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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

TATOMA, INC., a California  
Corporation, DBA Atelier Aucoin Salon,  
on behalf of itself and all others similarly  
situated,  
  
Plaintiff,

vs.

GAVIN NEWSOM, in his official  
capacity as the Governor of California;  
XAVIER BECERRA, in his official  
capacity as the Attorney General of  
California; and KRISTY UNDERWOOD,  
in her official capacity as Executive  
Officer of the State Board of Barbering  
and Cosmetology,  
  
Defendants.

Case No. '21CV0098 BEN JLB

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT  
FOR:**

- 1. 14th AMENDMENT DUE PROCESS;**
- 2. 14th AMENDMENT EQUAL PROTECTION;**
- 3. 5th AMENDMENT TAKINGS;**
- 4. CAL. CONST. ART. 1 § 1 RIGHT TO LIBERTY;**
- 5. CAL. CONST. ART. 1 § 7 RIGHT TO PROPERTY; and**
- 6. CAL. CONST. ART. 1 § 19 TAKINGS WITHOUT COMPENSATION**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

**INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 California courts have routinely held that the California Constitution provides  
3 just compensation to property owners when their land is taken for public use,  
4 because the law seeks to bar the government from forcing some people alone to  
5 bear public burdens which, in all fairness and justice, should be borne by the public  
6 as a whole.  
7

8  
9 Since March 2020, the State of California has issued multiple closure orders  
10 prohibiting barbering and cosmetology professionals from operating their  
11 businesses. These businesses have been singled out for closure in order to benefit  
12 the public. They remain one of the only types of businesses which have been  
13 ordered to completely shut down, with no opportunity to conduct any operations  
14 whatsoever or earn a livelihood, despite the lack of any showing or evidence that  
15 the operation of hair salons at the same levels permitted for other types of  
16 businesses (*e.g.*, 20% capacity) would lead to increased transmission rates of  
17 Covid-19. Gyms are allowed to operate outdoors, but not hair or nail salons. As  
18 such, the property of Plaintiff and the Class has been taken for a public use and  
19 benefit, and compensation must be paid.  
20  
21  
22

23  
24 When the government takes the property of dozens or even hundreds of  
25 homeowners whose homes abut an existing highway in order to expand the  
26 highway, compensation is owed to the homeowners; the public at large is  
27 benefitted, but only certain members of the public bear the burden, thus entitling  
28

1 them to compensation. The same is true here. Plaintiff and the Class own and  
2 operate hair and nail salons which have been forced to completely shutter their  
3 operations, with absolutely no opportunity to conduct any business whatsoever, in  
4 order to benefit the public. Almost all other businesses have been permitted to  
5 continue operations on-site at 20% capacity, operate outdoors, conduct operations  
6 remotely, or provide services on a take-out or delivery basis, thus permitting them  
7 to earn some kind of livelihood. Plaintiff and the Class, in stark contrast, have been  
8 denied all economically beneficial use of their property, and thus have been subject  
9 to a complete taking of their property and business.

10  
11 Because Plaintiff's fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitutions of the  
12 United States and the State of California have been violated, Plaintiff is entitled to  
13 compensation.

### 14 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

15  
16  
17  
18 1. In response to the coronavirus emergency, Defendants have taken  
19 Plaintiff's property without just compensation in violation of fundamental rights  
20 protected by the United States and California constitutions.

21  
22 2. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-  
23 20 (the "Governor's Order") attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. The Governor's Order  
24 has no sunset provision or expiration date.

25  
26 3. Several other orders were issued subsequent to March 19, 2020 which  
27 adversely affected Plaintiff's business and imposed restrictions on the ability of  
28

1 Plaintiff and the Class to operate their hair and nail salons.

2 4. On December 3, 2020, the State of California issued a Regional Stay at  
3 Home Order (*see Exhibit 2*). The Regional Stay Home Order and a supplemental  
4 order, signed December 6, 2020, announced that the orders would go into effect at  
5 11:59 PM the day after a region was determined to have less than 15% Intensive  
6 Care Unit (“ICU”) availability. The supplemental order clarified retail operations  
7 and went into effect immediately. They prohibit private gatherings of any size,  
8 close sector operations except for critical infrastructure and retail, and require 100%  
9 masking and physical distancing in all others. The order was supposed to last only  
10 three weeks.  
11

12  
13  
14 5. Then, on December 29, 2020, the most recent December 3, 2020  
15 closure order *was extended indefinitely*.  
16

17 6. As a result of the orders, including the most recent December 29, 2020  
18 order, Plaintiff is completely and indefinitely prohibited from engaging in any  
19 business operations.  
20

21 7. The State’s official Covid-19 website provided the following  
22 explanation for issuance of the December 3, 2020 Stay at Home Order:  
23

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

1 **Regional Stay Home Order**

2 *Why is this Regional Stay Home Order being implemented now?*

3 We are in the midst of an unprecedented surge in cases and  
4 hospitalizations in California and across the country. *Without*  
5 *immediate action many hospital Intensive Care Units (ICU) will*  
6 *reach capacity before the end of the year. ICU beds are a critical*  
7 *resource for individuals who need the most advanced support and*  
8 *care.* Given the nationwide surge, the ability to add surge ICU capacity  
9 is limited by availability of ICU nurses and physicians. *We need to*  
10 *protect our hospital capacity so those who need care—for such*  
11 *things as cancer treatment, heart attacks, and strokes—can get it.* By  
12 taking this action we are saving lives, protecting our health care  
13 delivery system and keeping those at highest risk and essential workers  
14 safe.

12 **PARTIES**

13 8. Plaintiff Tatoma, Inc., d/b/a Atelier Aucoin Salon, is a California  
14 Corporation with its principal place of business in La Jolla, California. The  
15 California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (“the Board”) issued License No.  
16 313411 to Plaintiff on June 30, 2017. Plaintiff operates Atelier Aucoin Salon in  
17 San Diego, California.

18 9. Defendant Gavin Newsom is made a party to this action in his official  
19 capacity as the Governor of California. The California Constitution vests the  
20 “supreme executive power of the State” in the Governor, who “shall see that the  
21 law is faithfully executed.” CAL. CONST. ART. V, § 1. Governor Newsom issued the  
22 Governor’s Order on March 19, 2020.

23 10. Defendant Xavier Becerra is made a party to this action in his official  
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26  
27  
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1 capacity as the Attorney General of California. Under California law, Becerra is  
2 the chief law enforcement officer with supervision over all sheriffs in the State.  
3 CAL. CONST. ART. V, § 13.  
4

5 11. Defendant Kristy Underwood is made a party to this action in her  
6 official capacity as Executive Officer of the California State Board of Barbering  
7 and Cosmetology.  
8

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 12. This action is brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in relation to  
11 Defendants' deprivation of Plaintiff's constitutional rights to due process, equal  
12 protection, and just compensation for temporary takings under the Fifth and  
13 Fourteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution.  
14

15 13. Accordingly, this Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28  
16 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.  
17

18 14. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the claims asserted  
19 under California's Constitution, statutes, and regulations.  
20

21 15. The Southern District of California is the appropriate venue for this  
22 action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (2) because it is a District in which  
23 Defendants maintain offices, exercise their authority in their official capacities,  
24 have enforced, and have threatened to enforce the Orders.  
25

26 ///

27 ///

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

1  
2 16. On or about January 31, 2020, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human  
3 Services declared a public health emergency, under section 319 of the Public Health  
4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d), in response to COVID-19.  
5

6 17. On or about March 4, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsom  
7 proclaimed a State of Emergency as a result of the potential threat of COVID-19.  
8

9 18. On or about March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump proclaimed a  
10 National State of Emergency as a result of the threat of the emergence of a novel  
11 coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, which causes the COVID-19 illness.  
12

13 19. On March 19, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-33-  
14 20, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, directing all residents to heed the State Public  
15 Health Officer’s directives.  
16

17 20. Several other orders were issued subsequent to March 19, 2020 which  
18 adversely affected Plaintiff’s business and imposed restrictions on the ability of  
19 Plaintiff and the Class to operate their hair and nail salons.  
20

21 21. On December 3, 2020, the State of California issued a Regional Stay at  
22 Home Order. The Regional Stay at Home Order and a supplemental order, signed  
23 December 6, 2020, announced that the orders would go into effect at 11:59 PM the  
24 day after a region was determined to have less than 15% Intensive Care Unit  
25 (“ICU”) availability. The supplemental order clarified retail operations and went  
26 into effect immediately. They prohibit private gatherings of any size, close sector  
27  
28

1 operations except for critical infrastructure and retail, and require 100% masking  
2 and physical distancing in all others.

