IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 2018 304481 CFDB

DIVISION: 41

NOV -2 AM 9: 1

STATE OF FLORIDA,

v.

COLTON ROCKWELL PHILLIPS,

Defendant.

GANNETT CO., INC.'S MOTION TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL COURT RECORDS

Gannett Co., Inc., publisher of *The Daytona Beach News-Journal* (the "News-Journal"), hereby moves this Court for an order permitting it to intervene for the limited purpose of seeking to unseal all court records and the progress docket in this matter. In support of this motion, the News-Journal states:

1. This criminal matter is of particular public interest. It involves the alleged large-scale importation of cocaine and methamphetamine from California to Volusia County for later sale on the "dark web," a shadowy enclave of the Internet where illegal activity thrives and criminals operate anonymously. This case stands out among local drug prosecutions due to the size of the alleged enterprise and the use of the "dark web" to allegedly sell illegal drugs. The public has a right to meaningfully monitor all criminal prosecutions, but this criminal proceeding and the State's prosecution of those charged is of unique concern. Closure of the entire court file, the case progress docket, and even the defendant's name is extraordinary and violates the news media's and the public's access rights. This case has all but disappeared from public view. Indeed, all that remains accessible is a case number.

- 2. On September 21, 2018, Defendant Colton Rockwell Phillips was arrested and, according to the Charging Affidavit (see attached Exhibit A), charged with a number of crimes including 1) trafficking cocaine and conspiracy to commit the same, 2) trafficking methamphetamine and conspiracy to commit the same, and 3) possession of controlled substances. Mr. Phillips' alleged co-conspirators, Halie M. Craycraft and Arad Radfar, were also arrested and criminally charged.
- 3. On September 26, 2018, the News-Journal reported on the arrests. See Patricio G. Balona, Deputies: Ormond Beach group received drugs via mail, The Daytona Beach News-Journal, Sept. 26, 2018, a copy of which is attached at Exhibit B.³ The subject news article notes that it was based on arrest reports and court records.
- 4. Since that time, News-Journal reporters have continued to follow Mr. Phillips' criminal case (as well as Haycraft's and Radfar's). For example, as early as July of 2019, News-Journal courts reporter Frank Fernandez made a public records request to the State Attorney's Office seeking copies of all records disclosed to the three defendants in criminal discovery. Once discovery is turned over to a defendant in a criminal case, any bases to withhold such information under the active criminal investigative exemption to the public records law no longer apply and the records generally become public. See, e.g., Staton v. McMillan, 597 So. 2d 940, 941 (Fla. 1st DCA 1992), review dismissed sub nom., Staton v.

¹ These charges were likely formalized in a criminal information (as was the case for Mr. Phillips' two alleged co-conspirators). That record, if it exists, is presently under seal and inaccessible to the News-Journal.

² Ms. Haycraft's criminal case (No. 2018 304480 CFDB) remains pending and is currently set for pre-trial on January 14, 2021. Mr. Radfar's criminal case (No. 2018 304482 CFDB) resulted in a *nolle prosequi* in October of 2019 and is now closed. Upon information and belief, Mr. Radfar was subsequently deported to Iran.

³ A copy of the subject news article is also available online at: https://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20180926/deputies-ormond-beach-group-received-drugs-via-mail.

Austin, 605 So. 2d 1266 (Fla. 1992), § 119.011(3)(c)(5), Fla. Stat. (2019).

- 5. Mr. Fernandez's public records request was acknowledged by the State Attorney's Office in July of 2019. Mr. Fernandez has followed up on that request at least five (5) times since July of 2019. A copy of the relevant correspondence between Mr. Fernandez and the State Attorney's Office is attached as **Composite Exhibit C**. To date, the State Attorney's Office has not complied with the request.
- 6. On or about October 6, 2020, Mr. Fernandez observed that all the court records in the Colton Phillips case had been sealed and were no longer available for public access online. The News-Journal was not given prior notice of any request or motion to seal particular documents, much less the entire case file. The News-Journal does not know whether any request to seal was made.
- 7. About one week later, Mr. Fernandez observed that the online progress docket for the case had also been sealed. Additionally, Mr. Phillips' name had been removed from the online docket entry, which presently reads "State of Florida v. Sealed."
- 8. Further, this case can no longer be searched online at the Volusia Clerk of Court website using Mr. Phillips' name. If a member of the public does so, this case no longer appears in case search results for Mr. Phillips. See attached public search results by name at **Exhibit D**. It can, however, be found through searching by the case number (if one happens to know the case number). Even then, the docket and case file remain under seal. See attached public search results by case number at **Exhibit E**.
- 9. In its role as public surrogate, the News-Journal cannot continue to meaningfully report on this matter with the entire case file and docket sealed. Further, because of such sealing, the public also has no means to understand the basis for such a broad seal, whether

proper sealing procedures were followed, and to what extent any sealing of judicial records is justified.

