, privileges and immunities secured to Decedent and Plaintiff by said statutes, and by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States
 - 67. Defendants Responding Deputies' and Responding Officers' actions placed Decedent in an actual, particularized danger by creating and exposing Decedent to the danger as alleged herein which Decedent would not have faced but for Defendants' actions.
 - 68. By Defendants Responding Deputies' and Responding Officers' acts and omissions, Defendants acted with deliberate indifference to the known and obvious danger to Decedent's health and safety.
 - 69. As a result of the conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of them, they are liable for Decedent's harm and death, either because they were integral participants in the violations described herein, or because they failed to intervene to prevent these violations. Defendants actions and/or omissions were the direct and proximal cause of Decedent's death and Plaintiff's damages.
 - 70. As a direct and proximate result of the death of Decedent by the above-described conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, the Decedent sustained general damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life and other hedonic damages in an amount according to proof at trial, and Plaintiff has sustained substantial non-economic damages of pain and suffering and emotional distress resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, and moral support damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial.

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- 71. The conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers was willful, wanton, malicious and done with an evil motive and intent and a reckless
- disregard for the rights and safety of Decedent and the rights of Plaintiff, and therefore
- warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants.
- Accordingly, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory and punitive damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- Due Process—Special Relationship (42 U.S.C. § 1983)
 - (Against Responding Deputies and Officers)
- Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every 73. allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set
- forth herein.
 - Plaintiff brings this claim as an individual and the successor-in-interest of 74.
- Decedent pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Sections 377.11, 377.30, 377.62.
- This claim arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and the United States Constitution, 75.
- the laws of the State of California, and common law principles to redress a deprivation
- under color of state law of rights, privileges and immunities secured to Decedent and
- to Plaintiff by said statutes, and by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States
- Constitution Due Process Clause.
- Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers entered into a 76.
- special relationship with Decedent by, inter alia, taking him into custody on August
- 18, 2021.
 - Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers failed to provide 77.
- Decedent with adequate medical care while in their custody. 24
- By Defendants Responding Deputies' and Responding Officers' acts and 78.
- omissions, Defendants acted with deliberate indifference to the known and obvious 26
- danger to Decedent's health and safety. 27

- 79. As a result of the conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and 1 Responding Officers, and each of them, they are liable for Decedent's harm and death, 2 either because they were integral participants in the violations described herein, or 3 because they failed to intervene to prevent these violations. Defendants actions and/or 4 omissions were the direct and proximal cause of Decedent's death and Plaintiff's 5 damages. 6 80. As a direct and proximate result of the death of Decedent by the above-7 described conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, the 8
 - described conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, the Decedent sustained general damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life and other hedonic damages in an amount according to proof at trial, and Plaintiff has sustained substantial non-economic damages of pain and suffering and emotional distress resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, and moral support damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial.

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- 81. The conduct of Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers was willful, wanton, malicious and done with an evil motive and intent and a reckless disregard for the rights and safety of Decedent and the rights of Plaintiff, and therefore warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages as to Defendants.
- 82. Accordingly, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory and punitive damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Monell Claim (42 U.S.C. § 1983)

(Against Defendants CITY and COUNTY)

- 83. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein.
- 84. Defendants CITY and COUNTY are and at all times herein mentioned have been a public entity and incorporated municipality duly authorized and existing as

such in and under the laws of the State of California; and at all times herein mentioned, Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD possessed the power and authority to adopt polices and prescribe rules, regulations and practices affecting the operation of the CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD and its tactics, methods, practices, customs and usages related to internal investigations, personnel supervision and records maintenance and the proper application of their powers of arrest by its rank and file, generally.

- 85. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of them, were employees of the RPD and/or SBSD acting under the CITY's and COUNTY's direction and control, who knowingly and intentionally promulgated, maintained, applied, enforced and suffered the continuation of policies, customs, practices and usages in violation of the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments respectively to the United States Constitution, which customs, policies, practices and usages at all times herein mentioned encouraged the employment, deployment and retention of persons as peace officers who have a propensity for failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, dishonesty, cover-up, bias, and numerous other serious abuses of their duties as peace officers in the employment of the RPD, SBSD, CITY, and COUNTY.
- 86. Defendants CITY and COUNTY knowingly maintain and permit official *sub-rosa* policies or customs of permitting the occurrence of the kinds of wrongs set forth above, by deliberate indifference to widespread police abuses, failing and refusing to fairly and impartially investigate, discipline or prosecute officers who commit acts of failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, dishonesty, cover-up, bias, and crimes under color of law, each ratified and approved by the RPD and SBSD.
- 87. On and for some time prior to August 18, 2021 (and continuing to the present date), Defendants CITY and COUNTY, deprived Decedent and Plaintiff of the rights and liberties secured to them by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United

- incident, of repeated allegations of misconduct toward detainees and arrestees; specifically, CITY and COUNTY knew Defendants

 Responding Deputies and Responding Officers, and each of them, had in the past and since Decedent's incident, committed similar acts of failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, falsifying reports, suppressing evidence, and dishonesty, thereby enabling Defendants to continue to violate the constitutional rights of the Decedent and Plaintiff in 2021 and thereafter;
- (b) Defendants CITY and COUNTY had knowledge, prior to and since this incident, of similar allegations of failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, falsifying reports, suppressing evidence, and dishonesty by Defendants, and refused to enforce established administrative procedures to insure the rights of detainees and arrestees;
- (c) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD refused to adequately discipline individual officers and employees found to have committed similar acts of failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, and misconduct;

- (d) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD refused to competently and impartially investigate allegations of failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, and misconduct alleged to have been committed by Department employees;
- (e) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD reprimanded, threatened, intimidated, demoted and fired officers who courageously reported unlawful acts by other officers;
- (f) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD covered up acts of misconduct and abuse by CITY and COUNTY officers and sanctioned a code of silence by and among officers and management;
- (g) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD knew of and sanctioned the custom and practice of failing to protect citizens in custody, failing to provide safe conditions of confinement, and misconduct;
- (h) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD failed to adequately supervise the actions of officers under their control and guidance;
- (i) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD historically condone and encourage systemic conspiracy of silence among its employees for the purpose of concealing and further wrongful and illegal conduct by its employees; and,
- (j) Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD fostered and encouraged an atmosphere of lawlessness, abuse and misconduct, which by August 18, 2021, and thereafter, represented the unconstitutional policies practices and customs of the CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD.
- 88. By reason and pursuant to the aforesaid policies, practices, customs, and usages of Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and the SBSD, the Decedent sustained general damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life and other hedonic damages in an amount according to proof at trial, and Plaintiff has sustained substantial non-economic damages of pain and suffering and emotional

distress resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, and moral support damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial.

- 89. Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD, together with various other officials, whether named or unnamed, had either actual or constructive knowledge of the deficient policies, practices and customs alleged in the paragraphs above. Despite having knowledge as stated above these defendants condoned, tolerated and through actions and inactions thereby ratified such policies. Said defendants also acted with deliberate indifference to the foreseeable effects and consequences of these policies with respect to the constitutional rights of Decedent and Plaintiff, and other individuals similarly situated.
- 90. By perpetrating, sanctioning, tolerating and ratifying the outrageous conduct and other wrongful acts, Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD acted with an intentional, reckless, and callous disregard for the well being of Decedent and Plaintiff and their constitutional as well as human rights. Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD and each of their actions were willful, wanton, oppressive, malicious, fraudulent, and extremely offensive and unconscionable to any person of normal sensibilities.
- 91. Furthermore, the policies, practices, and customs implemented and maintained and still tolerated by Defendants CITY, COUNTY, RPD and SBSD were affirmatively linked to and were a significantly influential force and moving force behind Decedent's death and Plaintiff's damages.
- 92. By reason of the aforesaid policies, customs, practices and usages, Decedent's Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were violated along with Plaintiff's Fourteenth Amendment rights. Said customs, policies, practices and usages at all times herein mentioned violated constitutional rights including those of Decedent and Plaintiff.

