ROBB EVANS OF ROBB EVANS & ASSOCIATES LLC

Receiver of I Works, Inc., et al. and the Assets of Jeremy Johnson

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Federal Trade Commission v. Jeremy Johnson, I Works, Inc., et al. CASE No. 2:10-CV-02203-MMD-GWF

Notice of Motion and Motion for Order:

- (1) Approving and Confirming Sale of 3 Acre Parcel in Hurricane, Utah Without Further Notice or Overbidding and for Related Relief; and
- (2) Granting Relief from Local Rule 66-5 Pertaining to Notice to Creditors;

Memorandum of Points and Authorities; Declaration of M. Val Miller in Support Thereof

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13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
14	DISTRICT OF NEVADA	
15	FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,	Case No. 2:10-CV-02203-MMD-GWF
16	Plaintiff,	37
17	V.	NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR ORDER (1) APPROVING AND
18	JEREMY JOHNSON, individually, as officer	CONFIRMING SALE OF 3 ACRE PARCEL IN HURRICANE, UTAH
19	of Defendants I Works, Inc., etc., et al.,	WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OR OVERBIDDING AND FOR RELATED
20	Defendants.	RELIEF; AND (2) GRANTING RELIEF FROM LOCAL RULE 66-5 PERTAINING
21		TO NOTICE TO CREDITORS; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
22		AUTHORITIES AND DECLARATION OF M. VAL MILLER IN SUPPORT
23	·	THEREOF
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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Robb Evans of Robb Evans & Associates LLC ("Receiver"), the Receiver pursuant to the Court's Preliminary Injunction Order issued February 10, 2011, hereby moves the Court for the following relief:

- 1. An order authorizing the Receiver to enter into that certain Right of Way Contract ("UDOT Contract") between the Receiver and the Utah Department of Transportation ("Utah DOT") attached as Exhibit 2 to the Declaration of M. Val Miller in support of this Motion and pursuant thereto, to sell and transfer to the Utah DOT that certain approximate 3-acre parcel of undeveloped land located in the Elim Valley area of Hurricane, Washington County, Utah ("3 Acre Property") more fully described in Exhibit 1 to the UDOT Contract, in exchange for a cash payment to the receivership estate of \$75,000.00, with the 3 Acre Property sold and transferred "as is, where is, with all faults," and without representations or warranties of any kind or nature as more fully set forth in the UDOT Contract, and without further notice, hearing, order or overbidding, and in connection therewith:
- (a) Authorizing the Receiver to execute all documents and instruments necessary or convenient to complete, implement, effectuate and close the sale of the 3 Acre Property to UDOT pursuant to the terms of the UDOT Contract, including but not limited to a special warranty deed conveying title to the 3 Acre Property;
- Authorizing the Receiver to permit and/or cause to be paid from the proceeds of sale of the 3 Acre Property any ordinary and customary closing costs and expenses required to be paid under the terms of the UDOT Contract by the grantor from the proceeds of sale, all sales commissions owing in connection with the sale of the 3 Acre Property, including specifically a sales commission of 6% of the gross sales price pursuant to the Exclusive Listing Agreement & Agency Disclosure between the Receiver and Brokers Commercial, LLC dba NAI Utah Southern Region ("Broker") dated May 15, 2015 as extended by the Listing Agreement Addendum/Change Form dated April 19, 2015 (collectively "Listing Agreement") attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of M. Val Miller in support of this Motion, and all real property tax liens outstanding and prorated real property taxes due up to the date of closing;

- (c) Authorizing the Receiver to complete the sale of the 3 Acre Property without further notice, hearing, order or overbidding in that 3 Acre Property is landlocked without easements or other access to roads, the 3 Acre Property has been marketed and listed for sale by the Receiver for over two and one-half years without any buyers or interest in the property other than the Utah DOT, and in that the UDOT Contract provides for a sale price that equals or exceeds appraised valuations of the property;
- 2. An order deeming notice of this Motion to be sufficient under Local Civil Rule 66-5 based on the service of a notice of the filing of this Motion and the Motion on all parties and service of a notice of the filing of the Motion on all known non-consumer creditors of the estate and on all known taxing authorities with a potential claim in the receivership estate concurrent with the filing of this Motion with the Court, but not on the tens of thousands of potential consumer creditors; and
- 3. An order for such additional relief as may be necessary or appropriate to allow the Receiver to effectuate the sale of the 3 Acre Property, including but not limited to entry of an order granting this Motion and authorizing the sale of the 3 Acre Property in form acceptable to the title company insuring title in connection with the sale of the foregoing property.