- 10. Florida law is clear that limiting access to judicial proceedings and documents directly impairs the public's right to monitor criminal proceedings, which are always matters of immense public interest. Accordingly, the News-Journal has standing to intervene and oppose closure at all stages of the proceedings. See Barron v. Fla. Freedom Newspapers, Inc., 531 So. 2d 113, 118 (Fla. 1988); Miami Herald Publ'g Co. v. McIntosh, 340 So. 2d 904, 908 (Fla. 1976).
- 11. While the News-Journal is obviously unable to understand why this matter's court records and docket are under total seal, such broad sealing—which appears only one step removed from a "supersealed" case—raises serious constitutional issues. Is there a compelling interest justifying any closures here? What is the asserted basis for closure? Was the required record-by-record analysis conducted? And is the scope and duration of the closure narrowly tailored? The broad closures also raise questions about the procedures followed in making that determination. As detailed below, the public's right to access court records are substantive and of constitutional magnitude. The News-Journal therefore requests that the Court enter an order granting them leave to intervene in this proceeding for the limited purpose of unsealing court records.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW

On countless occasions and routinely in cases of public interest, Florida courts have been asked to consider limiting public access to criminal proceedings and records. When such requests are made, courts adhere to strict procedures that ensure the public's constitutional rights of access to criminal prosecutions is protected. Criminal records and proceedings are presumptively open. See generally Barron, 531 So. 2d at 116; Sarasota Herald-Tribune v. State,

924 So. 2d 8 (Fla. 2d DCA 2005). Any closure of court records or proceedings therefore should be exceedingly rare. See Morris Publ'g Grp., LLC v. State, 136 So. 3d 770, 778 (Fla. 1st DCA 2014) (citation omitted).

Before any closure can occur, courts must specifically identify the factors that threaten the administration of justice and weigh all reasonable alternatives to mitigate the perceived threats short of closure. In cases where a government interest is at stake (in, for example, asserting closure is necessary to protect the identity of a confidential source), closure should only be had when that the interest is a "compelling" one. See Barron, 531 So. 2d at 118. Only then, after development of a full record on these issues, may a court narrowly fashion a remedy that accommodates the public's interest in open proceedings, if a compelling interest is proven. See Miami Herald Publ'g Co. v. Lewis, 426 So. 2d 1, 6-8 (Fla. 1982). Importantly, because the media is a "public surrogate," it "must be given an opportunity to be heard on the question of closure prior to the court's decision." Id. at 7; see also WESH Television, Inc. v. Freeman, 691 So. 2d 532, 534 (Fla. 5th DCA 1997) (requests for closure require evidentiary hearing with notice to the media and an opportunity to be heard); Times Publ'g Co. v. Penick, 433 So. 2d 1281, 1283 (Fla. 2d DCA 1983) (same).

A. Constitutional Presumption of Access to Judicial Proceedings

It is well-established that the public and press have a First Amendment right of access to criminal proceedings, including pretrial proceedings. See Richmond Newspapers v. Va., 448 U.S. 555 (1980) (trials); Globe Newspaper Co. v. Superior Court for Norfolk Cty., 457 U.S. 596 (1982) (trials); Press-Enterprise Co. v. Riverside Cty. Superior Court, 464 U.S. 501 (1984) (jury selection); Press-Enterprise Co. v. Riverside Cty. Superior Court, 478 U.S. 1 (1986) (pretrial hearings); El Vocero De Puerto Rico v. Puerto Rico, 508 U.S. 147 (1993) (pretrial hearings).

In <u>Globe Newspaper Co.</u>, for example, the United States Supreme Court struck down a state law which automatically excluded the press and public from a criminal trial during the testimony of a juvenile sex offense victim. The Supreme Court held the law was unconstitutional, citing the presumption of public access under the First Amendment. In so holding, the Court relied on the longstanding tradition of open proceedings, and the particularly significant role that access to criminal trials plays in the proper functioning of the judicial process. <u>Id</u>. at 605-06. As the Court explained:

Public scrutiny of a criminal trial enhances the quality and safeguards the integrity of the fact-finding process, with benefits to both the defendant and to society as a whole. Moreover, public access to the criminal trial fosters an appearance of fairness, thereby heightening public respect for the judicial process. And in the broadest terms, public access to criminal trials permits the public to participate in and serve as a check upon the judicial process — an essential component in our structure of self-government. In sum, the institutional value of the open criminal trial is recognized in both logic and experience.

<u>Id.</u> at 606. <u>See also State v. Wooten</u>, 260 So. 3d 1060, 1071-72 (Fla. 4th DCA 2018) (same).

B. Florida Law Mandates Open Proceedings and Records

Florida law is in accord with the holding in Globe Newspaper. The Florida Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the "public and press have a fundamental right of access to *all judicial proceedings*." See McIntosh, 340 So. 2d at 908 (emphasis added); Lewis, 426 So. 2d at 7 (recognizing that "[w]hat transpires in the courtroom is public property"); Barron, 531 So. 2d at 118 (mandating that "a strong presumption of openness exists for all court proceedings" and that the "filed records of court proceedings are public records available for inspection"); see also Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420. Moreover, the right of access to judicial and public records in Florida is of constitutional magnitude. See Art. I, § 24, Fla. Const.

The right to timely access to court records has also been recognized by the Florida Supreme Court:

Freedom of the press is not, and has never been a private property right granted to those who own the news media. It is a cherished and almost sacred right of each citizen to be informed about current events on a timely basis so each can exercise his discretion in determining the destiny and security of himself, other people, and the Nation. News delayed is news denied. To be useful to the public, news events must be reported when they occur. Whatever happens in any courtroom directly or indirectly affects all the public. To prevent star-chamber injustice the public should generally have unrestricted access to all proceedings.

McIntosh, 340 So. 2d at 910.

Thus, a party seeking to close hearings or seal records bears the heavy burden of establishing through evidence that:

- (a) closure is necessary to prevent a serious and imminent threat to the administration of justice,
- (b) no less restrictive alternative measure other than closure is available, and
- (c) closure must be effective in protecting against the perceived harm without being broader than necessary.

Lewis, 426 So. 2d at 6.

Further, consideration of whether to conceal judicial records "must begin with the proposition that all civil and criminal court proceedings are public events, records of court proceedings are public records and there is a strong presumption in favor of public access to such matters." Sentinel Commc'n Co. v. Watson, 615 So. 2d 768, 770 (Fla. 5th DCA 1993) (citation omitted).

That presumption is codified in Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.420. Before a court record may be properly sealed, a trial court must, among other things, specifically (1) identify the factors that warrant sealing under 2.420(c), (2) make findings that would justify closure of the progress docket and/or anonymization of a party name; (3) detail the particular information to be sealed; (4) and find that the degree, duration, and manner of sealing is no broader than necessary to protect the stated interests and no more restrictive than necessary.

See Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(e)(3) (applicable to criminal cases generally (2.420(f)), and to motions for requests to seal records related to plea agreements, substantial assistance agreements, or other records identifying confidential informants (2.420(f)(3)(B))).

This also means that such motions themselves—in which movants are required to provide as much specificity as possible without revealing the information for which sealing is sought—are not subject to seal. See Art. I, § 24, Fla. Const. Moreover, as was done here, to avoid supersealing, the case number, docket number, or any other number used to identify a case cannot be deemed confidential. See Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(e)(1)(C); In re Amend. to Fla. R. of Jud. Admin. 2.420-Sealing of Court Records & Dockets, 954 So. 2d 16 (Fla. 2007).

Even when plea agreements, substantial assistance agreements, or other records that would reveal the identity of a confidential informant are involved, blanket closures are not contemplated. See Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(f)(3). Only the sealing motion itself and the information potentially subject to seal is treated as confidential pending ruling or further order of the court.⁴ See id. Notably, the motion must still be docketed "by generic title" pending ruling, and any resultant order must also be noted on the docket. See id. at 2.420(f)(3)(A)(3), (D). The rule also specifically prohibits the "falsification of court records or progress dockets." See id. at 2.420(f)(4). Accordingly, in approving subsection (f)(3), the Florida Supreme Court specifically expressed its intent that 2.420(f)(3) motions not result in docket closures:

[W]e reject the suggestion that the motion and the court records that are the subject of the motion must not be indicated on the public docket. If filings that are subject to this subdivision are not noted on the docket, the result would be a "false docket," by omission. We have previously explained our condemnation of prior practices that resulted in reports of "hidden cases and secret dockets."

In re Amend. to Fla. R. of Jud. Admin. 2,420 & the Fla. Rules of App. Pro., 31 So. 3d 756, 768

⁴ While never formally adjudicated by an appellate court, the constitutionality of this provision, along with subsection (f)(3)'s broad restrictions on access as a whole, remains suspect.

(Fla. 2010). Finally, Rule 2.420(f)(3) also contains a duration limitation. It states that any order granting a motion to seal must be no "longer than is necessary to achieve the objective of the motion, and in no event longer than 120 days." See Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(f)(3)(C).

Again, because of the total broad sealing of this case, the News-Journal does not know what bases were asserted as justification for a complete records closure, nor what process occurred in reaching that conclusion. At the very least it would appear total closure of the docket and the anonymization of Mr. Phillips' name serves no purpose. The public docket was open for approximately two years before it was sealed, and the News-Journal has reported on this case.

More importantly, courts regularly reject total seals of court files, especially where records had been previously open to the public. See, e.g., Friend v. Friend, 866 So. 2d 116 (Fla. 3d DCA 2004) (reversing sealing of entire case file that was closed based solely on the parties' wishes); Sonderling v. Sonderling, 600 So. 2d 1285, 1287 (Fla. 3d DCA 1992) (rejecting wholesale sealing of case and instead reviewing each document separately for sealing justification); Lifecare Int'l, Inc. v. Barad, 573 So. 2d 1044, 1046 (Fla. 3d DCA 1991) (requiring a per document review to determine which records were truly subject to seal and noting, "The effect of the August 18, 1988 order was to seal documents which had previously been in the public domain. We see no reason why the documents which were in the public domain prior to August 18, 1988 should not be returned to the public domain at this time."); Reiter v. Mason, 563 So. 2d 749, 751-52 (Fla. 3d DCA 1990) (requiring the unsealing on entire case file where its substance was already a matter of public record).

