1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Michael S. Winsten, Esq. (Cal. State Bar No. 126554) WINSTEN LAW GROUP 27201 Puerta Real, Suite 140 Mission Viejo, CA 92691 Tel: (949) 429-3400 Fax: (949) 429-3500 E-mail: mike@winsten.com Attorneys for Petitioner ORANGE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	
9	CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER	
10		
11	WILLIAM FURNISS, an individual,	Case No.:
12	Petitioner,	
13	VS.	Verified Petition For Writ of Mandate
14	PAT HEALY, INTERIM CITY CLERK OF	VOIMENT COMMON TOT VVIII OF IVINIMANCE
15	THE CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA; NEAL KELLEY,	*ELECTION MATTER PRIORITY*
16	REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OF THE	[Election Code § 13314(a)(3)]
17	COUNTY OF ORANGE; THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF	Petition Filed: August 18, 2014
18	ORANGE, and DOES 1 through 10,	
19	inclusive,	
20	Respondents.	
21	JESSE PETRILLA, an individual;	[Code of Civil Procedure §§ 1084-1088.5; Elections Code §§
22	DONALD CHADD, an individual;	9295, 13314]
23	JAMIE CASSIDY, an individual; and JOSEPH DAICHENDT, an individual; and	
24	DOES 11 through 20, inclusive,	
25	Real Parties In Interest.	
26	Real Lattics III Hittiest.	
27	Petitioner WILLIAM FURNISS ("Petitioner"), by this verified petition ("Petition"),	
28	petitions this court for a Writ of Mandate directed to Respondent Pat Healy ("Respondent"),	
	- 1 -	

Verified Petition For Writ of Mandate

Interim City Clerk of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, and by this Petition alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The acts complained of which are the subject of this Petition occurred in the County of Orange, State of California, therefore, venue for this action is properly in this court in the County of Orange.
- 2. Pursuant to Elections Code § 13314(a) (3), this Petition "shall have priority over all other civil matters."

PARTIES

- 3. Petitioner is, and at all relevant times was, a registered voter and elector residing within the City of Rancho Santa Margarita in the County of Orange, State of California, and is authorized under California Code of Civil Procedure § 1084-1088.5 and California Elections Code §§ 9295 and 13314 to bring this action.
- 4. Respondent PAT HEALY is the Interim City Clerk and elections official of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. Respondent is charged with overseeing the voter pamphlet in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita and is required by the Elections Code to be the Respondent in this action.
- 5. Respondent NEAL KELLEY is the Registrar of Voters ("Registrar") and elections official of the County of Orange. Respondent is charged with overseeing the voter pamphlet in Orange County and is required by the Elections Code to be the Respondent in this action.
- 6. Respondent THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE ("County") is the legislative and governing body for the County of Orange and charged with managing the Registrar. County is sued pursuant to Election Code sections 9295 and 13314 in its capacity as a political subdivision of the State of California charged with managing the Registrar.
- 7. Real Party in Interest JESSE PETRILLA ("Petrilla") is a registered voter and elector residing in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita.

- 8. Real Party in Interest DONALD CHADD ("Chadd") is a registered voter and elector residing in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita.
- 9. Real Party in Interest JAMIE CASSIDY ("Cassidy") is a registered voter and elector residing in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita.
- 10. Real Party in Interest JOSEPH DAICHENDT ("Daichendt") is a registered voter and elector residing in the community of Ladera Ranch located in unincorporated Orange County.
- 11. Petrilla, Chadd, Cassidy and Daichendt are the Real Parties In Interest in this matter pursuant to Elections Code sections 9295 and 13314.
- 12. The true names, identities and capacities of Respondent and Real Party DOES 1 to 20, inclusive, are unknown to Petitioner who therefore brings this Petition against DOES 1 to 20, inclusive, by such fictitious names, and will seek leave of this Petition to show the true names, identities and capacities when they have been determined. Petitioner is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that each DOE Respondent is responsible in some manner for the events and happenings set forth in this Petition and proximately caused the damage complained of to Petitioner as alleged in this Petition.