3         22. On December 4, 2020, the California State Board of Cosmetology  
4 issued a directive in response to the December 3, 2020 Stay at Home Order,  
5 clarifying that Plaintiff and all other hair and nail salons were required to close and  
6 completely shutter their operations. The directive stated:  
7

8                 ***When a Regional Stay at Home Order is triggered because ICU  
9 capacity has dropped below 15%, salons, barber shops and personal  
10 care services (esthetics, manicuring and electrology) must close.***<sup>1</sup>

11         23. The December 4, 2020 order was originally slated to remain effective  
12 for three weeks.  
13

14         24. However, on December 29, 2020, California extended the closure  
15 order indefinitely. As stated by Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health  
16 and Human Services, Southern California's stay-at-home order will now remain in  
17 place for the foreseeable future as the region grapples with a gripped ICU capacity,  
18

19         25. The order, which covers an 11-county Southern California area, took  
20 effect at 11:59 p.m. Dec. 6, 2020 and was set to expire December 28, 2020. But  
21 with the region's intensive-care unit capacity at hospitals still effectively listed at  
22

23  
24                 <sup>1</sup> The directive is available at  
25 [https://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/licensees/new\\_stay\\_at\\_home.pdf](https://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/licensees/new_stay_at_home.pdf), last visited Jan.  
26 11, 2021 (emphasis in original).  
27  
28

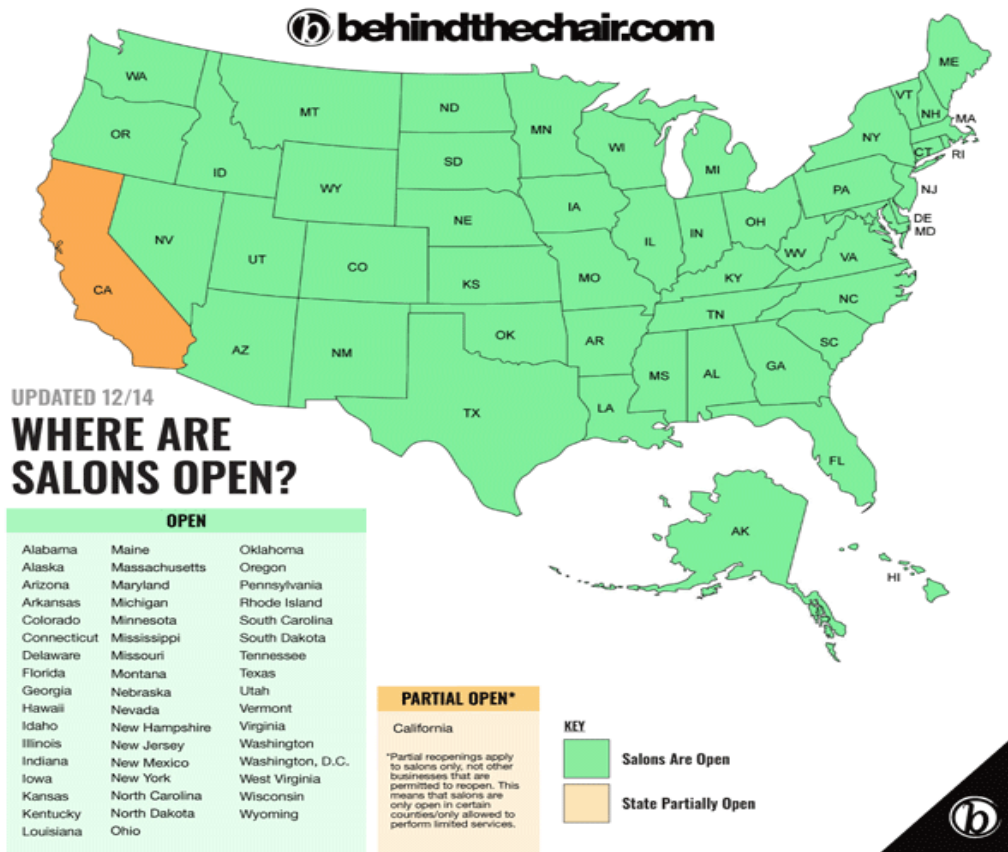


1 0%, that order was instead extended.

2 26. As a result of the orders, including the most recent December 29, 2020  
 3 order and the State Board of Cosmetology’s December 4th directive, Plaintiff is  
 4 completely and indefinitely prohibited from engaging in any business operations.  
 5

6 27. Plaintiff has ceased licensed operations and has had no income from its  
 7 Board-licensed activities in the beauty professions since the Defendants issued the  
 8 Orders.  
 9

10 28. Significantly, Gavin Newsom’s order closing hair and nail salons  
 11 completely is unique in the United States. As of December 14, 2020, all other 49  
 12 states allowed hair and nail salons to remain open, as indicated in the following  
 13 chart:  
 14



**ARBITRARY CATEGORIES OF “ESSENTIAL” AND  
“NON-ESSENTIAL” SERVICES**

1  
2  
3 29. The Governor’s Order, by reference, incorporated the U.S.  
4 government’s “16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and  
5 networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States  
6 that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security,  
7 economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof” such that  
8 Newsom ordered that “Californians working in these 16 critical infrastructure  
9 sectors continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to  
10 Californians’ health and well-being.”<sup>2</sup>

13 30. On or about March 22, 2020, Dr. Sonia Angell in her capacity as  
14 California Public Health Officer designated a list of “Essential Critical  
15 Infrastructure Workers”.<sup>3</sup> The list was updated on April 28, 2020.

17 31. The Order allows persons to continue working only if they are deemed  
18 “essential workers” in an “essential business.” While some of the deemed-essential  
19 businesses are clearly critical to human needs despite an emergency (*e.g.*, public  
20 safety, food supply chain, utilities), others, when viewed in the light of the  
21  
22

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23 <sup>2</sup> *See, supra*, n.2.

24 <sup>3</sup> The list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers can be found online at:  
25 <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>. Last visited  
26 Jan. 11, 2021.

1 prohibitions against Plaintiff, are arbitrary as they bear no connection to public  
2 health and have been created for the sole purpose of allowing Defendants’  
3 politically preferred trades and industries to continue operating while secondary  
4 interests are left in economic distress. The State Public Health Officer’s Directive<sup>4</sup>  
5 (referred to herein as the “List”) includes the following as “essential”:  
6

7 a. “Workers supporting the entertainment industries, studios, and other  
8 related establishments, provided they follow COVID-19 public health  
9 guidance around physical distancing.” Licensees supporting the  
10 entertainment industries as beauticians, hair stylists, and manicurists at  
11 a film studio are “essential,” while Plaintiff’s licensed services to  
12 clients outside the entertainment industry are not. This distinction  
13 bears no connection whatsoever to public health.  
14  
15  
16

17 b. “Workers for health manufacturing ... and distributors of ... cleaning,  
18 sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, personal hygiene  
19 products, and tissue and paper towel products” are deemed “essential.”  
20 Plaintiff and other licensees provide these services, sell shampoo, as  
21 well as other hygiene products. While Plaintiff is essential for selling  
22  
23

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>4</sup> As of January 11, 2021, located at:  
26 <https://covid19.ca.gov/img/EssentialCriticalInfrastructureWorkers.pdf>.  
27  
28

1 of shampoo, it is deemed non-essential when it comes to the licensed  
2 services. Plaintiff at least partially falls within the “essential” services  
3 exception list, yet Defendants’ threat to revoke Plaintiff’s licenses for  
4 practicing licensed activities underscores the irrational, arbitrary and  
5 capricious nature of the Governor’s Order and Defendant’s  
6 enforcement.  
7