The court records in the criminal cases filed against Ms. Haycraft and Mr. Radfar remain open (and the five-count information against Mr. Radfar specifically names Mr. Phillips as a co-conspirator). The Phillips court records were previously accessible as well. It is, therefore, no

secret that Mr. Phillips has been criminally charged, nor are the factual details underpinning those charges secret. Wholesale closure of the docket and every case record is thus facially overbroad. Wholesale closure cannot serve to protect any justifiable interest nor would it be the least restrictive means to do so. Moreover, closure of the docket itself runs counter to the Florida Supreme Court's admonition against such practices. Finally, to the extent any motion was made pursuant to Rule 2.420(f)(3), this Court must still balance the public's constitutional right of access

CONCLUSION

to court records against the interest to be protected on a record-by-record basis.

The sealing of an entire court file and progress docket are extreme remedies that can be sustained only in the rarest of circumstances. And before any record is closed, alternatives and narrow restrictions must first be considered. For the foregoing reasons, the News-Journal requests this Court enter an order unsealing all court records in this file, along with the progress docket. To the extent the parties can ultimately justify closure of any record, or some portion thereof, the Court must then consider a narrowly tailored order in scope, duration, and manner that would be effective in protecting the recognized and established interest.

Dated: October 28, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS & LOCICERO PL

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Fax: (813) 984-3070 Attorneys for Gannett Co., Inc. **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 28th day of October, 2020, I electronically filed the

foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court via the E-Portal. I also certify that the

foregoing document is being served this day on counsel of record as listed in the October 26,

2020 2nd Amended Notice of Hearing filed in this matter via electronic mail at the addresses

indicated below. Additionally, given the current sealed status of this case, and pursuant to

Clerk/Court instructions, copies of the foregoing will also be provided directly to presiding

Judge Dennis Craig via electronic mail and also conventionally filed with the Clerk via regular

mail.

By: /s/ Mark R. Caramanica
Attorney

SERVICE LIST

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Attorneys for Defendant

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Charging Affidavit - Volusia	the state of the s	Arrest	A3531	Bk #		1_of_5_
ARREST ☑ NOTICE TO APPEAR ☐ AFFIDAVIT ☐	C.C. ☐ ADULT 🛛	JUVENILE 🔲	Court Case Number:			
(ORI) FL: FL0640000 Agency Name VOLUSIA	COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFIC			180020888		
FCIC/NCIC Check? Yes No OBTS#		U.C.R:	Date Arrested: 09-21-	201	Time of Arrest: 130	00
ADDRESS OF ARREST (Street, City, State, Zip):	-	Arrested:		2010	ID	
157 Perfect Drive DAYTONA BEACH NAME (Last) DEFENDANT Defice College	FL (Middle)	AKA.:			Number: 237 Sex:	Race:
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Scars, Marks, Tattoos:	Occupation:					Citizenship:
	No English:	Yes No .	77-761	Deat/Mute:	Yes No	
Address - Mailing/Permanent (STREET, APT. NUMBER) 157 Perfect Drive		(CITY) ORMOND BEACH		ZIP CODE 32124	(38	SIDENCE PHONE 86) 290-7538
Address - Local (STREET, APT. NUMBER)		(CITY)	(STATE)	ZIP CODE	E RES	SIDENCE PHONE
Address - Other (Employer/School) (STREET, APT, NUMBER)		(CITY)	(STATE)	ZIP CODE	BUS	S/SCHOOL PHON
CHARGES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? Yes Attachments: Affidavit(s)?	? Statement(s)	NTA Schedule	Report Traffic	c Infraction(s)	DUI Total Charg	ges: 9
#1 Charge: Trafficking Cocaine over 400 grams FEL MISD			Citation No.:		Bond: No Bon	
#2) Charge:	T ORD FS/ORD:		Citation No.:		Bond:	10*
#3 Charge:	☐ 693.13 ☐ 680 ☐ FS/ORD:		Citation No.:		No Bond:	
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NARRATIVE The undersigned certifies and st	wears that there is probable	e cause to believe	e the above-na	med defendant,		
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1 On 09/05/2018, Detective initiated an Investigat				on. Information	was received	d that the
2 organization was distributing approximately 1 kilogram of 3			35554 9 103			
4 During the Investigation, Detective was able to i	dentify an address that	was associated v	with the organ	nization that war	s receiving U	Inited
 States Postal parcels containing narcotics for the organiz also identified a female, (D-2)Halie Michele Cra 	ycraft W/F 12-24-1997, a	as a person who	o was receiving			
7 contained narcotics for the organization and later giving the				J Pull		
	t with United States Posi	tal Inspector Bra	ad Kramer. De	atective	asked if Kra	ramer could
10 flag the address for further parcels going to the location.	0.500.000000000000000000000000000000000	A STATE OF A COURT	Uni America	The state of the s		
12 On 09-21-2018, Inspector Kramer contacted Detective	and advised that	a parcel from C	alifornia was	shipped to 414	Cherrywood	Drive,
13 Ormond Beach, FL 32174 and was scheduled to be delived	ared on this date.			R. et		
15 Detectives established surveillance on 414 Cherrywood E	Drive, Ormond Beach, Fl	During the sur	rveillance at a	pproximately 1	120 hours De	atective
NOTICE TO APPEAR MANDATORY YOU NEED	NOT APPEAR IN COURT F	IUT MUST COMPL	Ý WITH _	FINE, AND CO	COSTS	
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Name: Asa	1	>				
Notary Public Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer	OFFICER'S	COMPLAINANTS SIGN			-	
			2372			
Personally Known Produced Identification NAME (PRIN	YEDI		ID NUMBER		-	
Personally Known Produced Identification NAME (PRIN	TED)			700		

