CAUSE NO. 2014-44974

JARED WOODFILL, ET AL., Plaintiffs	§	**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF**
	§	
	§	
V.	§	**HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**
	§	
	§	
ANNISE D. PARKER, Mayor, ET AL., Defendants	§	**152nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT**
	§	

ORDER

To ensure the fair, orderly administration of justice in this case and in other cases currently before our sister courts, and to ensure the constitutional rights of the parties, counsel for the parties, and the media, the Court finds it necessary to issue the following order in *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.*, trial court cause number 2014-44974. This Order takes effect immediately and will remain in effect for the duration of all proceedings in this case.

The Court takes judicial notice of the public interest in this matter, the amount of media coverage already generated by the case, and the nature of the allegations being considered. Consequently, the Court FINDS:

- a compelling governmental interest exists in ensuring the parties' right to a fair trial by an impartial jury;
- the Court has a duty to ensure all proceedings before the Court are conducted with dignity and in an orderly and expeditious manner;
- the Court has a duty to control all proceedings before the Court so that justice is done; and
- no less restrictive means exists to deal with the specific threat to the judicial process and to the defendant's right to a fair trial by an impartial jury.

The Court will hear this matter in the courtroom of the 152nd District Court on the 11th floor of the Harris County Courthouse, 201 Caroline, Houston, Texas.

With regard to the jury, the Court ORDERS that:

1. No person shall make, distribute, publish or broadcast in any fashion, in any medium, any picture, photograph or visual representation of any person called to be a member of the jury chosen to hear the case of *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.*

2. No person shall distribute, publish or broadcast in any fashion, the names, home or work telephone numbers, home or work addresses of any person chosen to serve on the jury in the case of *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.*

3. No person, including those individuals connected with, employed by or acting on behalf of any news media organization, shall interview or attempt to interview any person chosen to serve on the jury to hear the case of *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.* until return of the final verdict in the trial on the merits.

With regard to media coverage during trial, the Court ORDERS that:

1. No cameras of any type will be permitted in the courtroom during trial.

2. No audio recording or audio broadcast will be permitted in the courtroom during trial.

3. No person shall make, distribute, publish or broadcast in any fashion, or medium, any picture, photograph or visual representation of any exhibit or videotape displayed or admitted into evidence in *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.*

4. Seating will be open to the public and media on a first-come, first-serve basis. There will be no reserved seating.

5. After proceedings commence, everyone present in the courtroom shall be seated. No one shall be permitted to stand in the back of the courtroom.

6. Members of the public and media personnel outside the courtroom shall not create distractions and shall avoid restricting movement of persons passing through the halls and/or the doors to the courtroom.

7. No interviews, whether recorded or not, shall be conducted of any person connected with or participating in the proceedings in the case of *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.* on the 11th floor of the Harris County Courthouse.

8. Any member of the public or media personnel who violates these rules may be sanctioned by appropriate measures, including immediate confiscation of recording media and/or equipment, removal of the offending person or agency from the courtroom and/or barring the offending person or agency from access to

the courtroom for a defined period of time, and / or expulsion of the offending person or agency from the Harris County Courthouse.

Any person having notice of this Order who violates it shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Court's inherent powers. The Court possesses the inherent power to ensure that proceedings be conducted with dignity and in an orderly and expeditious manner and control proceedings so that justice is done. Consequently, the Court has "all powers necessary for the exercise of its jurisdiction and the enforcement of its lawful orders, including the authority to issue the writs and orders necessary or proper in aid of its jurisdiction." TEX. GOV'T CODE § 21.001.

In exercising these inherent powers a court may assess monetary sanctions, use its contempt powers or order the parties, their counsel, witnesses or observers in the courtroom to take or refrain from taking specific actions. Any person having notice of this Order who violates it shall be subject to the Court's contempt power and/or sanctions pursuant to the Court's inherent powers.

The Administrative Office of the Harris County District Courts shall post a copy of this Order on the Courts' website and shall send copies to all media outlets. Copies of this Order shall also be posted on the outer doors of the courtroom.

All persons employed by a media organization, company or entity shall be presumed to have notice of all the provisions of this Order.

The Court **ORDERS** that a copy of this Order shall be delivered to members of the media attending proceedings connected with the case of *Jared Woodfill, et al. v. Annise D. Parker, et al.*, trial court cause number 2014-44974. Each media organization, company or entity shall be responsible for ensuring that its employees have notice of all the provisions of this Order.

This Court shall entertain reasonable requests, including requests by the media, to modify this Order as the need arises.

Signed January 26, 2015.

Robert K. Schaffer
Judge, 152nd District Court