This Motion is made pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2001(b) and Local Civil Rules 7-2 and 66-5 and other applicable law and is based upon this notice of motion and motion, the separate notice of filing of the Motion served concurrently herewith, the accompanying memorandum of points and authorities and the Declaration of M. Val Miller filed in support hereof, any reply, and upon all other pleadings and documentary evidence as may be presented to the Court by the Receiver.

Dated: August 5, 2016 DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP

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By: /s/ Gary Owen Caris **GARY OWEN CARIS** LESLEY ANNE HAWES Attorneys for Receiver ROBB EVANS OF ROBB EVANS & ASSOCIATES LLC

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. <u>INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF RELEVANT FACTS</u>

On January 13, 2011, the Receiver was appointed Temporary Receiver over I Works, Inc. ("I Works"), numerous other Corporate Defendants as defined in the Temporary Restraining Order and over the assets of defendant Jeremy Johnson (collectively the "Receivership Defendants"). Pursuant to the Preliminary Injunction Order entered February 10, 2011, the Receiver has been appointed permanent Receiver over the Receivership Defendants. On March 25, 2013, on motion of the Receiver, the Court entered its Order Granting Motion for Order Clarifying Preliminary Injunction Order and for Further Instructions Regarding Scope of Receivership Defendants under Preliminary Injunction Order and Report of Receiver's Financial Reconstruction and Granting Relief from Local Rule 66-5 Pertaining to Notice to Creditors ("Clarifying Order") pursuant to which the Court confirmed the status of numerous entities and properties as assets of the receivership estate and confirmed the status of various entities as Receivership Defendants. One of the entities confirmed to be an entity subject to the receivership estate under the Clarifying Order was Kombi Capital, L.P. ("Kombi").

The Receiver's Administration of the 3 Acre Property

Under the Preliminary Injunction Order, the Receiver is directed to maintain and preserve assets of the receivership estate. Prel. Inj. (Doc. 130), Section XV.E. In order to preserve the value of the assets for the benefit of consumers and creditors, on August 21, 2013, the Receiver filed a motion seeking authorization from the Court to list and market for sale various real properties, including three parcels of raw, undeveloped land in Hurricane, County of Washington, Utah. In August 2013, the Receiver filed a motion for authorization to list and market for sale various real property assets that were part of the receivership based on the Clarifying Order (Doc. No. 1161), which motion was granted by the Court's Order entered on September 30, 2013 (Doc. No. 1178) ("Sale Authorization Order"). A year later, in August 2014, the Receiver sought and obtained approval from the Court to sell two of the parcels, referred to as the Two Turf Sod parcels, which had total acreage of approximately 19.9 acres, leaving the remaining parcel referred to herein as the 3 Acre

Property unsold.

The 3 Acre Property is a landlocked parcel surrounded largely by other vacant land. There are no utilities to the site, and the nearest utility service is approximately one-half mile from the property. The 3 Acre Property has no associated water rights for the property. In October 2013, the Receiver obtained an independent appraisal of the 3 Acre Property by Christopher Isom of Appraisals of Southcentral Utah, Inc. which valued the 3 Acre Property at \$35,000, citing numerous issues with the property including those noted above, the real estate market at the time and the lack of any recent sales of undeveloped land near the site. The property nevertheless had an assessed value of \$120,000, and the Receiver listed the 3 Acre Property for sale initially at \$135,000 in October 2013. In the summer of 2014, the Receiver was able to locate a buyer for the Two Turf Sod parcels, but that buyer was not interested in also acquiring the 3 Acre Property. The Receiver periodically lowered the asking price for the 3 Acre Property, and the Receiver has been actively marketing this property for sale for an extended period over more than two years without any serious interest from buyers other than the Utah DOT.

