

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

<p>ANDREA PARRA <i>Individually and as administrator of the estate of Antonio Parra</i> c/o The Pattakos Law Firm LLC 101 Ghent Road Fairlawn, Ohio 44333</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Plaintiffs,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v.</p> <p>FRANK G. JACKSON <i>In his personal capacity and official capacity as Mayor of the City of Cleveland</i> Cleveland City Hall 601 Lakeside Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44113</p> <p>CALVIN D. WILLIAMS <i>In his personal capacity and official capacity as Chief of the Cleveland Police Dept.</i> 1300 Ontario Street Cleveland, Ohio 44113</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Defendants.</p>	<p>Case No. _____</p> <p>Judge _____</p> <p>Complaint with Jury Demand</p>
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I. Introduction

1. This is a civil action against Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson and Cleveland Police Chief Calvin D. Williams by Andrea Parra, administrator of the estate of her son, Antonio Parra, a 30-year-old Cleveland resident and devoted father of a 9-year-old daughter who was shot to death in broad daylight by two men who fled in a car registered to the Mayor's grandson, Frank Q. Jackson.
2. Mayor Jackson's and Chief Williams's intentional dereliction of their duties in covering up for gang-related crimes involving the Mayor's grandsons respectively caused, and exacerbated the damage arising from, Mr. Parra's murder.

3. The Mayor's grandson, Frank Q. Jackson, and the Mayor's 16-year old great-grandson, live in the Mayor's home in Cleveland and have an extensive history of violent and gang-related criminal activity that has long been known to the Mayor.

4. Despite the Mayor's knowledge of his grandsons' proclivity toward violent and gang-related crime, the Mayor has knowingly and repeatedly used the influence of his public office to obstruct the investigation and prosecution of their criminal activity.

5. In a particularly egregious exercise of the Mayor's wrongful influence, the City Prosecutor attempted to cover up for Frank Q. Jackson despite extensive evidence—including multiple witnesses and surveillance video—showing that Jackson brutally assaulted an 18-year old woman in June of 2019, including by repeatedly striking her with a metal trailer hitch.

6. Antonio Parra was murdered two months later, in the wake of this unpunished assault, two months later, by two men who are believed to be affiliated with the Mayor's grandsons and to have murdered Parra in order to gain favor with them, thereby increasing their status in the "No Limit 700" gang in which the Mayor's grandsons are believed to be leaders.

7. Based on the facts available to date, reasonable minds may conclude that Antonio Parra would be alive today if not for the culture of impunity fostered by the Mayor's intentional obstruction of justice in cases involving alleged criminal conduct by his grandsons.

8. Mayor Jackson and Chief Williams further exacerbated the harm resulting from Parra's murder by obstructing its investigation. At the Mayor's instruction, Cleveland police failed question Frank Q. Jackson or take him into custody on the date of the crime, failed to conduct a gunshot residue test that would have shown if Jackson had fired a gun, and failed to record their interactions with the Jacksons on their body cameras, all despite established departmental policies and procedures to the contrary. To date, despite the obvious conflicts of interest and despite demands

from citizens, public officials, and the press, the Mayor and Police Chief have maintained their refusal to appoint an independent agency to investigate Parra's murder.

9. Thus, as set forth fully below, Andrea Parra is entitled to recover (1) individually and on the estate's behalf for wrongful death against Mayor Jackson under R.C. 2125.01, (2) individually for intentional infliction of emotional distress against Jackson and Chief Williams, and (3) individually and on the estate's behalf for obstruction of justice under R.C. 2921.32(A) and R.C. 2307.60(A)(1) against Jackson and Williams.

II. Jurisdiction and Venue

10. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under R.C. 2305.01.

11. Venue is proper in this Court under Ohio Civ.R. 3(B) because Defendants' public offices and private residences are located in Cuyahoga County, and because Defendants' actions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims for relief all occurred in Cuyahoga County.

III. Parties

12. Plaintiffs are the estate of decedent Antonio Parra and Mr. Parra's mother, Andrea Parra. Ms. Parra is also the administrator of Antonio's estate, and a resident of Cuyahoga County, as Antonio was at the time of his death.

13. Defendant Frank G. Jackson is the Mayor of the City of Cleveland in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. As the mayor, it is Defendant Jackson's duty "to act as chief conservator of the peace within the City" and "to supervise the administration of" the City's affairs. Cleveland City Charter, § 71. As Mayor, Jackson has the authority "to appoint and remove directors of all departments and officers and members of commissions not included within regular departments," who serve and may be removed at the Mayor's pleasure. Charter, § 70. In November of 2017, Jackson, with nearly unanimous support of Cleveland's business community that allowed him to raise nearly seven times

as much money for his campaign as his opponent, was elected to an unprecedented fourth term in office, and is the longest serving Mayor in Cleveland history.

