No. 08-cv-4373-VRW – Defendants' Unopposed Administrative Motion for an Extension of Time to Answer or Otherwise Respond to Complaint

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On September 18, 2008, plaintiffs filed a complaint alleging violations of the Constitution and federal statutes arising out of alleged warrantless surveillance and raising claims against the National Security Agency ("NSA") and Government officials in their official and individual capacities. See Dkt. 1 in 08-cv-4373 (Sept. 18, 2008). Plaintiffs moved unopposed to relate this case to Hepting, et al. v. AT&T Corp. et al., 06-cv-0672-vrw, see Dkt. 7 in 08-cv-4373, which is consolidated with other actions before the Court by Order of the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, see Dkt. 1 in 06-m-1791. The Court granted plaintiffs' motion on October 28, 2008, see Dkt. 9 in 08-cv-4373. A response to the complaint by the NSA and Government defendants sued in their official capacity was initially due December 8, 2008. Pursuant to Local Rule 6-1(a), the parties stipulated and agreed that a response to the complaint by the Government defendants sued in their official capacities would be due no later than February 2, 2009. See Dkt. 11 in 08-cv-4373 (Nov. 26, 2008). A response to the complaint by the individual capacity defendants is also currently due February 2, 2009, based on the date plaintiffs effected service on those defendants. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(a)(3). The defendants request that they be afforded an additional 60 days, or until April 3, 2009,² to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint filed in this matter and that the hearing date set for March 26, 2009 be reset for a later date after the parties have conferred on a schedule and submitted a joint proposal or respective proposals.

The defendants request an extension of time to respond to the complaint so that additional time is available for consultation with incoming Administration officials who have yet to be confirmed or take office and who, once in office, will require additional time to become familiar with the case. Since this is the first filing in this case, and nothing else is pending, the defendants submit that the additional time is appropriate under the circumstances. A proposed

¹ By joining this motion, the individual capacity defendants do not waive, and expressly reserve, all defenses available to them relating to all aspects of this action.

² Our initial motion incorrectly calculated the new proposed due date of defendants response from the date of this motion, rather than the current due date of February 2, 2009. To be clear, we seek the 60-day extension from the current due date of February 2, 2009, in other words up to and including April 3, 2009.

1	order granting the defendants' unopposed motion is attached.		
1			i motion is attached.
2	DATED:	January 26, 2009	Respectfully Submitted,
3 4			MICHAEL F. HERTZ Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division DOUGLAS N. LETTER
5			Terrorism Litigation Counsel JOSEPH H. HUNT
6			Director, Federal Programs Branch ANTHONY J. COPPOLINO Special Litigation Counsel
7			Special Litigation Counsel PAUL G. FREEBORNE ALEXANDER K. HAAS
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13			By: /s Alexander K. Haas Alexander K. Haas
14			Attorneys for the Government Defendants
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Document 16

Filed 01/26/2009

Page 4 of 6

Case 3:08-cv-04373-VRW

DECLARATION OF PAUL G. FREEBORNE

I, PAUL G. FREEBORNE, hereby declare that:

- 1. I am a Trial Attorney in the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, and one of the attorneys assigned to this case.
- 2. I called counsel for the plaintiffs, Jennifer Granick, on January 22, 2009 to seek plaintiffs' consent to a 60-day extension of time for the defendants' response to the complaint filed in this matter.
- 3. Counsel for the plaintiffs has stated by phone and electronic mail that plaintiffs would not oppose the defendants' motion.
- 4. As set forth in the accompanying administrative motion, the defendants request the additional time to respond to the complaint so that proper consultation with Administration officials who have yet to take office, and others who have not yet been confirmed, can take place. Since this is the first filing in this case, and nothing else is pending, the defendants believe that the additional time is appropriate under the circumstances.
- 5. If the motion is granted, the defendants' obligation to answer or otherwise respond to the complaint would be on or before April 3, 2009. And if the motion is granted, the defendants propose that the parties be permitted an opportunity to agree upon a briefing schedule for appropriate motions and for a hearing upon any motions that are filed.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing declaration is true and correct.

Executed on January 26, 2009, in the City of Washington, District of Columbia.

MICHAEL F. HERTZ Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division DOUĞLAS N. LETTER Terrorism Litigation Counsel JOSEPH H. HUNT Director, Federal Programs Branch ANTHÓNY J. COPPOLINO Special Litigation Counsel PAUL G. FREEBORNE ALEXANDER K. HAAS Trial Attorneys U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch 20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Rm.6108 Washington, DC 20001 Telephone: (202) 353-0543 — Fax: (202) 616-8460 Email: paul.freeborne@usdoj.gov

By: <u>s/Paul G. Freeborne</u> Paul G. Freeborne

Attorneys for the Government Defendants

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PROPOSED ORDER

It is hereby ORDERED the defendants' Unopposed Administrative Motion for an Extension of Time to Answer or Otherwise Respond to the Complaint is hereby granted, and all defendants shall answer or otherwise respond to the complaint on or before April 3, 2009. It is further ORDERED that the Court's order setting a hearing for March 26, 2009 is vacated, and that the parties shall meet and confer and propose a briefing schedule for appropriate motions and a hearing date on which the Court may consider any motions that are filed.

IT IS SO ORDERED,

TO IS SO ORDERED

Hod.

Judge Vaughn R Walker

Judge Vaughn R Walker

Judge Vaughn R Walker