93. Accordingly, Defendant CITY and COUNTY are liable to Plaintiff for compensatory damages under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violation of EMTALA (42 U.S.C. § 1395dd)

(Against Defendant LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS)

- 94. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein
- 95. On information and belief, Defendant LOMA LINDA is licensed by the State of California to provide emergency room services. The hospital holds itself out to the public as providing emergency services. As such, Defendant LOMA LINDA is a participating hospital covered by EMTALA.

Failure to Screen

- 96. Under EMTALA's statutory and regulatory provisions, Defendant LOMA LINDA had a duty to provide an appropriate emergency screening examination to all patients who come into its emergency room seeking examination or treatment, without regard to their ability to pay for emergency medical services or any other factor.
 - Specifically, EMTALA provides, in 42 U.S.C. § 1395dd(a): "[i]n the case of a hospital that has a hospital emergency department, if any individual (whether or not eligible for benefits under this subchapter) comes to the emergency department and a request is made on the individual's behalf for examination or treatment for a medical condition, the hospital must provide for an appropriate medical screening examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department...to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition...exists"
- 98. On information and belief, Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS failed to provide Decedent with an appropriate

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emergency screening examination on August 18, 2021. Rather, Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS wrongfully had Decedent forcefully removed from their property prior to him receiving any appropriate medical screening examination, despite the fact that Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS were or should have been aware of Decedent's need for emergent treatment. **Disparate Treatment** On information and belief. Decedent did not receive any appropriate medical 99. screening examination prior to being forcibly removed from LOMA LINDA's premises. On information and belief, Decedent received materially different treatment than other individuals presenting with the same or similar condition(s), in that like individuals received appropriate medical screening examinations and Decedent did not. 100. On information and belief, LOMA LINDA has standardized policies and procedures, and screening protocols, which govern the medical screening examination to be provided to persons who present to the emergency department in the same or similar condition as Decedent. On information and belief, Defendant LOMA LINDA did not follow its own screening protocol, policy and/or procedure with respect to Decedent. Specifically, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS failed to provide Decedent the medical screening examination called for under Defendant's own policies and procedures. 101. As a direct and proximate result of the death of Decedent by the abovedescribed conduct of Defendants LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, Plaintiff has sustained substantial economic damages and non-economic damages of pain and suffering resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, moral support, and

wrongful death damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial.

As a direct and proximate result of the death of Decedent by the above-1 described conduct of Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH 2 CARE PROFESSIONALS, the Decedent sustained economic damages and general 3 damages, including pre-death pain and suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life and 4 other hedonic damages in an amount according to proof at trial. 5 103. The conduct of Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH 6 CARE PROFESSIONALS was willful, wanton, malicious and done with an evil 7 motive and intent and a reckless disregard for the rights and safety of Decedent, and 8 therefore warrants the imposition of exemplary and punitive damages, including any 9 civil penalties, as to Defendant LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH 10 CARE PROFESSIONALS. 11 **SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF** 12 **Negligence** 13 (Against All Defendants save CITY) 14 Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every 104. 15 allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set 16 forth herein. 17 By virtue of the foregoing, Defendants Responding Deputies, Responding 105. 18 OFFICERS, COUNTY, LOMA LINDA and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE 19 PROFESSIONALS and each of them, owed Decedent a duty of due care, and that 20 duty was breached by said Defendants' negligence and failure to exercise due care in 21 dealing with, detaining, arresting, failing to protect Decedent while in custody, failing 22 to provide safe conditions of confinement for Decedent, and failing to meet their 23 statutory obligations with respect to Decedent. 24 Defendants COUNTY and LOMA LINDA possessed the power and authority 106. 25 to hire and fire employees and based upon information and belief and negligently 26 hired Defendants Responding Deputies Responding Officers and UNIDENTIFIED 27

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, and each of them, and entrusted them with the

