26

27

28

BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION [FILE: 1969.00] Cory J. Briggs (State Bar no. 176284) cory@briggslawcorp.com 99 East "C" Street, Suite 111 Upland, CA 91786

Telephone: 909-949-7115

Attorneys for Plaintiff Mark Lane

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CASE NO. <u>'18CV1687 BEN NLS</u> Plaintiff, COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE DECLARATORY RELIEF BASED ON VIOLATIONS OF VS. **CIVIL AND OTHER RIGHTS** BEN KALASHO; and DOES 1 through 100, Defendants.

Plaintiff MARK LANE ("Plaintiff") allege as follows:

#### **Introductory Statement**

- 1. Plaintiff has been an advocate for social justice on a variety of issues throughout San Diego County for many years. One of the local public officials who abuses his office and the constituents he serves more than most is El Cajon City Councilman Ben Kalasho ("KALASHO"). Plaintiff has openly criticized KALASHO for abusing his office and the public. Rather than listening to Plaintiff and trying to learn from the criticism, KALASHO has shut him down.
- 2. KALASHO maintains a Facebook websites in order to communicate with the public about official City of El Cajon matters and other public affairs. Members of the public who do not air their concerns about KALASHO and keep their criticisms to themselves are allowed to post comments on his Facebook website. Plaintiff is not so lucky; he has been completely blocked from posting critical

23

24

25

26

27

28

or negative comments on this website. KALASHO has blocked Plaintiff as "pay back" for past criticism and to prevent him from publicizing his concerns in the future.

#### **Parties**

- 3. Plaintiff was at all relevant times a resident of the County of San Diego in the State of California.
- 4. Defendant KALASHO was at all relevant times a member of the City of El Cajon City Council. He is not currently being sued in an official capacity.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that, at all times stated in this pleading, each Defendant was the agent, servant, or employee of every other Defendant and was, in doing the things alleged in this pleading, acting within the scope of said agency, servitude, or employment and with the full knowledge or subsequent ratification of his principals, masters, and employers. Alternatively, in doing the things alleged in this pleading, each Defendant was acting alone and solely to further his own interests.
- 6. The true names and capacities of the Defendants identified as DOES 1 through 100 are unknown to Plaintiff, who will seek the Court's permission to amend this pleading in order to allege the true names and capacities as soon as they are ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that each of the fictitiously named Defendants 1 through 100 has some degree of liability to Plaintiff or has some other cognizable interest in this lawsuit.

#### Jurisdiction and Venue

- 7. This Court has federal-question jurisdiction over this lawsuit pursuant to Section 1983 of Title 42 of the United States Code.
- 8. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Section 1391 of Title 28 of the United States Code because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in the County of San Diego.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: Violation of Federal Constitutional Rights (Against All Defendants)

- 9. The preceding allegations in this pleading are fully incorporated into this paragraph.
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that at all relevant times:

11

15

18 19

20 21

22 23

24 25

26 27

28

- A. The cover photo of KALASHO's Facebook website identifies him as "Ben Kalasho (Councilman)." Whenever KALASHO posts to his Facebook timeline, the post's header identifies him as "Ben Kalasho – El Cajon Councilmember." A true and correct copy of this portion of KALASHO's Facebook website is attached to this pleading as Exhibit "A."
- B. The "Details About Ben" portion of the "About" section of KALASHO's Facebook website describes him as "Councilman." A true and correct copy of this portion of KALASHO's Facebook website is attached to this pleading as Exhibit "B."
- C. KALASHO's Facebook website includes a link to "BenKalasho.com." The "Meet Ben" portion of "BenKalasho.com" begins by describing KALASHO's feelings about "[b]eing on the City Council" and ends by letting readers know that he "want[s] to be as accessible as possible to my constituents." A true and correct copy of this portion of "BenKalasho.com" is attached to this pleading as Exhibit "C."
- D. KALASHO routinely posts to his Facebook website to engage with friendly members of the public on matters involving City of El Cajon business and other public affairs. A true and correct copy of examples of such posts is attached to this pleading as Exhibit "D."
- KALASHO uses his Facebook website to distribute information about the City E. of El Cajon and other public affairs and to allow members of the public other than Plaintiff to post comments. A true and correct example of an unblocked member of the public being allowed to post a comment (posted by Cory Briggs as "Testing 1, 2, 3") on one of KALASHO's Facebook posts on July 24, 2018, is attached hereto as Exhibit "E."
- F. Plaintiff was blocked from posting comments on KALASHO's Facebook website after the latter began to be criticized by the former on City of El Cajon business and other public affairs. One more than one occasion – and as recently as July 24, 2018 – Plaintiff has attempted to access KALASHO's Facebook website but was unable to do so. The reason why he could not do so is that KALASHO has blocked him in retaliation for past criticism. A true and correct copy of the messages Plaintiff received when he attempted to access KALASHO's Facebook website on July 24, 2018, is attached hereto as Exhibit "F."