STANDARDS OF REVIEW

- 13. In the November 4, 2014 General Election, a local measure will appear on the ballot in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita that seeks to change the zoning for a portion of the Rancho Santa Margarita Auto Center. The Registrar has labeled this measure as "Measure Z." Real Parties in Interest are the signers, authors and proponents of Measure Z.
- 14. Pursuant to Election Code § 9282, for local city measures placed on the ballot by petition, the persons filing an initiative petition have the option to file a written argument in favor of the ordinance, which argument shall not exceed 300 words (a "Ballot Argument").
- 15. California law provides that statements set forth in a Ballot Argument may be deleted if the material is false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the Election Code. (Election Code § 9295(b)(2).

16. On August 8, 2014, the Real Parties in Interest submitted an "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" consistent with the privileges granted with the provisions of California Election Code Section 9282, for inclusion by Respondents in the voter pamphlet to be printed and mailed to all voters prior to the November 4, 2014, election, a true and correct copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A".

- 17. Registrar has a mandatory, ministerial duty specially enjoined under the California Election Code to assure that material which is false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the California Election Code is removed from the official election materials before those materials are mailed to voters.
- 18. Pursuant to California Elections Code § 9295(b)(1), Petitioner is expressly authorized to bring this petition for writ of mandate against the Registrar for the purpose of securing a judicial determination as to whether any of the statements contained in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" are false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the Election Code. (Election Code § 9295(b)(2)).
- 19. If any statements contained in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" are false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the Election Code, Petitioner is entitled to a preemptory writ of mandate, directed to the Registrar, commanding that the offending material be removed from the official election materials before they are mailed to voters.
- 20. If any of the statements contained in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" which are false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the Election Code are printed, in violation of Elections Code Section 9295, an error or omission is about to occur in the printing of a ballot, sample ballot, voter pamphlet, or other official matter.
- 21. If any of the statements contained in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" which are false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the Election Code are not removed or amended, a neglect of the Registrar's ministerial duty to assure removal of material which is false, misleading or inconsistent with the requirements of the Elections Code before they are mailed to voters is about to occur.

22. In accordance with Elections Code sections 9295 and 13314, a writ should issue because the errors, omissions, or neglect set forth in this Petition are in violation of the Elections Code and/or the Constitution, and because the issuance of the writ will not substantially interfere with the conduct of the election, because the Respondents currently have ample time to correct and print the ballots and ballot pamphlets.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

[Petition for Writ of Mandate -

Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z"

- Violation of Election Code § 9295]

[Against Respondents and Real Parties in Interest]

- 23. Petitioner re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 22.
- 24. Elections Code section 9295 mandates that Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" not contain any material that is false, misleading, or inconsistent with the requirements of this chapter.
- 25. Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" was signed by Real Party in Interest Joseph Daichendt, who is identified below his signature as the "Property Owner":

Joseph Daichendt, Property Owner

- 26. This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and misleading. The subject property is not owned by Joseph Daichendt it is owned by Rancho Canyon, LLC, an entity formed by Theory R Properties, a commercial real estate development company, of which Real Party in Interest Daichendt is an officer.
- 27. The statement is also misleading because it creates the false impression that Real Party in Interest Daichendt is a lone individual person battling "City Hall" thereby improperly seeking to create sympathy from registered voters in the City when in reality, the subject property is actually owned by Rancho Canyon LLC, a sophisticated commercial real property development company that filed a lawsuit against the City of Rancho Santa Margarita seeking

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\$10,000,000 in damages shortly after the City Council rejected their request for a zone change on January 8, 2014.

- 28. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests the court strike the words "Property Owner" from Real Parties' Argument in Favor of Measure Z."
- 29. Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" contains the following statement:

Even though the property is located at the busiest intersection in RSM (Santa Margarita Pkwy/Empresa), 3 auto dealerships closed at the location...

- 30. This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and/or misleading. Three auto dealerships have not previously opened and then subsequently closed at this location. Only one Nissan dealership ever failed and closed at the subject property – Family Nissan – which closed on May 16, 2008. Therefore, this statement in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" misrepresents history and creates the false and misleading impression that there is a long history of three auto dealerships that failed and closed at this location.
- 31. From 2002 (when the original Nissan dealership at the subject property opened for business) until 2008, a Nissan dealership operated continuously at the subject property. Prior to the date Family Nissan began operating the Nissan dealership at the subject property, two other ownership teams had on a continuous basis operated this Nissan automobile dealership (Superior Nissan and Spirit Nissan). Superior Nissan sold this Nissan dealership to Spirit Nissan – and Spirit Nissan subsequently sold the dealership to Family Nissan in 2006. Neither Superior Nissan nor Spirit Nissan failed and closed – a transfer of ownership is not the same thing as a failed business that has closed.
- 32. This statement is also misleading because it is inconsistent with the content of the proposed Ordinance included in Measure Z, which describes only the closure of one former Nissan Dealer in 2008.
- 33. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests the court strike this statement from Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z."