14. Defendant Jackson's control over his appointed officers and members extends to the Cleveland Law Department. Defendant Jackson has the power to remove the director of the Law Department. *See* Charter, § 78. In turn, the law director, who is subject to removal by the mayor, "supervis[es] and control[s]" all other persons in the law department. *Id.*

15. Defendant Calvin D. Williams is the Chief of Cleveland's Police Department. As the Chief of Police, Williams "serve[s] at the pleasure of" the Mayor, and has "exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of patrolmen and other officers and employees constituting the police force, under such rules and regulations as may be established by the Mayor." Charter, § 116.

V. Facts

A. Mayor Jackson's grandson and great-grandson, who live in the Mayor's home, have an extensive history of violent and gang-related criminal activity that has long been known to the Mayor.

16. Mayor Jackson's grandson, Frank Q. Jackson, is a leader of a Cleveland street gang known as the "No Limit-700 gang."

17. According to court records, The No Limit 700 gang is believed to be responsible for numerous violent crimes committed in the Cleveland area since December of 2018, including several armed robberies, shootings, and at least one homicide, among other offenses.¹

18. Frank Q. Jackson lives at the Mayor's residence, along with the Mayor's 16-year-old great-grandson, who, according to law enforcement sources, is also a member of the No Limit 700 gang.

Other No Limit 700 gang members are known to "frequent the mayor's home."²

¹ *See Exhibit 1*, Adam Ferrise, *Man who posed for photo with gun in Mayor Frank Jackson's driveway named in gang case involving mayor's great-grandson*, Cleveland.com (Sept. 27, 2019) <https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/09/man-who-posed-for-photo-with-gun-in-mayor-frank-jacksons-driveway-named-in-gang-case-involving-mayors-great-grandson.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

19. In April of 2017, Frank Q. Jackson was pulled over for having unlawfully allowed passengers to ride in the bed of his pickup truck. Police found a Glock 9M model 19 handgun in the vehicle, as well as that one of Jackson's passengers had a warrant out for his arrest for attempted murder.³

20. When asked about this incident, Mayor Jackson told a reporter that he personally knew the man with the murder warrant who was riding in his grandson's truck, explaining that, "many times that people who run afoul of the law are people that I know and that are people who've stayed over at my house because they've been friends with my grandkids and my great grandkids." "They don't pull guns on me," the Mayor added. "They're respectful to me. They're respectful to me. I don't have those kind of issues or concerns with the young people out on the street."⁴

21. In the same interview, the Mayor further explained that he and his grandson "live in reality," that "if many of the kids have guns, and young men have guns, they are going to have friends who have guns," and that he "struggles and talks to [his grandchildren] every day about what they should do and what they should not do," including "how to ... deal with the element of crime and the violence associated out in the streets." "I wish the world was Pollyanna," the Mayor added. "I wish that Disneyland prevailed. And I wish that the illusion that people think the world is, I wish that were reality. It's not."⁵

² *Id.*

³ See **Exhibit 2**, Carl Monday, *Mayor's grandson pulled over by police, man wanted for attempted murder was passenger*, Cleveland 19 News (April 13, 2017) <https://www.cleveland19.com/story/35147386/police-conduct-traffic-stop-find-man-wanted-for-attempted-murder-in-truck-with-mayors-grandson/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

⁴ Carl Monday, *Interview with Cleveland mayor after his grandson pulled over by police*, Cleveland 19 News (August 2, 2018), <https://www.cleveland19.com/clip/13248526/interview-with-cleveland-mayor-after-his-grandson-pulled-over-by-police/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019). See also **Exhibit 3**, Harry Boomer, *A closer look at Mayor Frank Jackson's comment about gun culture in Cleveland*, Cleveland 19 News (April 14, 2017), <https://www.cleveland19.com/story/35154048/a-closer-look-at-mayor-frank-jacksons-comment-about-gun-culture-in-cleveland/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

⁵ *Id.*

22. The Mayor also said that his grandson “doesn’t own a gun,” and that the “only vice that he may have is illegal riding of dirtbikes.”⁶

23. Two months later, in June of 2017, Frank Q. Jackson was arrested by Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority police for unlawfully possessing a handgun and three magazines containing 85 rounds of ammunition. He was shortly released on a personal bond.⁷

24. In May of 2019, Frank Q. Jackson threatened two men and concealed from police that he had a handgun and oxycodone pills in his vehicle. In July, he pled guilty to resulting charges of aggravated menacing, aggravated disorderly conduct, and attempted drug abuse.⁸

