IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

CLARKE ALLEN, ET AL.,			
	PLAINTIFFS, Individually and on behalf of a class of Persons defined below,)))	
V.)))	Case No. 2015-CA-000722 Division C
A. E. NEW JR., INC.; CALDWELL ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, INC.; and ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ET AL.,))))	
	DEFENDANTS.)	

CORRECTIVE CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

COME NOW the Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of a class of persons similarly situated (the "Class" or "Class Members"), and sue Defendants A.E. NEW, JR., INC., CALDWELL ASSOCIATES ARTCHITECTS, INC., ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, ALLIANCE LAUNDRY HOLDINGS, LLC, THE CITY OF PENSACOLA D/B/A PENSACOLA ENERGY, COIN LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT CO., INC., FUTCH DESIGN ASSOCIATES, LLC, GLAZE COMMUNICATIONS, H.M. YONGE & ASSOCIATES, INC., KLOCKE AND ASSOCIATES, INC., PREMIER ENGINEERING, REBOL-BATTLE & ASSOCIATES, LLC and SEMCO OF PENSACOLA INC., and their respective parents, subsidiaries and affiliates, officers, directors, members, managers

¹ Escambia County, Florida, shall include, but is not limited to, the Escambia County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, Escambia County Detention Facility, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners, the Escambia County Sheriff and Sheriff's Department, and each and all of their departments, officials, employees and agents.

and employees, heirs, successors, assigns, agents, and attorneys, (collectively, the "Defendants") and allege:

- 1. Pursuant to Rule 1.220 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs, who were at the scene of the Escambia County, Florida (hereinafter, "Escambia County") Central Booking and Detention ("CBD") facility located at 1706 West Leonard Street, Pensacola, Florida, in Escambia County, Florida, on April 30, 2014, where the CBD had an explosion and fire (the "Fire"), bring this class action against the Defendants for liability and damages to Plaintiffs and the Class Members defined below in connection with the Fire.
- 2. At all times material to this action, the Defendant, A.E. New, Jr., Inc., (hereinafter referred to as "A.E. New"), was a Florida corporation licensed to conduct business within the State of Florida.
- 3. At all times material to this action, the Defendant, Caldwell Associates Architects, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as "Caldwell"), was a Florida corporation licensed to conduct business within the State of Florida.
- 4. At all times material to this action, Escambia County owned and operated the CBD.
- 5. On or about April 30, 2014, the following Plaintiffs were held, incarcerated, or otherwise lawfully present inside the CBD:
 - a. Clarke Allen
 - b. Ilyaas Ashanti
 - c. Jessica Auston
 - d. Kenneth Avery
 - e. Christopher Baggett
 - f. DeMarco Banks
 - g. Machrisna Betts

h. Raymon Blackburn i. Jennifer Bonoyer Benjamin Boys j. k. Derrick Bradley Elgin Brown Ι. Jennifer Brunson m. Deanna Byrd n. Patrick Cain 0. Alvin Capps p. Ronald Carter q. r. Langston Casher Jeremiah Cooler s.

Otis Craft t. Willie Dale u. Reggie Dancy ٧. Rene Dean W. Χ. Jill Dickey Daryl Dulaney у. **Edward Elder** Z. aa. Matthew Flores James Foster bb. Dequan Gaddy CC. dd. Franklin Galloway Diane Gaszak ee. ff, Domanick George Bryan Gilpatrick gg. hh. Vicky Hadder ii. Chris Hankinson ij. Shannon Hankinson

kk. Gary Hauffe

II. Bakari Hendersonmm. Cornelius Henderson

Melissa Hicks nn. Jermon Hill 00. Frank Holley, Jr. pp. Richard Holt qq. Vernon Hurst rr. William Islar SS. tt. Jalissa Johnson Terrell Johnson uu. Rex Jordan VV. Akaivia Kirkland ww. Jeffrey LaFrancis XX. Jennifer Lamar уу. ZZ. **Daniel Lindsay**