8  
9 c. “Workers performing services in support of the elderly and disabled  
10 populations who coordinate a variety of services, including health care  
11 appointments and activities of daily living” are deemed essential.  
12 Personal grooming services, including those offered by Plaintiff, are  
13 central to the daily lives of the elderly and disabled. However,  
14 Defendants nevertheless deny Plaintiff and other licensees the ability  
15 to perform these services under threat of criminal prosecution and  
16 license revocation.  
17

18  
19 d. Workers in laundromats, laundry services, and dry cleaners come in  
20 close, direct contact with the clothing and linens from members of the  
21 public, with no temporal limitation. These items which, if a customer  
22 is infected with COVID-19, pose as high a risk, if not greater, of  
23 infection as Plaintiff’s licensed activities.  
24

25  
26 32. Accordingly, Governor Newsom’s “essential workers” list prohibits all  
27 workers in the hair, skin, nail care, and electrolysis industries from engaging in their  
28

1 profession, regardless of the measures taken by these professionals to reduce or  
2 eliminate the risk of the virus spreading. Meanwhile, the List deems the continuity  
3 of services provided by espresso bars, recreational cannabis dispensaries, pet  
4 grooming, chiropractors, and other professions to be so essential to “public  
5 infrastructure” that these activities are permitted to resume under the Governor’s  
6 Order, despite posing the same or greater risks than Plaintiff’s licensed activities.  
7

8  
9 33. The State Public Health Officer’s directives require, in part, “all  
10 individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of  
11 residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal  
12 critical infrastructure sectors”.<sup>5</sup> The public health directive provides that its  
13 directives “shall stay in effect until further notice.”<sup>6</sup> The Governor’s Order and its  
14 public health directives, which was the first such “stay-at-home” directive issued in  
15 the country, provides that it “shall stay in effect until further notice.” Thus, without  
16 giving any benchmarks or standards to determine when the proclaimed emergency  
17 is over, the Governor’s Order grants State actors the limitless power to create  
18 arbitrary standards and capriciously enforce them in perpetuity, or “until further  
19 notice.”  
20  
21  
22  
23

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24 <sup>5</sup> The State Public Health Directive was included in the text of Executive  
25 Order N-33-20.

26 <sup>6</sup> *Id.*  
27  
28

1           34. The December 29, 2020 Order, which extended the complete, 100%  
2 shutdown of the hair and nail salon industry indefinitely, clarified the major,  
3 sustained, and forced closure of Plaintiff’s business in order to benefit the public.  
4 These orders now demonstrate that the government has taken Plaintiff’s property  
5 for public use and must pay compensation.  
6

7           35. Meanwhile, services and industries which are clearly not essential to  
8 public health and welfare have been allowed to remain open for business. After  
9 being lobbied by the United Cannabis Business Association,<sup>7</sup> Governor Newsom  
10 and Dr. Angell made arbitrary exceptions, amending their original List to declare  
11 that cannabis retail stores were “essential” while maintaining that Plaintiff’s  
12 licensed activities are “non-essential.”  
13

14           36. None of the powers expressly granted under the California State  
15 Emergency Services Act allow Governor Newsom to sequester all Californians  
16 within their homes indefinitely, unable to ply their trades or provide for their  
17 families legally.<sup>8</sup>  
18  
19

20           37. Since the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States in  
21 February and March 2020, the Defendants imposed increasingly stringent  
22

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23  
24 <sup>7</sup> See, e.g., <https://www.wsj.com/articles/california-deems-pot-an-essential-coronavirus-business-11585005903> (last visited on January 11, 2021).

25 <sup>8</sup> CAL. GOV’T CODE § 8565, *et seq.*  
26  
27  
28

1 restrictions — and then banned completely — Plaintiff’s licensed activities, while  
2 allowing individuals in other classes and groups to perform similar activities that  
3 pose equal or greater risks to public health.  
4

5 **THREATENED LICENSE REVOCATIONS**

6 38. During all relevant times, California officials have threatened criminal  
7 prosecution for violations of the Governor’s Orders. Defendants’ conduct  
8 constitutes a regulatory taking, requiring the State to pay compensation to Plaintiff  
9 and the Class. Defendants’ conduct has effectively taken away Plaintiff’s lawful  
10 right to engage in professional state-licensed activities. This has forced Plaintiff to  
11 lay off employees, forego their property, lose their livelihoods, and suffer financial  
12 ruin. Defendants have singled out Plaintiff and the Class for closure orders, while  
13 allowing far less essential businesses whose operation poses a much more  
14 substantial threat of Covid-19 spread to remain open.  
15  
16  
17

18 39. Defendants’ purported justification of the closure orders is to promote  
19 the public good and benefit. Defendants’ December 2020 closure orders  
20 specifically justified the regulatory taking of Plaintiff’s business by stressing the  
21 benefits to the public of increasing the number of available ICU beds available to  
22 the public. For example, the State’s Covid-19 website states: “To preserve our  
23 health care system, the Regional Stay Home Order goes into effect if intensive care  
24  
25  
26  
27  
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1 unit (ICU) capacity drops below 15% in a region. Counties in the region will be  
2 subject to new restrictions.”<sup>9</sup> Because Defendants have taken Plaintiff’s property  
3 for the benefit of the public, they must pay compensation to Plaintiff and the Class.  
4

5 40. As of February 2020, the State Board had issued outstanding licenses  
6 to 313,734 stylists and cosmetologists, 34,093 barbers, 90,392 estheticians, 129,802  
7 manicurists, 1,679 electrologists, and 53,694 business establishments.  
8

9 41. Throughout the relevant time period, Defendants have threatened to  
10 revoke licenses of cosmetology professionals for violation of the closure orders. At  
11 the same time, Defendants have allowed pet groomers to remain open, sending the  
12 signal that dog haircuts are more essential than human haircuts. Defendants have  
13 also allowed restaurants, strip clubs, toy stores, clothes stores, souvenir shops, and  
14 adult sex shops to remain open while at the same time forcing Plaintiff to  
15 completely close, with no opportunity to make any income or livelihood  
16 whatsoever.  
17

18  
19 42. For example, as of December 17, 2020, adult sex shops in San Diego  
20 were still open and allowed to conduct business inside the premises at a supposed  
21 capacity of 25%, although enforcement of the 25% capacity limitation was left  
22 completely to the discretion of the store. Moreover, the State did not even impose  
23  
24

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25 <sup>9</sup> See <https://covid19.ca.gov/>, last visited Jan. 11, 2021.  
26  
27  
28



1 any restrictions on the operating hours of such establishments. For example, as of  
2 Dec. 17, 2020, Roy’s Adult Fantasy Outlet, 4650 Border Village Rd., San Ysidro,  
3 CA 92173 (in San Diego County) was still being allowed to operate, and was  
4 operating, business operations in the interior of its store from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00  
5 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sundays. Other adult sex  
6 shops in the State of California are operating 24 hours a day.  
7  
8

9 43. Defendants’ actions have deprived Plaintiff and the Class of all  
10 economically beneficial use of their property, for which compensation is required.  
11

12 **THREATENED AND ACTUAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

13 44. Defendants have threatened Plaintiff and other licensees with  
14 expulsion from their profession if they do not keep their businesses closed, while  
15 “essential” workers and businesses resume operations. Individuals requesting  
16 guidance or relief are directed to seek assistance from their “industry associations.”  
17

18 45. On May 1, 2020, the Board issued a notice directing all license-holders  
19 to, in part, “abide by the Governor’s stay at home order,” threatening that  
20 businesses that do not follow the Governor’s Order will be subject to “disciplinary  
21 action against their license” and that “[violations] will not be taken lightly” (the  
22 “Board’s Directive”). The only legal authority cited in the Board’s Directive was  
23 the Governor’s Order, stating, “[T]he Board fully supports the Governor’s stay at  
24 home order and we expect our licensees to comply.”  
25  
26

27 46. This lawsuit seeks compensation for the taking of Plaintiff’s property.  
28

1 Plaintiff represents licensees who have been devastated by the State of California’s  
2 arbitrary and capricious closure orders that have forced Plaintiff to shutter its  
3 business completely, while other businesses that are far less essential than  
4 Plaintiff’s business are allowed to remain open. For example, under the Governor’s  
5 order, toy stores and strip clubs are allowed to remain open, but hair and nail salons  
6 are forced to completely close.  
7

8  
9 47. In addition to threatened disciplinary action, various governmental  
10 agencies have taken actual enforcement action.