Narrative 707-B Supplement		davit 💆	Adult Juvenile	Court Case		Page# 3 of 5
Defendant (Last)	(First)		Middle)	Number: Agency Case	<u>.</u>	Page# 3 of 5
Name: Phillips	Colton		₹	Number: 180020888		Total
CHARGES DOMESTIC	? Yes Allach	ments: Affidavi		Statement(s) NTA Sch		Infraction(s) L Charges: 9
Charge: Possession of SCH III	F	EL MISD	ORD	FS/ORD: 893.13	Citation No.:	Bond: No Bond
Charge: Maintain dwellinfg for Drug	F Traffic	EL X MISD	ORD	FS/ORD: 893.1351	Citation No.:	Bond: No Bond
Charge:	F	EL X MISD	ORD _	FS/ORD: 934.215	Citation No.:	Bond: No Bond
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at 157 Perfect Drive, Daytons	a Beach, FL.				o this date for a search war	
7 Detective had the set the driveway.	earch warrant re	viewed and a	pproved t	by the honorable Judge E	Blackburn on 09-21-2018 b	efore D-1 was contacted in
Members of the East Volusia During the execution on the s above. D-1 was operating a 0 3	search warrant, C	Colton R. Phill	ips (D-1)	05/30/1996 was contacted		
D-1 was brought inside the re then read the search warrant					then read D-1	his rights via a rights card a
7 A search of the premises was 3			•			
D-1's vehicle with.	observed l	D-2 retrieve fr	om the re	esidence of 414 Cherryw	ood Drive and Captian Her	nderson observed D-2 ente
 Item #2- postal box and pack Item #3-552 grams of Methan Item #4- packaging from Item 	nphetamine loca				as addressed to D-2 at the	414 Cherrywood Drive.
5 Item #5-26 grams of cannabis 6 Item #6- plastic bag from Item 7 Item #7- 8 oblong pills marke	n #5.					box on night stand in mast
bedroom.					,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	9
Item #8-Orange pill bottle with Item #9- vial of testosterone p				ntic located under bathro	oom sink in master bedrooi	m
Item #10- liquid which was co	intained inside of	f item #9				
Item #11- black modern AAR Item #12- Black Apple MacBo						sk by Detective Hansen
4 Item #13- Gray Dell laptop se	rial number: G2F	W082 locaat	ed in dres	sser drawer on south wa	Il of master bedroom.	
 Item #14- Silver HP laptop se Item #15- 1 vial of Testex-250 					of bed in master bedroom	by Detective Hansen
Item #16- digital scale and bla	ack container wit	h meth residu	e in black	safe under bed in Radf		
 Item #17- 82 grams of cannal Item #18- clear plastic that co 			edroom. (same as Item's 15 and 1	6).	
Item #19- 33 grams of Methet	lamine located w	ithin the safe	in Radfai	's bedroom.		
Item #20- Plastic bag that cor Item #21- less than a gram of			fo in Pad	far's hadroom		
Item #22- clear plastic bag the			ie iii itaui	ai s bedioom.		
Item #23- Black and Green Si Item #24- Silver and black Ap Item #25- Black Iphone locate	ple lpad located	in backpack i	n closet o	of Radfar's bedroom. S/N		
worn to and subscribed before me, the undersigne				tements are correct and true		Right Thumb
s 21 A day of September	2018	, ,				
lame: HW 8834		-				
otary Public Law Enforceme	nt Officer			OFFICER'S/COMPLAINANT'S	SIGNATURE	
ersonally Known Produced	d Identification	1			2372	
ype of Identification:		NAME (PRIN	TED)		ID NUMBER	

