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*Attorneys for Township of Teaneck  
and Doug Ruccione*

FOOD & WATER WATCH and ELISSA  
SCHWARTZ, BETTINA HEMPEL, PAULA  
ROGOVIN, LISA ROSE and LAURIE LUDMER  
("COMMITTEE OF PETITIONERS"),

Plaintiffs,

v.

DOUG RUCCIONE, in his capacity as  
Township Clerk, THE TOWNSHIP OF  
TEANECK, and STEVEN CHONG, in his  
capacity as Bergen County Deputy Clerk,

Defendants.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

**LAW DIVISION: BERGEN COUNTY**

**DOCKET NO.: BER-L-5566-21**

Civil Action

**CERTIFICATION OF DOUG RUCCIONE**

I, Doug Ruccione, of legal age, do hereby certify and state:

1. I am the official Clerk for the Township of Teaneck, and as such, I am fully familiar with the facts surrounding this matter.

2. I submit this Certification as an opposition to Plaintiff's Verified Complaint and Order to Show Cause with Temporary Restraints filed by the Plaintiff's.

3. Beginning on or about March 1, 2021, I was in communication with Samantha DiFalco ("DiFalco"), regarding the Petition that Food & Water Watch ("FWW") intended to submit to Teaneck.

4. As a municipal clerk, I am under no duty to provide legal advice or guidance to the Committee in regard to the Petition. As such, although I expressed that

the model petition provided to me seemed acceptable, I was unable to provide any information regarding the timeframe in which electronic signatures were to be accepted. Additionally, I was under no obligation to notify FWW or any other committee of petitioners that Teaneck would not accept electronic signatures submitted after July 4, 2021.

5. I also expressed to DiFalco that deadlines and number of signatures are not dictated by Teaneck but by State statute, thus making it clear that I was unable to provide legal advice or guidance regarding same.

6. On July 15, 2021, I received the Committees Initiative Petition with 877 signatures. 614 of those signatures were electronic signatures that were circulated prior to July 4, 2021. 263 signatures were handwritten signatures.

7. On August 4, 2021, I issued a Notice of Insufficiency to the Committee explaining my determination that the electronic signatures submitted by the Committee were all invalid pursuant to Governor Murphy's Executive Order 244 and P.L. 2021, Ch. 103, which ended the Public Health Emergency as of July 4, 2021. Thus, I was unable to accept electronic signatures post July 4, 2021.

8. On August 5, 2021, I received an Amended Petition with an additional 276 signatures.

9. On August 12, 2021, I notified the Committee of my determination that the total number of valid signatures between the Initial and Amended petitions was 375 and the required number was 791 in order to initiate an ordinance pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:69A-184*.

10. My determinations were based upon plain language interpretations of Governor Murphy's Executive Orders, specifically EO 244 and P.L. 2021, Ch. 103.

11. I did not make any representations to the Committee regarding Teaneck's acceptance of the Petition.

12. I acted in good faith when I attempted to the best of my ability to assist the Committee, without providing legal guidance in regard to the Petition.

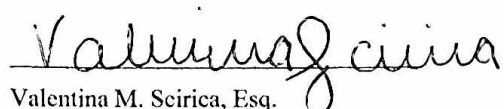
Dated: August 24, 2021



Doug Ruccione

**Certification of Genuineness of Signature For Doug Ruccione**  
**Pursuant to Rule 1:4-4**

I, Valentina M. Scirica, of full age, upon my oath, certify and state that the individual who signed this certification by facsimile signature has acknowledged to me the genuineness of his signature. If the court or any party requests it, an original signature on the certification will be filed with the court.

  
Valentina M. Scirica, Esq.  
(274032019)

Dated: August 24, 2021