11  
12 48. In San Diego County, the government has issued hundreds of cease  
13 and desist orders to businesses which are in violation of the limitations imposed by  
14 the orders governing the operation of businesses. In San Diego County, these cease  
15 and desist orders have predominantly been issued to restaurants and health clubs  
16 which, while allowed to remain open, are not allowed to conduct indoor operations.  
17 The typical cease and desist order states that “Failure to comply may result in  
18 criminal misdemeanor citations with a \$1,000 fine for each violation.”<sup>10</sup>  
19

20  
21  
22 <sup>10</sup> See, e.g.,  
23 [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiolog](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/closure_orders/StudioBarre-CeaseandDesist-11182020.pdf)  
24 [y/covid19/closure\\_orders/StudioBarre-CeaseandDesist-11182020.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/covid19/closure_orders/StudioBarre-CeaseandDesist-11182020.pdf), last visited  
25 Jan. 11, 2021. A list of the cease and desist orders issued by San Diego County can  
26 be found at  
27 [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epide](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/closure-orders.html)  
28 [miology/dc/2019-nCoV/closure-orders.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/closure-orders.html).

1           49. Plaintiff has asked what it can do to resume its profession safely, only  
2 to be rebuffed.

3           50. Plaintiff and other licensees are well-versed in the latest practices of  
4 health, safety, sanitation, and hygiene required to prevent the spread of contagion.  
5 The Board restricts entry to the examination to those applicants who have  
6 completed all the required hours for their field of study. Stylists and cosmetologists  
7 are required to complete 1,600 hours of training. Barbers are required to complete  
8 1,500 hours of training. Estheticians are required to complete 600 hours of training.  
9 Electrologists are required to complete 600 hours of training. Manicurists are  
10 required to complete 350 hours of training. Most of the required training consists  
11 of safety, hygiene, and sanitation protocols. Licensed training programs include  
12 comprehensive health and safety measures.

13           51. Besides the vigorous training described above, licensees are also  
14 subject to regular inspections and ongoing scrutiny for safety, cleanliness, and  
15 sanitation practices.

16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21           **DEPRIVATION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY**

22           52. Plaintiff and the Class hold licenses issued by the Board. They have  
23 been denied use of these licenses and other property, both real and personal, since  
24 the Governor's order was issued. They nevertheless remain liable for licensing fees  
25 and other fixed operating costs.

26  
27           53. Plaintiff has been denied the use of its real property, licenses, and other  
28

1 personal property by Defendants. Plaintiff maintains and operates hairdressing and  
2 cosmetology suites at its leased premises in San Diego, California. Plaintiff has  
3 been deprived of income and the ability to work in its profession since the  
4 Governor's Orders were issued. Plaintiff nevertheless remains liable for monthly  
5 rental payments for leased real property, licensing fees, and other fixed operating  
6 costs exceeding thousands of dollars per month.  
7

8  
9 54. Instead of promulgating conditions or guidelines for the safe practice  
10 of these licensed activities as the Centers for Disease Control and counterparts in  
11 neighboring states have, Defendants have categorically labelled Plaintiff's industry  
12 "non-essential," thereby conscripting Plaintiff and other licensees to joblessness and  
13 taking their property without due process or legal justification.  
14

15 55. Plaintiff does not have adverse disciplinary history with the Board.  
16

17 56. Plaintiff has not contracted COVID-19. Plaintiff and its employees  
18 and workers are not aware of coming into contact with anyone with COVID-19.  
19

20 57. Not one of the licensees or other personnel operating at Plaintiff's  
21 facility has contracted COVID-19 nor, to its knowledge, been exposed thereto.  
22

### 23 **FEDERAL MONITORING OF CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

24 58. On April 27, 2020, Attorney General William Barr sent a  
25 memorandum to all U.S. Department of Justice United States Attorneys regarding  
26  
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28

1 civil rights violations occurring in various states during the coronavirus crisis.<sup>11</sup>

2 This memorandum is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3** and incorporated herein by this  
3 reference.

4  
5 59. In his memorandum, Attorney General Barr directs all United States  
6 Attorneys to identify state directives that could be violating the Constitutional rights  
7 and civil liberties of individual citizens, stating “the Constitution is not suspended  
8 in times of crisis.” Attorney General Barr wrote:

9  
10 “If a state or local ordinance crosses the line from an appropriate  
11 exercise of authority to stop the spread of COVID-19 into an  
12 overbearing infringement of constitutional and statutory protections,  
13 the Department of Justice may have an obligation to address that  
14 overreach in federal court.”

15 60. Defendants have abused their power by seizing on the coronavirus  
16 pandemic to expand their authority to lengths unprecedented by any prior crisis in  
17 California, including prior natural disasters, wars, and economic crises. This legal  
18 action challenges the very type of overbearing infringement of constitutional and  
19 statutory protections identified by Attorney General Barr.

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24 <sup>11</sup> As of January 11, 2021, accessible at:  
25 [https://cdn.cnsnews.com/attachment/ag\\_memo\\_-](https://cdn.cnsnews.com/attachment/ag_memo_-_balancing_public_safety_with_the_preservation_of_civil_rights_0.pdf)  
26 [\\_balancing\\_public\\_safety\\_with\\_the\\_preservation\\_of\\_civil\\_rights\\_0.pdf](https://cdn.cnsnews.com/attachment/ag_memo_-_balancing_public_safety_with_the_preservation_of_civil_rights_0.pdf).

1           **THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA’S CLOSURE ORDERS CONSTITUTE A**  
2           **REGULATORY TAKING OF PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR PUBLIC**  
3           **BENEFIT**

4           61. At a press conference on March 19, 2020, Newsom repeatedly said the  
5 rationale for the Governor’s Order was to “bend the curve.”<sup>12</sup> He also said “[t]he  
6 point of the stay at home order is to make those numbers moot”<sup>13</sup> and put them “in  
7 the dustbin of history.”<sup>14</sup> He added that one goal was to slow down transmission  
8 enough to reduce the strain it might place on hospital resources.<sup>15</sup> Indeed, the strain  
9 on hospital resources was a key factual foundation of the emergency proclamation  
10 of March 4, 2020.<sup>16</sup>

11  
12           62. At the outset of the COVID-19 crisis, Governor Newsom wrote in a  
13 letter to President Trump<sup>17</sup> stating that in eight weeks, by May 13, 2020,  
14 approximately 56% percent of Californians — 25.5 million individuals — would be  
15

16  
17           <sup>12</sup> March 19, 2020 press briefing at 0:30-0:35, 8:10-8:20, 10:00-10:15, 24:20-  
18 24:30,33:45-33:55, and 35:17-36:00, available as of January 11, 2021 at:  
19 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OeyeK8-S5o>.

20           <sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 35:10-35:20.

21           <sup>14</sup> *Id.* 33:55-34:05.

22           <sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 5:42-8:09.

23           <sup>16</sup> Twelfth paragraph of the Proclamation of a State of Emergency, which as  
24 of the date of this filing can be found online at:  
25 [https://www.gov.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-Proclamation.pdf)  
26 [Proclamation.pdf](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-Proclamation.pdf).

27           <sup>17</sup> As of January 11, 2021, accessible at: [https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.18.20-Letter-USNS-Mercy-Hospital-Ship.pdf)  
28 [content/uploads/2020/03/3.18.20-Letter-USNS-Mercy-Hospital-Ship.pdf](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.18.20-Letter-USNS-Mercy-Hospital-Ship.pdf).

1 infected by the novel coronavirus. His letter went on to say that “[i]n some parts of  
2 our state, our case rate is doubling every four days.”<sup>18</sup> On the basis of these  
3 projections, he issued his Governor’s Order on March 19, 2020.  
4

5 63. As of May 7, 2020, there were 58,815 confirmed cases, which was  
6 only 0.2% of Governor Newsom’s projection. By January 3, 2021, the number of  
7 confirmed cases in California was 2,397,923, still just 9.4% of the Governor’s  
8 projection from March 2020.<sup>19</sup>  
9

10 64. Newsom expounded on these numbers at his March 19, 2020 press  
11 conference. He explained that a hospitalization rate of 20 percent could mean that  
12 California would face a shortfall of 19,543 hospital beds above the state’s current  
13 capacity of approximately 78,000 beds.<sup>20</sup> He added that California had a surge  
14 capacity of 10,207 additional beds that could partially offset this shortfall.<sup>21</sup> Thus,  
15 he was predicting a total shortfall of approximately 9,336 beds.<sup>22</sup>  
16  
17

18 65. Mark Ghaly, the governor’s Secretary of Health and Human Services,  
19 explained that the state came up with the 56 percent estimate by “[u]sing the  
20

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21 <sup>18</sup> *Id.*

22 <sup>19</sup> See [https://news.google.com/covid19/map?hl=en-](https://news.google.com/covid19/map?hl=en-US&mid=%2Fm%2F01n7q&gl=US&ceid=US%3Aen)  
23 [US&mid=%2Fm%2F01n7q&gl=US&ceid=US%3Aen](https://news.google.com/covid19/map?hl=en-US&mid=%2Fm%2F01n7q&gl=US&ceid=US%3Aen), last visited Jan. 11, 2021.

24 <sup>20</sup> March 19, 2020 press briefing, *supra*, at 5:40-7:32.

25 <sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 7:20-7:40.

26 <sup>22</sup> *Id.*

1 available literature, advice from the CDC and our understanding and experience in  
2 California, we applied a variety of different measures that looked at an attack rate,  
3 that looked at the ... hospitalization rates that we had available as well as other  
4 outcome measures.”<sup>23</sup>

6 66. The Secretary also stated that “[w]e knew that the attack rate of 56  
7 percent that we chose was somewhat in the middle between the high-end and the  
8 low-end of what we’d seen in the literature....”<sup>24</sup>

10 67. Newsom admitted that his numbers did not account for any mitigation  
11 measures put in place. Rather, those numbers assumed that “we’re just along for  
12 the ride[.]”<sup>25</sup>

14 68. Defendant Newsom has admitted that the underlying public health  
15 benefits are the main — if not sole — reason for the closure orders. Governor  
16 Newsom has also stated that the closure orders have in fact benefitted the public.  
17 During a briefing on April 16, 2020, Newsom stated that “[we] have successfully  
18 bent and arguably flattened the curve in the state of California.”<sup>26</sup>

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21 <sup>23</sup> *Id.* at 28:49-31:11.

22 <sup>24</sup> *Id.*

23 <sup>25</sup> *Id.* at 24:20-24:40.

24 <sup>26</sup> April 16, 2020 briefing by the Governor at 37:20, transcript available as of  
25 January 11, 2021, at: [https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/gov-gavin-newsom-](https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/gov-gavin-newsom-california-covid-19-briefing-transcript-april-16)  
26 [california-covid-19-briefing-transcript-april-16.](https://www.rev.com/blog/transcripts/gov-gavin-newsom-california-covid-19-briefing-transcript-april-16)



1           69. The County of San Diego has also stated that the purpose of the  
2 regulations is to benefit the public: “The goal is to slow the spread of the virus and  
3 to make sure the healthcare system is able to care for all patients.”<sup>27</sup>  
4

5           70. The closure orders constitute regulatory takings which have benefitted  
6 the public at large by increasing the number of available ICU beds, increasing the  
7 availability of health care resources available to the public, and decreasing the  
8 spread of the virus, thus saving lives.  
9

10           **PLAINTIFF’S PROPERTY WAS TAKEN FOR PUBLIC USE WITHOUT**  
11           **COMPENSATION**

12           71. The property of Plaintiff and the Class has been taken by the State of  
13 California for public use without just compensation.  
14

15           72. Almost all businesses in the State of California have been allowed to  
16 remain open during the Covid-19 pandemic. Hair and nail salons have been singled  
17 out for complete closure. The explicitly stated purpose for the complete closure  
18 orders is to maintain the number of ICU beds available to the public. This is clearly  
19 a public benefit, similar to expanding a highway by forcing adjoining landowners to  
20 have their homes acquired by the government in order to expand the highway.  
21 Here, while the businesses of Plaintiff and the Class have not been physically taken,  
22  
23

24           <sup>27</sup>

25           [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community\\_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/health-order.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/health-order.html), last visited Jan. 11, 2021.  
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1 they have been completely shut down by the State, precluding Plaintiff and the  
2 Class from earning any income.

3 73. Other businesses that are far less essential and where there have been  
4 more instances of the spread of Covid-19 from their operations have been allowed  
5 to remain open — completely or partially.  
6

7 74. Courts have refused to set aside the State’s closure orders. If the  
8 orders are lawful, as the Courts have said, then Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to  
9 compensation because their property has been taken for the benefit of the public.  
10

11 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**  
12

13 75. Plaintiff brings this action both on behalf of Plaintiff and as a class  
14 action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3), on behalf of  
15 the following class:  
16

17 All residents in the State of California holding barbering or  
18 cosmetology licenses which were active as of March 19, 2020 and who  
19 have been unable to work at any time from March 19, 2020 to the  
20 present due to the Closure Orders issued by the State of California  
21 (“Class Period”).  
22

23 76. This definition specifically excludes the following persons or entities:  
24 (a) any of the Defendants named herein; (b) any of the Defendants’ parent  
25 companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates; (c) any of the Defendants’ officers,  
26  
27  
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1 directors, management, employees, subsidiaries, affiliates or agents; (d) all  
2 governmental entities; and (e) the judges and chambers staff in this case, as well as  
3 any members of their immediate families. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand,  
4 modify, or alter the class definition in response to information learned during  
5 discovery.  
6

7 77. This action is properly brought as a class action under Federal Rule of  
8 Civil Procedure 23(a) for the following reasons:  
9

10 a. **Numerosity (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)):** The proposed Class is so  
11 numerous and geographically dispersed throughout California that  
12 the joinder of all Class Members is impracticable. While Plaintiff  
13 does not know the exact number and identity of all Class Members,  
14 Plaintiff is informed and believes that there are thousands of Class  
15 Members. The State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology  
16 represents that it licenses over 560,000 individuals.<sup>28</sup> The precise  
17 number of Class Members can be ascertained through discovery;  
18  
19

20  
21 b. **Commonality and Predominance (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) and**  
22 **23(b)(3)):** There are questions of law and fact common to the  
23

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24 <sup>28</sup> See <https://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/> (“The Board was established in 1992  
25 (after the Board of Barber Examiners and Board of Cosmetology merged) and today  
26 licenses over 50,000 establishments and over 560,000 individuals.”).  
27  
28

1 proposed class which predominate over any questions that may  
2 affect particular Class Members. Such common questions of law  
3 and fact include, but are not limited to:

- 4
- 5 i. Whether the Closure Orders and other orders and conduct by  
6 Defendants constitutes a regulatory taking of Plaintiff's  
7 property;
  - 8 ii. Whether Defendants' conduct represents the taking of private  
9 property for public use; and
  - 10 iii. Whether Plaintiff and the other members of the Class were  
11 injured by Defendants' conduct and, if so, the determination  
12 of the appropriate Class-wide measure of damages and/or  
13 compensation;
- 14
- 15 c. **Typicality (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3)):** Plaintiff's claims are typical  
16 of the claims of the members of the proposed Class. Plaintiff and  
17 the Class have been injured by the same wrongful practices of  
18 Defendants. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and  
19 conduct that give rise to the claims of the Class and are based on  
20 the same legal theories; and
  - 21 d. **Adequacy of Representation (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)):** Plaintiff  
22 will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class in that  
23 Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to those of the other members  
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of the Class, and Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in class actions and complex litigation as counsel.

78. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy for at least the following reasons:

- a. Given the size of individual Class Member’s claims and the expense of litigating those claims, few, if any, Class Members could afford to or would seek legal redress individually for the wrongs Defendants committed against them and absent Class Members have no substantial interest in individually controlling the prosecution of individual actions;
- b. This action will promote an orderly and expeditious administration and adjudication of the proposed Class claims, economies of time, effort and resources will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be insured;
- c. Without a class action, Class Members will suffer damages, and Defendants’ violations of law will proceed without remedy while Defendants reaped and retained the substantial proceeds of their wrongful conduct; and
- d. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that will be encountered in the management of this litigation which would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

1 79. Plaintiff intends to provide notice to the proposed class by  
2 communicating the existence of the action in popular trade publications in the  
3 industry, utilizing online advertisements, and using professional notice companies  
4 to strategically and comprehensively develop additional methods to reach class  
5 members.  
6

7  
8 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
9 **VIOLATION OF THE DUE PROCESS CLAUSE OF**  
10 **THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT**  
11 **(Against All Defendants)**

12 80. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth  
13 in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

14 81. The Due Process Clause contains both a substantive and a procedural  
15 component. Substantive due process forbids the government to infringe certain  
16 ‘fundamental’ liberty interests at all, no matter what process is provided, unless the  
17 infringement is narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest. Procedural  
18 due process imposes constraints on governmental decisions which deprive  
19 individuals of ‘liberty’ or ‘property’ interests within the meaning of the Due  
20 Process Clause. Procedural due process does not forbid the government from  
21 depriving individuals of a protected interest, but rather requires the government to  
22 employ adequate procedures that ensure the fairness of any deprivation.  
23

24  
25 82. The Orders and Defendants’ enforcement thereof violate Plaintiff’s  
26 substantive due process rights as follows:  
27

1 a. Plaintiff’s fundamental property interest in conducting lawful  
2 business activities is protected by the Due Process Clause of the  
3 Fourteenth Amendment. *Medina v. Rudman*, 545 F.2d 244, 250 (1st  
4 Cir. 1976) (included among the substantive rights so protected is  
5 the right to pursue one’s vocation under a state-granted license)  
6 (citing *Paul v. Davis*, 424 U.S. 693 (1976)).  
7

8  
9 b. Plaintiff has been issued cosmetology licenses by the State of  
10 California, and therefore has a right to lawfully pursue that  
11 vocation, a substantive due process right impaired by Defendants’  
12 actions.  
13

14 c. Defendants lack any legitimate or compelling interest for depriving  
15 Plaintiff of its right to lawfully pursue its vocation.  
16

17 d. Even if such a legitimate, compelling interest existed, Defendants’  
18 Orders are not rationally related or narrowly tailored to further any  
19 such interest.  
20

21 83. The Orders and Defendants’ enforcement thereof violate Plaintiff’s  
22 procedural due process rights as follows:  
23

24 a. The Governor’s Order and list of “Essential” Workers and  
25 Businesses are arbitrary and capricious and thus are invalidated by  
26 the Fourteenth Amendment’s procedural due process protections.  
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b. Procedural due process, at a minimum, would require Plaintiff having a meaningful opportunity to respond to the Order (or the continuation thereof) and explain how and why it is constitutionally invalid as applied to Plaintiff. However, the State’s closure orders have prevented Plaintiff from challenging the application of the Order and the List to them, denying them any process whatsoever before their rights were forcibly taken.

c. Further, this taking lasts indefinitely, with neither the Order nor the List providing for any mechanism or opportunity to review or challenge the need to continue the Order in the light of developing events.

84. Defendants’ actions therefore have deprived Plaintiff of both procedural and substantive Due Process.

85. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and has suffered serious and irreparable harm to its constitutional rights.

86. Plaintiff found it necessary to engage the services of private counsel to vindicate its rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an award of attorneys’ fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

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**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**VIOLATION OF THE EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSE OF**  
**THE FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT**  
**(Against All Defendants)**

1  
2  
3  
4       87. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth  
5 in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

6  
7       88. At its core, the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the  
8 U.S. Constitution requires states to govern impartially — not draw arbitrary  
9 distinctions between businesses based solely on differences that are irrelevant to a  
10 legitimate governmental objective.

11  
12       89. Strict scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause applies where the  
13 classification impinges on fundamental rights, including the right to due process  
14 and the right to travel (both interstate and intrastate), among others. Defendants  
15 have violated Plaintiff’s procedural and substantive due process rights under the  
16 Fourteenth Amendment.

17  
18       90. Defendants cannot satisfy strict scrutiny, because their arbitrary  
19 classifications are not narrowly tailored measures that further compelling  
20 government interests.

21  
22       91. Defendants have intentionally and arbitrarily categorized California  
23 businesses and conduct as either “essential” or “non-essential.” Those businesses  
24 classified as “essential,” or as participating at least partly in “essential services,” are  
25 permitted to conduct their business and activities, even when the businesses also  
26  
27  
28

1 provide “non-essential” goods and services. Those classified as “non-essential,” are  
2 required to completely shut down. Entertainment providers are deemed essential,  
3 whereas Plaintiff, who provides basic personal grooming services, is not.  
4 Defendants have therefore arbitrarily discriminated against Plaintiff in violation of  
5 Plaintiff’s equal protection rights.  
6

7 92. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and has suffered serious and  
8 irreparable harm to its constitutional rights.  
9

10 93. Plaintiff found it necessary to engage the services of private counsel to  
11 vindicate its rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an award of  
12 attorneys’ fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.  
13

14 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
15 **VIOLATION OF THE TAKINGS CLAUSE OF**  
16 **THE FIFTH AMENDMENT BY INTERFERENCE**  
17 **WITH LICENSES AND PROPERTY**  
**(Against All Defendants)**

18 94. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth  
19 in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.  
20

21 95. Plaintiff complied and continues to comply with the State’s  
22 requirements to obtain the appropriate licenses and/or permits to conduct its  
23 business and at all times relevant to this Complaint, Plaintiff has the right to  
24 continue to operate under its licenses, and its related commercial activities were  
25 continuous and lawful pursuant to California law, and particularly the regulations  
26 promulgated by the Department of Consumer Affairs — Board of Barbering and  
27  
28

1 Cosmetology.

2 96. The California Supreme Court has held the right to engage in a  
3 licensed profession is a property right of such high character that revocation of that  
4 license should only occur upon clear proof that the licensee has forfeited the same,  
5 and only in strict conformity to the statute authorizing its forfeiture. *Cavassa v. Off*,  
6 206 Cal. 307 (1929). The licenses and Plaintiff’s right to operate its business are  
7  
8 therefore personal property to which the takings clause applies.  
9

10 97. The regulatory actions taken by the Defendants have resulted in  
11 Plaintiff being deprived of all economically beneficial or productive use of its  
12 property including, without limitation, its licenses, its leased property, and its  
13 business property, and further resulted in the involuntary closing of its business,  
14 ultimately making Plaintiff suffer a loss, in that it has to pay license fees, rent,  
15 property maintenance, and related expenses for property it is barred by law from  
16 using. The California Supreme Court has found that “While the police power is  
17 very broad in concept, it is not without restrictions in relation to the taking or  
18 damaging of property. When it passes beyond proper bounds in its invasion of  
19 property rights, it in effect comes within the purview of the law of eminent domain  
20 and its exercise requires compensation.” *House v. Los Angeles County Flood*  
21 *Control Dist.*, 25 Cal. 2d 384 (1944).  
22  
23  
24  
25

26 98. Defendants’ Orders and the enforcement thereof has caused both a  
27 complete and total regulatory taking of Plaintiff’s property without just  
28

1 compensation in violation of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the  
2 U.S. Constitution. At a minimum, the effect of Defendants' Orders constitutes a  
3 "partial" taking under the *Penn-Central* three-factor test. *See Penn Cent. Transp.*  
4 *Co. v. City of New York*, 438 U.S. 104, 124 (1978). As a result, Defendants'  
5 violation of the Takings Clause of the 5th Amendment has caused proximate and  
6 legal harm to Plaintiff.  
7

8  
9 99. The taking of Plaintiff's property was for the public benefit and the  
10 public has benefitted.

11  
12 100. Plaintiff found it necessary to engage the services of private counsel to  
13 vindicate its rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an award of  
14 attorneys' fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988.

15  
16 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
17 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**  
18 **RIGHT TO LIBERTY (CAL. CONST. ART. 1, § 1)**  
19 **(Against All Defendants)**

20 101. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation  
21 contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth  
22 herein.

23 102. Since 1879, the California Constitution has provided intrinsic and  
24 unalienable rights and liberties to its citizens. Chief among those rights and  
25 liberties are those found in Article 1 of the California Constitution. Article 1,  
26 Section 1 of the California Constitution provides, in pertinent part:  
27  
28

1 All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable  
2 rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty,  
3 acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and  
obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.