Narrative 707-B Supplement	Arrest Affidavit Notice to Appear	uit Court Case venile Number:		Page# 4 of 5
Defendant (Last)	(First) (Middle	Agency Case		
Name: Phillips CHARGE DOMESTIC	Colton R	Number: 1800208		Total
CHARGES VIOLENCE? Yes Charge:	Attachments: Affidavit(s)?		Schedule Report Traffic	Infraction(s) Charges: 9
#7 Conspiracy to Trafficking in Cocaine Charge:	FEL MISD ORI	893.135 FS/ORD:	Citation No.:	No Bond Bond:
#8 Conspiracy to Trafficking in Methamp	hetamin	893,135	Citation No.:	No Bond Bond:
#9 Poss./Use Narcotic Paraphernalia		893.147(1)	- Challet No.	No Bond
ltem #26- 4 pages of shipping labels with them #28- glass vial that contained item #28- glass vial that contained item #28- glass vial that contained item #30- 262 grams of Cocaine locat item #31- plastic container that contained item #32-319 grams of Methamphetar item #33- plastic container that contained item #35- Red, yellow, green, digital some item #35- Red, yellow, green, digital some item #36- Black safe that contained item #37- Black safe that contained item #38- clear plastic bags and more item #39- Black digital scale with susp item #39- Black digital scale with susp item #40- Ziploc bag that contained by item #41- Money band located in mas item #42- paper with possible ledger of item #44- Vacuum sealer and vacuum item #44- Vacuum sealer and vacuum item #44- Sorgy 2014 BMW M6 Florida item #46- Black Ford pickup 4x4 FX4 item #47- 507 grams of cocaine was leftem #48- packaging that contained item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #50- packaging that contained item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #50- packaging that contained item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #50- packaging that contained item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #50- packaging that contained item #49- 1000 grams of methamphet item #50- packaging that contained item #50- packaging that contained item weight of 1,904 grams. All items of coaine were field tested 100 puring a post Miranda Interview with 100 puring a post Miranda Interview w	estosterone Enanthate 25 m #27. e located on shelf in master ted in safe in master bedro in safe in safe in master bedro in safe in safe in master bedroom in top drawer passwords found in night of US Currency located in safe in safe bags with cannable, a tag KDVL54 vin#WBS60 Florida tag 562PQV vin#1 ocated in the red cooler in safe in safe in the safe	omg located on shelf on mar bedroom. ster bedroom. ar plastic bags, razor knife, ne and cocaine residue locaster bedroom closet. Phillipport of the house. afe in closet of master bedreated in dresser drawer in master be of dresser. It stand next to bed in master be of dresser. In night stand to the left of methamphetamine, and cocated in FTEW1EF9FB71309 located in FTEW1EF9FB71309 located in the garage. In the same vehicle the standard positive for constant resulted positive for constant resulted positive for carbon processer. The parage of the same vehicle the same vehicle the grade of the same vehicle the day of the same vehicle the same vehicle the day of t	and foam cup located in the cated in the master bedroom ps advised the safe belonged from. Toom. The bedroom. The bedroom	in the safe. It to him and provided the it as cocaine cut. also with Item #1. Ital weight of 1,269 grams. with an approximate total otal weight of 108 grams. he met with D-1 at Tomoka erviewed. Detective
this 21 day of September 2018	, <u> </u>			
Name: 700 8834				
Notary Public Law Enforcement Officer	⊠_	OFFICER'S/COMPLAINAN	T'S SIGNATURE	
Personally Known Produced Identification			2372	
Type of Identification:	NAME (PRINTED)		ID NUMBER	

Narrative 707-B Supplement	Arrest Affidavit Notice to Appear Juvenile	Court Case		
Defendant (Last)	(First) (Middle)	Number: Agency Case	Page #	\$ 5 of 5
Name: Phillips	Colton R	Number: 180020888	 	T
CHARGES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE? Yes		Statement(s) NTA Schedule	Report Traffic Infraction	1 Onlarges. 5
Charge:	FEL MISD ORD	FS/ORD:	Citation No.:	Bond:
Charge:	FEL MISD ORD	FS/ORD:	Cilation No.:	Bond:
Charge:	FEL MISD ORD	FS/ORD:	Citation No.:	Bond:
118 safe located in his bedroom that was I	ocated under his bed. This sat	fe contained items #15-#23.		
119 120 During the interview with D-1, he state	d			
121				
122 123 During the search of D-3's bedroom 3	3g of Methamphetamine, 82g	of Cannabis, less than 1g of co	ocaine, and Possession of S	CH III (Testostrone).
124 125 D-1, D-2, and D-3 were subsquently p	laced under arrest and transpo	orted to VCBJ.		
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		1.		
- 1 3				
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() () () () () () () () () ()				
1.3				
Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned this 21 A day of September 2018	I swear/affirm the above sta	tlements are correct and true		Right Thumb
Name: # 3834	-			
Notary Public Law Enforcement Officer	×	OFFICER'S/COMPLAINANT'S SIGNATI	URE	7 !
Personally Known Produced Identification			2372	
Type of Identification:	NAME (PRINTED)		ID NUMBER	





Deputies: Ormond Beach group received drugs via mail

By Patricio G. Balona Posted Sep 26, 2018 at 4:15 PM Updated Sep 26, 2018 at 5:23 PM

Volusia County sheriff's deputies believe they have cracked a drug organization that received narcotics in the mail in Ormond Beach and distributed a kilo of cocaine monthly through the "dark web," according to an arrest report.

