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Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The findings and recommendations filed November 30, 2017, are adopted in full;
2. Respondent’s motion to dismiss (ECF No. 24) is denied;
3. Respondent is directed to file a responsive pleading within thirty days from the date of this order; and
4. The court declines to issue the certificate of appealability referenced in 28 U.S.C. § 2253.

DATED: March 19, 2018

/s/ John A. Mendez

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE