		i
1	BONITA P. MARTINEZ, ESQ., SBN-153346 LAW OFFICE OF BONITA P. MARTINEZ	
2	10731 TREENA STREET SUITE 104	I L E D
3	SAN DIEGO, CA 92131 858-437-5827; FAX NO. 858-257-2662	NOV <b>0 2</b> 2021
4	, and the second	
5	ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT, LARRY IBARRETA MILLETE.	By: D. Andrade, Deputy
6		
7		
8	SUPERIOR COURT FOR STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
9	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO	
10		UNTY OF SAN DIEGO WW C 5 3 1985 7 DV Ct. No. C31957
11	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	Ct. No. C31957
12	PLAINTIFF.	DEFENDANT' REQUEST TO SET BAIL
13	vs.	) ) DATE:11/4/2021
14	LARRY IBARRETA MILLETE.	TIME: 1:30 P.M. DEPT: 12
15		) DEF 1; 12 )
16	DEFENDANT.	)
17		Ó
18	COMES NOW DEFENDANT, LARRY IBARRETA MILLETE, (DEFENDANT) by and	
19	through his attorney BONITA P. MARTINEZ submits his motion in opposition to Plaintiff's	
20		
21	Request to Deny Bail as submitted by and through their attorneys, SUMMER STEPHAN, District	
22	Attorney, and CHRISTY BOWLES Deputy District Attorney. DEFENDANT respectfully submits	
23	the following REQUEST TO SET BAIL:	
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25	FACTUAL BACKGROUND	
26	October 18, 2021, the People of the State of California filed a felony complaint charging	
27		
28	DEFENDANT with the following:	
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DEFENDANT'S REQUEST TO SET BAIL pg. 1

COUNT ONE: Murder in violation of Penal Code section 187(a). PC 187(a): Murder is defined as the unlawful killing of another human being with malice aforethought and without legal justification.

Count Two: possession of an Assault Weapon in violation of section 3066059(a)

Arraignment is set for October 21, 2021, in Department 12 at 1:30 p.m. DEFENDANT request release on reasonable bail.

II

DEFENDANT IS NOT QUILTY OF MURDER IN VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE 187(a) THERE IS NO DEAD BODY.

DEFENDANT was gainfully employed as an Optometrist and received many awards as follows: a Letter of Appreciation from Commander, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command, San Diego, which states in part: "I take great pleasure in expressing my sincere appreciation for your outstanding performance, and nomination as Senior Civilian of the Quarter, Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2020. Your professionalism, initiative and willingness to accomplish the mission no matter the circumstances, exemplifies the Navy's Core values and the command's principles. You have demonstrated the ability to communicate clearly, inspire and motivate your subordinates and peers to accomplish any task within or outside the realm of your expected duties. ....." (Exhibit 1). Defendant also received a Certificate of Outstanding Performance (Exhibit 2); Official recognition and praise from the Navy Medical Center San Diego (Exhibit 3); a Certificate of Appreciation-Star Performer (Exhibit 4); and a Ten-Year Service Award (Exhibit 5); Commanding Officer's Cup indicating commitment to delivering, respectful compassionate care with a preventive approach to all beneficiaries. (Exhibit 6).

1

DEFENDANT has been married to MAY for over 21 years and had three children with her. The allegations of the People do not indicate that DEFENDANT is guilty of murder. Defendant MAY had wanted a divorce, and was having an affair with a married man, whose wife was pregnant at the time. MAY MILLETTE had an abortion prior to her disappearance on or about January 8, 2021. MAY had expressed interest in leaving the family. She had been intoxicated more frequently, out drinking with friends and her relatives, and other men. May had been acting erratically and locking herself inside the bedroom and would not allow the children to see her at times and she would not join the children for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Defendant and defendant's father would take food to May's bedroom. (Declaration of defendant ¶6) It was not the first time MAY had disappeared. May voluntarily left Defendant with the children on or about January 8, 2021. Her disappearance was not considered suspicious or criminal. The Chula Vista Police Department stated that defendant is not a suspect and there is no evidence of foul play. (Declaration of defendant ¶5. ¶7. B. In the past MAY left her home often and DEFENDANT did not know where she had gone. DEFENDANT does not know the whereabouts of his wife. (Defendant's Declaration ¶5). DEFENDANT and MAY lived together in their home in Chula Vista. (Declaration of Defendant) MAY did not have serious concerns about her own safety, since she "made the statement, "I don't think he (DEFENDANT) would hurt me, but I think he would hurt the kids to get back at me" (p3 of PEOPLES' REQUEST). DEFENDANT does not need an Alibi. Even if the Security video captured DEFENDANT backing into his garage. It cannot be presumed that DEFENDANT was doing something illegal. Backing into your garage is not crime. Defendant frequently backed into his garage. The fact that a murder charge was filed without a dead body can have an effect that this is not a "solid case." This murder charge against the defendant can also be considered "dangerous" since other hypothesis cannot be

excluded based on the facts of this case and the continuing investigation into this "missing woman" case. The People fail to prove its case against Defendant. As mentioned, these allegations of the People are absurd. There was no effort by Defendant to hide anything whatsoever. There was no effort to escape. Defendant is part of our community. Defendant had no criminal intent whatsoever. He was focused on trying to save his wife from adultery, abortion, drunkenness and bad company to the point that her job was in jeopardy.

Defendant was arrested October 19, 2021; Arraignment was October 21, 2021

Defendant is accused of murder and possession of an assault weapon. The arrest is

connected with the disappearance and presumed death of May Millete, 39 years old,

Larry's wife for 21 years. Proof of the unexplained disappearance of the alleged

victim (MAY) is never sufficient in itself to establish corpus delicti. It is dangerous to

infer the death of a person from her. sudden and unaccountable and consistent

disappearances, even when followed by long continued absence. Unless the dead body

is actually found it will require convincing evidence to establish the fact of death.

Conviction for murder in the absence of a body is possible. However, cases of this type have

historically been hard to prove, often forcing the prosecution to rely on circumstantial evidence.

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### INCOMPLETE INVESTIGATION

A local woman (defendant's wife) had vanished nine months ago. And after an incomplete investigation, Defendant was arrested and charged with murder without a body. The

district attorney filed a criminal complaint against Defendant without a dead body. Cases of this type have historically been difficult to prove. No body, no murder. It means that the burden of proof of the prosecution is high. The fact of death, like any other fact, can be proved by circumstantial evidence, which is to say, evidence of facts which leads to one conclusion, provided that the jury is satisfied and are warned that it must lead to one conclusion only. In this case, circumstantial evidence is not sufficient to exclude every other reasonable hypothesis. It must be borne in mind that to proceed gradually is the law of life in all its expressions. To impose no bail or increased bail is tantamount to punishing him now and will cause him many difficulties depriving him of his livelihood and providing care to his three young children. Could be a violation of his constitutional right of due process under the law and could be considered cruel and unusual punishment.

#### IV

FACTS REGARDING THE CONSISTENT VOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE OF MAY MILLETE

MAY's disappearance was not abrupt. She left in 2020 several times without saying goodbye. Larry continued to pay Maya's bills including her bills for MetLife Federal Dental Plan and other May's bills after January 8, 2021.

A variety of reasons - mental illness, depression, substance abuse, money problems, abusive relationships, or marital discord - exist for why people voluntarily disappear.

MAY voluntarily left home several times in 2020 without saying goodbye to defendant or their children. She would move out, come back, then move out again.

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husband's income. MAY was having an intimate affair with a man and became pregnant. She had an abortion with the financial help of her parents and kept this a secret from Defendant. May made appointments to Planned Parenthood in July 2020. Later, defendant discovered about the affair and abortion when MAY bled profusely in the bathroom; and defendant took MAY to the doctor. After the abortion, MAY left their residence without informing the defendant or the children. She did not take any of the children. She was away for about a month. May returned to their house after some complications and problems in the house where she temporarily resided. MAY's night life, affairs, abortion, seeking to date men from the internet, drunkenness and excessive drinking caused defendant to seek the help from MAY's parents. MAY's parents made attempts to help. One day, May's father said, "I give up." Defendant continued to help MAY by taking care of the children, by buying her what she wanted - a vehicle, a motorcycle, expensive purses, paid for the mortgage, utilities, food, insurance, and paid all of MAY's bills, up to the present time. MAY also freely took some money that defendant kept in the safe deposit box. When May indicated to the family that she needed "space." Defendant sent his parents for a vacation away from the house. Defendant went out of his way to help MAY turn her life around. MAY's actions became progressively worse when - she invited some persons to come to the house and drink alcohol, she went motorcycle-riding alone in the desert, but sometimes, she went out with unknown individuals. She also went out with her sister and brother-in-law camping and drinking alcohol several times and getting drunk. MAY was a completely different person. On or about January 2021, the family planned on going to Big Bear to celebrate their

daughter's birthday. They were scheduled to leave for Big Bear on a January 9, 2021. When it was time to go, MAY was not in the master's bedroom. Defendant did not call the police because

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MAY was known to just come and go without telling anyone. Defendant was not concerned because MAY have left and moved-out of the family house several times in the past. On January 9, 2021, at 11:00 p.m., close to midnight, MAY's sister called the police. The police came to the defendant's house to investigate on January 10, 2021. Several hours after the police left, on Sunday, January 10, 2021, MAY's parents, siblings and other relatives had a birthday party at defendant's house celebrating the daughter's birthday. They ate much food, lots of drinks, and sang "Happy Birthday." No one was searching for MAY. About three days later, MAY's family hired a lawyer who came knocking at defendant's door. The lawyer represented that he was from the NCIS. The lawyer then went investigating around the house. A few days later, that same lawyer claimed to the public and the media that he went to defendant's house and saw all the windows opened and smelled like someone was cleaning with strong chemical. On January 23, 2021, the Chula Vista Police Officers came and entered defendants house claiming they have a search warrant. They thoroughly searched the interior and the exterior of the subject property. The police officers took personal properties, photographs, numerous documents and things including some but not all of defendant's firearms. The police officers had all the time and opportunity to talk to the defendant and the three children and the paternal grandparents. They fully interviewed the three children separately. The Chula Vista police officers left the house in a condition of complete disarray, disorder, and some things were missing and not included on a list. On or about May 7, 2021, a second search was conducted at defendant's house. They took many more things, broke and damage things and took defendant's vehicle. While police were conducting the search at his residence, the Chula Vista police officers and detectives took stopped defendant near the freeway and held him for many hours and they refused to allow

defendant to go to his house and make sure the children and grandparents are safe and have something to eat. The defendant was not able to go home until after midnight.

In September 2021, a third search was conducted at defendant's home. Defendant was again detained by the Chula Vista Police officers and not allowed to go to his house. They detained him for many hours. On October 19, 2021, multiple police agencies, Chula Vista Police

Department officers, FBI, San Diego Police Department officers, searched defendant's house for the fourth time. This search was conducted while defendant was being arrested and charged for murder without a dead body. It appears that the searches and inquiries centered on locating a dead body were conducted. There has been no statement from law enforcement officers if they conducted a dual investigation with hope for a live recovery. Defendant could not join the "searches "because he was receiving many death threats and members of the search "team" including MAY's family were hostile and hateful against defendant. Defendant also had to go to work, take care for the three children and his parents.

V

# MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES STATEMENT OF THE LAW AND ARGUMENTS THE DEFENDANT SHALL BE RELEASED ON BAIL SINCE THERE IS NO EXCEPTION AND SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF THE PRESUMPTION OF GUILT

The California Constitution provides that a defendant "shall be released on bail by sufficient sureties" unless an exception applies. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 12.) One such exception covers: Felony offenses involving acts of violence on another person, or felony sexual assault offenses on another person, when the facts are evident or the presumption great and the court must find clear and convincing evidence that there is a substantial likelihood the person's release would

result in great bodily harm to others." (*Id.*, art. I, § 12, subd. (b).) The trial court has recognized that it is "unusual" to deny bail for a noncapital offense.

#### 2. CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT RECENT RULING ON BAIL

"The common practice of conditioning freedom solely on whether an arrestee can afford bail is unconstitutional." Setting bail beyond the ability of the defendant to pay constitutes a detention. Pretrial detention should be rare – release of the defendant should be the normal practice, with pretrial detention being the exception. "[detention is impermissible unless no less restrictive conditions of release can adequately vindicate the state's compelling interests." In re Humphrey (2021) Cal.5th [S247278].

As noted, the California Constitution provides that a defendant "shall be released on bail by sufficient sureties" unless an exception applies. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 12.) The Constitution initially contained a single exception, for "capital offenses when the proof is evident or the presumption great." (Cal. Const., art. I, former § 6; *In re Application of Weinberg* (1918) 177 Cal. 781, 782 [171 P. 937]; *Ex parte Curtis* (1891) 92 Cal. 188, 189 [28 P. 223]; *In re Nordin* (1983) 143 Cal.App.3d 538, 543 [192 Cal.Rptr. 38] (*Nordin*).) The electorate later adopted an initiative constitutional amendment that added two additional exceptions. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 12, as amended by initiative, Primary Elec. (June 8, 1982); see *In re Bright* (1993) 13 Cal.App.4th 1664, 1667, fn. 4 [17 Cal.Rptr.2d 105]; *Nordin*, at p. 543.)