25. On July 16, 2019, the Mayor’s 16-year-old great-grandson was arrested in connection with an incident where he is accused of driving a car in which a 17-year-old passenger fired gunshots at Cleveland police officers who were investigating a group of people drinking in the middle of East 86th Street near Quincy Avenue. According to gang-unit detective Michael Harrigan, one man in this group saw the officers and tossed a gun as he ran into a nearby home, then jumped out the window of the home and ran through its backyard toward East 84th Street. As Harrigan got into his car to chase this man, the car driven by Mayor Jackson’s great-grandson sped by him, stopped, and then a passenger got out of the car and fired two gunshots in Harrigan’s direction. Shortly thereafter, other Cleveland police officers spotted this car and stopped it, arresting the Mayor’s great-grandson, as well as the passenger, who tried to run from the officers and tossed a gun but was shortly

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ See **Exhibit 4**, Cassie Nist, *Police Report: Mayor’s grandson arrested with Glock, 85 bullets and marijuana*, Cleveland 19 News (June 14, 2017), <https://www.cleveland19.com/story/35661554/police-report-mayor-jacksons-grandson-arrested-with-glock-85-bullets-and-marijuana> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

⁸ **Exhibit 5**, Drew Scofield, *Cleveland mayor’s grandson found guilty on drug, menacing charges*, News 5 Cleveland (Jul. 10, 2019), <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/cleveland-metro/cleveland-mayors-grandson-found-guilty-on-drug-menacing-charges> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

captured and arrested.⁹ In or around early August of 2019, both teens were charged with felonious assault, discharging a firearm, improperly handling a gun in a car, and criminal damaging.¹⁰

26. In August of 2019, local media outlets published a photograph depicting Shawn Murray, who, according to law enforcement sources, is also a member of the No Limit-700 gang and is friends with the Mayor's grandson and great grandson. In this photo, Murray was posing in the Mayor's driveway with his hands full of cash and a large gun protruding from his pants pocket. The same photograph shows a Cleveland police car in the background.¹¹ At the time, the Mayor told reporters, "what happens in my house and my yard isn't anyone's business."¹²

27. A few months later, in or around October of 2019, Murray was indicted on charges of criminal gang activity, aggravated theft, theft, carrying concealed weapons, receiving stolen property, and having weapons while under disability. Mayor Jackson's great-grandson is also charged in the same case with participating in a criminal gang. According to Cleveland.com reporters, the August publication of the photo of Murray in the Mayor's driveway led to increased scrutiny over the City's

⁹ **Exhibit 6**, Adam Ferrise, *Cleveland mayor's teenage great-grandson could face charges in adult court, accused of involvement in shooting at police*, Cleveland.com (Sept. 3, 2019), <https://www.cleveland.com/crime/2019/09/cleveland-mayors-teenage-great-grandson-could-face-charges-in-adult-court-accused-of-involvement-in-shooting-at-police.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

¹⁰ See **Ex. 1**, Sept. 27, 2019 Ferrise report.

¹¹ **Exhibit 7**, Adam Ferrise, *Suspected gang member poses for photo with gun, cash in Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's driveway, sources say*, Cleveland.com (Aug. 30, 2019), <https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/08/suspected-gang-member-poses-for-photo-with-gun-cash-in-cleveland-mayor-frank-jacksons-driveway-sources-say.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

¹² **Exhibit 8**, Mark Naymik, Stephanie Metzger, and Tyler Carey, *Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson's grandson charged with brutal beating of girlfriend*, WKYC TV (Sept. 4, 2019), <https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/cleveland/cleveland-mayor-frank-jackson-grandson-assault/95-df02d0f5-db05-44ef-b9a2-4eef1a191e72> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

handling of criminal cases involving the Mayor's relatives, including the violent beating of an 18-year-old woman and the deadly shooting of Antonio Parra.¹³

B. In June of 2019, Cleveland prosecutors, with the Mayor's knowledge and assent, covered up for the Mayor's grandson despite extensive evidence that he brutally assaulted an 18-year-old woman.

28. On June 10, 2019, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority police were called to respond to an alleged assault of an 18-year old woman that started at a gas station near East 40th Street and Quincy Ave. and concluded nearby on East 49th Street. According to a police report documenting the statements of the victim and two witnesses, Jackson first punched the victim in the face and strangled her "profusely" as they were sitting inside of his truck in the gas station's parking lot. Then, after one of the witnesses, who was also in the truck, asked that Jackson drop her and the victim off at a location on East 49th Street, Jackson pulled the victim from the truck, pulled her through the grass by her hair, continued to choke her and strike her multiple times with a closed fist, and picked up a metal trailer hitch with which he beat the victim multiple times in her left knee. The victim and witnesses screamed for someone to call the police, but Jackson fled from the scene.¹⁴

29. When police arrived at the scene to interview the victim and witnesses, a truck registered to Frank Q. Jackson, with Jackson inside, drove by the officers. Several witnesses pointed Jackson out to the police and said he was the man who attacked the victim.¹⁵

¹³ **Exhibit 9**, Kaylee Remington, *Cuyahoga County grand jury indicts man who posed with gun in Mayor Frank Jackson's driveway*, Cleveland.com (Oct. 5, 2019) <https://www.cleveland.com/crime/2019/10/cuyahoga-county-grand-jury-indicts-man-who-posed-with-gun-in-mayor-frank-jacksons-driveway.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

¹⁴ **Exhibit 10**, Chris Anderson, *Cleveland mayor's grandson Frank Q. Jackson repeatedly choked and beat woman during June incident, according to police report*, Cleveland 19 News (Sept. 4, 2019) <https://www.cleveland19.com/2019/09/04/cleveland-mayors-grandson-frank-q-jackson-repeatedly-choked-beat-woman-during-june-incident-according-police-report> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

¹⁵ **Exhibit 11**, Adam Ferrise, *Cleveland prosecutor declined to charge Mayor Frank Jackson's grandson in beating of woman witnessed by others, records say*, Cleveland.com (Sept. 3, 2019)

30. The officers then tried to stop the truck, but it backed up and sped away down the wrong way of a one-way street. Shortly thereafter, the police noted that Frank Q. Jackson's mother drove by the scene, along with other of Jackson's family members. The victim told the officers at the scene that she feared that Jackson's family members would retaliate against her.¹⁶

31. Two days later, a Cleveland police detective obtained surveillance footage from the nearby CMHA housing complex that showing the truck registered to Frank Q. Jackson speeding from the area, with a passenger getting out of the car and running from the scene.¹⁷

32. Despite this video evidence, as well as the victim's immediate report, clear evidence of injuries resulting from the attack, and recorded statements from multiple witnesses naming Jackson as the assailant, Cleveland Prosecutor Aaric Kinast not only declined to pursue charges for the assault, he failed to refer the matter to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor.¹⁸

33. Kinast reports to Cleveland's Law Director Barbara Langhenry, who was appointed by the Mayor, serves at the Mayor's pleasure, and "supervis[es] and control[s]" all employees of the City's law department, including the City Prosecutor's office. Charter § 78. The City Prosecutor's decisions not to prosecute Jackson in this case, and not to refer the matter to the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's office, would not have been made and were not in fact made without the Mayor's knowledge and assent.

34. Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Terese McKenna, who oversees felony prosecutions for the office later told Cleveland.com reporters that, (A) her office never received the case from the

<https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/09/cleveland-prosecutor-declined-to-charge-mayor-frank-jacksons-grandson-in-beating-of-woman-witnessed-by-others-records-say.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

City, (B) such cases are referred to the County Prosecutor's office as a matter of "routine," and (C) that it is "common" for prosecutors to pursue such cases even when the victim is unwilling to testify against the defendant.¹⁹

35. By early September of 2019, the City's handling of this incident became subject to public criticism. In response, the City's Law Department claimed that the CMHA police had withheld evidence from City prosecutors.²⁰ The CMHA police immediately denied this accusation, publicly stating that, (A) "the Assistant City Prosecutor was briefed on the matter and was provided all pertinent facts," (B) the Prosecutor "gave a cursory review of the investigation file and decided not to prosecute," and (C) "CMHA's police department did not withhold any evidence nor was any additional evidence requested by the Assistant Prosecutor."²¹

36. On September 4, 2019, a Cuyahoga County grand jury indicted Frank Q. Jackson on charges of felonious assault, abduction, and failure to comply with police.²² Jackson was arrested after the Mayor personally negotiated for his surrender with U.S. Marshals.²³ The charges remain pending with a trial currently set for mid-December.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ **Exhibit 12**, Peggy Gallek, *'We were able to work it out': U.S. Marshals release new details on the surrender of Mayor Jackson's grandson*, Fox 8 Cleveland (Sept. 6, 2019) <https://fox8.com/2019/09/06/we-were-able-to-work-it-out-us-marshals-release-new-details-on-the-surrender-of-mayor-jacksons-grandson/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

²¹ **Exhibit 13**, Peggy Gallek, *CMHA says detective did not withhold information in case of mayor's grandson*, Fox 8 Cleveland (Sept. 9, 2019), <https://fox8.com/2019/09/09/cmha-says-detective-did-not-withhold-information-in-case-of-mayors-grandson> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

²² *Id.*

²³ **Exhibit 14**, Adam Ferrise, *Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and U.S. Marshal negotiated surrender of mayor's grandson*, Cleveland.com (Sept. 6, 2019) <https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/09/cleveland-mayor-frank-jackson-and-us-marshal-negotiated-surrender-of-mayors-grandson.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

37. Had the Mayor not interfered with, obstructed, or otherwise failed to ensure the prosecution of his grandson for his notorious violent assault of this 18-year-old woman, Frank Q. Jackson would have immediately been prosecuted for the crime, as any ordinary citizen would have been.

C. The culture of impunity fostered by the Mayor with respect to his grandsons' criminal conduct culminated in the "very brutal homicide" of Antonio Parra, who, on August 28, 2019, was shot to death in broad daylight by two men who fled the scene in a vehicle registered to the Mayor's grandson.

