PREET BHARARA
United States Arbit GreekARAS

Southern District of New York By: TARA M. La MORTE Assistant United States Attorney 86 Chambers Street, Third Floor New York, New York 10007

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CLAUDETTE PEARSON,

v.

Plaintiff,

HUD.GOV.COM,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

11 Civ.

Westchester County Index No.: 12392/11

Defendant the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), by its attorney, Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, hereby removes this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a) to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The grounds for removal are as follows:

1. On or about June 22, 2011, Plaintiff Claudette Pearson filed a *pro se* Notice of Petition and Request for Judicial Intervention (Index No. 12392/11) against defendant HUD.gov.com in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Westchester (the "State Court Papers"). A copy of the Notice of Petition and Request for Judicial Intervention is

attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>. (In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 5.2, references in the State Court Papers to Plaintiff's personal information has been redacted.)

- 2. On or about July 18, 2011, a copy of the State Court Papers was received by HUD at its office in Dallas, Texas.¹
- 3. The *pro se* State Court Papers do not allege with specificity Plaintiff's claims against HUD. Plaintiff is seeking monetary damages from HUD "to clear off bad matters" and has checked boxes indicating tort and commercial claims. *See* Ex. A. Therefore, Plaintiff's claims may be construed as claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act ("FTCA"), 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 1402(b), 2401(b) and 2671-2680, and jurisdiction in this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 4. HUD is an agency of the United States of America for the purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a), and the FTCA, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 1402(b), 2401(b), 2671-2680.
- 4. Accordingly, this action may be removed from the State Court to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a).
- 5. Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1) is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b). Section 1446(b) authorizes removal within thirty days of proper service of process in an action. See Whitaker v. American Telecarting, Inc., 261 F.3d 196, 202 (2d Cir. 2001) (holding that "the commencement of the removal period [can] only be triggered by formal service of process . . . ").
- 6. The submission of this notice of removal is solely for the special purpose of removing this action to the appropriate federal court and is not a general appearance by HUD. This Office makes a limited appearance on behalf of HUD solely for the purpose of removal of

¹ Upon information and belief, however, the Attorney General of the United States and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York were never served. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(i).

this action. This submission does not constitute a waiver of any defense available to HUD, including any defense under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Dated: New York, New York

August 16, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

PREET BHARARA

United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Attorney for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

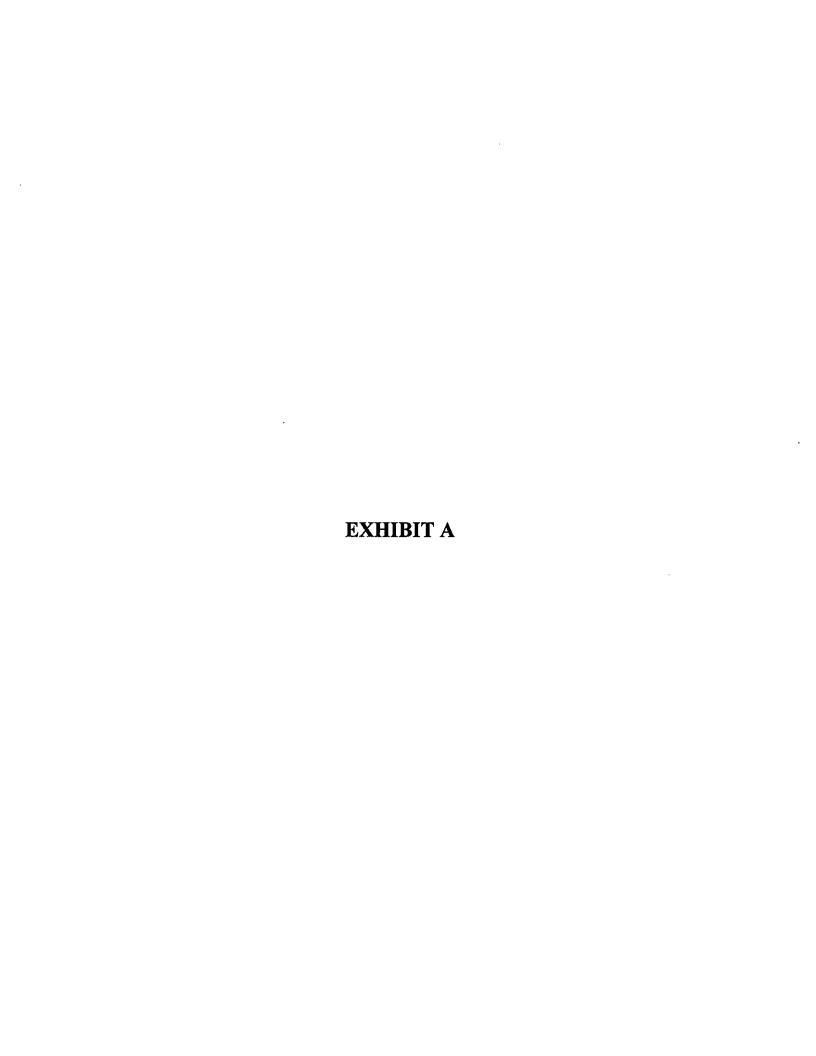
Ву:

TARAM. La MORTE

Assistant United States Attorney 86 Chambers Street, Third Floor New York, New York 10007

Tel.: (212) 637-2746 Fax: (212) 637-2702

Email: tara.lamorte2@usdoj.gov



[Print in black ink to fill in the spaces next to the instruction 000078024 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER In the Matter of the Application of [Fill in name(s)] Petitioner(s) · NOTICE OF PETITION -against-9.00 C Respondent (s) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that upon the verified petation(s) of Kennon __, [your name(s)], sworn to on , 2001, [date the Verified Petition was signed by a notary public], and the attached exhibits, petitioner(s) will request this Court, at Courthouse, at 111 Dr. Martia Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plans, N. Y., ____, (or an IAS Part to be assigned) for a judgment purguant to Civil Practice Law and Rules Article 4, granting the following relief to the petitioner(s): [describe what you are asking the Court to do] QYO and for such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper. Dated: June 377 , New York · Respectfully submitted, [Date petition signed] Petitioner (s) [Your name, address, telephone no.]

To: Respondent(s)

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[Name, address and telephone no.]

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JUN 22 2011

TIMOTHY C. IDON

COUNTY OF WEST CHESTER

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F-+ Enstructions - This - affidavit must be used for service of a Summons and Complaint, a Summons with Notice, a Notice of Petition and Verified Petition, an Order to Show Cause and Verified Petition or Subpoena. Print to fill in the spaces next to the instructions. SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER Index No. Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s) - against -AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE OF INITIATING PAPERS [Fill in names(s) Defendant(s)/Respondent(s) STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF SS: , [name of person who served papers], being duly sworn, depose and say: XI am over 18 years of age and am not a party to this case. address]. , 206 \ , [date of service], at 10.00AM)PM [time of day], Pserved the attached papers Hum Qbu. Com te CO fidentify the papers served]. on the defendant in this case. The address of the place where the papers were served is location where papers were served]. I served the papers in the manner indicated below: [check the right box] By delivering a true copy of each to the defendant personally. 1№ *Individual* I knew the person served to be the person named in those papers because_ did you know defendant? Fill out description of person below]. 2) \ Corporation of business] comporation, by delivering a true copy of each to served. Fill out description of person below], didentify his/her job title]. I knew the corporation to be that listed in the papers served and I knew the title of person named above and that the she was authorized to accept service.

Service [Identify person served. Fill out description of person below a person of suitable age and discretion, at the actual place of business, dwelling house, or usual place of abode in the

state, and mailing, as indicated below.

<u>Mailing</u> (Use with 3)

I also enclosed a copy of the above papers in a postpaid, sealed envelope properly addressed to defendant's last know residence or actual place of business, located at 🚣 street all the agan and I deposited the envelope in a post office depository under the exclusive care and custody of the United States Postal Service within New York State.

<u>Description</u>

The individual I served had the following characteristics: [Check the right boxes]:

(Use with 1, 2, or 3)

Sex <u>Height</u> Weight <u>Age</u> **™**Male □ Under 5" O Under 100 lbs. D 21-34 years □ Female □ 5'0"-5'3" 100-130 lbs. □ 5'4"-5'8" □ 131-160 lbs. D 51-61 years □ 519.8~610# □ 161-200 lbs. Over 61 yrs. □ Over 6' □ Over 200 lbs.

Color of skin [describe]: Counterto Color of hair [describe]:

Other identifying features, if any [describe]:

<u>Service</u>

I asked the person to whom I spoke whether the defendant was in the military of the United States or New York State in any capacity and was told that he/she was not. Defendant did not wear a military uniform. I state upon information and belief that the defendant is not in the military service of the United States or New York State. The basis for my belief is the conversation(s) and observation(s) described above.

Sworn to before me this

7 M day of July

Sign your name before a Notary]

Lisa-Thorpe-Fraley Notary Public

Commissioner of Deeds In and for the City of Mount Vernon Commission Expires December 31, 20

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