Although the phrasing is archaic, the requirement that "the facts are evident or the presumption great" has long been held to mean simply that the evidence in the record would be sufficient to sustain a conviction. (*Nordin, supra,* 143 Cal.App.3d at p. 543; see *In re Application of Weinberg, supra,* 177 Cal. at p. 782; *Ex parte Curtis, supra,* 92 Cal. at p. 189.) Our consideration

of this requirement is therefore governed by the familiar substantial evidence standard: "When the sufficiency of the evidence to support a conviction is challenged on appeal, we review the entire record in the light most favorable to the judgment to determine whether it contains evidence that is reasonable, credible, and of solid value from which a trier of fact could find the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. [Citation.] Our review must presume in support of the judgment the existence of every fact the jury could reasonably have deduced from the evidence. [Citation.] Even where, as here, the evidence of guilt is circumstantial, our task is not to resolve credibility issues or evidentiary conflicts, nor is it to inquire whether the evidence might reasonably be reconciled with the defendant's innocence. [Citations.] It is the duty of the jury to acquit the defendant if it finds the circumstantial evidence is susceptible to two interpretations, one of which suggests guilt and the other innocence. [Citation.] But the relevant inquiry on appeal is whether, in light of all the evidence, 'any reasonable trier of fact could have found the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt." (People v. Zaragoza (2016) 1 Cal.5th 21, 44 [204 Cal.Rptr.3d 131, 374 P.3d 344] (Zaragoza).)

Historically, with the exception of capital cases, bail was available to a defendant without regard to his threat to public safety. (*In re Underwood* (1973) 9 Cal.3d 345, 349-350 [107]

Cal.Rptr. 401, 508 P.2d 721].) The former provisions of the California Constitution prohibited applying a public safety exception to the general right to reasonable bail. (*Underwood*, at p. 351.) In adopting the exception at issue here, and its companion "threat" exception, the electorate abrogated the prior rule. "In 1982, the voters were presented with a ballot measure proposing an amendment of article I, section 12 to allow courts to deny release on bail in the interest of public

In order to deny bail, the trial court must find a "substantial likelihood" that the defendant's release would result in great bodily harm to others. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 12, subd. (b).) This standard requires more than a mere possibility, and it cannot be based on speculation about the general risk to public safety if a defendant is released. Great bodily harm to others must be a substantial likelihood. While the term "cannot ... be reduced to a rigid formula susceptible to mechanical application" (*Nordin, supra,* 143 Cal.App.3d at p. 543), we observe that the standard requires more than simply a violent history. The trial court must be convinced that future violence amounting to great bodily injury is substantially likely if the defendant were released on bail.

V

## DEFENDANT IS NOT A FLIGHT RISK AND NOT A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY

DEFENDANT does not have an incentive to flee. He has three children ages 5, 9, and 11, and his parents Benito and Judith Millete reside in his house to assist in taking care of the three children. His children are all attending school in person, and they have different schedules, schoolwork and homework. They also have extracurricular activities after school and weekends. Defendant's wife's parents are elderly and in poor health and reside in a three-bedroom house in Moreno Valle, Riverside, California together with their daughter, her husband and their children. Declaration of Larry Millete. (¶1-13). Studies suggest that retrial detention heightens the risk of losing a job, home, and custody of a child. Barker v. Wingo (1972) 407 U.S. 514, 532-533. Even

DEFENDANT'S REQUEST TO SET BAIL pg. 15

if the Audio recording of loud bangs was provided to the FBI for analysis, who determined the recording was not of sufficient quality to accurately record and reproduce gunshot impulses" and "could not be scientifically classified as gunshot events". The guns of DEFENDANT were not used to shoot or murder MAY MILLETE. Defendant has a Firearm Safety Certificate date 2/11.2021. (Exhibit 7) There is no reason to believe Defendant would flee.

There is no compelling reason why the quantum of evidence needed to establish that a given arrestee poses a risk of flight should differ from the quantum of evidence needed to establish that given arrestee a risk or victim safety." A defendant's liberty is no less and thus requires no less protection. In re Humphrey, supra,19 Ca. App 5<sup>th</sup> p.1037 concluded that our Constitution prohibits pretrial detention to combat an arrestee's risk of flight, unless the court first finds, based upon clear and convincing evidence, that no conditions or conditions of release can reasonably assure the arrestee's appearance in court.

## VI CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing discussions DEFENDANT respectfully request that this court set a reasonable bail pursuant to the analysis presented.

Date: November 0, 2021

LAW OFFICE OF BONITA P. MARTINEZ

S/ Bonita P. Martinez, Esq.,

Attorney for Defendant

Larry Ibarreta Millete

1.



#### DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY MEDICINE READINESS AND TRAINING COMMAND 34800 BOB WILSON DRIVE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92134-5000

1650 09HR 9.JUL 2020

From: Commander, Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command

San Diego

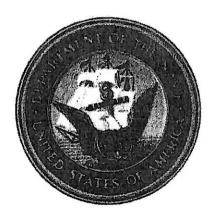
To: Mr. Larry Millete

Subj: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1. I take great pleasure in expressing my sincere appreciation for your outstanding performance and nomination as Senior Civilian of the Quarter, Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2020.

- 2. Your professionalism, initiative, and willingness to accomplish the mission no matter the circumstance exemplifies the Navy's Core Values and the command's guiding principles. You have demonstrated the ability to communicate clearly, inspire, and motivate your subordinates and peers to accomplish any task within or outside the realm of your expected duties. Your outstanding professional performance and total dedication to duty reflected credit upon yourself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy.
- Congratulations on a job well done!

B. L. SMITH



# NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO

Certificate of Outstanding Performance for

## MR. LARRY MILLETE

In recognition of your outstanding contributions as Safety Representative, Naval Medical Center San Diego, Safety and Occupational Health Program from 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017. Your commitment to high reliability helped foster a safe and healthful environment for your Shipmates and patients alike.

BZ on a job well done!

J. A. ROOS Captain, Medical Corps United States Navy Commanding Officer





## Commanding Officer Naval Medical Center San Diego

takes pleasure in presenting

# THE COMMANDING OFFICER'S CUP

to

**Optometry Department** 

for the First Quarter FY-20

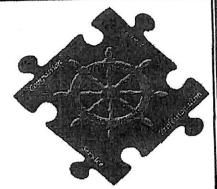
Our Naval Medical Center San Diego staff is committed to delivering respectful, compassionate care with a preventive approach to all of our beneficiaries. The Commanding Officer's Cup trophy is presented on a quarterly basis to the most deserving department who has displayed superior patient and family centered care and outstanding customer service. They truly exemplify the philosophy of "Making a Difference" through service, respect, compassion and professionalism.

Captain, Medical Corps

**United States Navy** 

Exhibit 4





# STAR PERFORMER

# Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to

# Mr. Larry Millete

With deep gratitude and appreciation for your outstanding customer service to merit your nomination as Star Performer for November 2014. You should take personal pride in your nomination and in the fact that your positive attitude and sincere concern for those you provided service to have been noted and were greatly appreciated. It gives me great pleasure to extend my appreciation for a job "Well Done."

Jeff Apana Department Head Parient Relations

Exhibit 5



# TEN YEARS SERVICE AWARD

ON

28 March 2015

PRESENTED WITH PLEASURE TO

# LARRY MILLETE

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR YOUR FAITHFUL AND VALUED SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

CAPT J. A. ACOSTA, MC, USN Commanding Officer

Naval Medical Center San Diego



# NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER SAN DIEGO

Official recognition and praise is hereby given to

## MR. LARRY MILLETE

in recognition for his outstanding work as the safety representative for the Optometry Department for fiscal year 2014. He continually ensures safety is a priority within the department, ensured safety inspections are smooth, deficiencies are corrected in a timely manner and required documentation is provided to the Command Safety Office.

His contributions have ensured the Commanding Officer Safety Program is successful.

Well Done

J. A. ACOSTA

Captain, Medical Corps

**United States Navy** 

**Commanding Officer** 

From: Terry D. Fonville (Department Head or Business Manager)

To: Larry I. Millete

Subj: APPOINTMENT AS DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE

Ref: (a) NMCSDINST 5100.3G

- 1. You are hereby appointed Departmental Safety Representative. Reference (a) is the Command Safety Manual and provides guidance as to how the safety programs are managed at Naval Medical Center San Diego.
- 2. As Safety Representative for your department, your duties include:
- a. Providing and tracking monthly safety training of all department staff and forwarding signed rosters to the Safety Office.
- b. Assisting with department inspections, tracking and correcting deficiencies, as well as providing copies of completed deficiencies to the Safety Department in a timely manner.
  - c. Assisting with required fire drills (quarterly and annually).
  - d. Ensuring mishap reports are submitted in a timely manner.
- e. Inspecting and tagging all personally owned electrical equipment prior to use and annually thereafter.
- f. Maintaining Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) Binders and ensure site specific hazardous materials training is being provided.
  - g. Ensuring all staff receive Unit Safety Orientation training.
- 3. The Safety Department recommends that prior to being relieved of your safety responsibilities you provide the name of the individual who will be assuming your duties to the Safety Specialist responsible for your area to ensure a smooth transition of the safety program.
- 4. The Safety Department appreciates your support of the Commander's Safety Program and looks forward to having you as a part of the team.

DHTerry DP billing, MBA Business Manager Optometry