In May 2015, the Receiver entered into the Exclusive Listing Agreement & Agency Disclosure with Brokers Commercial, LLC dba NAI Utah Southern Region ("Broker") and in April 2016, the Receiver extended the listing pursuant to the Listing Agreement Addendum/Change Form (collectively the "Listing Agreement"), true and correct copies of which are attached collectively as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of M. Val Miller filed in support of this Motion. The Broker is experienced in the sale of undeveloped land in Southern Utah.

By this Motion, the Receiver seeks approval of a proposed sale of the 3 Acre Property to the Utah DOT. Kombi, which previously held title to the 3 Acre Property, was nominally a Todd Vowell entity. In connection with the Receiver's Court-approved settlement with the Todd Vowell Parties, including Kombi, title to the 3 Acre Property was transferred to the receivership estate to be held in the name of a receivership Qualified Settlement Fund ("QSF"), specifically the I Works, Inc. Receivership QSF. A copy of a current title policy concerning the 3 Acre Property is attached to the supporting Declaration of M. Val Miller as Exhibit 3.

Proposed UDOT Contract

After more than two years of marketing efforts with no offers or expressions of interest from any buyers at all, the Receiver began negotiating for the sale of the 3 Acre Property with the Utah DOT. The Utah DOT had previously purchased undeveloped land from the receivership estate in 2012. After weeks of negotiation, the Receiver entered into a Right-of-Way Purchase Contract with the Utah DOT dated June 30, 2016 (the "UDOT Contract"). The UDOT Contract provides for a cash sale of the 3 Acre Property for \$75,000. That price is the same as the valuation of the property under the independent appraisal of the property conducted for the Utah DOT valuing the property at \$75,000 as of April 15, 2016.

The sale of the 3 Acre Property to the Utah DOT represents a very favorable disposition of this asset under the circumstances. The proposed sale price represents fair market value for the property based on the current independent appraisal obtained by the Utah DOT. The Receiver is convinced that the proposed sale represents the highest conceivable price that might be achieved for the property and that it is a virtual certainty that the property could not be sold for a higher price to a third party at this time, given the years of unsuccessful marketing efforts. The Receiver strongly recommends approval of the proposed UDOT Contract without any further notice, overbidding or order given the relatively modest value of the property, the long-term marketing efforts to sell the property and the lack of interest in the property by buyers other than the Utah DOT.

II. THE UDOT CONTRACT AND THE SALE OF THE 3 ACRE PROPERTY SHOULD BE APPROVED WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE, HEARING OR OVERBIDDING UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES

Section § 2001(b) of title 28 pertains to the sale of real property at private sale. That statute provides in part:

After a hearing, of which notice to all interested parties shall be given by publication or otherwise as the court directs, the court may order the sale of such realty or interest therein by private sale for

cash or other consideration and upon such terms and conditions as the court approves, if it finds that the best interests of the estate will be served thereby.

The time, manner, terms of sale and notice thereof are regulated by the court appointing the receiver. As noted above, courts are granted discretion in setting the terms and conditions for judicial sales and the Court's discretion will not be disturbed on appeal except where abuse of discretion is shown. United States v. Branch Coal Corp., 390 F. 2d 7 (3rd Cir. 1968), cert. den. Sun Protection Co. v. United States, 391 U.S. 966, 88 S. Ct. 2034 (1968). The Court has substantial discretion in receivership matters in setting the overbidding procedures applicable to sales of real property. See Pewabic Mining Co. v. Mason, 145 U.S. 349, 356, 36 L.Ed. 732, 12 S.Ct. 887 (1891) (the provisions for notice and other conditions shall be determined by the Court "as will in his judgment best protect the rights of all interested, and make the sale most profitable to all"); Cumberland Lumber Co. v. Tunis Lumber Co., 171 F. 352 (4th Cir. 1909); Bidwell v. Huff, 176 F. 174 (5th Cir. 1909). The terms and conditions of the judicial sale that the Court may adopt are based on the facts and circumstances of each case. The discretion granted in connection with sales of assets is consistent with the broad discretion accorded to the Court sitting in equity in receivership proceedings to make orders concerning the administration and supervision of the estate that will promote equity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the estate's administration. See generally Securities and Exchange Commission v. Hardy, 803 F.2d 1034 (9th Cir. 1986); Securities and Exchange Commission v. Black, 163 F.3d 188, 199 (3rd Cir. 1998); Securities and Exchange Commission v. Elliot, 953 F.2d 1560 (11th Cir. 1992).