- G. For purposes of members of the public exercising their free-speech and/or government-petitioning rights, the Facebook website maintained by KALASHO constitutes a public forum.
- 11. Defendants' retaliatory conduct as alleged in this pleading violated and continues to violate, among other things, Plaintiff's rights of free expression and to criticize the government as guaranteed by the United States Constitution.
- 12. Defendants' criticism-suppressing conduct as alleged in this pleading violated and continues to violate, among other things, Plaintiff's rights of free expression and to criticize the government as guaranteed by the United States Constitution.
- 13. As a result of Defendants' illegal conduct as alleged in this pleading, Plaintiff has suffered a legally cognizable injury in an amount to be proven at trial and has "chilled" his political speech for fear of being the victim of further retaliation and criticism suppression by Defendants and other public agencies and officials.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: Violation of State Constitutional Rights (Against All Defendants)

- 14. The preceding allegations in this pleading are fully incorporated into this paragraph.
- 15. Defendants' retaliatory conduct as alleged in this pleading violated, among other things, Plaintiff's rights of free expression and to criticize the government as guaranteed by the California Constitution.
- 16. Defendants' criticism-suppressing conduct as alleged in this pleading violated, among other things, Plaintiff's rights of free expression and to criticize the government as guaranteed by the California Constitution.

#### Prayer

- FOR ALL THESE REASONS, Plaintiff respectfully prays for the following relief against Defendants jointly and severally:
  - A. General, special, incidental, and/or nominal damages according to proof;
  - B. Punitive damages according to proof;

- C. Any and all legal fees and other expenses incurred by Plaintiff in connection with this lawsuit, including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees and costs; and
  - D. Any and all further relief that this Court may deem appropriate.

Date: July 24, 2018. Respectfully submitted,

**BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION** 

By: s/ Cory J. Briggs

Attorneys for Plaintiff Mark Lane

### JS 44 (Rev. 06/17) Case 3:18-cv-01687-BEN-NLS Document 1 SHEED 7/24/18 PageID.6 Page 1 of 2

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil do	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FO	5		- 12410-124						
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDAN	NTS							
MARK LANE				BEN KALASHO; and DOES 1-100								
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego County  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant San Diego County  (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.								
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION 909-949-7115 Cory J. Briggs (State Bar no. 176284) 99 East "C" Street, Suite 111, Upland, CA 91786				Attorneys (If Known)  '18 CV1687 BEN NLS								
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in O	ne Box Only)		TIZENSHIP O		INCI	PAL	PARTIES				
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	■ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)			(For Diversity Cases O	PTI	5 5 5 5 5 5		ncorporated or P		PTF   4	DEF	
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi)	iversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)						ncorporated and of Business In		<b>D</b> 5	<b>D</b> 5	
	27			en or Subject of a reign Country	0	3 🗆	3 F	oreign Nation	N 300 - 100 - 21	□ 6	□ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)  CONTRACT TORTS				ORFEITURE/PENAL	The second secon	re of Suit Code Descriptions.						
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice  CIVIL RIGHTS  X 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting 442 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other 448 Education	ne Product ity   Product Liability   Product L		5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 1 Cother Labor Litigatic 1 Employee Retiremen Income Security Act  IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Applic 5 Other Immigration Actions	e 881	BANKRUPTCY  □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application □ 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g))  FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609			OTHER STATUTES  □ 375 False Claims Act □ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC □ 3729(a)) □ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 896 Arbitration □ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes			
	moved from 3	Remanded from Appellate Court	J 4 Rein Reop	pened Ai		red fror District		D 6 Multidist Litigation Transfer		Multidis Litigatio Direct Fi	on -	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION  Section 1983 of Title 42 of the Unite Brief description of cause: Violation of Plaintiffs' free-speech rig			d States	28								
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION	V D	EMAND \$ >\$1.00 accordin	ng to p	oroof.		ECK YES only RY DEMAND	if demanded in	n complai □No	nt:	
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE				_DOC	CKET	NUMBER _				
DATE 07/24/2018		signature of at s/ Cory J. Brigg		OF RECORD								
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDO	GE			MAG, JU	DGE			