4 103. Defendants' Orders have not only interfered with Plaintiff's rights and  
5 liberties as set forth under Article 1, Sections 1, 7, and 19 of the California  
6 Constitution, but have deprived Plaintiff of the use, enjoyment and ability to operate  
7 its business because of the closure orders.  
8

9 104. Defendants' Orders have proximately and legally caused unique and  
10 tremendous financial harm to Plaintiff's business.  
11

12 105. Requiring Plaintiff to abstain from conducting lawful business in the  
13 State of California merely because its business has been arbitrarily deemed  
14 "nonessential," despite other compliance measures being taken to satisfy the  
15 public's important health interests, violates its California Constitutional liberty  
16 rights. The burden is on State actors to prove these actions meet strict scrutiny.  
17

18 106. Plaintiff has suffered serious and irreparable harm to its constitutional  
19 rights.  
20

21 107. Plaintiff has found it necessary to engage the services of private  
22 counsel to vindicate its rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an  
23 award of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure  
24 Section 1021.5.  
25

26 ///  
27

**FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**  
**RIGHT TO PROPERTY (CAL. CONST. ART. 1, § 7)**  
**(Against All Defendants)**

1  
2  
3  
4 108. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation  
5 contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth  
6 herein.

7  
8 109. Article 1, Section 7 of the California Constitution provides, in  
9 pertinent part:

10  
11 (a) A person may not be deprived of life, liberty, or property  
12 without due process of law or denied equal protection of the laws;  
13 provided, that nothing contained herein or elsewhere in this  
14 Constitution imposes upon the State of California or any public entity,  
15 board, or official any obligations or responsibilities which exceed  
16 those imposed by the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment  
17 to the United States Constitution with respect to the use of pupil school  
18 assignment or pupil transportation. In enforcing this subdivision or any  
19 other provision of this Constitution, no court of this State may impose  
20 upon the State of California or any public entity, board, or official any  
21 obligation or responsibility with respect to the use of pupil school  
22 assignment or pupil transportation, (1) except to remedy a specific  
violation by such party that would also constitute a violation of the  
Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the United States  
Constitution, and (2) unless a federal court would be permitted under  
federal decisional law to impose that obligation or responsibility upon  
such party to remedy the specific violation of the Equal Protection  
Clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

23 110. Requiring Plaintiff to abstain from conducting lawful business in the  
24 State of California, despite the availability of compliance measures available and  
25 being taken by so-called “essential businesses” to satisfy the public health interests  
26 at stake, violates Plaintiff’s California Constitutional liberty rights.  
27  
28

1 111. Plaintiff has suffered serious and irreparable harm to its constitutional  
2 rights.

3 112. Plaintiff has found it necessary to engage the services of private  
4 counsel to vindicate its rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an  
5 award of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure  
6 Section 1021.5.  
7

8  
9 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
10 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**  
11 **TAKINGS WITHOUT COMPENSATION (CAL. CONST. ART. 1, § 19)**  
12 **(Against All Defendants)**

13 113. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference each and every allegation  
14 contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth  
15 herein.

16 114. Article 1, Section 19 of the California Constitution provides, in  
17 pertinent part: Article 1, Section 19:

18  
19 (a) Private property may be taken or damaged for a public use and only  
20 when just compensation, ascertained by a jury unless waived, has first  
21 been paid to, or into court for, the owner. The Legislature may provide  
22 for possession by the condemnor following commencement of eminent  
23 domain proceedings upon deposit in court and prompt release to the  
24 owner of money determined by the court to be the probable amount of  
25 just compensation.

26 115. California courts have routinely held that the California Constitution  
27 provides just compensation to property owners when their land is taken for public  
28 use, because the law seeks to bar the government from forcing some people alone to

1 bear public burdens which, in all fairness and justice, should be borne by the public  
2 as a whole.

3 116. The principle underlying just compensation for property taken for  
4 public use is to put the owner in as good a position monetarily as he or she would  
5 have occupied if his or her property had not been taken.  
6

7 117. Finally, the constitutional guarantee of just compensation for property  
8 taken by the government is not only intended to protect the landowner (or business  
9 owner), but it also protects the public by limiting its liability to losses that can fairly  
10 be attributed to the taking. *Emeryville Redevelopment v. Harcros Pigments, Inc.*,  
11 101 Cal. App. 4th 1083 (2002).  
12  
13

14 118. Plaintiff has found it necessary to engage the services of private  
15 counsel to vindicate its rights under the law. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to an  
16 award of attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure  
17 Section 1021.5.  
18

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

21  
22 A. Enter an order and judgment requiring Defendants to provide just  
23 compensation for the regulatory taking of Plaintiff’s private property;

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25 B. Award to Plaintiff the costs and disbursements of the action, including  
26 reasonable attorneys’ fees, accountants’ fees, experts’ fees, costs, and expenses;  
27 and  
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C. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues that are subject to adjudication by a trier of fact.

Dated: January 19, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

BOTTINI & BOTTINI, INC.  
Francis A. Bottini, Jr. (SBN 175783)  
Albert Y. Chang (SBN 296065)  
Anne Beste (SBN 326881)

s/ Francis A. Bottini, Jr.

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*Counsel for Plaintiff*

# **EXHIBIT 1**

# **EXHIBIT 1**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**EXECUTIVE ORDER N-33-20**

**WHEREAS** on March 4, 2020, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS** in a short period of time, COVID-19 has rapidly spread throughout California, necessitating updated and more stringent guidance from federal, state, and local public health officials; and

**WHEREAS** for the preservation of public health and safety throughout the entire State of California, I find it necessary for all Californians to heed the State public health directives from the Department of Public Health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes of the State of California, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8627, and 8665 do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

- 1) To preserve the public health and safety, and to ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all, and prioritizing those at the highest risk and vulnerability, all residents are directed to immediately heed the current State public health directives, which I ordered the Department of Public Health to develop for the current statewide status of COVID-19. Those directives are consistent with the March 19, 2020, Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response, found at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>. Those directives follow:

ORDER OF THE STATE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER  
March 19, 2020

To protect public health, I as State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health order all individuals living in the State of California to stay home or at their place of residence except as needed to maintain continuity of operations of the federal critical infrastructure sectors, as outlined at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>. In addition, and in consultation with the Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, I may designate additional sectors as critical in order to protect the health and well-being of all Californians.

Pursuant to the authority under the Health and Safety Code 120125, 120140, 131080, 120130(c), 120135, 120145, 120175 and 120150, this order is to go into effect immediately and shall stay in effect until further notice.

The federal government has identified 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or

destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, economic security, public health or safety, or any combination thereof. I order that Californians working in these 16 critical infrastructure sectors may continue their work because of the importance of these sectors to Californians' health and well-being.

This Order is being issued to protect the public health of Californians. The California Department of Public Health looks to establish consistency across the state in order to ensure that we mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Our goal is simple, we want to bend the curve, and disrupt the spread of the virus.

The supply chain must continue, and Californians must have access to such necessities as food, prescriptions, and health care. When people need to leave their homes or places of residence, whether to obtain or perform the functions above, or to otherwise facilitate authorized necessary activities, they should at all times practice social distancing.

- 2) The healthcare delivery system shall prioritize services to serving those who are the sickest and shall prioritize resources, including personal protective equipment, for the providers providing direct care to them.
- 3) The Office of Emergency Services is directed to take necessary steps to ensure compliance with this Order.
- 4) This Order shall be enforceable pursuant to California law, including, but not limited to, Government Code section 8665.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 19th day of March 2020.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# **EXHIBIT 2**

# **EXHIBIT 2**



SANDRA SHEWRY, MPH,MSW  
*Acting Director*  
 ERICA S. PAN, MD,MPH  
*Acting State Health Officer*

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
**California Department of Public Health**



GAVIN NEWSOM  
*Governor*

**Regional Stay At Home Order**  
**12/03/2020**

Upon assessment of the recent, unprecedented rise in the rate of increase in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and test positivity rates across California, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is taking immediate actions to prevent the spread of the virus.