Three people have been arrested. They include Colton Phillips, 22, and Halie M. Craycraft and Arad Radfar, both 20.

A total of 2.8 pounds of cocaine and 4 pounds of methamphetamine, as well as several vials of testosterone and large amounts of cash, were seized by investigators when they searched Phillips' house late last week.

Phillips was arrested on Friday, Sept. 21, and charged with: possession of paraphernalia; possession of a controlled substance; use of a two-way communication device to commit a felony; renting a structure for drug trafficking; trafficking methamphetamine; conspiracy to traffic methamphetamine; conspiracy to traffic cocaine; and trafficking cocaine.

Phillips is out of jail on a \$150,000 bail bond, court records show. As of Wednesday, Radfar was still jailed, with bail set at \$150,000, and Craycraft is being held without bond.

According to the arrest report, Phillips told investigators that Craycraft received packages of narcotics for him and he paid her less than \$100 per parcel. Phillips also told investigators that he sold the drugs to Radfar, his roommate, and that Radfar in turn sold the drugs on the "dark web," investigators wrote in their report. The dark web is a hidden part of the Internet that requires special software and is accessible with browsers that cloak a person's identity.

Phillips could not be reached for comment on Tuesday. Craycraft and Radfar remain in jail. Phillips' defense attorney, Aaron Delgado, entered a written plea of not guilty Monday on Phillips' behalf.

Delgado wrote in a text message to The News-Journal that the charges against Phillips were devastating to his family and friends, "who were totally caught off guard by his arrest and shaken by the accusations against him, which seem uncharacteristic of him."

Delgado said Phillips and his family "are acting swiftly and decisively to address the matter and correct any underlying issues that may have contributed to where we find ourselves."

Members of the East Volusia Narcotics Task Force started watching Phillips on Sept. 5. During the investigation, agents learned that Phillips' organization received parcels through the mail containing drugs, the arrest report said.

Last Friday, investigators learned that a package from California had arrived for the group. Undercover drug agents watched as the mail carrier delivered the parcel to Craycraft's home at 414 Cherrywood Drive in Ormond Beach. Shortly before noon, Craycraft drove to the home, picked up the parcel, then drove away. Investigators followed.

Craycraft met with Phillips, who was driving a 2014 BMW, at the Tomoka Plaza on Nova Road. The woman got into Phillips' vehicle with the package, and then exited his vehicle without the package, according to investigators.

Investigators had a search warrant ready and followed Phillips to his home at 157 Perfect Drive, located in the LPGA development of Daytona Beach. They stopped Phillips in the driveway. In the back seat of the car, investigators found the package, which contained a little more than 1.5 pounds of cocaine, investigators wrote.

In the house, investigators seized multiple items including methamphetamine, cocaine, vials of testosterone, laptops, marijuana, a paper with possible passwords, a large undetermined amount of money and drug paraphernalia, reports show.

While investigators were at Phillips' home, Craycraft arrived. At first she said she didn't know the parcels contained drugs, but when drug agents checked her phone, they found text messages between her and Phillips, where he wrote: "These guys don't sell anything less than a half key," the report states.

Craycraft then admitted the packages contained drugs and that Phillips paid her for each parcel, deputies said. She was arrested and charged with conspiracy to traffic cocaine and use of two-way communication device. Craycraft was also accused of violating her probation for grand theft and possession of a controlled substance.

Radfar also arrived at the home and a key located on him opened a safe investigators found in the home. The safe contained a vial of testosterone, digital scale, methamphetamine, marijuana and less than a gram of cocaine, investigators said.

Radfar was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana, possession of a controlled substance, conspiracy to traffic in methamphetamine, trafficking in methamphetamine and possession of cocaine. Radfar admitted that he bought drugs from Phillips, according to investigators.

COMPOSITE EXHIBIT C

Sent: Friday, July 5, 2019 12:29 PM

To: HathawayS@SAO7.org <HathawayS@SAO7.org>
Subject: Phillips, Craycraft and Radfar discovery request

I am requesting to view the discovery in the cases against Colton Phillips, Halie Craycraft and Arad Radfar. I may also want to make copies of some of the information.

Thank you

Frank Fernandez

From: Hathaway, Spencer < HathawayS@sao7.org>

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 3:56 PM

To: Fernandez, Frank <frank.fernandez@news-jrnl.com>

Subject: RE: discovery request

Okay I'll work on this.

Spencer S. Hathaway

Managing Assistant State Attorney / Public Information Officer Daytona Misdemeanor Division

Office of State Attorney R.J. Larizza

251 N. Ridgewood Avenue Daytona Beach, FL 32114 HathawayS@SAO7.org SAOPIO@SAO7.org (386)239-7710 x 14768

From: Fernandez, Frank <frank.fernandez@news-jrnl.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 3:56 PM

To: Hathaway, Spencer < HathawayS@sao7.org>

Subject: discovery request

I'd like to review and make some copies of the discovery in three cases against the following defendants: Colton Phillips, Arad Radfar and Halie Craycraft.