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- **L.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
  - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
  - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
  United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)** 

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

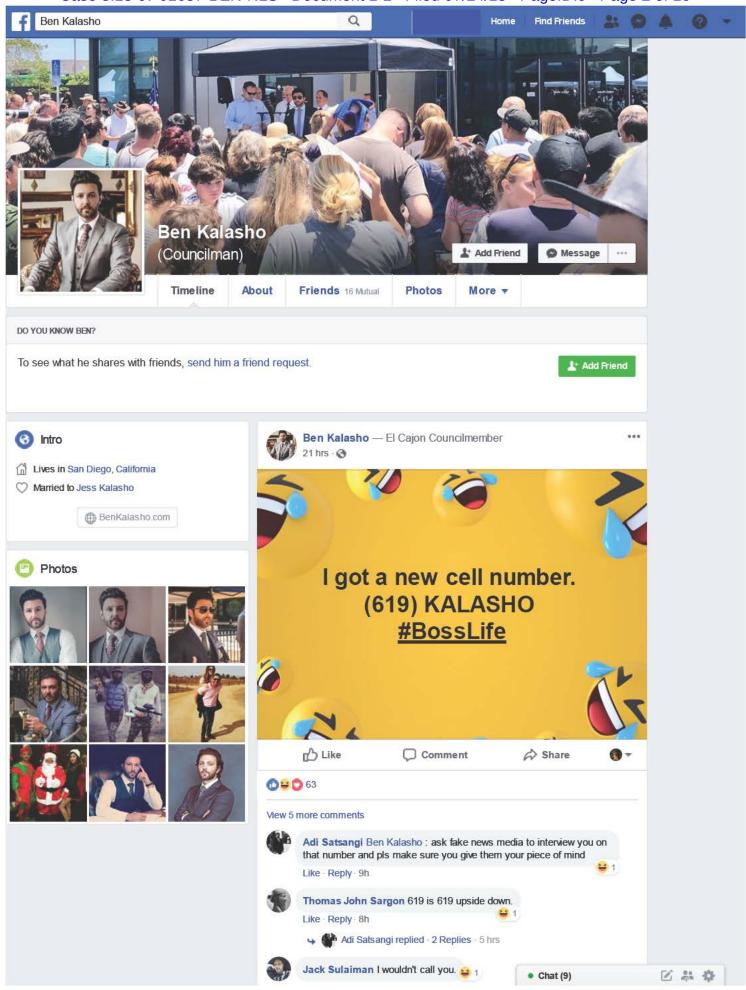
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

  Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.

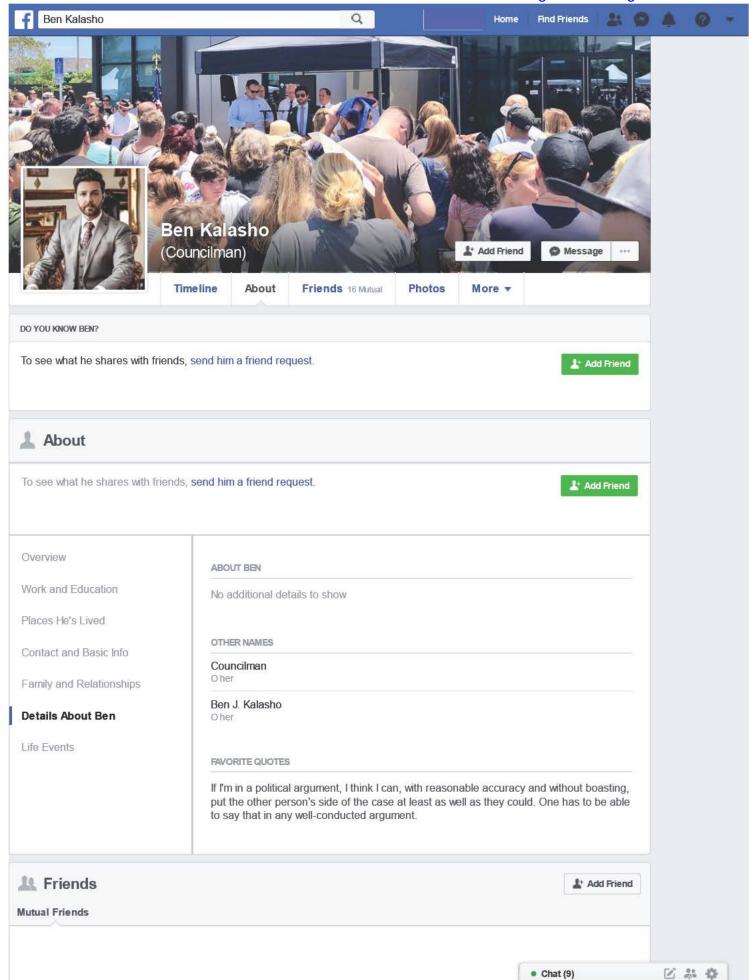
  Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

