

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Nicole Lawtone-Bowles, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

–v–

City of New York,

Defendant.



16-cv-4240 (AJN)

18-cv-4338 (AJN)

ORDER

James Bookman, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

–v–

City of New York,

Defendant.

ALISON J. NATHAN, District Judge:

On June 26, 2020, a combined jury trial for these cases was set to begin on March 8, 2021. The Southern District of New York has reconfigured courtrooms and other spaces in its courthouses to allow jury trials to proceed as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the protocols implemented in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Southern District is scheduling all jury trials through a centralized calendaring process, giving priority to criminal trials.

Though the Court will make every effort to try the case at the currently scheduled date, it cannot guarantee that a jury trial in this matter will be able to proceed as scheduled.

Accordingly, the parties are hereby ORDERED to meet and confer and submit a joint letter by October 27, 2020, responding to the following questions:

1. In the event that this case proceeds to trial, do all parties consent to a bench trial before this Court? If either party does not consent to a bench trial, the parties shall advise the Court that they do not consent, but without disclosing the identity of the party or parties who do not consent. The parties are free to withhold consent without negative consequences.
2. If the parties instead elect to proceed with a jury trial, are they prepared to proceed to trial on the scheduled date?

If the parties do not consent to a bench trial and indicate that they are ready to proceed with a jury trial on the scheduled date, the Court will request a jury for that date, consistent with the protocols implemented by the Southern District. In that event, the parties shall be prepared to proceed to trial as of that date and on each following week through March 2021. The Court will provide the parties as much notice as possible about whether their case will proceed to trial during any of those weeks.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: October 20, 2020
New York, New York



ALISON J. NATHAN
United States District Judge