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Attorney for Defendant Steve Chong, in his capacity as Bergen County Deputy Clerk

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
BERGEN COUNTY - LAW DIVISION**

BER-L-5566-21

CIVIL ACTION

**CERTIFICATION OF STEVE CHONG,
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE OFFICE OF
THE BERGEN COUNTY CLERK**

I, Steve S. Chong, do hereby certify and say as follows

1. I serve as Deputy Clerk of the Office of the County Clerk for Bergen County (the "Clerk's Office"), and in that official capacity I am a named Defendant in this action. John Hogan, the County Clerk, is a candidate for re-election and, as such, has recused himself from all duties related to the November 2, 2021 General Election (the "General Election") and has delegated such duties to me as Deputy Clerk. I am fully familiar with the facts relevant to this matter as set forth in the Certification.

2. The Verified Complaint filed by Plaintiffs in this action seeks relief impacting the ballots, including the vote by mail ballots (the "Ballots"), that the Clerk's Offices is statutorily

required to design, print and then deliver to registered voters of the Township of Teaneck (the “Township”) for the casting of their votes in the General Election.

3. I submit this Certification for the limited purpose of advising this Court, and the parties to this action, of the timeline associated with the Clerk’s Office satisfying its statutory duties in connection with the design, printing and circulation of the Ballots by the Clerk’s Office for the General Election.

4. Once the design of the Ballots has been finalized, the Clerk’s Office will forward the Ballots to the Township Clerk for approval and, following approval by the Township Clerk, the Clerk’s Office will deliver the Ballots to the printer.

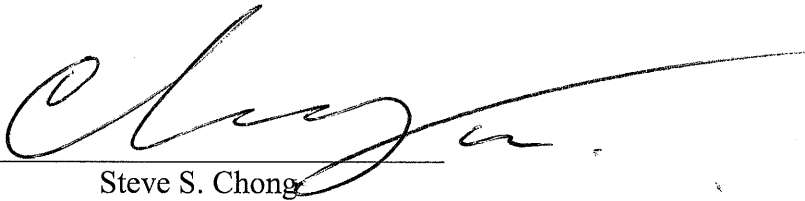
5. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:63-9(a), the Clerk’s Office is required to commence forwarding the vote by mail Ballots for delivery to those registered voters in the Township whose request therefor has been approved no later than September 18, 2021, which is forty-five (45) days prior to the General Election.

6. Based upon this statutory deadline, the Clerk’s Office is requiring approval of the Ballots by the Township Clerk no later than Wednesday September 1, 2021 and the Clerk’s Office will then send the Ballots to the printer no later than Thursday September 9, 2021.

7. Any delay in this schedule will impact the ability of the Clerk’s Office to comply with the mandates of N.J.S.A. 19:63-9(a) governing the circulation of vote by mail ballots.

8. The Clerk’s Office takes no position in this matter other than to ensure its compliance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.



Steve S. Chong

Dated: August 23, 2021