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SUBERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLEORNIA				
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 12				
13				
14				
15 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF Case No.				
16 COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE Plaintiff, RELIEF				
V. (Cal. Const., art. I, §§ 1, 1.1; Health & Saf.				
18 Code, § 123460, et seq.)				
19 THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS; and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,				
Defendants.				
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Plaintiff, the People of the State of California, by and through Attorney General Rob Bonta ("Plaintiff" or "the People"), alleges the following, on information and belief:

#### INTRODUCTION

1. In June 2022, the United States Supreme Court revoked the constitutional right to abortion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022) 597 U.S. 215. In response, and reflecting the state's strong support for reproductive rights and bodily autonomy, in 2022, California voters approved Proposition 1, which amended the California Constitution to enshrine the right to reproductive choice:

The state shall not deny or interfere with an individual's reproductive freedom in their most intimate decisions, which includes their fundamental right to choose to have an abortion and their fundamental right to choose or refuse contraceptives. This section is intended to further the constitutional right to privacy guaranteed by Section 1, and the constitutional right to not be denied equal protection guaranteed by Section 7. Nothing herein narrows or limits the right to privacy or equal protection.

(Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.1.)

Due to California's robust protections for reproductive rights, the State has 2. become an important resource for patients denied essential abortion healthcare in their home states. In the wake of the devastating *Dobbs* decision, numerous states enacted draconian bans on abortion, resulting in more than 171,000 patients in 2023 traveling to other states for their abortion healthcare. California saw a 16.3% increase in abortion care between 2020 and 2024. with more than 5,000 abortions provided to out-of-state patients in 2023.<sup>2</sup> To ensure that the State remains a refuge for its own residents as well as the individuals traveling from other states to access care, California must ensure a welcoming environment for abortion providers to operate and for patients to receive care.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Molly Cook Escobar, et al., 171,000 Traveled for Abortions Last Year, N.Y. Times (June 13, 2024), https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/06/13/us/abortion-state-laws-bantravel.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Guttmacher Instit., Monthly Abortion Provision Study, https://www.guttmacher.org/monthly-abortion-provision-study#interstate-travel (last visited Oct. 28, 2024); Mackenzie Mays, Cal. Saw a Surge in Abortions after Dobbs, L.A. Times (Apr. 12, 2024), https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-04-12/california-abortions-surged-afterdobbs-providers-brace-for-more-following-arizona-court-decision.

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was -- like everything got more extreme even before

that where you're looking at extremist groups.

15. Former Mayor Julian Gold ("Mayor Gold")—who was the City's mayor between April 2023 and April 2024 and had been on the City Council during this period of intensified protest activity—offered his view of this activity:

A. -- protests are protected speech. We get it. And certainly, we support that. But protests by their nature are very disruptive. They, not infrequently, in my opinion, impinge on other people's rights in the pursuit of their own free speech.

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All of these are unfunded by anybody. The city picks up the tab for all of this. And, you know, is that a great use of city money? You know, wouldn't it be nice to be able to use those dollars to support senior healthcare or more library hours or a nicer park? But yet we burn dollars in these events that, you know, we have no choice. We have to keep people safe, and we have to protect these First Amendment rights.

But at the end of the day, there's a cost, and the city as a whole bears it. And so I think that, you know, frankly, it's the rights of the individual over the rights of the many, and, you know, that perhaps needs to be rebalanced.

16. This context is critical to understanding the City's actions in this case.

#### II. DUPONT'S EFFORTS TO OPEN IN BEVERLY HILLS MEDICAL CENTER

- 17. In 2021, DuPont, a Washington D.C.-based reproductive healthcare clinic, decided to open a second location in California. DuPont, which offered all-trimester abortions in its D.C. clinic, chose California due to the state's public support for abortion rights.
- 18. In June 2022, DuPont selected Suite 635 in the Beverly Hills Medical Center ("the Building") and entered into lease negotiations with the Building's landlord, Douglas Emmett. In September 2022, DuPont and Douglas Emmett executed the lease, and in October 2022, DuPont announced on social media that it planned to expand to Los Angeles and began

22. In January 2023, Det. Schwartz and the DuPont CMO began communicating directly, with the DuPont CMO introducing Det. Schwartz to security experts at the National Abortion Federation ("NAF") and to the Building Property Manager and Douglas Emmett's Director of Security. Sgt. Stout, who was copied on the email chain, responded internally, again flagging that DuPont opening in the City was likely to be concerning to the City's officials:

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From: Mark Schwartz Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 10:16 AM PST To: Matthew Stout Subject: RE: e-connecting

8920 Wilshire Blvd.

Opens in the fall.

From: Matthew Stout <mstout@beverlyhills.org> Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 10:37 PM To: Mark Schwartz <mschwartz@beverlyhills.org> Subject: Re: e-connecting

At some point a very detailed email will need to be authored by us to go to the city manager. And it will be read by the city council.

At some point. And where is the address and when is it up and running?