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34. Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" contains the following statement:

> ...and the site is in its 7th year of Vacancy, despite the extensive efforts to attract a new dealership.

- 35. This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and misleading. This statement attempts to create the false implication that the property is vacant. The property is not vacant – and has not been vacant for at least the past 18 months. Since February 2013, a U-Haul neighborhood vehicle dealership has been operating continuously at the site. A Conditional Use Permit was issued to the operator of the U-Haul neighborhood vehicle dealership business in October 2013 following a hearing before the City's Planning Commission, at which a representative of Rancho Canyon, LLC, the property owner, spoke in favor of the operator's application. In addition to the U-Haul rental and sales business, the Conditional Use Permit authorized incidental and temporary outdoor storage of recreational vehicles and boats to customers who rent vehicles. Furthermore, in June 2014, the owner of the U-Haul business informed the City he was interested in opening a new business at the property selling recreational vehicles – and he requested the City provide a zoning confirmation related to such use.
- 36. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests the court strike this statement from Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z."
- 37. Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" contains the following statement:

Auto industry experts, including one hired by the City, all agree that no automobile manufacturer is interested in reoccupying the site and this situation is not going to change.

38. This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and/or misleading. It is false to suggest that "all" auto industry experts "all agree" that no automobile manufacturer is interested in re-occupying the site and that this situation is not going to change. For example, the auto industry expert hired by the City (the London Group)

did not conclude that no automobile manufacturer was interested in re-occupying the site. The London Group issued a formal report confirming the subject property was viable for autorelated uses and there was no basis to change the existing zoning. Furthermore, there is nothing in the record that supports the inference that Real Parties' have sought confirmation of these facts from "all" auto industry experts.

- 39. With respect to the statement, "**including one hired by the City**" Real Parties appear to be referring to a August 8, 2013 email message sent by Greg Reuel of GCR Marketing Network ("City's Marketing Consultant") to Nate Farnsworth, an employee of the City.
 - 40. City's Marketing Consultant is not an auto industry expert.
- 41. The City's Marketing Consultant was retained by the City primarily to update the City's general marketing materials, to enhance the demographic information on the City's website, and to create a "space available" application on the City's website. The City never delivered a task order or gave direction to the City's Marketing Consultant to analyze the viability of the subject property as an auto dealership, the viability of the City's Auto Center, or whether it was likely that an auto dealer would ever be interested in opening a dealership at the subject property.
- 42. Although the City's Marketing Consultant is not an auto industry expert, it should be noted the proponents of Measure Z included a quote from the City's Marketing Consultant's August 8, 2013 email message to City employee Nate Farnsworth within the body of the proposed Ordinance, wherein the City's Marketing Consultant stated that "market and economic conditions have made the reuse of the [Subject Property] as an auto dealership a difficult task for the current owner." (emphasis added). This statement demonstrates that even if the City's Marketing Consultant was deemed an auto industry expert (which they are not), the City's Marketing Consultant did not "agree" that no automobile manufacturer is interested in re-occupying the site and that this situation was never going to change (it would only be a "difficult task"). Accordingly, this statement in Real Parties'

"Argument in Favor of Measure Z" is misleading because it contradicts statements included in the initiative proponents' proposed Ordinance.

- 43. Neither the City's auto industry expert (the London Group) nor the City's Marketing Consultant have "agreed" that no automobile manufacturer is interested in occupying the site. Finally, none of the experts hired by the property owner or by the City have concluded that "this situation is not going to change." This portion of the Real Parties' statement creates the false and misleading impression this statement is attributable to a unanimous conclusion of "all" auto industry experts. Rather, the statement appears to be the Real Parties' opinion rather than a statement of fact.
- 44. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests the court strike this statement from Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z."
- 45. Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" contains the following statements:

The City then unlawfully refused to place this measure on the ballot and had to be ordered to do so by the Orange County Superior Court. The vote on the Council to block the productive use of this property was not unanimous: three of the five Council members are wasting your tax dollars and wanted to deny you a right to vote.