- following duties: protect citizens during detainment and arrests, protect detainees and arrestees in custody, provide safe conditions of confinement of detainees and arrestees, provide adequate and statutorily compliant medical screening examinations.
- 107. By virtue of the foregoing, Defendants COUNTY and LOMA LINDA owed Decedent a duty of due care, and that duty was breached by said Defendants' negligent and careless manner in hiring, training, supervising and retaining by, among other things:
- a) Failing to adequately train its officers in the detention, arrest, and custody of citizens;
- b) Failing to adequately train its officers to protect citizens in custody and to provide safe conditions of confinement for citizens in custody;
- c) Failing to adequately investigate background, training and experience as a officer and his propensity for disobedience;
- d) Failing to provide adequate supervisory control over the actions of its officers in regard to adequate training, supervision, equipment, planning, oversight, and administration;
- e) Failing to control the conduct of its officers who have a known propensity for disobedience and in failing to discipline its officers;
- f) Failing to investigate in good faith, allegations of abuse and failing to protect citizens in custody by its officers;
- g) Failing to discipline its officers who improperly fail to protect and to provide safe conditions of confinement during custody of citizens;
- h) Sanctioning, condoning and approving a law enforcement-wide custom and practice of a code of silence, cover-up and dishonesty, and
- i) Failing to provide an adequate medical screening examination to Decedent.

108. Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers are liable to 1 Plaintiff for said negligence pursuant to California Government Code § 820(a), 2 amongst other provisions. 3 109. Defendant COUNTY is liable to Plaintiff for said negligence pursuant to 4 California Government Code §§ 815.2(a), 815.4, 820(a), amongst other provisions. 5 Prior to the commencement of this action, Plaintiff presented a government 110. 6 tort claim with Defendant CITY in full and timely compliance with the California Tort 7 Claim Act. However, Plaintiff has not received a response to Plaintiff's tort claim. 8 Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant CITY is also liable for Plaintiff's 9 injuries, as alleged herein and Plaintiff will amend this pleading based upon the of 10 Plaintiff's government tort claim against Defendant CITY for the state claims alleged 11 herein. 12 As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Defendants, as complained 111. 13 of herein, Decedent died, and Plaintiff has sustained substantial non-economic 14 damages of pain and suffering and emotional distress resulting from the loss of the 15 love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, and moral 16 support damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial. 17 As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has damages as 112. 18 recited above and demands and is entitled to, including, but not limited to, general, 19 special and punitive damages (except as to Defendant COUNTY for punitive 20 damages), and any other relief allowable at law or in equity. 21 EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF 22

Bane Act Violation (Civil Code § 52.1)
(Against all Defendants save CITY)

113. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein.

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114. The actions of all Defendants, save CITY, as complained of herein, interfered with, and/or attempted to interfere with, by use of threats, intimidation, and/or coercion, the exercise or enjoyment by Decedent the rights secured to him by the California Constitution and otherwise by California law, in violation of California Civil Code § 52.1. Specifically, Defendants failed to protect Decedent while in custody, failed to provide medical care, and failed to provide safe conditions of confinement of Decedent when said Defendants had a legal obligation to do so. Defendants violated Decedent's freedom, independence, liberty, obtaining safety and happiness, and right to be free from an unreasonable seizure of his person. Defendants Responding Deputies and Responding Officers are liable to 115. Plaintiff for said violations of Decedent's constitutional rights, pursuant to California Civil Code § 52.1, and California Government Code § 820(a), amongst other provisions. 116. Defendant COUNTY is liable to Plaintiff for said violations of Decedent's constitutional and statutory rights, pursuant to California Civil Code § 52.1, and California Government Code §§ 815.2(a), 815.4, 820(a), amongst other provisions. 117. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of Defendants, as complained of herein, Decedent died, and Plaintiff has sustained substantial non-economic damages of pain and suffering and emotional distress resulting from the loss of the love, companionship, comfort, affection, society, attention, services, and moral support damages of this Decedent in an amount according to proof at trial. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing, Plaintiff has damages as 118. recited above and demands and is entitled to, including, but not limited to, general, special and punitive damages (except as to Defendant COUNTY for punitive damages), treble compensatory damages, attorney's fees, and any other relief allowable at law or in equity. ///

NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violation of California's Public Records Act (Cal. Gov't Code §§ 6250, et seq.) (Against Defendant COUNTY and CITY)

- 119. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation and statement contained in paragraphs 22 through 43, as though fully set forth herein.
- 120. A California governmental entity has the duty to respond to a CPRA request made by an individual of the public.
- 121. Plaintiff is a member of the public and is beneficially interested in the outcome of these proceedings; he has a clear, present and substantial right to the relief sought herein. Plaintiff has no plain, speedy and adequate remedy at law other than that sought herein.
- 13 | 122. A member of the public who believes that public records are being improperly withheld may bring suit for mandate to enforce the CPRA. (Gov't Code §§ 6258, 6259(a).) If the Court finds that the public official's decision to refuse disclosure is
- not justified, it shall order the public official to make the records public. (*Id.* § 6259(b).)
 - 123. Defendant COUNTY's and CITY's failure to provide a proper response to Plaintiff's CPRA Requests and/or to produce responsive documents and names violates the California Public Records Act, which provides that "[p]ublic records are open to inspection at all times during the office hours of the state or local agency and every person has a right to inspect any public record, except as hereafter provided."
- 23 (Gov't Code § 6253(a).)

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- 24 | 124. Defendant COUNTY and CITY has a legal obligation to make all public
- 25 | records available for inspection by any member of the public upon request. Defendant
- 26 COUNTY and CITY has not made a valid claim that any of the documents and
- 27 information sought are exempted from disclosure under proper statutory grounds for
- 28 withholding documents.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests entry of judgment in his favor and against Defendants Responding Deputies, Responding Officers, CITY, COUNTY, LOMA LINDA, and UNIDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS as follows:

- 1. For general, special, hedonic, and compensatory damages in the amount to be proven at trial;
- 2. For punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial (save against CITY and COUNTY);
- 14 | 3. For interest;
- 15 || 4. For costs;

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- 16 5. For reasonable costs of this suit and attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 17 1988;
 - 6. For attorneys' fees pursuant to Civil Code §§ 52, 52.1;

ensure compliance by Defendant COUNTY with the CPRA.

- 7. Any civil penalties, including treble damages and a minimum of \$4,000.00; and,
- 8. For such further other relief as the Court may deem just, proper, and appropriate.

AND WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests entry of judgment in his favor and against Defendants COUNTY and CITY as follows:

- 1. For reasonable costs of this suit and attorneys' fees;
- 25 2. For equitable relief to ensure compliance with the CPRA; and,
- 27 | ///

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3. For such further other relief as the Court may deem just, proper, and appropriate. Date: July 26, 2022 **CONLOGUE LAW, LLP** By: <u>/s/Ashley M. Conlogue</u> Kevin S. Conlogue Ashley M. Conlogue Attorneys for Plaintiff DEBORAH MOLLER

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury. Date: July 26, 2022 **CONLOGUE LAW, LLP** By: __/s/Ashley M. Conlogue Kevin S. Conlogue Ashley M. Conlogue Attorneys for Plaintiff
DEBORAH MOLLER

DECLARATION OF DEBORAH MOLLER

- I, Deborah Moller, declare that if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the following, of my own personal knowledge:
 - 1. Bret Breunig is deceased.
 - 2. Decedent passed away on or about August 18, 2021 in County of San Bernardino, State of California.
 - 3. No proceeding is now pending in California for administration of the Decedent's estate.
 - 4. I am the Decedent's successor in interest (as defined in Section 377.11 of the California Code of Civil Procedure) and succeed to the Decedent's interest in the action or proceeding as I am his biological mother.
 - 5. No other person has a superior right to commence the action or proceeding or to be substituted for the Decedent in the pending action or proceeding as Decedent did not leave any issue.
 - 6. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of Decedent's death certificate and is incorporated herein.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 26, 2022, at ______, California.