#### ANTI-ABORTION ACTIONS AGAINST DUPONT AND THE BUILDING IN SPRING 2023

- 23. In February 2023, facilitated by mutual acquaintances, the DuPont CMO introduced herself and DuPont via email to the City's then-Mayor Lili Bosse. In her introduction, the DuPont CMO requested to speak with Bosse about DuPont's opening. Mayor Bosse never responded to the email. Mayor Gold succeeded Bosse in April 2023.
- 24. In March 2023, the Building Property Manager reported within Douglas Emmett that flyers objecting to DuPont's opening had appeared at buildings neighboring the Building.
- 25. In April 2023, anti-abortion activists posted on social media a claim that they had projected the phrase "Murder Mill" onto the side of the Building. On April 11, 2023, the DuPont CMO alerted Douglas Emmett about the social media post and asked if there was any information about the projection. The DuPont CMO also contacted the FBI Special Agent about the social media post, who in turn contacted Det. Schwartz at BHPD, and the three of them had a call to discuss the incident. The DuPont CMO again connected Det. Schwartz to NAF's head of West Coast clinic security.

26. On April 13, 2023, Det. Schwartz featured DuPont in his weekly "Intel Brief" email, and he included a description of the projection incident. The same day, Capt. Giovanni Trejo, who recently had transitioned from BHPD's public information officer to leading the field services division, called Assistant City Manager Ryan Gohlich about DuPont and followed up by forwarding Det. Schwartz's "Intel Brief." Gohlich, in turn, forwarded the information to City Manager Nancy Hunt-Coffey:

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 7:20 PM PDT
To: Ryan Gohlich
Subject: RE: Weekend Events/Intel Brief 4/13-4/16

OK, thank you.

From: Ryan Gohlich <rgohlich@beverlyhills.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:41 PM
To: Nancy Hunt-Coffey <nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org>
Subject: FW: Weekend Events/Intel Brief 4/13-4/16

Just FYI below regarding the Dupont Clinic, which is coming to BH. Nothing urgent, but Gio specifically gave me a call on this one since the clinic's medical director called PD to let them know they were moving to the below building and have had some incidents/threats in the past from anti-abortion groups. They are currently in the permitting process. I can brief you further whenever/if you want.

From: Giovanni Trejo < <a href="mailto:streio@beverlyhills.org">sent: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:32 PM</a>
To: Ryan Gohlich <a href="mailto:streio">rgohlich@beverlyhills.org</a>
Subject: FW: Weekend Events/Intel Brief 4/13-4/16

Per our conversation.

Gio

27. These emails reflect that Sgt. Stout was accurate in his initial impression that DuPont's opening could be controversial to City officials.

#### V. APRIL 18, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

28. An exchange of emails among Deputy City Manager (and former Chief Communications Officer) Keith Sterling, Hunt-Coffey, and Gohlich in the afternoon of April 18, 2023 reveals that the issue of DuPont operating in the City was becoming a more significant issue for City officials:

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:19 PM PDT

To: Mark Stainbrook
Subject: RE: dupont

I talked with Larry and unfortunately it's not a topic that we can discuss in closed session. It's not a potential threat to a public facility. (2)

From: Mark Stainbrook <mstainbrook@beverlyhills.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:53 PM

To: Nancy Hunt-Coffey <nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org>; Gregory Barton <gbarton@beverlyhills.org>

Subject: RE: dupont

Closed session briefing to CC in order?

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey < <a href="mailto:nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org">nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org</a>

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 3:52 PM

To: Mark Stainbrook <mstainbrook@beverlyhills.org>; Gregory Barton <gbarton@beverlyhills.org>

Subject: Fwd: dupont

Just fyi regarding timing of the construction at the late term abortion clinic.

- 31. For "closed session" meetings, the City Council conducts business without public attendance. In California, where the presumption is that government decisionmakers conduct their business within the public eye, the types of briefings and decisions that such decisionmakers can undertake in closed session is significantly limited. (See, e.g., Gov. Code §§ 54956.7 54957 [outlining circumstances where closed sessions can be held].)
- 32. According to Chief Stainbrook, his request for a closed-session briefing was to discuss "potentially any security issues." But upon learning that a closed-session briefing was not appropriate, Chief Stainbrook notably made no effort to have the discussion in open session, despite the fact that he has provided such briefings in open session in other circumstances.
- 33. When asked about her view on Chief Stainbrook's suggestion, Hunt-Coffey confirmed that she also wanted to speak about DuPont in closed session. For her part, Hunt-Coffey thought a closed-session briefing would be useful to speak with the City Council not only about potential safety issues about DuPont but also about whether DuPont was "opening legally" and "if they [DuPont] were going to be following the law."
- 34. During the City Council formal meeting, at approximately 7:31 p.m., Hunt-Coffey sent an email to all of the City Council members in which she provided information about

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DuPont's planned opening in the Building in the late summer or fall 2023, notably flagging that the clinic could be "the focus of protests, rallies and unfortunately other more violent actions on

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey <nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org>

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:31:38 PM

To: Nancy Hunt-Coffey <nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org>

Cc: Mark Stainbrook <a href="mailto:mstainbrook@beverlyhills.org">mstainbrook@beverlyhills.org</a>; Ryan Gohlich <a href="mailto:rgohlich@beverlyhills.org">rgohlich@beverlyhills.org</a>; Timmi

Tway <ttway@beverlyhills.org>; Keith Sterling <ksterling@beverlyhills.org>; Gregory Barton

<gbarton@beverlyhills.org>; Meena Janmohamed <mjanmohamed@beverlyhills.org>

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers. We were recently informed that the Dupont Clinic will be opening in Beverly Hills at 8920 Wilshire, 6th Floor.

https://dupontclinic.com/coming-soon/. This is a clinic that offers birth control services as well as abortions. They offer abortions after 26 weeks, which are sometimes referred to as late-term abortions. Late-term abortion clinics can be the focus of protests, rallies and unfortunately other more violent actions on occasion. The clinic is currently conducting substantial tenant improvements and will likely open late summer or in the fall. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