38. On the morning of August 28, 2019, Andrea Parra received a phone call from her 30-year-old son, Antonio Parra, who expressed his excitement that he was hired to work at Zanzibar, an African restaurant in Cleveland.

39. Later that day, Mr. Parra visited Cleveland's Clark-Fulton neighborhood to buy shoes to wear at his new job.

40. At around 4:30 pm, while Mr. Parra stood outside of First Class Barber Shop on Clark Avenue, two men wearing black hooded sweatshirts approached him and, without any apparent cause or provocation, immediately shot him multiple times with handguns.

41. The assailants immediately fled from Clark Avenue in a blue 2006 Volkswagen Passat.

42. Antonio Parra was pronounced dead at the scene in what was later described by Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley as "an execution on Clark Avenue in broad daylight," "a very brutal homicide."²⁴

43. Witnesses at the scene provided Cleveland police officers with the license plate number of the blue Volkswagen Passat in which the assailants fled. The police shortly determined that this vehicle was registered to Frank Q. Jackson and went to the Mayor's house to investigate further.

²⁴ **Exhibit 15**, Hannah Catlett, *Cleveland mayor's grandson named as 'prime suspect' in West Side murder case; police not planning to hand over investigation to another agency*, Cleveland 19 News (Sept. 10, 2019) <https://www.cleveland19.com/2019/09/10/cleveland-mayors-grandson-named-prime-suspect-west-side-murder-case-police-not-planning-hand-over-investigation-another-agency/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

D. Mayor Jackson obstructed the Cleveland Police Department's investigation of Antonio Parra's murder, which, as with other cases involving the Mayor's grandsons, has been marked by anomalous and unexplained deviations from established police policies and procedures.

44. When Cleveland police officers arrived at the Mayor's home, they found the Mayor, his grandson Frank Q. Jackson, and an unidentified juvenile there.

45. The police questioned the juvenile about Parra's murder, arrested him, and took him into custody.

46. The police did not, however, question Frank Q. Jackson, or take him into custody, even though he owned the blue Volkswagen Passat that witnesses identified as having fled the scene of the homicide.²⁵

47. Suspected criminals generally have the right to remain silent in response to police questioning, as well as to consult with an attorney before speaking. But, as confirmed by local law enforcement sources and reported in Cleveland.com, the officers' decision to not take Frank Q. Jackson into custody on this evening was an "anomaly," especially given that "this was a homicide investigation."²⁶

48. According to these sources, "in a typical case, the officers would take the person into custody and wait for an attorney to show up before the interview. This gives investigators time to

²⁵ **Exhibit 16**, Misty Stiver and Sara Goldenberg, *Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson responds to ethics questions regarding homicide investigation involving grandson*, Cleveland 19 News (Sept. 20, 2019) <https://www.cleveland19.com/2019/09/20/cleveland-mayor-frank-jackson-responds-ethics-questions-regarding-homicide-investigation-involving-grandson-video> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

²⁶ **Exhibit 17**, Adam Ferrise, *Anomalies add up in deadly shooting investigation involving Mayor Frank Jackson's grandson*, Cleveland.com (Sept. 9, 2019) <https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/09/anomalies-add-up-in-deadly-shooting-investigation-involving-mayor-frank-jacksons-grandson.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

collect certain evidence, including gunshot residue tests that would have shown if Frank Q. Jackson fired a gun recently.”²⁷

49. It is important to perform gunshot residue tests as soon as possible. Once a gun is fired, it releases matter from both the front and back of the gun that tends to remain on the shooter’s hands and clothing. Once hands and clothes are washed, however, the residue becomes substantially more difficult or impossible to detect. According to one law enforcement expert who spoke with Cleveland.com reporters about this case, “even putting your hands in and out of your pockets, that gets rid of [the residue].”²⁸

50. Police are not required to obtain a warrant to perform a gunshot residue test. They need only have reasonable suspicion that the test would be warranted.²⁹

51. The police never performed gunshot residue tests on Frank Q. Jackson.

52. The police officers’ decisions not to question Frank Q. Jackson on that evening, not to take him into custody, and not to perform a gunshot residue test on him, were made after the Mayor told the officers that his grandson would not answer their questions.³⁰

53. Additionally, “[m]ultiple law enforcement sources” told local media outlets “that the mayor told detectives investigating [Parra’s] homicide not to use their body cameras while at his house,” despite the Cleveland Police Department’s policy that officers “hit record before taking any police

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ *Id.*

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ *Id.*

action,” and “are only supposed to turn off their body cameras when the incident is over, or a supervisor tells them to stop.”³¹