- 46. These statements violate Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because they are false and/or misleading.
- 47. The City has never unlawfully refused to place Measure Z on the ballot. There has been no finding that the City "unlawfully" refused to place the Measure Z initiative on the ballot. Under Elections Code Section 9205 the initiative proponents were required to publish their notice of intent to circulate the initiative petition in a newspaper which has been adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. By an order of the Orange County Superior Court, the Coto de Caza News has been adjudicated as such a newspaper. However, the initiative proponents published their notice of

intent only in the Orange County Register (which has not been adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the City).

- 48. Pursuant to state law the City Clerk has a mandatory ministerial duty to reject initiative petitions which do not comply with the formal requirements of the Elections Code. Because the initiative proponents published in the wrong newspaper, she rejected the initiative petition. The initiative proponents sued the City Clerk and sought a writ directing her to accept the initiative petition. The initiative proponents contended that they technically complied with the Elections Code, but if not, that the court should find they substantially complied. While the court issued the writ, it made no finding the City Clerk unlawfully rejected the initiative petition. A City Clerk is not authorized to determine whether there was substantial compliance with the Elections Code -- only the court can make that determination. It was within the court's authority to issue the writ even if it found that the City Clerk lawfully rejected the initiative petition. Thus, the initiative proponent's statement that the refusal to place the initiative on the ballot was unlawful is false.
- members...wanted to deny you the right to vote." On July 23, 2014, the one and only time the City Council was ever asked to consider whether to put the initiative petition to a vote, a unanimous City Council (4-0) voted to put Measure Z on the November 4, 2014 General Election ballot. At that meeting, the City Council had two choices per the Elections Code (and the writ) -- to either adopt the initiative as presented or place it before the voters for a vote. Rather than denying the City's voters the right to vote on Measure Z, a unanimous City Council ensured the City's voters would have the right to vote on the Measure in the November General Election. It should be noted that Real Party Daichendt (one of the initiative proponents) was actually the person who publicly was calling upon the City Council to deny the City's voters the right to vote, as he published letters urging the City Council not to place Measure Z upon the ballot (and instead urging the City Council to simply adopt the initiative without an election). No member of the City Council played any role in the City Clerk's decision to not accept the initiative petition. Thus, the statement that three Council

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members, let alone any council members, wanted to deny the City's voters the right to vote on the initiative is false.

- 50. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests the court strike this statement from Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z."
- There is also no basis for the statement that there was a "vote on the Council to 51. block productive use of this property..." This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and/or misleading. Rancho Santa Margarita is a planned community. Representatives of the property owner seeking this rezoning admit the property owner purchased this property with knowledge of the existing Auto Center zoning and admit it took a calculated risk and made a mistake in doing so. The City Council has only had two opportunities to vote on an agenda item relating to the subject property – and on neither occasion did the City Council "block the productive use of this property." On January 8, 2014 -- the City Council merely voted to reject the property owner's application for a rezoning (thereby keeping in place the existing Auto Center zoning which is 100% consistent with the Rancho Santa Margarita master plan as the subject property was always master planned to be part of the Auto Center and has never been utilized for any other purpose). Similarly, on July 23, 2014, the City Council voted unanimously to place Measure Z on the November 4, 2014 ballot. Neither of these actions can be construed as a vote to "block the productive use of this property."
- members are wasting your tax dollars..." -- This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and/or misleading. This statement simply makes no sense, is personally insulting to the City Council members and is inflammatory with no basis in fact. As set forth above, On January 8, 2014 -- the City Council merely voted to reject the property owner's application for a re-zoning (thereby keeping in place the existing Auto Center zoning which is 100% consistent with the Rancho Santa Margarita master plan as the subject property was always master planned to be part of the Auto Center and has never been utilized for any other purpose) and on July 23, 2014, the City Council voted unanimously to place Measure

Z on the November 4, 2014 ballot. Thus, the statement that three Council members, let alone any council members, are "wasting your tax dollars..." is false. This statement in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" improperly creates the false implication that City Council members have engaged in waste, corruption or official misconduct (which is not true) – and this statement is not germane or related to the merits of the specific Measure Z rezoning initiative.

53. Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" contains the following statement:

The existing zoning that narrowly restricts the property to vehicle-related uses has failed.

- 54. This statement violates Elections Code section 9295(b)(2) because it is false and/or misleading. The existing zoning applicable to this property has not "failed." Businesses consistent with the existing zoning are currently operating on the subject property. Furthermore, additional parties have expressed interest in opening a vehicle sales dealership at this site with one submitting a written offer. The existing zoning has succeeded in achieving the City Council's policy goal of preserving the Rancho Santa Margarita Auto Center.
- 55. Businesses consistent with the existing zoning are currently operating on the subject property. Since February 2013, a U-Haul neighborhood vehicle dealership business consistent with the current zoning has been operating continuously at the site. A Conditional Use Permit was issued to the operator of the U-Haul neighborhood vehicle dealership business in October 2013 following a hearing before the City's Planning Commission, at which a representative of Rancho Canyon, LLC, the property owner, spoke in favor of the operator's application. In addition to the U-Haul rental and sales business, the business owner also engages in the business of renting outdoor storage of recreational vehicles and boats to customers at the subject property.
- 56. If the existing zoning had truly "failed" then how is it that business operations that comply with the existing zoning are currently operating at the subject property?

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- 57. Furthermore, multiple additional parties have expressed interest in opening a vehicle sales dealership at this site consistent with the existing zoning – with one submitting a written offer:
 - a. On July 29, 2013, RSM Motors, LP submitted to the property owner an offer to purchase the subject property. RSM Honda submitted to the City a letter dated December 16, 2013 confirming that their entity, RSM Motors, LP had submitted the July 29, 2013 offer to purchase and that they wanted to acquire the subject property for the purpose of opening a new automobile dealership at the subject property.
 - b. In June 2014, Rancho Santa Margarita RV's & Vehicle Sales LLC informed the City it was interested in opening a new business at the property selling recreational vehicles – and it delivered to the City a Property Use Verification For Vehicle Dealers License and requested the City provide a zoning confirmation related to such use. On July 9, 2014, Rancho Santa Margarita RV's & Vehicle Sales LLC submitted to the City an application seeking to open a new retail used RV and vehicle sales business at the subject property.
 - c. The owner of Santa Margarita Toyota sent a letter to the City on April 1, 2014, and most recently on August 11, 2014, reaffirming his continuing desire to relocate his existing Toyota dealership to the subject property. The City responded in writing to the owner of the Toyota dealership on Friday, August 15, 2014.
 - d. On January 8, 2014, the City received a letter from Joe Scala confirming his interest in acquiring the subject property for the purpose of opening an automotive business at the subject property.
- 58. If the existing zoning had truly "failed" – then why have multiple parties expressed an interest in opening new automotive businesses at the subject property that are consistent with the existing zoning?

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- 59. Finally, the existing zoning has succeeded in achieving the City Council's policy goal of preserving the Rancho Santa Margarita Auto Center. Rancho Santa Margarita is a planned community. Representatives of the property owner seeking this rezoning admit the property owner purchased this property with knowledge of the existing Auto Center zoning and admit it took a calculated risk and made a mistake in doing so. The existing Auto Center zoning is 100% consistent with the Rancho Santa Margarita master plan as the subject property was always master planned to be part of the Auto Center and has never been utilized for any other purpose. Other automobile dealerships operating within the City's Auto Center benefit from the existing Auto Center zoning because it helps to preserve the synergy created by having multiple dealerships clustered together. More than 90% of Orange County automobile dealerships today are clustered together in similar auto centers. The City and its 50,000 residents also benefit from the existing zoning because the #1 source of revenue for the City of Rancho Santa Margarita is sales tax – and the City's Auto Center is the #1 generator of sales tax. The City uses these sales taxes to provide residents with vital services such as emergency response/police, street re-surfacing, street cleaning, etc.). As a result, the existing zoning on this subject property (and on the rest of the Auto Center) has not failed – to the contrary, it is ensuring the continuing success and viability of the City's Auto Center (and thereby, the continuing success and viability of the City itself).
- 60. For these reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests the court strike this statement from Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z."
- 61. Pursuant to Elections Code section 13313 Petitioners are entitled to a peremptory writ of mandate ordering Respondent to strike the foregoing statements from Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z."
- 62. Petitioners do not have a plain, speedy or adequate remedy, in the ordinary course of law because the voter ballot pamphlet is to be printed in the very near future.
- 63. Petitioner is entitled to judicial review, and this procedure for a writ of mandate is the appropriate procedure for obtaining judicial review.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