- After Hunt-Coffey sent that email, as expected, three individuals appeared at the April 18, 2023 City Council meeting to express their opposition to DuPont opening a clinic in the City. One of the individuals who spoke was the organizer of the Freedom Rally, which, as described above, had attracted significant media attention to the City. Hunt-Coffey, who knew of the Freedom Rally founder, was "very surprised" that she appeared to speak in opposition to DuPont. Another speaker identified herself as representing Stop DuPont Clinic, which she described as an "effort to keep a particular unethical business out of California." All three speakers asked the City Council to block DuPont from opening in the City, with the Stop DuPont representative explicitly asking that the City Council withhold approval of DuPont's building
- At approximately 7:41 p.m., during the first speaker's comments opposing DuPont, Councilmember Sharona Nazarian responded to Hunt-Coffey's email about DuPont:

1		From: 14-Sharona Nazarian <snazarian@beverlyhills.org></snazarian@beverlyhills.org>				
2	2 Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:41 PM To: Nancy Hunt-Coffey <nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org></nhuntcoffey@beverlyhills.org>					
3		Subject: Re: dupont				
4		How did this get through?				
5		Sharona R. Nazarian, PsyD				
6		Beverly Hills City Councilmember City of Beverly Hills				
7						
8	37.	Nazarian's response, which occurred during the City Council meeting, suggested				
9	two things: 1) that the City had a way to block DuPont from opening in Beverly Hills; and 2) that					
10	Nazarian was unhappy about DuPont operating in the City.					
11	38.	Shortly after, Hunt-Coffey replied to Nazarian to clarify that the City could not				
12	officially bloc	k DuPont:				
13		Name that Coffee				
14	From: Sent: To:	Nancy Hunt-Coffey Tuesday, April 18, 2023 7:44 PM PDT 14-Sharona Nazarian				
15	Subject:	RE: dupont				
16	Well, it's a private business renting space in a private building. We don't have anything in our code that prevents it					
17	39.	The day after the City Council meeting, on or around April 19, 2023, the Stop				
18	DuPont representative sent an email about DuPont to Mayor Gold, in which she sought to					
19	persuade Mayor Gold that DuPont would be disadvantageous to the City:					
20						
21		Dear Mayor Gold, My name is an and I'm from Stop DuPont Clinic. I had the privilege during public				
22		comment last night to inform the city council about DuPont Clinic, the extreme abortion clinic which wants to open up at 8920 Wilshire Blvd, Beverly Hills.				
23		Abortion is a polarizing issue, but elective third trimester abortions is something that most people completely disagree with. It's actually quite offensive to the community of Beverly Hills				
24		that this city was picked to host California's first and only extreme, late term abortion on demand clinic.  Lyould also like a change to available some of the practical properties of the practical				
25		I would also like a chance to explain some of the practical, unemotional reasons why DuPont Clinic should not be allowed in Beverly Hills. For example, practically all those serviced at the clinic will be from out of state, so this is not something that benefits the residents of Beverly				
26		Hills.  There's many other factors to consider and I'd like a chance to discuss it with you. Additionally, I'm asking that this issue be placed on the agenda for a future city council meeting, and that Stop				
27	I'm asking that this issue be placed on the agenda for a future city council meeting, and that <u>Stop DuPont Clinic</u> would be allowed to prepare a panel and presentation to present to the city. Thank you.					
28		Sacramento Coordinator				

1	40. The Stop DuPont representative sent identical emails to Bosse and Nazarian. The				
2	same day, Nazarian responded with interest, copying Hunt-Coffey and City Attorney Lawrence				
3	Wiener:				
4					
5	From: 14-Sharona Nazarian  Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 11:39 AM PDT  To: Stop DuPont Clinic				
6	CC: Nancy Hunt-Coffey; 6-Laurence Wiener Subject: Re: Request to agendize				
7	Dear ,				
8	Thank you so much for your email and your letter last night. I am looping our City Manager and City Attorney into this email. I am not sure what jurisdiction we as a Council have on a private business entering the City Of Beverly Hills but opened to learning more.				
9	Thank you. Sharona Nazarian				
10	Sharona R. Nazarian, PsyD Beverly Hills City Councilmember				
11	City of Beverly Hills				
12	41. On April 21, 2023, Hunt-Coffey emailed the Stop DuPont representative to				
13	schedule a meeting with Nazarian, Hunt-Coffey, and Wiener. On May 19, 2023, Nazarian, Hunt-				
14	Coffey, and Wiener met with the Stop DuPont representative and a lawyer representing the				
15	organization.				
16	VI. THE CITY'S INTERFERENCE WITH DUPONT'S OPENING IN BEVERLY HILLS				
17	42. Following the April 18, 2023 City Council meeting, the City pursued two paths of				
18	interference with DuPont's ability to open in Beverly Hills. First, the City interfered with				
19	DuPont's lease with Douglas Emmett by conducting a pressure campaign against Douglas				
20	Emmett. Second, the City interfered with the release of DuPont's building permits.				
21	A. The City's Interference with DuPont's Lease				
22	43. Shortly after the April 18, 2023 City Council meeting, the City began a pressure				
23	campaign against Douglas Emmett consisting of several meetings and culminating with the City's				
24	plan to distribute an inflammatory letter to Douglas Emmett's other tenants.				
25	1. April 25, 2023 Meeting				
26	44. In an uncommon move, a few days after the City Council meeting, Deputy City				
27	Manager Gohlich asked the City's office manager to contact a Douglas Emmett Senior Vice				
28	President ("SVP"):				

Property Manager ("RPM") responsible for the Building as well as Douglas Emmett's Director of Security.