54. This was not the first time that Cleveland police have failed to comply with the department’s body camera policy in incidents involving Frank Q. Jackson. For example, in July of 2016, Jackson was stopped by Cleveland police for illegally riding a dirtbike and ended up in a physical altercation with the police in which he was accused of “assaulting a police officer” and “resisting” arrest. This alleged assault was not captured on the officers’ body cameras because the cameras “weren’t turned on in a timely manner.”³² The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor recommended that Jackson be allowed to avoid prosecution for this alleged assault pursuant to a diversion program for this incident, despite that Jackson had earlier been prosecuted in a criminal trespassing case, and two other matters involving controlled substance and burglary charges.³³

55. Additionally, in response to public records requests for body camera video of the 2017 traffic stop discussed above where a handgun and a passenger wanted for murder were found in Jackson’s car, the City represented that “there is no body camera video” in connection with this incident.” When asked by a reporter in 2017 about why his “grandson had two run-ins with police

³¹ See, e.g., **Exhibit 18**, Sarah Goldenberg, *Sources say Cleveland mayor told officers not to use body cams while investigating grandson*, Cleveland 19 News (Sept. 10, 2019) <https://www.cleveland19.com/2019/09/10/sources-say-cleveland-mayor-told-officers-not-use-body-cams-while-investigating-grandson> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

³² See **Exhibit 19**, Carl Monday, *Body camera video of Cleveland mayor’s grandson’s arrest released after 10 months of record requests*, Cleveland 19 News (May 8, 2017) <https://www.cleveland19.com/story/35371449/body-camera-video-of-cleveland-mayors-grandsons-arrest-released-after-10-months-of-record-requests/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

³³ **Exhibit 20**, Carl Monday, *Cleveland mayor’s grandson in court after scuffle with police*, Cleveland 19 News (Oct. 4, 2016) <https://www.cleveland19.com/story/33317204/cleveland-mayors-grandson-in-court-after-scuffle-with-police> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

where officers didn't have their body cameras on at all, or didn't turn them on until several minutes into interaction with him," the Mayor said, "you need to ask them," referring to the police."³⁴

56. While the Cleveland police department's body camera policy also states that people at home have the right to demand that police shut off cameras before talking, Mayor Jackson has denied that he asked the officers to turn off their body cameras.³⁵

57. The morning after Parra's murder, Frank Q. Jackson's attorney told the police that Jackson would not answer any of their questions.³⁶

58. While at the Mayor's house on the evening of Parra's murder, the police did not find the 2006 Volkswagen Passat that witnesses reported to have fled the scene. They did, however, tow away the pickup truck—also involved in the alleged assault of the 18-year-old woman, described above—that was registered to Frank Q. Jackson.³⁷

59. Two days later, on August 30, 2019, the Cleveland Fire Department found the Passat on fire behind an abandoned church in the 9200 block of Holton Avenue, approximately 2.5 miles from the Jacksons' home. The Fire Department shortly issued a report concluding that the vehicle was intentionally set on fire. While police could not find license plates and could not initially find a vehicle identification number on the burned-out car, they did find a Volkswagen emblem nearby,

³⁴ **Ex. 19**, May 8, 2017 Monday report.

³⁵ **Exhibit 21**, Mark Naymik, *Mayor Frank Jackson did not ask officers at his home to turn off body cams, Cleveland Police say*, WKYC TV (Sept. 12, 2019) <https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/cleveland/mayor-frank-jackson-did-not-ask-officers-at-his-home-to-turn-off-body-cams-police-say/95-1334a2c3-51c3-47e1-85af-e060078a8481> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ **Exhibit 22**, Adam Ferrise, *Cleveland mayor's grandson's vehicle tied to deadly daylight shooting, sources say*, Cleveland.com (Aug. 28, 2019) <https://www.cleveland.com/metro/2019/08/cleveland-mayors-grandsons-vehicle-vehicle-tied-to-deadly-daylight-shooting-sources-say.html> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019). *See also* **Ex. 21**, Sept. 12, 2019 Naymik report.

and the City's Vehicle Impound Unit shortly found a vehicle identification number to confirm that this was the Passat registered to Frank Q. Jackson.³⁸

60. Frank Q. Jackson told Cleveland police that he sold the Passat prior to Parra's August 28 murder,³⁹ but no record of this sale has been produced and court records show that Jackson was cited for a traffic violation while driving the vehicle as recently as August 13.⁴⁰

61. On September 10, 2019, The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office issued a statement confirming that Frank Q. Jackson, is a "prime suspect" in Parra's murder.⁴¹

62. Local law enforcement officials, including Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley, as well as elected members of Cleveland City Council, have urged that the Cleveland police department appoint an independent investigation of Parra's murder by an outside agency due to the conflicts of interest and appearance of impropriety created by Mayor Jackson's relationship to the crime.⁴²

³⁸ **Exhibit 23**, Scott Noll, *Report links burned-out car to mayor's grandson and August homicide*, News 5 Cleveland (Oct. 11, 2019) <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/continuing-coverage/frank-q-jackson/report-links-burned-out-car-to-mayors-grandson-and-august-homicide> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

³⁹ **Exhibit 24**, Peggy Gallak, *Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson tells I-TEAM he has not interfered with grandson's criminal cases*, Fox 8 Cleveland (Sept. 12, 2019), <https://fox8.com/2019/09/12/cleveland-mayor-frank-jackson-tells-i-team-he-has-not-interfered-with-grandsons-criminal-cases/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

⁴⁰ **Ex. 23**, Oct. 11, 2019 Noll report.