Sammie Lisenby aaa. bbb. Tyler Lynch James Marciniak CCC. ddd. Caroline Mariconda Clarence Martin eee. fff. **Albert Mattis** Monica McLain ggg. hhh. Jermaine Middleton

iii. Ivory Miles jjj. Dominick Miller kkk. Joyce Montgomery

III. Danny Moore John Moore mmm. Shawn Moyers nnn. Cameron Perkins 000. Cherie Phillips ppp. qqq. **Precious Pickett** Ozell Pressley, Jr. rrr. Adam Prudhomme SSS. ttt. Michael Rawls James Richardson uuu. Mark Robbins VVV.

www. Jonathan Robinson xxx. John Satterwhite yyy. Jeffrey Sawyer zzz. James Shoemo aaaa. Dallas Simmons

bbbb. The Estate of Robert Simmons, Deceased, by and through

Sarah Cook, as Administratrix

Kathy Smith CCCC. Brian Spotville dddd. **Emmett Stromas** eeee. ffff. Barry Sullivan William Summa gggg. hhhh. Taris Tolliver iiii. Michael Trembly Aaron Trommelen jjjj.

kkkk. Adrian Vega
IIII. Charles Watson
mmmm. Elizabeth White
nnnn. Angela Wilson
oooo. Richard Wilson

pppp. Brett Wilt qqqq. Edric Wright rrrr. Don Yelverton ssss. LaKendric Young tttt. Reanne Cravatt

- 6. This Amended Complaint has added the following additional Plaintiffs:
 - a. DeMarco Banks
 - b. Otis Craft
 - c. Domanick George
 - d. Chris Hankinson
 - e. Shannon Hankinson
 - f. Rex Jordan
 - g. Joyce Montgomery
 - h. Shawn Moyers
 - i. Cameron Perkins
 - j. James Richardson
 - k. The Estate of Robert Simmons, Deceased, by and through Sarah Cook, as Administratix
- 7. On or about April, 30, 2014, there was an explosion and fire (collectively, the "Fire") within the basement of the CBD that resulted in significant structural damage, property damage, and personal injury and/or death to Plaintiffs and the Class Members within the CBD.
- 8. On April 29, 2015, Plaintiffs filed their original Complaint in this Honorable Court.
- 9. On July 6, 2017, Plaintiffs filed their Amended Class Action Complaint in this Honorable Court.
- 10. Having today filed their Motion for Leave to Amend and Correct Plaintiffs' Amended Class Action Complaint, pursuant to Rule 1.190 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs hereby amend and correct their original Complaint and the Amended Class Action Complaint.

I. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS

A. <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT A.E. NEW</u>

- 11. Defendant, A.E. New, was and is responsible for the negligence of its employees, contractors, and sub-contractors.
- 12. Defendant, A.E. New, was hired by Defendant, Escambia County, to perform repairs on the CBD due to previous flooding.
- 13. As part of the aforementioned project, multiple gas dryers were placed in the basement of the CBD by—or under the direct supervision and at the direction of Defendant, A.E. New.
- 14. At all times material to this action, Defendant, A.E. New, owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to perform repairs on the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner.
- 15. At all times material to this action, Defendant, A.E. New, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs by, *inter alia*:
 - a. Failing to properly secure the dryers in the basement of the CBD so
 as to prevent their movement during the flood;
 - b. Being otherwise negligent.
- 16. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 17. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, A.E. New.

- 18. It was foreseeable to Defendant, A.E. New, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 19. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 20. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

B. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT CALDWELL

- 21. Defendant, Caldwell, was and is responsible for the negligence of its employees, contractors, and subcontractors.
- 22. Defendant, Caldwell, was hired by Defendant, Escambia County, to provide architectural and engineering services to Defendant, Escambia County, in connection with the restoration and repair of the CBD.
- 23. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Caldwell, by and through its employees, was under a duty to act with the ordinary care of an architect in the planning, inspection, and supervision of all work as required during the course of its employment by Defendant, Escambia County.
- 24. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Caldwell, owed a duty to exercise ordinary care for the protection of any individuals who would enter onto the premise of the CBD including but not limited to the Plaintiffs in this action.
- 25. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Caldwell, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs by, *inter alia*:

- Failing to plan for or design measures to stop dryers from floating in the event of a flood in the CBD;
- Failing to plan for or design measures to prevent a gas leak in the event that the dryers in the basement of the CBD became separated from the gas lines;
- Failing to plan for or design measures to prevent gas from building
 up in the basement of the CBD following the separation of the
 dryers from the gas lines;
- failing to ensure that the dryers in the basement of the CBD were appropriately fastened or secured;
- e. Failing to plan or design for the restoration of the CBD that accounted for the probability and likelihood of flooding based on previous flooding of the same facility;
- f. Failing to supervise the work being performed on the CBD to ensure that the dryers were properly secured;
- g. Being otherwise negligent.
- 26. The aforementioned breaches were latent or not otherwise open and obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 27. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Caldwell.

28. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

C. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT ESCAMBIA COUNTY

- 29. At all times material to this action, the aforementioned Plaintiffs were under the protection and care of Defendant, Escambia County.
- 30. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Escambia County, had a duty, by and through its employees at the CBD, to use reasonable care to prevent harm to inmates or other individuals at the CBD, including the aforementioned Plaintiffs.
- 31. On or about April 30, 2014, Defendant, Escambia County, by and through its employees at the CBD, knew or should have known of conditions on its property that were dangerous and/or posed a danger to Plaintiffs.
- 32. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Escambia County negligently breached its duty to Plaintiffs by, *inter alia*:
 - Failing to prevent gas from accumulating in the basement of the
 CBD so as to create an inherently dangerous environment;
 - Failing to prevent gas in the basement of the CBD from becoming ignited;
 - Failing to evacuate or otherwise protect Plaintiffs from the explosion at the CBD;
 - d. Being otherwise negligent.

- 33. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Escambia County, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals located on or in the premises of the CBD, including the aforementioned Plaintiffs.
- 34. As a result of the aforementioned breaches, an explosion occurred in the basement of the CBD on or about April, 30, 2014.
- 35. The aforementioned Plaintiffs, other than those added by this Complaint, have complied with all conditions precedent to maintaining this lawsuit, including compliance with Fla. Stat. Section 768.28 (2014).

D. <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT</u> ALLIANCE LAUNDRY HOLDINGS, LLC

- 36. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Alliance Laundry Holdings, LLC, ("Alliance") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Alliance's services in connection with the CBD.
- 37. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Alliance, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 38. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 39. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Alliance.
- 40. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Alliance, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.

- 41. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 42. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

E. <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANTTHE CITY OF PENSACOLA</u> D/B/A PENSACOLA ENERGY

- 43. At all times material to this action, Defendant, The City of Pensacola d/b/a Pensacola Energy, ("the City") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of the City's services in connection with the CBD.
- 44. At all times material to this action, Defendant, the City, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 45. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 46. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, the City.
- 47. It was foreseeable to Defendant, the City, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 48. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.

49. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

F. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT COIN LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT CO., INC.

- 50. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Coin Laundry Equipment Co., Inc., ("Coin") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Coin's services in connection with the CBD.
- 51. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Coin, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 52. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 53. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Coin.
- 54. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Coin, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 55. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 56. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

G. <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT</u>

FUTCH DESIGN ASSOCIATES, LLC

- 57. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Futch Design Associates, LLC, ("Futch") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Futch's services in connection with the CBD.
- 58. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Futch, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 59. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 60. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Futch.
- 61. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Futch, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 62. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 63. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

H. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT GLAZE COMMUNICATIONS

64. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Glaze Communications, ("Glaze") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of

the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Glaze's services in connection with the CBD.

- 65. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Glaze, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 66. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 67. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Glaze.
- 68. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Glaze, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 69. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 70. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

I. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST H.M YONGE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

- 71. At all times material to this action, Defendant, H.M. Yonge & Associates, Inc., ("Yonge") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Yonge's services in connection with the CBD.
- 72. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Yonge, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.

- 73. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 74. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Yonge.
- 75. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Yonge, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 76. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 77. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

J. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT KLOCKE AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

- 78. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Klocke and Associates, Inc., ("Klocke") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Klocke's services in connection with the CBD.
- 79. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Klocke, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 80. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 81. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Klocke.

- 82. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Klocke, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 83. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 84. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

K. <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT PREMIER ENGINEERING</u>

- 85. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Premier Engineering, ("Premier") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Premier's services in connection with the CBD.
- 86. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Premier, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 87. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 88. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Premier.
- 89. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Premier, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 90. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.

91. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

L. <u>ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT REBOL-BATTLE & ASSOCIATES,</u> <u>LLC</u>

- 92. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Rebol-Battle & Associates, LLC, ("Rebol-Battle") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Rebol-Battle's services in connection with the CBD.
- 93. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Rebol-Battle, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 94. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 95. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Rebol-Battle.
- 96. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Rebol-Battle, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 97. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 98. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

M. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEFENDANT SEMCO OF PENSACOLA, INC.

- 99. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Semco of Pensacola, Inc., ("Semco") owed a duty to any and all individuals who would enter onto the premises of the CBD to maintain the CBD in a safe and reasonable manner to the extent of Semco's services in connection with the CBD.
- 100. At all times material to this action, Defendant, Semco, did breach its duty to Plaintiffs.
- 101. The aforementioned breaches created conditions that were latent and not open or obvious to Plaintiffs.
- 102. The conditions created by the aforementioned breaches were both dangerous and were known or should have been known to Defendant, Semco.
- 103. It was foreseeable to Defendant, Semco, that such breaches could cause injury to any individuals on the property of the CBD.
- 104. The aforementioned breaches created conditions, the dangerousness of which was not obvious to Defendant, Escambia County, or Plaintiffs.
- 105. But for the aforementioned breaches, the dryers in the basement of the CBD would not have floated off the floor and separated from the gas lines, proximately causing the Fire at the CBD on or about April 30, 2014.

II. CLASS REPRESENTATION ALLEGATIONS

106. Plaintiffs bring this action as a Class Action pursuant to Rule 1.220 (b)(2), (b)(3) and (c)(4) of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. They bring this action on their

own behalf and on behalf of all other similarly situated persons in the proposed Class.

Plaintiffs are informed and believe there are hundreds of members in the proposed Class. The proposed Class consists of:

All persons who were at the scene of the Escambia County Central Booking and Detention Facility in Pensacola Florida, during the Explosion, or subsequent evacuation therefrom and emergency responses thereto; anyone who was married to such a Claimant at the time of any of the foregoing events; in the case of a Claimant who is deceased, the wrongful death beneficiaries or heirs of said Claimant; or anyone who is related to the Claimant and has a Claim through the Claimant due to said relationship.

- 107. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all Class Members is impracticable, and there are common questions of law and fact among all Class Members that predominate over any issues affecting individual Class Members and include the following:
 - a. Whether the Defendants negligently or otherwise wrongly failed to build, repair and maintain the CBD to ensure the safety of Class Members at the CBD;
 - Whether the Defendants negligently failed to take steps to: (i) safely build, repair and maintain the CBD; and (ii) protect Class Members at the CBD in a safe and timely manner;
 - c. Whether the Defendants owed a duty of care and/or a fiduciary obligation to the members of the Class and whether that duty of care and/or fiduciary obligation was breached as a result of the Defendants' actions and inactions;
 - d. Whether there exists an implied contract between the members of the Class on one hand, and the Defendants on the other hand, and whether the actions and inactions of the Defendants breached that implied contract:
 - e. Whether, because of its wrongdoing herein, the Defendant, Escambia County, should be required to waive any monetary claims it has against any Defendants; and

- f. To the extent of the Class Members' damages as a result of the Fire brought about by the Defendants' actions and inactions, what is the proper measure of damages, and the proper method of determining those damages, on a Class-wide basis.
- 108. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and are willing to submit to the Court such evidence as the Court may deem necessary to ensure that the interests of the Class are properly served.
- 109. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of those of other Class Members, as there are no material differences in the facts and law underlying their claims, and Plaintiffs' prosecution of their claims will advance the claims of all Class Members. By aggressively pursuing their own claims, the Plaintiffs will necessarily be concurrently aggressively pursuing the claims of all Class Members.
- 110. Plaintiffs have retained competent counsel experienced in the prosecution of this type of Class litigation.
- 111. Class treatment of the claims set forth in this Complaint is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The expense and burden of individual litigation would make it impracticable or impossible for the proposed Class Members to prosecute their claims individually. Absent a class action, a multiplicity of individual lawsuits would be required to address the claims between Class Members and the Defendants so that inconsistent treatment and adjudication of the claims would likely result.
- 112. The litigation of Plaintiffs' and the Class' claims is manageable.