- 48. During the call, the City representatives informed the Douglas Emmett representatives about the individuals who had appeared at the April 18, 2023 City Council meeting and expressed surprise and alarm about those individuals. Despite lacking intelligence about a specific threat, the City representatives claimed that with DuPont as a tenant, the Building could be subject to protests, bomb threats, and "lone-wolf" active shooters. The City representatives communicated that the City had "very limited resources," and that the City was "not going to be, you know, a substitute for [Douglas Emmett's] private security." The concern, at least for Hunt-Coffey, "was for things like larger scale protest activity that might take place" and ensuring that "patients for all of the suites in that building were able to get the care they need without being disrupted." The City representatives also highlighted their concern that protest activity against DuPont would result in the City receiving negative media attention.
- 49. The Douglas Emmett representatives informed the City representatives that Douglas Emmett was analyzing the security at the Building and were "working on it."
- 50. Toward the end of the call, the City representatives directly asked whether Douglas Emmett's lease with DuPont was "100 percent happening" and whether there was a way to "unwind" the lease. According to contemporaneous notes from the Douglas Emmett RPM, when he confirmed that DuPont was going to move into the building, the City representatives were "visibly uncomfortable" and "scared."

## 2. Activity in Late April and Early May 2023

51. A couple of days later, on April 27, 2023, then-Councilmember (and now Mayor) Lester Friedman sent an email from his personal account to an email address appearing to belong to a tenant in the building, in which Friedman stated that the "person who oversees the Douglas Emmett westside portfolio of properties" was the Douglas Emmett RPM who appeared at the April 24, 2023 meeting. The next day, Friedman forwarded his email to Mayor Gold:

- 55. A letter from the City aimed at the tenants in the Building is notable given that neither the City nor BHPD had **ever** sent that kind of letter to tenants in other buildings where protests regularly occurred.
- 56. On May 22, 2023, Det. Schwartz drafted the first version of the Tenant Letter, which he sent to Capt. Max Subin, who ran the Investigative Services division and was in Det. Schwartz's chain of command. On May 24, 2023, Capt. Subin sent a revised version of the letter to Chief Stainbrook. In both draft versions of the Tenant Letter, Det. Schwartz and Capt. Subin highlighted that a "reproductive health care provider" [i.e., DuPont] provided abortion services and that providers offering such services could be targeted with violence and vandalism. The BHPD officers included this information despite not having any intelligence about any specific threats of violence against DuPont.

# 4. May 24, 2023 Meeting

- 57. The Tenant Letter was one of the issues discussed in the meeting between the City and Douglas Emmett that occurred on or around May 24, 2023. For this call, Mayor Gold planned to and did attend the meeting, as well as Hunt-Coffey, Gohlich, and Chief Stainbrook. For Douglas Emmett, the Director of Security and the Douglas Emmett RPM again attended.
- 58. In the May 24, 2023 meeting, the City again expressed concerns about DuPont moving into Beverly Hills. Mayor Gold, in particular, used a raised voice to bring up the prospect of bomb threats, active shooters, and the safety of other tenants, and noted that, as a doctor, he knew other tenants in the Building. Mayor Gold emphasized that protests against DuPont would "overwhelm[]" the City's resources and would be a "lightning rod" for the City, commenting that the City would receive negative press attention. Mayor Gold questioned whether Douglas Emmett had plans to protect the building and the tenants, stating that Douglas Emmett would be "responsible" and "liable" if anything happened as result of DuPont moving into the building. He also claimed that BHPD had only eight to nine patrol officers on each shift.
- 59. In response to Mayor Gold's concerns about security, the Douglas Emmett representatives stated that Douglas Emmett was evaluating security at the building and putting together plans.

- 60. As the conversation continued, Mayor Gold raised the Tenant Letter, stating that the City wanted to provide information to the community about security threats. Mayor Gold asked Chief Stainbrook whether the Tenant Letter was ready to send. Although the concept of the Tenant Letter came up in the meeting, the substance of the letter was not discussed. The Douglas Emmett RPM requested that Douglas Emmett see any letter before sending to the Building tenants.
- 61. Like Chief Stainbrook in the April 24 meeting, Mayor Gold asked whether Douglas Emmett was going to "move forward" with DuPont's lease and eventual operation in the building. After the Douglas Emmett RPM again confirmed that DuPont was going to open in the fall, Mayor Gold fell quiet.
- 62. Towards the end of the meeting, the Douglas Emmett RPM recommended a follow-up discussion with Douglas Emmett and the City that would also include DuPont. In a subsequent email from the Douglas Emmett RPM to the City about meeting with DuPont, the City representatives agreed.