⁴¹ *See Ex. 15*, Sept. 10, 2019 Catlett report.

⁴² **Exhibit 25**, Mark Naymik, *Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley joins call for independent investigation of murder that led police to May Frank Jackson's home*, WKYC TV (Sept. 12, 2019), <https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/cuyahoga-county/county-prosecutor-michael-omalley-joins-call-for-independent-investigation-of-murder-that-led-police-to-mayor-frank-jacksons-home/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

63. Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams, who was appointed by Mayor Jackson, is the only City official authorized to appoint an independent investigation by an outside agency.⁴³ Williams has to date refused to appoint an independent investigation, and has stated that he has no plans to do so.⁴⁴ Mayor Jackson has also denied that an independent investigation is necessary, telling reporters, “why fix something that is not broken?”⁴⁵

64. On October 10, 2019, Mayor Jackson delivered his annual “State of the City” speech where he refused to address the issues surrounding his administration’s handling of the gang-related crime in which his family is implicated other than to say, “my family is my family ... and I do not apologize to anybody about my family.”⁴⁶

E. Antonio Parra’s murder was a foreseeable result of the Mayor’s intentional obstruction of justice in cases involving his grandsons.

65. On information and belief, Antonio Parra was murdered by one or more of Mayor Jackson’s relatives, or one or more affiliates of Mayor Jackson’s relatives.

66. On information and belief, Antonio Parra was murdered by one or more affiliates of Mayor Jackson’s relatives who murdered Parra in order to gain status or favor with Mayor Jackson’s relatives, and increase their status in the No Limit 700 gang.

67. The Mayor knew that his grandsons were affiliated with numerous individuals with the propensity to commit violent crimes. Indeed, the Mayor admitted as much in the interview quoted at

⁴³ **Exhibit 26**, Drew Scofield and Scott Noll, *Cleveland mayor’s grandson, Frank Q. Jackson, named as a suspect in homicide investigation*, News 5 Cleveland (Sept. 11, 2019) <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/continuing-coverage/frank-q-jackson/cleveland-mayors-grandson-frank-q-jackson-named-as-suspect-in-homicide-investigation> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

⁴⁴ **Ex. 15**, Sept. 10, 2019 Catlett report.

⁴⁵ **Ex. 24**, Sept. 12, 2019 Gallek report.

⁴⁶ See **Exhibit 27**, John Deike, *State of the City: Mayor Frank Jackson unapologetic over family members embroiled in violent crime cases*, Cleveland 19 News (Oct. 10, 2019) <https://www.cleveland19.com/2019/10/11/state-city-mayor-frank-jackson-unapologetic-over-family-members-embroiled-violent-crime-cases/> (accessed Nov. 6, 2019).

paragraphs 20–22, above, where he said that “over half of the young people” in “the neighborhood [he] lives in” “have guns,” that “these kids do not walk around and *not* have their guns on them,” that crime is “prevalent” and the “threat” of “harm” from gang-related violence is “constant.”

68. The Mayor knew or should have known that his obstruction of justice and the City’s departure from established policies and procedures in cases involving his grandsons would cause his grandsons and their affiliates to believe, reasonably, that they were above the law, and that any crimes they committed would not be investigated or prosecuted as vigorously as crimes committed by others, if at all.

69. The Mayor knew or should have known that his obstruction of justice and the City’s departure from established policies and procedures in cases involving his grandsons would cause his grandsons and their affiliates to continue to engage in violent crime to an increasing degree, increasingly believing that they could do so with impunity.

70. Even if the Mayor did not take any affirmative act to prevent or prohibit the Cleveland Prosecutor from pursuing charges against Frank Q. Jackson for his notorious violent assault of the 18-year-old woman described above, the Mayor knew that the Prosecutor was affording his grandson special treatment, contrary to law and public policy, due solely to his status as the Mayor’s grandson. Despite this knowledge, the Mayor intentionally refrained from acting to ensure that his grandson’s case was processed consistently with law and public policy, and in doing so committed an act of intimidation and obstruction of justice under R.C. 2921.32(A).

71. Had the Mayor not interfered with, obstructed, or otherwise failed to ensure the immediate prosecution of Frank Q. Jackson for his notorious violent assault of the 18-year-old woman described above, Frank Q. Jackson would have lacked the ability to murder Antonio Parra and would have lacked the ability to motivate his affiliates to murder Antonio Parra.