[Petition for Writ of Mandate -

Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z"

- Election Code § 13314]

[Against Respondents and Real Parties in Interest]

- 64. Petitioner re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 63.
- 65. An error or omission is about to occur in the printing of a ballot, sample ballot, voter pamphlet, or other official matter, and a neglect of the Registrar's duty is about to occur, if the foregoing statements in Real Parties' "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" are not amended or removed as required by the Elections Code
- 66. Petitioners do not have a plain, speedy or adequate remedy, in the ordinary course of law because the voter ballot pamphlet is to be printed in the very near future.
- 67. Petitioner is entitled to judicial review, and this procedure for a writ of mandate is the appropriate procedure for obtaining judicial review.

WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray that this court:

- 1. Issue an alternative writ of mandate directing Respondents to remove the statements from the Real Party's "Argument in Favor of Measure Z" that violate Elections Code section 9295 or to show cause before this court at a time and place specified by this court why they have not done so and why a peremptory writ should not issue;
- After hearing on this Petition, issue a peremptory writ commanding
 Respondents to remove the statements from the Real Party's "Argument in Favor of Measure
 that violate Elections Code section 13307;
- 3. Require a return to this Petition, and set this matter for a hearing at the earliest available dates, so that the issuance of the writ will not substantially interfere in the printing and distribution of the ballot and voter pamphlet;

- 4. Award Petitioner their attorneys' fees and costs reasonably incurred in this action under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and other applicable code sections; and
 - 5. Grant Petitioner any other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: August 18, 2014

WINSTEN LAW GROUP

Michael S. Winsten
Attorney for Petitioner

VERIFICATION

I have read the foregoing Petition for Writ of Mandate and know its contents. I am a party to this action. The matters stated in the foregoing documents are true of my own knowledge except as to those matters that are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this Verification was executed on August 18, 2014, at Rancho Santa Margarita, California.

WILLIAM FURNISS

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EXHIBIT A REAL PARTIES' "ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Z"

CITY OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA

2014 AUG -8 PM 4: 54

Argument in Favor of Measure _

Vote "Yes" on Measure _ to eliminate an eyesore and restore the former Nissan automobile dealership property to productive uses.

"Yes" means new businesses, jobs, and increased tax revenues to support police, fire, and other vital public services.

A "Yes" vote will AFFIRM THE VISION for the property set forth in the City's existing General Plan and RESTORE the original Commercial General zoning to the property.

A "Yes" vote brings NEW AMENITIES to RSM. Potential tenants in discussion to occupy the site include Five Guys Burgers, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, LA Fitness, Stater Brothers, Chipotle, Whole Foods, and Mother's Market.

New businesses bring new jobs and well over \$100,000/year in new local tax revenues.

The existing zoning that narrowly restricts the property to vehicle-related uses has failed. Even though the property is located at the busiest intersection in RSM (Santa Margarita Pkwy/Empresa), 3 auto dealerships closed at the location and the site is in its 7th year of Vacancy, despite the extensive efforts to attract a new dealership. Auto industry experts, including one hired by the City, all agree that no automobile manufacturer is interested in reoccupying the site and this situation is not going to change.

WE NEED YOUR VOTE! Nearly 4,200 City voters signed the petition to rezone the property. The City then unlawfully refused to place this measure on the ballot and had to be ordered to do so by the Orange County Superior Court. The vote on Council to block the productive use of this property was not unanimous: three of the five Council members are wasting your tax dollars and wanted to deny you a right to vote.

VOTE "YES" ON MEASURE !

More information: www.FreeRSM.com

Dated: August 2014

Joseph Daichendt, Property Owner

Jesse Petrilla, RSM City Council Member

Jamie Cassidy, RSM Vote

Steve Baric, RSM City Council Member

Donald Chadd, RSM City Council Candidate