# 5. Revisions of the City's Tenant Letter

- 63. On May 25, 2023, Chief Stainbrook further revised the Tenant Letter and sent it to Hunt-Coffey. In this version of the Tenant Letter, Chief Stainbrook removed the explicit reference to DuPont providing abortion services, although he continued to identify that a "reproductive health care provider" was moving into the Building. Chief Stainbrook's draft identified "several areas related to public safety and potential safety implications for" the Building tenants, including "privacy" for patients; "increased noise and pedestrian traffic . . . due to protests or other disruptive activity"; "violence or acts of vandalism"; and "harassment" or "[i]ntimidation of patients and staff may occur."
- 64. The same day, Hunt-Coffey sent Chief Stainbrook's draft of the Tenant Letter to Mayor Gold for review and feedback. Mayor Gold responded:

but that DuPont's Washington D.C. clinic experienced only one or two protestors per day and that DuPont had not had any notable incidents. She also told the City representatives that DuPont had received a grant to increase security for its facility, so the City would not have to expend any additional resources.

69. Mayor Gold nevertheless expressed concerns about safety and security issues arising from DuPont moving into the Building, again emphasizing the City's lack of resources as well as complaints he had received privately from tenants in the Building who were doctors that he knew. He believed that Douglas Emmett had not made "any real progress" on the security issues surrounding DuPont. He wanted Douglas Emmett to have "looked at the facility" and "determined that [it] need[ed] to do X, Y, and Z . . . to make this a safer environment." As Mayor Gold explained, referring to Douglas Emmett:

For me it was they had not done anything, which by inference would be not enough. And I was just hoping that they would move it along and do whatever they were going to do. I didn't want to be ignored.

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- Q. Were you under the impression that you were being ignored?
- A. Well, there was no -- to the extent that I could tell, there was no forward motion, yes.
- Q. What led you to believe that there was no forward motion?
- A. You know, just that they hadn't reported the fact that, thank you very much; we're doing it.
- 70. Mayor Gold's concerns about "being ignored" and Douglas Emmett making no "forward motion" are notable given that both Hunt-Coffey and Chief Stainbrook stated that the City was not mandating that Douglas Emmett do anything with regard to security measures, that the City was merely providing "recommendations."

- 71. In a striking exchange, Mayor Gold also stated his belief that pregnant individuals visiting the Building would be harassed by anti-abortion activists protesting DuPont. When the DuPont CMO pointed out that most of DuPont's patients need their services for "very sad reasons" and are not noticeably pregnant, Mayor Gold retorted "at 32 weeks?," evincing his displeasure at DuPont's performance of later abortions.
- 72. The City representatives again raised the issue of sending the Tenant Letter to the Building tenants, with Mayor Gold asking Douglas Emmett for a list of the tenants' emails to distribute the letter. Consistent with Mayor Gold's request, shortly after the meeting, Capt. Subin sent the Tenant Letter along with a BHPD "Safety Tips" worksheet to the DuPont CMO and the Douglas Emmett representatives.

# 7. Communications among the City, DuPont, Douglas Emmett about the Tenant Letter

- 73. On May 31, 2023, shortly after receiving Capt. Subin's email with the draft of the Tenant Letter, the DuPont CMO contacted the Douglas Emmett RPM, noting that the Tenant Letter "isn't great" and asking to "huddle about a response." The DuPont CMO also wrote back to Capt. Subin to inquire about the timing for the letter. Capt. Subin replied: "No specific date. We'd like to get it out sooner than later."
- 74. Only a couple of days later, on June 2, 2023, Hunt-Coffey asked Capt. Subin when the letter would go to the Building tenants. Capt. Subin replied that he had not yet received any feedback on the letter. He relayed his plan to discuss with DuPont and Douglas Emmett the distribution of the letter at a June 5, 2023 security walk-through of the Building. He explained that BHPD would either need a "list of tenants to email them the letter or walk the building and hand deliver the letter to each tenant." But, he ultimately expected that the Tenant Letter could be distributed by June 6 or June 7, 2023—within a week from the May 31 meeting, and two to three months before DuPont planned to open in the Building.
- 75. After Capt. Subin's exchange with Hunt-Coffey about when the letter would go out, on June 2, 2023, the DuPont CMO provided her feedback on the Tenant Letter:

Hi Max,

Would it be possible for us to discuss this on Monday during the walkthrough before it is sent out?

I want to make sure it's clear to tenants that there are protections for us that would also protect the other tenants under federal and state law. As I assume you are aware, this includes the <u>FACE Act</u> and <u>CA Reproductive Rights Law Enforcement Act PC sections 13775 through 13779</u>. I have a great deal of experience, as does Matt, in using these laws to protect patients and staff through work with local law enforcement and the US Department of Justice. These protections apply during construction as well as after the clinic opens.

I have a few concerns about the way violence is presented in the letter causing significant anxiety disproportionate to the actual risk for tenants and leading to disruptions for both DuPont and Douglas Emmett. We are already spending a lot of time working with tenants on their comfort level and ensuring that they understand that we are all fully invested in making sure their patients and staff are safe.

Thanks,





76. Hunt-Coffey, who was copied on the DuPont CMO's email, responded to Capt.

#### Subin about the feedback:

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey

Sent: Friday, June 2, 2023 4:58 PM PDT

To: Max Subin
CC: Mark Stainbrook

Subject: FW: 8920 Wilshire Blvd Letter

Hi there. I read through the below and I don't know a lot about what she is referring to regarding FACE Act and the other Act. I guess my thought is that the letter is ours and no one controls the content but us. Having said that, if you and the Chief feel that she raises any points that we should consider, please make whatever changes you feel are appropriate. But, just to be clear, the letter is ours and this isn't a collaborative process so don't feel compelled to include any language just because the tenant or owner suggests or asks for it.

Thanks.