There are four general components for the approval of a private sale under § 2001(b), including (1) three appraisals to value the property, (2) a minimum sale price of two-thirds of the average value of the three appraisals, (3) publication of notice ten days prior to confirmation, and (4) a provision that a private sale cannot be confirmed if there is an overbid at least 10 percent higher than the proposed sale price under the private sale. The Receiver submits that Court

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approval of this sale is appropriate without strict adherence to the four components of section 2001(b) in light of the circumstances of the 3 Acre Property and the proposed sale.

The 3 Acre Property is a relatively small property with modest value. The estate has diligently marketed the property for well over two years with virtually no interest being shown by buyers. The Utah DOT has been the only entity that has expressed any interest in acquiring the property, and it has agreed to pay the fair market value of the property based on the Utah DOT independent appraisal from April 2016. That appraised value is more than two times the value at which the property was valued under the Receiver's October 2013 appraisal. The Receiver has no reason to believe that publishing notice and conducting an overbid session would produce any other interested buyers, and certainly not for an amount above appraised value, making any overbid or further notice or hearing a waste of estate resources that will only diminish the estate's recovery. The Receiver therefore strongly recommends that the Court approve the proposed sale of the 3 Acre Property under the UDOT Contract.

III. NOTICE OF THIS MOTION IS SUFFICIENT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND SHOULD BE APPROVED

Local Civil Rule 66-5 provides for service of notice of the hearing on various motions by a Receiver concerning the administration of the estate. That rule provides for service of the notice of hearing on such motions on all creditors of the receivership estate. No hearing has been set on this Motion and the provisions of Local Civil Rule 66-5 do not specifically apply. Nevertheless, the Receiver has served a notice of filing of the Motion on the parties and on all known nonconsumer creditors of the estate and on known taxing authorities with a potential claim in the receivership estate ("Notice Parties"), to provide them notice and an opportunity to be heard concerning the Motion. This notice is consistent with notice previously approved by the Court in this case.

There are believed to be an extremely large number of potential consumer creditors who may have claims against the Receivership Defendants arising out of the business operations of the Receivership Defendants prior to the Receiver's appointment, although the precise number,

identity and location of such consumer creditors have not been determined by the Receiver at this time. Given the Receiver's determination that more than \$332.5 million¹ in sales revenues were generated by I Works and the related and affiliated entities, the number of consumer creditors is likely in the tens of thousands. It is not realistically possible or beneficial to the estate and its creditors for the Receiver to attempt to identify and serve the potential consumer creditors with notice of this and other similar administrative motions, and the expense and burden on the estate of attempting to effectuate such service would drain the estate's resources and cause undue administrative expense.

To the extent that Local Rule 66-5 applies to this Motion, the Receiver seeks an order that notice of this Motion is sufficient if notice of the filing of the Motion is given by serving copies of all motion papers on the parties to the action and the affected lienholders and by serving copies of the notice of filing of the motion on the Notice Parties identified above. The Receiver submits that such service provides sufficient notice and an opportunity for hearing to the interested parties and should be approved as adequate.

There is ample authority for approval of the scope and method of notice as set forth above. This Court, as a court of equity supervising the receivership estate, may make appropriate administrative orders governing the receivership, including limitations on and changes in notice and other procedures. *See* F.R.Civ.P. 5(a) and (c) (authorizing the court to modify service procedures when numerous defendants are involved in litigation). In addition, pursuant to Local Rule 66-10, a receiver is directed to administer receivership estates "as nearly as may be in accordance with the practice in the administration of estates in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases." Orders limiting notice when the Bankruptcy Code or Rules would otherwise require notice to all creditors are routinely granted in bankruptcy cases to promote the expeditious and economical administration of bankruptcy estates. *See In re First Alliance Mortgage Co.*, 269 B.R. 428, 442

¹ This figure does not include tens of millions of dollars in additional sales revenues addressed by the Receiver in the Report of Receiver's Financial Reconstruction filed on February 3, 2012.