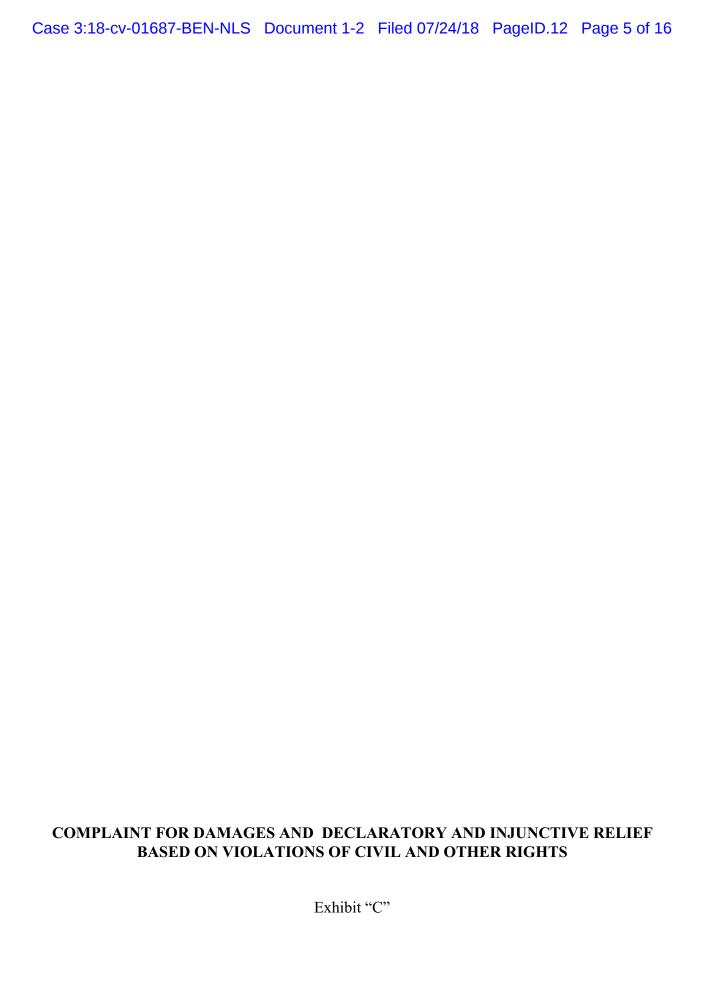
Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.











Case 3:18-cv-01687-BEN-NLS Document 1-2 Filed 07/24/18 PageID.13 Page 6 of 16



#### **MEET BEN**

New Leadership Delivering Results for Our Community

Being on the City Council is a responsibility I value greatly. I've always believed that local politics effects our lives more then State or even National. The decisions I will be making will have a direct effect on your safety, wallet and quality of life. It is for that reason that I entered politics. The desire to raise the standard of living for my community is to me the ultimate achievement a man can make. What better legacy to leave behind than the one of a person who comes into power and leaves a place more wonderful then he found it. What better way to honor a mans friends, neighbors and family than to ensure that their home is safer, that their children are getting a better eduction and that jobs are abundant. I chose the life of service because I was good at serving. Actually I was great at it. I saw things through the lens of pragmatism and simple common sense. I don't waste time meddling around with Politics. Instead, I spend hours a day on results. My hope is that you will notice positive changes in our city. And when you are driving, walking or biking through El Cajon, you will notice the many real changes I've made. I see a lot of potential in this city. I've met wonderful, passionate people along the way. I've been lucky to have been seated next to business leaders who understand the dynamics of commerce and economy. All these things I take with me. All the people I encounter are my teachers in this journey, whether they know it or not. Let it be known that I want to be as accessible as possible to my constituents. Feel free to contact me anytime you like.