Nancy

77. Hunt-Coffey explained her comment that "the letter is ours and this isn't a collaborative process":

A. We indicated on the -- at the May 31st meeting that we would provide a copy of the letter to

I don't recall us telling her that we would welcome her feedback and incorporate what -- anything she sent to us. I don't recall saying that, because I don't think we did.

So we provided her a copy of the letter. She took the opportunity to provide feedback. And so, again, my email to Captain Subin and Chief Stainbrook was to indicate that the letter was ours.

And if they felt that it was okay, as it stood, then it was our letter. But if had feedback that they felt should be incorporated, that they should incorporate it.

- 78. Hunt-Coffey's assertions about the Tenant Letter are striking because the City had never before taken this step of sending direct communication about protest and security concerns related to a single tenant to all of the other tenants in a building. That the City did not welcome feedback from DuPont, the *subject* of the protest activity at the Building, underscores that the City did not see DuPont as a victim to be shielded, but rather as an annoyance to be dealt with.
- 79. On June 5, 2023, representatives from BHPD, the Los Angeles FBI, Douglas Emmett, and DuPont toured the Building, during which the Douglas Emmett RMP and the DuPont CMO discussed the Tenant Letter with Capt. Subin. Capt. Subin informed them that the City intended to distribute the letter to the Building tenants "very, very soon." Capt. Subin explained that Mayor Gold was "very anxious" to distribute the letter.
- 80. The Douglas Emmett RPM told Capt. Subin that Douglas Emmett was still digesting the letter and was considering pairing it with an introduction letter from DuPont. The Douglas Emmett RPM explained that Douglas Emmett was concerned with the letter's language and how the tenants would receive it, and he offered to have Douglas Emmett send something to the Building's tenants on the City's behalf. Capt. Subin pointedly refused, stating that the communication had to come from the City.

81. Capt. Subin also declared that the City would distribute the Tenant Letter to the
Building tenants "with or without" Douglas Emmett's assistance. The City was willing to scrape
their databases for the tenants' emails or would even have cadets hand-deliver the Tenant Letter
door-to-door. The Douglas Emmett RPM told Capt. Subin that cadets hand-delivering the Tenan
Letter was a "really bad idea," because cadets—essentially police officer trainees—would know
very little about the underlying issue but nevertheless would be delivering to "very smart, very
invested doctors who are running businesses," which would lead to "a thousand questions that
these young cadets are not going to be prepared to answer." The Douglas Emmett RPM asked
Capt. Subin for a couple of days to consider, which Capt. Subin approved but noted that the letter
would go out on a "very short timeline."

82. The next day, June 6, 2023, Capt. Subin and the DuPont CMO exchanged emails in which Capt. Subin agreed to include language about federal and state statutes that would protect the BHMC tenants. Capt. Subin also outlined the options for DuPont and Douglas Emmett regarding distribution of the Tenant Letter:

On Tue, Jun 6, 2023 at 4:56 PM Max Subin < msubin@beverlyhills.org> wrote:

We spoke about the below:

- 1. One email to all tenants.
  - Our Letter
  - Workplace Tips
  - Social Media Flyer
  - Your Letter

Hand delivering to tenants through our Cadets or a service that we use, "Walking Man." The last resort is receiving the email addresses through licensing/permits, and we send our letter.

I feel that option 1 is best; it shows collaboration. The City wants to make sure that all tenants receive our letter.

Let me know what you think.

Max

- 83. On June 7, 2023, the Douglas Emmett RPM responded to Capt. Subin and the DuPont CMO that he was "having some internal conversations today" and would get back to Capt. Subin.
- 84. The same day, the Douglas Emmett RPM sent two emails to Hunt-Coffey, Gohlich, and Mayor Gold asking for a call and for the City to pause distribution of the Tenant Letter. On June 8, 2023, the City and Douglas Emmett had the requested call, with Mayor Gold and Hunt-Coffey participating for the City, and the Douglas Emmett RPM and Douglas Emmett Vice President of Commercial Property ("VP"), participating for Douglas Emmett. In that call, the Douglas Emmett VP asked Mayor Gold and Hunt-Coffey about the tone of the Tenant Letter, to which they repeated their previous points that the City only has eight officers on patrol each shift; that the City would not be able to police the Building; and that the City was concerned.
- 85. In that call, the Douglas Emmett VP said that the company was "working on something" and asked for a pause on distribution of the letter. Mayor Gold agreed to pause distribution for one week. According to Mayor Gold, he had the following response to the call with Douglas Emmett:
  - Q. Okay. What were your thoughts when you got that request from Douglas Emmett?
    - A. We're making progress.

86. Mayor Gold's reaction reveals that the City considered the Tenant Letter to be leverage against Douglas Emmett. That Mayor Gold considered Douglas Emmett "working on something" and asking for a pause on distribution of the Tenant Letter to be "progress" supports that the leverage was not actually to ensure increased security at the Building but rather to block DuPont from opening there at all.

#### 8. Douglas Emmett's Rescission of DuPont's Lease

87. Notably, the "something" Douglas Emmett was "working on" turned out to be the rescission of DuPont's lease. Prior to the call with the City, the Douglas Emmett VP and RMP called the DuPont CMO and informed her that Douglas Emmett was "highly concerned" about

the Tenant Letter and was unaware of "what a [b]ig issue" DuPont's operation would be.

Although the DuPont CMO responded that the City was "overreacting," the Douglas Emmett VP stated that the "City has put [Douglas Emmett] on notice" and that Douglas Emmett was considering rescinding DuPont's lease.