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(C.D. Cal. 2001) (referencing in dicta in the court's recitation of facts the bankruptcy court's orderlimiting notice issued in that case); 11 U.S.C. section 102(1)(A) (defining the phrase "after notice and a hearing" to mean "after such notice as is appropriate in the particular circumstances, and such opportunity for hearing as is appropriate in the particular circumstances"); 11 U.S.C. section 105(a) and (d) (granting broad equitable powers to the court to issue orders "necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions" of title 11 including "prescribing such limitations and conditions as the court deems appropriate to ensure the case is handled expeditiously and economically"); and F.R. Bankr. P. 2002(m) (authorizing the court to enter "orders designating the matters in respect to which, the entity to whom, and the form and manner in which notices shall be sent except as otherwise provided by these rules").

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the Court grant relief as requested in the Motion.

Dated: August 5, 2016

DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP

By: _/s/ Gary Owen Caris
GARY OWEN CARIS
LESLEY ANNE HAWES
Attorneys for Receiver
ROBB EVANS OF ROBB EVANS &
ASSOCIATES LLC

DECLARATION OF M. VAL MILLER

I, M. Val Miller, declare:

- 1. I am a member and Executive Vice President of Robb Evans & Associates LLC and am a deputy to Robb Evans of Robb Evans & Associates LLC, appointed as Receiver in this case. I am one of the deputies to the Receiver responsible for the day-to-day supervision of the receivership estate. If called upon to testify as to the facts set forth in this declaration, I could and would testify competently thereto as the facts are true and within my personal knowledge or I have gained knowledge of such facts from the books and records of the receivership proceeding, including the books and records of the entities subject to the receivership.
- 2. On January 13, 2011, the Receiver was appointed Temporary Receiver over I Works, Inc. ("I Works"), numerous other Corporate Defendants as defined in the Temporary Restraining Order and over the assets of defendant Jeremy Johnson (collectively the "Receivership Defendants"). Pursuant to the Preliminary Injunction Order entered February 10, 2011, the Receiver has been appointed permanent receiver over the Receivership Defendants. On March 25, 2013, the Court entered that certain Order Granting Motion for Order Clarifying Preliminary Injunction Order and for Further Instructions Regarding Scope of Receivership Defendants under Preliminary Injunction Order and Report of Receiver's Financial Reconstruction and Granting Relief from Local Rule 66-5 Pertaining to Notice to Creditors ("Clarifying Order") pursuant to which the Court confirmed the status of numerous entities and properties as assets of the receivership estate and confirmed the status of various entities as Receivership Defendants. One of the entities confirmed to be an entity subject to the receivership estate under the Clarifying Order was Kombi Capital, L.P. ("Kombi").
- 3. I am one of the deputies to the Receiver responsible for the administration of the receivership estate, including the investigation of assets and potential assets of the receivership estate, review of the books and records of the receivership estate and the analysis of receivership assets, including the status of loans encumbering those assets. I have been the deputy to the Receiver who has been primarily responsible for supervising the marketing and sale of the three

parcels of undeveloped land located in Hurricane, Utah that were formerly titled to Kombi, two of which (the "Two Turf Sod parcels") were previously sold with Court approval and the third being an approximate 3-acre parcel that is the subject of this Motion (the "3 Acre Property").