Your obedient Servant.

B. Kal



#### **JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!**

Name \*

Email \*

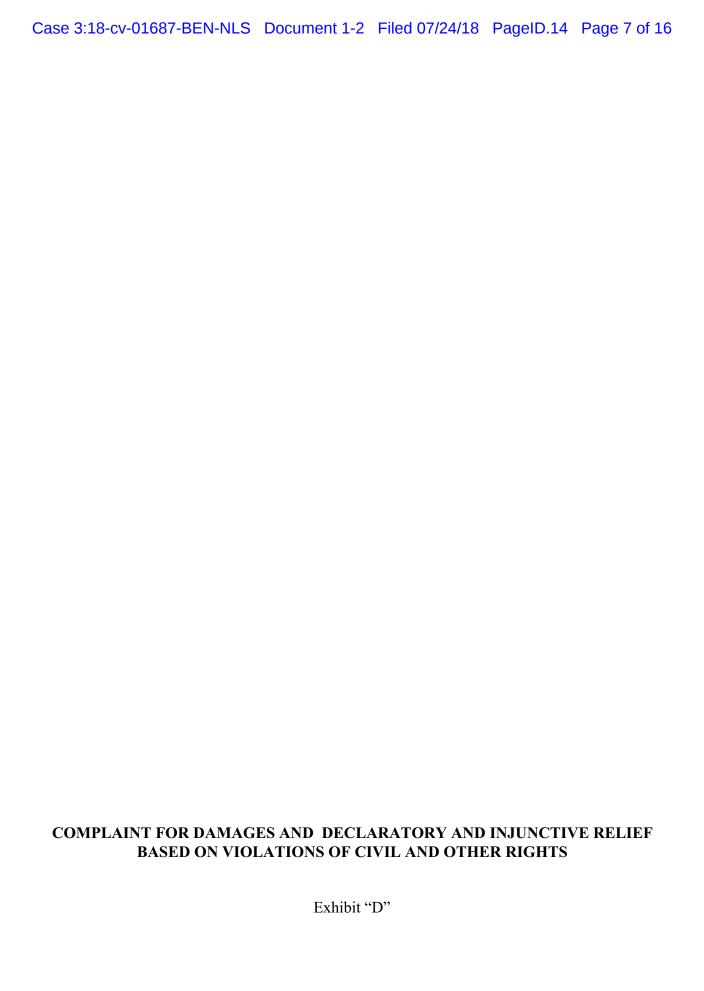
Subject

Message

Send

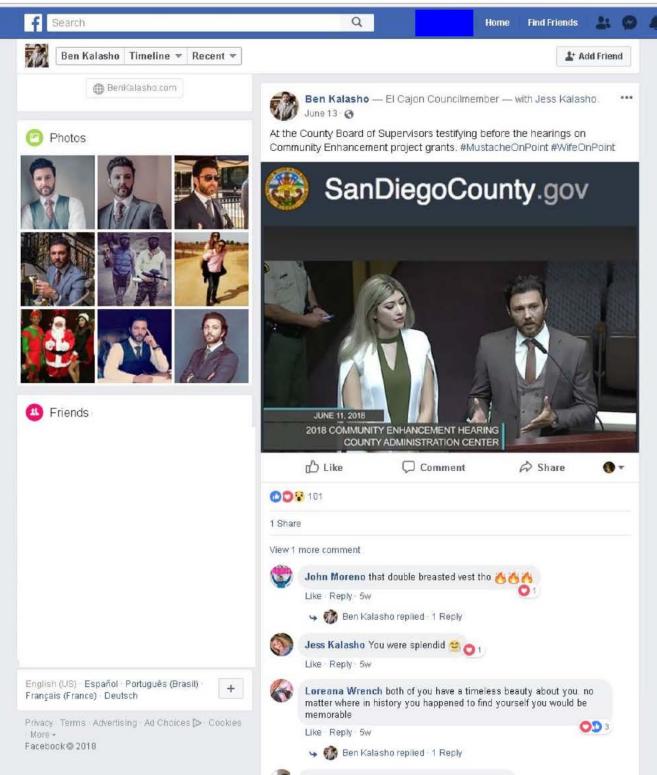
**REGISTER TO VOTE!** 





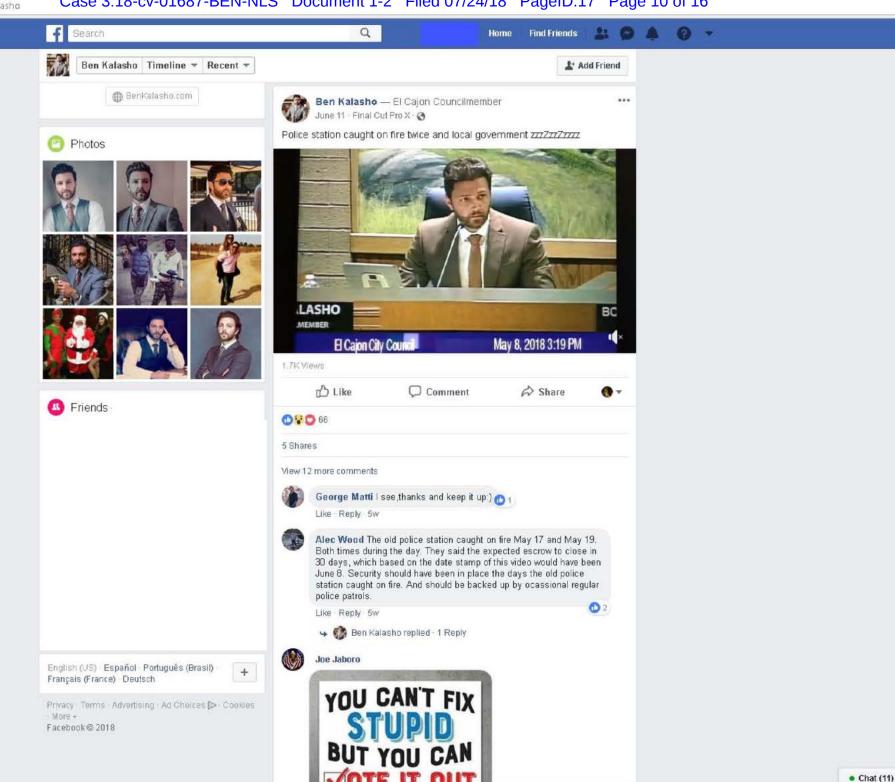
Nick Ketelsen Absolutely, glad you are fight for what common





s://www.facebook.com/Mr.BenKalasho

Case 3:18-cv-01687-BEN-NLS Document 1-2 Filed 07/24/18 PageID.17 Page 10 of 16





#### Mobile Uploads



Like · Reply · 1w



Russell Ekbom Our government's got to realize pushing these people aside is not going to get rid of them. Treatment medical treatment can help a lot of these people get themselves out of there rut there in.. and until we change our medical system to where people can actually afford it without going broke this is what's going to continue to happening.. mental health is important... Poverty is real

Like · Reply · 6d

Russell Ekbom replied · 2 Replies

Nick Walker Hirsch There's no single cause of homelessness, and no single solution, but I tend to be deeply skeptical of any version that tries to "fix" the problem by making it harder for desperate people to survive.