- 88. On June 12, 2023, the City's office manager contacted the Douglas Emmett VP and requested a meeting on June 15, 2023 with Mayor Gold and Hunt-Coffey. Later that same day, Douglas Emmett sent a letter notifying DuPont of its intent to rescind DuPont's lease. Douglas Emmett copied both Mayor Gold and Hunt-Coffey on the letter.
- 89. In the letter to DuPont, Douglas Emmett identified the Tenant Letter as part of the reason for the rescission, noting that the letter was "very concerning" and "indicates that the other tenants in the Building should anticipate 'violence and vandalism' and asserts that 'intimidation of patients and staff may occur."
- 90. On June 15, 2023, the City and Douglas Emmett met to discuss Douglas Emmett's rescission of DuPont's lease. According to contemporaneous notes taken during the meeting, the City representatives thanked Douglas Emmett, with someone making the comment that this "serves our best interests."

### 9. The City Targeted DuPont

- 91. The City interfered with DuPont's lease because of the abortion services that DuPont planned to provide and the protests that DuPont would attract. The City's conduct makes clear that rather than seeing DuPont as the target of anti-abortion activity and a potential victim of more serious misconduct, the City considered DuPont the source of disruption and potential security risks. Chief Stainbrook encapsulated this perspective, stating that not only did he **not** consider DuPont a victim of the anti-abortion activities that occurred, but instead that DuPont's move into the City would be a "work pill" that would increase his and BHPD's work.
- 92. The repeated claims from City officials, including then-Mayor Gold, about DuPont's operations "overwhelm[ing]" the City's resources is not credible in light of the significant investments that the City has made into public safety and policing resources. The City has over 2,500 closed-caption cameras that feed into a "Real Time Watch Center" that BHPD

monitors 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The City also has approximately 50 automated license plate readers placed throughout the City, which capture all license plates of passing cars along with the date, time, and location of the captured image. These readers also alert BHPD if a car with a license plate matching plate numbers that BHPD has loaded into its internal system. BHPD also has a drone that it flies twelve hours per day, during which BHPD can monitor high crime areas, support officers who are on calls, and track stolen vehicles or vehicles in pursuits.

- 93. Mayor Gold's comments are also not credible in light of the City's security preparations for high-profile events that it hosts, like the Golden Globes, which can also be the source of security threats, like bomb threats and lone-wolf shooters. According to Hunt-Coffey, for those events an eight-person patrol is not an issue:
  - eight BHPD officers?

    A No. We -- we plan ahead, right. We know it's going to happen. And so we hire up officers and traffic control officers, and fire personnel are there -- you know, fire is a -- is a concern, right. Lots of people in -- congregated in one space. We open our emergency operation center when the Golden Globes is

How do you handle the Golden Globes with

94. Hunt-Coffey's statements reveal that if the underlying event or entity is one the City finds favorable, the City can and will be ready to address any concomitant security concerns. In contrast, the City was unwilling to do so for DuPont.

going on.

95. The City's actions following notice of Douglas Emmett's rescission underscores that the City's true motive was to prevent DuPont from moving into Beverly Hills to avoid any resulting protest activity. On June 15, June 22, and June 29, 2023 the City again met with Douglas Emmett and repeatedly asked Douglas Emmett to publicize its rescission of DuPont's lease to try to avoid a planned anti-abortion protest in July 2023. Mayor Gold highlighted that the anti-abortion opposition to DuPont involved the organizer of the series of Freedom Rally protests, who was "effective in mobilizing people" and was a "thorn in [the City's] side." In those

meetings, Mayor Gold also highlighted the "bad press" that the City had received during the Freedom Rally protests.

- 96. In a further attempt to dissuade the anti-abortion protest from occurring, between July 11 and 18, 2023, the City, through Det. Schwartz, directly informed both the organizer of the protest and the Stop Dupont Clinic representatives that Douglas Emmett had rescinded DuPont's lease. On July 26, 2023, in an effort to persuade the organizer to call off the protest, Mayor Gold, along with Det. Schwartz, City Attorney Wiener, and Deputy City Manager Sterling, even met with the protest organizer to assure him that Douglas Emmett had rescinded DuPont's lease. And on July 27, 2023, Sterling sent written confirmation to the protest organizer about the lease rescission.
- 97. Despite the fact that it was aware that a potentially large protest was planned at the Building in July 2023, the City notably took no steps to communicate with the Building tenants about the protest. According to Hunt-Coffey, because the protest was "planned for later" and "wasn't imminent," the City felt no need to engage in outreach to the Building tenants. The City's approach with regard to this known protest stands in marked contrast to the urgency with which it wanted to distribute the Tenant Letter, despite Douglas Emmett's and DuPont's concerns and that DuPont would not begin operations until months later in the fall.
- 98. In sum, the City's conduct interfered with access to essential reproductive healthcare, in violation of California law.

## B. The City's Interference with DuPont's Permits

- 99. Following the April 18, 2023 City Council meeting, the City engaged in a second form of interference by conditioning and delaying the issuance of DuPont's building permits.
- 100. In October 2022, DuPont contacted the City's permitting department and informed the department that DuPont's planned use for its suite in the BHMC was "medical/ambulatory." In February and March 2023, DuPont applied for its permits, and on March 30, 2023, the City's permitting department approved DuPont's building permits.
- 101. On April 18, 2023, following the public comments opposing DuPont's operations at the City Council meeting, City Attorney Wiener researched DuPont and discovered language

on DuPont's website that he was concerned could conflict with California's laws governing abortions. In particular, Wiener was concerned that DuPont would be willing to offer abortions in California after fetal viability, without the pregnant individual's health being at risk.