72. Had the Mayor not interfered with, obstructed, or otherwise failed to ensure the immediate prosecution of Frank Q. Jackson for his notorious violent assault of the 18-year-old woman described above, Antonio Parra would be alive today.

VI. Claims

Count One: Wrongful Death under R.C. 2125.01

73. Plaintiffs reincorporate the allegations stated above and below.

74. This Count One is stated by Plaintiffs against the Defendant Mayor only, in his personal and individual capacities.

75. The Mayor's actions and omissions in obstructing the prosecution of his grandson for the assault of the 18-year-old woman, described above, were intentional, constitute wrongful conduct under Ohio's wrongful death statute, R.C. 2126.01, and constitute the crime of obstruction of justice in violation of R.C. 2921.32(A).

76. The Mayor's actions and omissions in obstructing the prosecution of his grandson for the assault of the 18-year-old woman, described above, constitute intentional, reckless, and wanton neglect and disregard of the Mayor's duties to the public "to act as chief conservator of the peace" and "to supervise the administration of" law enforcement within the City limits.

77. The Mayor's intentional, wrongful, and criminal conduct, and his intentional, reckless, and wanton neglect and disregard of his public duties in obstructing the prosecution of his grandson for the assault of the 18-year-old woman, described above, directly, proximately, and wrongfully caused the death of Antonio Parra.

78. Andrea Parra, in her capacity as the Administrator of her son Antonio Parra's Estate, claims damages under R.C. 2125.01, for the exclusive benefit of Mr. Parra's beneficiaries and next of kin.

79. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Andrea Parra and Antonio Parra's estate have been forced to incur funeral and burial expenses and have suffered and will continue to

suffer the permanent loss of Mr. Parra's services, future income, protection, care, assistance, society, companionship, comfort, guidance, counsel and advice. Additionally, Defendants' conduct directly and proximately caused Antonio Parra to suffer extreme pain and suffering for which his estate is entitled to recover, along with punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

Count Two: Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress

80. Plaintiffs reincorporate the allegations stated above and below.

81. This Count Two is stated by Andrea Parra in her individual capacity only against each Defendant in both their personal and official capacities.

82. The anomalies and deviations from established policies and procedures in the Cleveland Police Department's investigation of Antonio Parra's murder, described at paragraphs 44–64 above, were the result of intentional conduct by the Defendants, including the Mayor's explicit and implicit instructions to the Police Department, undertaken to shield the Mayor and his administration from public scrutiny and to shield the Mayor's relatives from liability for their criminal conduct. Defendants undertook this conduct with conscious disregard of the rights of Mr. Parra, his kin, and his estate, and with certainty of inflicting severe harm on them.

83. A mayor's or police chief's intentional obstruction of a murder investigation to further their own personal ends constitutes extreme and outrageous conduct that is utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

84. Plaintiffs did not consent to Defendants' actions.

85. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' extreme and outrageous conduct in obstructing the investigation of her son's murder, Andrea Parra has suffered severe harm, including anxiety, depression, and post traumatic stress disorder, for which Ms. Parra is entitled to recover along with punitive damages and attorneys' fees.

**Count Three: Obstruction of Justice under
R.C. 2921.32(A) and R.C. 2307.60(A)(1)**

86. Plaintiffs reincorporate the allegations stated above and below.

87. This Count Two is stated by Plaintiffs against each Defendant in both their personal and official capacities.

88. The anomalies and deviations from established policies and procedures in the Cleveland Police Department's investigation of Antonio Parra's murder, described at paragraphs 44–64 above, were the result of intentional conduct by the Defendants, including the Mayor's explicit and implicit instructions to the Police Department, taken to shield the Mayor and his administration from public scrutiny and to shield the Mayor's relatives from liability for their criminal conduct.

89. This conduct constitutes the crime of obstruction of justice in violation of R.C. 2921.32(A).

90. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' criminal conduct in obstructing the investigation of Antonio Parra's murder, Mr. Parra's estate and kin, including his mother Andrea Parra and his 9-year-old daughter, have and will continue to endure pain and suffering, including the severe harm described in Paragraph 84 above, for which compensatory damages are available under R.C. 2307.60 in an amount to be proven at trial.

VII. Prayer for Relief

Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants in an amount in excess of \$25,000 together with punitive damages, attorneys' fees, costs, expenses, and any other relief to which the Plaintiffs may be entitled or that the Court deems equitable and just.

VIII. Jury Demand

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues within the Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Peter Pattakos

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Request for Service

To the Clerk of Courts:

Please issue the Summons and Complaint and serve this Complaint and accompanying exhibits to the Defendants at the addresses listed below, making return according to law.

Mayor Frank G. Jackson
Cleveland City Hall
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Chief Calvin D. Williams
Cleveland Police Department
1300 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113