The job program is a step in the right direction, b... See More

Like · Reply · 5d

Cory Briggs Testing 1, 2, 3

Like · Reply · 1m

Write a comment...

Like

Comment

Share

Tag Photo

Options

end in Messenger







# Q Search in Ben's posts, photos, a...



# Ben Kalasho



Message



More



Lives in Santee, California



See others who live here

**ABOUT** 

**PHOTOS** 

**FRIENDS** 



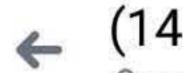
**Photos** 



Friends •

**Posts** 

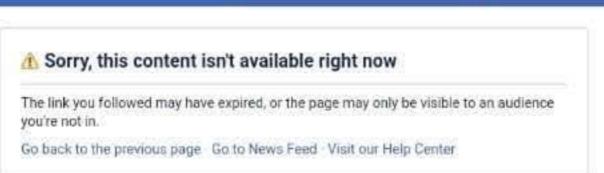
No posts available



## (14) Facebook







About Create Ad Create Page Developers Careers Privacy Cookies Ad Choices → Terms Help

cebook © 2018

English (US) Español Français (France) 中文(简体) العربية Português (Brasil) Italiano 한국어 Deutsch 문과 日本語 +





### ← Content Not Found

The page you requested cannot be displayed right now. It may be temporarily unavailable, the link you clicked on may be broken or expired, or you may not have permission to view this page.

### Back to home