- 102. Between April 18 and April 24, 2023, Wiener instructed the City's permitting department not to issue DuPont's permits until he had spoken with DuPont about his concerns, which he was confident he could accomplish because DuPont needed the permits to issue to continue its construction.
- 103. On April 24, 2023, DuPont's contractors requested issuance of the approved building permits, at which point the permitting department informed them that there was "hold on the project" because the "City Attorney is looking into the matter and determining whether the proposed use is allowed or not."
- 104. On April 24, 2023, DuPont's attorney contacted Wiener about the "hold" on DuPont's permits. On April 25, 2023, Wiener and DuPont's attorney had a call in which they discussed Wiener's concerns about DuPont's abortion services. Wiener admitted that his concerns were triggered by DuPont's abortion services and that if DuPont was a plastic surgery practice, he would not have flagged the permits. Wiener also told DuPont's attorney that it would be "easier" for the City if DuPont would provide a letter confirming its intention to comply with California law. Wiener also considered a letter from DuPont about its compliance with California law to be "political cover" for the City. In the call, Wiener expressly said that the letter was not a condition of DuPont's permitting issuing.
- 105. On April 25, 2023, DuPont's attorney emailed Wiener to inform him that the DuPont CMO was willing to provide the letter that Wiener had requested. DuPont's attorney also repeated her understanding that the letter was "separate and apart" from the issuance of the approved permits.
- 106. On April 28, 2023, Wiener contacted the permitting department to let them know that DuPont's approved permits could issue. At the time that Wiener contacted the permitting department, he believed that DuPont would provide the letter he requested.

#### 1 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION** 2 (Interference with the Right to Privacy) 3 (Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.) The People reallege all paragraphs set forth above and incorporate them by 4 112. 5 reference as though they were fully set forth in this cause of action. 6 113. The California Constitution guarantees that "[a]ll people are by nature" entitled to 7 a right to privacy. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 1.) The State's privacy rights extend to a person's right 8 to decide whether to have an abortion. (See Committee to Defend Repro. Rights v. Myers (1981) 9 29 Cal.3d 252, 257; see also Am. Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307, 332.) 10 The City of Beverly Hills, through its intervention in DuPont's opening, violated 11 Californians' right to choose whether to continue a pregnancy, as protected under the 12 constitutional right to privacy. First, the City delayed the issuance of DuPont's building permits 13 on account of the City Attorney's concern over the nature of the services provided by the Clinic. 14 Second, the City engaged in a pressure campaign under the guise of public safety leading to the 15 termination of DuPont's tenancy. The City's actions infringed on constitutional guarantees to 16 privacy. 17 THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION 18 (Violation of the Reproductive Privacy Act) 19 (Health & Saf. Code, §§ 123460, et seq.) 20 115. The People reallege all paragraphs set forth above and incorporate them by 21 reference as though they were fully set forth in this cause of action. 22 The RPA prohibits the "state" from "deny[ing] or interfer[ing] with a . . . pregnant 116. 23 person's right to choose or obtain an abortion prior to viability of the fetus, or when the abortion 24 is necessary to protect the life or health of the woman or pregnant person." (Health & Saf. Code, 25 § 123466, subd. (a).) The RPA applies to municipalities, like the City of Beverly Hills. (Health 26 & Saf. Code, § 123464, subd. (c) ["State' means the State of California, and every county, city, 27 town and municipal corporation, and quasi-municipal corporation in the state."].)

The City of Beverly Hills, through its intervention in DuPont's opening, interfered with the rights protected under the Reproductive Privacy Act. First, the City delayed the issuance of DuPont's building permits on account of the City Attorney's concern over the nature of the services provided by the Clinic. Second, the City engaged in a pressure campaign under the guise of public safety leading to the termination of DuPont's tenancy. The City's actions amount to interference with the right to choose abortion outlined in the Reproductive Privacy Act.

#### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Declaratory Relief)

(Civ. Proc. Code, § 1060.)

- The People reallege all paragraphs set forth above and incorporate them by reference as though they were fully set forth in this cause of action.
- Declaratory relief is appropriate for "[a]ny person . . . who desires a declaration of his or her rights or duties with respect to another . . . in cases of actual controversy relating to the legal rights and duties of the respective parties." (Civ. Proc. Code, § 1060.)

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the People respectfully request that the Court enter judgment in favor of the People and against the City, as follows:

- For the Court to issue an order enjoining the City from engaging in the unlawful practices challenged in this Complaint, requiring the City to implement the provisions as set forth in the Proposed Stipulated Judgment to be submitted to the Court, and entering final judgment;
- For the Court to exercise continuing jurisdiction over this action to ensure that the City complies with the judgment as set forth in the [Proposed] Stipulated Judgment; and
  - For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

27

1	Dated: October 31, 2024	Respectfully submitted,
2		ROB BONTA Attorney General of California
3		NELI PALMA Senior Assistant Attorney General
4		KARLI EISENBERG NATALIE TORRES
5 6		Supervising Deputy Attorneys General
7		
8		/s/ Erica Connolly Erica Connolly
9		Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Plaintiff People of the State of California
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