2018 304481 CFDB 2018 304482 CFDB 2018 304480 CFDB

Thank you Frank Fernandez

This message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient or authorized to receive this for the intended recipient, you must not use, copy, disclose or take any action based on this message or any information herein. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by sending a reply email and delete this message. Thank you for your cooperation.

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Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 11:26 AM

To: HathawayS@SAO7.org <HathawayS@SAO7.org>

Subject: Colton Phillips

Hi Spencer

A while back I asked about discovery in the Colton Phillips case. Do you have any update on that? You were last handling it so I thought I'd check with you first.

Thanks

Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 11:11 AM

To: Scott, John <ScottJ@sao7.org>
Subject: Colton Phillips case

I spoke to Spencer before he went on paternity to leave and before you took over his job about discovery in the Colton Phillips case 2018 304481 CFDB.

Can you give me an update on how that is coming along?

I'd like to get that soon.

Thank you

Frank Fernandez

Sent: Monday, March 2, 2020 3:09 PM

To: HathawayS@SAO7.org < HathawayS@SAO7.org>

Subject: Colton Phillips

Welcome back, Spencer.

I had submitted a request awhile back for discovery in the Colton Phillips case. I'm pretty sure the last person I communicated with regarding the request was you.

Do you have any update on how that is progressing?

Frank

From: Scott, John <ScottJ@sao7.org> Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 4:40 PM

To: Fernandez, Frank <frank.fernandez@news-jrnl.com>

Subject: RE: Colton Phillips

Looking into it.

From: Fernandez, Frank <frank.fernandez@news-jrnl.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 2:06 PM To: Scott, John <ScottJ@sao7.org>

Subject: Colton Phillips

I had asked Spencer before you took over his position for the discovery in the case against Colton Phillips. Last I heard from him they were working on it. Can you give me an update on that?

2018 304481 CFDB

Thanks Frank

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LAURA E. ROTH

Volusia County Clerk of Circuit Court

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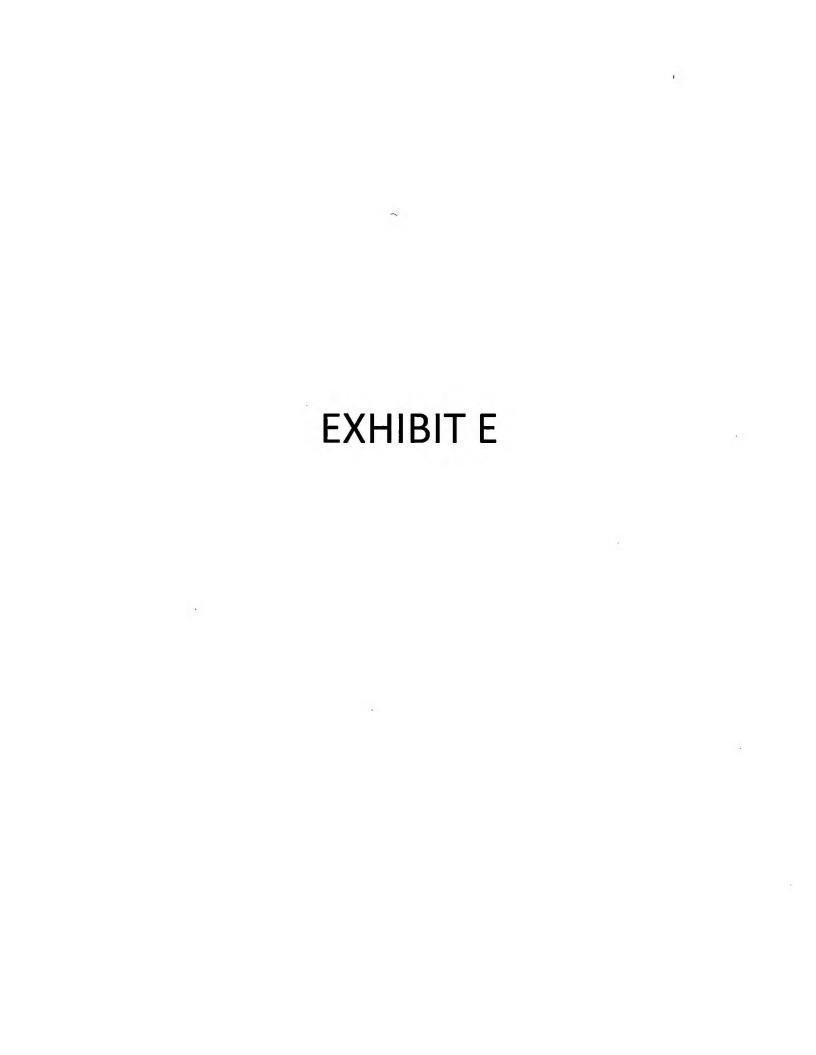
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LAURA E. ROTH

Volusia County Clerk of Circuit Court

Log In

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