- 4. After the Clarifying Order was entered, the Receiver sought and obtained approval by the Court to list and market for sale various properties titled to Kombi and other entities that were subject to the Clarifying Order which were determined to be subject to the receivership pursuant to the Court's Order entered on September 30, 2013 (the "Sale Authorization Order"). Pursuant to the Sale Authorization Order, the Receiver engaged a real estate broker and began marketing the 3 Acre Property for sale through the multiple listing service and advertising on other internet sites on October 15, 2013. The 3 Acre Property has been listed for sale more or less continuously on the multiple listing service since that time and was advertised on internet sites periodically for approximately two and a half years prior to the Receiver entering into the proposed agreement for the sale of the property to the Utah Department of Transportation ("Utah DOT").
- 5. Prior to listing the 3 Acre Property for sale, the Receiver obtained an appraisal of the 3 Acre Property by Christopher Isom of Appraisals of Southcentral Utah, Inc. as of October 30, 2013 which valued the property at only \$35,000. The tax assessor's assessed value of the 3 Acre Property is \$120,000. Based on the tax-assessed value and on recommendation from its Broker, the Receiver listed the property for sale for \$135,000. The asking price has periodically been reduced since that time.
- 6. In May 2015, the Receiver entered into an Exclusive Listing Agreement & Agency Disclosure dated May 15, 2015 with NAI Utah Southern Region as broker ("Broker"), and with Jason Griffith as agent ("Agent"), which provides for a sales commission of 6% of the sales price. The Receiver continued to list the 3 Acre Property through the Broker and Agent after the initial listing expired in September 2015, and the Receiver formally extended the listing by the Listing Agreement Addendum/Change Form dated April 19, 2016. True and correct copies of the Exclusive Listing Agreement as extended by the Listing Agreement Addendum are attached

 hereto collectively as Exhibit 1. In April 2016, the Utah DOT obtained a lengthy formal appraisal of the 3 Acre Property which valued the property at \$75,000 and which provided the basis for the purchase price in its offer to acquire the 3 Acre Property. That appraisal was performed by an independent appraiser, Eric J. Van Drimmelen, MAI. That appraised value is more than twice the value of the property under the Receiver's October 2013 appraisal.

- 7. In the approximate time of two and half years the 3 Acre Property was listed and marketed for sale, the Receiver obtained no offers for the property and no expressions of interest in the property other than from the Utah DOT. In June 2016, the Receiver entered into that certain Right-of-Way Purchase Contract with the Utah DOT dated as of June 30, 2016 for the sale of the 3 Acre Property to the Utah DOT for \$75,000 cash (the "UDOT Contract"). A true and correct copy of the UDOT Contract is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. The UDOT Contract and sale of the 3 Acre Property are subject to approval of the Court.
- 8. The Receiver seeks Court approval to sell the 3 Acre Property to Utah DOT pursuant to the UDOT Contract by private sale for the amount of \$75,000.00. The sale of the 3 Acre Property to Utah DOT is "as is, where is, with all faults," and without representations or warranties of any kind or nature as more fully set forth in the UDOT Contract and without further notice, hearing, order or overbidding. The purchase price of \$75,000 under the UDOT Contract equals its appraised value under the Utah DOT appraisal and is more than two times the amount of the appraised value of the property under the Receiver's prior appraisal. The proposed sale price will be paid in cash, and the Receiver expects the sale to close promptly after it is approved.
- 9. The Receiver has a current title report for the 3 Acre Property, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. The 3 Acre Property is unencumbered other than by the lien for accruing real property taxes.
- 10. The Receiver believes the sale price equals or exceeds the fair market value for the 3 Acre Property. The 3 Acre Property is raw, undeveloped land in Hurricane. It is landlocked and does not have utility service. The nearest utility service is approximately one-half mile from the property. The 3 Acre Property has no associated water rights for the property. Most important,

the Receiver has diligently attempted to market and sell the 3 Acre Property for well over two years without interested buyers coming forth, other than the Utah DOT. The Receiver believes the sale of the property to the Utah DOT is in the best interests of the estate and provides for a disposition of the property for its fair market value based on the Utah DOT appraisal. The Receiver does not believe any overbidding or publication of notice of the sale is likely to result in any other buyer coming forward, particularly one who would offer to pay more than the purchase price in the UDOT Contract, based on the marketing history of the property and the Utah DOT appraisal. The Receiver therefore strongly recommends approval of the UDOT Contract and sale without further notice, hearing or overbidding.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed this day of August 2016 at Las Vegas, Nevada.

M. VAL MILLER