The State, like the nation, continues to record an unprecedented surge in the level of community spread of COVID-19. California implemented an accelerated application of the Blueprint Framework metrics on November 16 and a limited Stay at Home Order issued on November 19. However, in the interim, the number of new cases per day has increased by over 112%, (from 8,743 to 18,588) and the rate of rise of new cases per day continues to increase dramatically. The number of new hospital admissions has increased from 777 on November 15, to 1,651 on December 2, and because of the lag between case identification and hospitalizations, we can only expect these numbers to increase.

Current projections show that without additional intervention to slow the spread of COVID-19, the number of available adult Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds in the State of California will be at capacity in mid-December. This is a sign that the rate of rise in cases, if it continues, is at risk of overwhelming the ability of California hospitals to deliver healthcare to its residents suffering from COVID-19 and from other illnesses requiring hospital care. ICU beds are a critical resource for individuals who need the most advanced support and care and the ability to add additional ICU capacity is limited by the lack of available ICU nurses and physicians as a result of the nationwide surge in hospitalizations and ICU admissions.

Because the rate of increases in new cases continues to escalate and threatens to overwhelm the state's hospital system, further aggressive action is necessary to respond to the quickly evolving situation. While vaccines are promising future interventions, they are not available to address the immediate risks to healthcare delivery in the current surge. The immediate aggressive institution of additional non-pharmaceutical public health interventions is critical to avoid further overwhelming hospitals and to prevent the need to ration care.



**NOW, THEREFORE, I, as Acting State Public Health Officer of the State of California, order:**

1. CDPH will evaluate public health based on Regions, responsive to hospital capacity for persons resident in those Regions.
2. CDPH will evaluate the adult ICU bed capacity for each Region and identify on [covid19.ca.gov](https://covid19.ca.gov) any Regions for which that capacity is less than 15%. When that capacity is less than 15%, the following terms (the Terms of this Order) will apply.
  - a. All gatherings with members of other households are prohibited in the Region except as expressly permitted herein.
  - b. All individuals living in the Region shall stay home or at their place of residence except as necessary to conduct activities associated with the operation, maintenance, or usage of critical infrastructure,<sup>1</sup> as required by law, or as specifically permitted in this order.
  - c. [Worship](#) and [political expression](#) are permitted outdoors, consistent with existing guidance for those activities.
  - d. Critical infrastructure sectors may operate and must continue to modify operations pursuant to the [applicable sector guidance](#).
  - e. [Guidance](#) related to schools remain in effect and unchanged. Accordingly, when this Order takes effect in a Region, schools that have previously reopened for in-person instruction may remain open, and schools may continue to bring students back for in-person instruction under the [Elementary School Waiver Process](#) or [Cohorting Guidance](#).
  - f. In order to reduce congestion and the resulting increase in risk of transmission of COVID-19 in critical infrastructure retailers, all retailers may operate indoors at no more than 20% capacity and must follow the [guidance for retailers](#). All access to retail must be strictly metered to ensure compliance with the limit on capacity. The sale of food, beverages, and alcohol for in-store consumption is prohibited.
  - g. To promote and protect the physical and mental well-being of people in California, outdoor recreation facilities may continue to operate. Those facilities may not sell food or drink for on-site consumption. Overnight stays at

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://covid19.ca.gov/essential-workforce/> for full list of California's Critical Infrastructure workforce.



campgrounds are not permitted.

- h. Nothing in this Order prevents any number of persons from the same household from leaving their residence, lodging, or temporary accommodation, as long as they do not engage in any interaction with (or otherwise gather with) any number of persons from any other household, except as specifically permitted herein.
  - i. Terms (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to persons experiencing homelessness.
3. Except as otherwise required by law, no hotel or lodging entity in California shall accept or honor out of state reservations for non-essential travel, unless the reservation is for at least the minimum time period required for quarantine and the persons identified in the reservation will quarantine in the hotel or lodging entity until after that time period has expired.
  4. This order shall take effect on December 5, 2020 at 1259pm PST.
  5. For Regions where the adult ICU bed capacity falls below 15% after the effective date of this order, the Terms of this Order shall take effect 24 hours after that assessment.
  6. The Terms of this Order shall remain in place for at least three weeks from the date the order takes effect in a Region and shall continue until CDPH's four-week projections of the Region's total available adult ICU bed capacity is greater than or equal to 15%. Four-week adult ICU bed capacity projections will be made approximately twice a week, unless CDPH determines that public health conditions merit an alternate projection schedule. If after three weeks from the effective date of the Terms of this Order in a Region, CDPH's four-week projections of the Region's total available adult ICU bed capacity is greater than or equal to 15%, the Terms of this Order shall no longer apply to the Region
  7. After the termination of the Terms of this Order in a Region, each county within the Region will be assigned to a tier based on the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) as set out in my August 28, 2020 Order, and the County is subject to the restrictions of the Blueprint appropriate to that tier.
  8. I will continue to monitor the epidemiological data and will modify this Regional Stay-at-Home Order as required by the evolving public health conditions. If I determine that it is necessary to change the Terms of this Order, or otherwise modify the Regional Stay-at-Home Order, these modifications will be posted at [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.covid19.ca.gov).



9. When operative in a Region, the Terms of this Order supersede any conflicting terms in other CDPH orders, directives, or guidance. Specifically, for those Regions with ICU bed capacity triggering this order, the Terms of this Order shall supersede the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and all guidance (other than guidance for critical infrastructure sectors) during the operative period. In all Regions that are not subject to the restrictions in this order, the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) and all guidance shall remain in effect.
  
10. This order is issued pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 120125, 120130(c), 120135, 120140, 120145, 120175, 120195 and 131080; EO N-60-20, N-25-20, and other authority provided for under the Emergency Services Act; and other applicable law.



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Erica S. Pan, MD, MPH  
Acting State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health

# **EXHIBIT 3**

# **EXHIBIT 3**



**Office of the Attorney General**  
**Washington, D. C. 20530**

April 27, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND  
ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL   
SUBJECT: Balancing Public Safety with the Preservation of Civil Rights

The current national crisis related to COVID-19 has required the imposition of extraordinary restrictions on all of our daily lives. Millions of Americans across the nation have been ordered to stay in their homes, leaving only for essential and necessary reasons, while countless businesses and other gathering places have been ordered to close their doors indefinitely. These kinds of restrictions have been necessary in order to stop the spread of a deadly disease—but there is no denying that they have imposed tremendous burdens on the daily lives of all Americans.

In prior Memoranda, I directed our prosecutors to prioritize cases against those seeking to illicitly profit from the pandemic, either by hoarding scarce medical resources to sell them for extortionate prices, or by defrauding people who are already in dire circumstances due to the severe problems the pandemic has caused. We have pursued those efforts vigorously and will continue to do so. Now, I am directing each of our United States Attorneys to also be on the lookout for state and local directives that could be violating the constitutional rights and civil liberties of individual citizens.

As the Department of Justice explained recently in guidance to states and localities taking steps to battle the pandemic, even in times of emergency, when reasonable and temporary restrictions are placed on rights, the First Amendment and federal statutory law prohibit discrimination against religious institutions and religious believers. The legal restrictions on state and local authority are not limited to discrimination against religious institutions and religious believers. For example, the Constitution also forbids, in certain circumstances, discrimination against disfavored speech and undue interference with the national economy. If a state or local ordinance crosses the line from an appropriate exercise of authority to stop the spread of COVID-19 into an overbearing infringement of constitutional and statutory protections, the Department of Justice may have an obligation to address that overreach in federal court.

I am therefore directing the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Eric Dreiband, and Matthew Schneider, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, to oversee and coordinate our efforts to monitor state and local policies and, if necessary, take action to correct them. They should work not only with all Department of Justice offices and other federal agencies, but with state and local officials as well.

Memorandum from the Attorney General

Page 2

Subject: Balancing Public Safety with the Preservation of Civil Rights

Many policies that would be unthinkable in regular times have become commonplace in recent weeks, and we do not want to unduly interfere with the important efforts of state and local officials to protect the public. But the Constitution is not suspended in times of crisis. We must therefore be vigilant to ensure its protections are preserved, at the same time that the public is protected.

I thank you for your attention to this important initiative and for your service to our country.

# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: ['Single Out': Hair Salon Claims California Closure Orders Constitute Seizure of Property without Compensation](#)

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