 Defendants' uniform conduct, the consistent provisions of the relevant laws, and the

ascertainable identities of Class Members demonstrates that there would be no significant manageability problems with prosecuting this lawsuit as a Class Action.

- 113. Adequate notice can be given to Class Members directly using information maintained in Defendants' records and/or through publication.
- 114. Unless Class-wide relief is awarded, Defendants may continue in their failure to properly build, maintain and repair incarceration facilities occupied by or worked in by Plaintiffs and Class Members; Defendants may continue to fail to provide for the safety of Plaintiffs and Class Members in incarceration facilities; and Defendants may continue to act unlawfully as set forth in this Complaint.
- 115. Defendants have acted, or refused to act, on grounds that apply generally to the Class, making final relief appropriate for the Class as a whole. Defendants' acts and omissions are the direct and proximate cause of these damages, described more fully elsewhere in this Complaint.

III. <u>COUNT I</u>

- 116. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 112 as if fully set forth herein. Escambia County has monetary claims against some Class Members, which, because of Escambia County's wrongdoing herein, are due to be waived.
- 117. At all times material to this Complaint, Plaintiffs and the Class Members, other than spouses of the Plaintiffs and other Class Members who are not otherwise Class Members, were on the property of the CBD when the Fire occurred.

118. As a result, Plaintiffs and the Class Members suffered death or bodily injury and resulting pain and suffering, disability, disfigurement, mental anguish, loss of capacity for the enjoyment of life, expenses of hospitalization, medical and nursing care and treatment, loss of earnings, and loss of ability to earn money, and aggravation of a previously existing condition. The losses are either permanent or continuing and Plaintiffs and the Class Members will suffer the losses in the future. Class Members that were not at the CBD at the time of the Fire have suffered lost consortium and other damages as a result of the damages caused to a loved one by the Fire.

IV. RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Class respectfully requests:

- A. An Order certifying that this action may be maintained as a Class Action under Rule 1.220 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure; certifying Plaintiffs as representatives of the Class and certifying this matter as a Class Action on behalf of Class Members defined above and designating their undersigned counsel as counsel for the Class;
- B. Demand judgment that Escambia County's monetary claims against any Class Members are denied as waived and for damages against all the Defendants, for damages in excess of the Court's jurisdictional limits, exclusive of costs, interest and attorneys' fees, and <u>further demands trial by jury</u>;
- C. For an award of attorneys' fees and costs as may be permitted by law;

D. For all other legal and equitable relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

PUTATIVE CLASS COUNSEL:

/s/ Christopher P. Janes Christopher P. Janes, Esq. Michles & Booth 501 Brent Lane Pensacola, Florida 35203 Telephone: (850) 438-4848 Facsimile: (850) 437-5556

cjanes@michlesbooth.com

/s/ Adrian R. Bridges
Adrian R. Bridges, Esq.
Michles & Booth
501 Brent Lane
Pensacola, Florida 32503
Telephone: (850) 438-4848
Facsimile: (850) 437-5556
abridges@michelsbooth.com

/s/ Eric D. Stevenson
Eric D. Stevenson, Esq.
Stevenson Klotz
212 W. Intendencia Street, Suite A
Pensacola, Florida 32502
Telephone: (850) 444-0000
eric@stevensonklotz.com

/s/ J. Christopher Klotz
J. Christopher Klotz, Esq.
Stevenson Klotz
212 W. Intendencia Street, Suite A
Pensacola, Florida 32502
Telephone: (850) 444-0000
chris@stevensonklotz.com

/s/ Casey L. Lott Casey L. Lott, Esq. Langston & Lott, PLLC 100 S Main Street Booneville, Mississippi 38829 Telephone: (662) 728-9733 clott@langstonlott.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Adrian R. Bridges, one of the Putatitve Class Counsel herein, hereby certify that on this 14th day of July, 2017, I served a copy of the above and foregoing Amended Class Action Complaint upon all opposing Counsel of Record, together with the newly added Defendants by first class mail and e-mail, with Summonses being prepared and filed with the Court to properly serve the newly added Defendants on this same date.

/s/ Adrian R. Bridges
Of Counsel