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Town of
Anson

INCORPORATED MARCH 1, 1798
P.O. Box 297 Main Street, Anson 04911

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Anson, through its undersigned chairman, provides this statement to the Court regarding the bail conditions to be imposed on Claudia Viles following indictment.

As the Court is aware, Ms. Viles is currently the elected Tax Collector for the Town of Anson. The Board requests that, as conditions of bail and until the charges against her are resolved, Ms. Viles: (1) be barred from exercising any authority or duties of Tax Collector for the Town, either directly or indirectly through a designee, including without limitation collecting real estate or excise taxes; processing or maintaining tax records; or performing any associated work; (2) be restricted from entering the Town Office premises in her capacity as Tax Collector; and (3) be immediately required to turn in to the Town Office all Town property in her possession or control, including without limitation keys to cabinets, drawers, offices, exterior doors or any keys whatsoever; door passes; records of any kind received, kept or created in the course Ms. Viles' duties as tax collector that have not been turned over previously; credit cards; access cards; laptop or personal computer belonging to the Town.

The reason for these conditions is that the citizens of Anson need to have faith and confidence when they transact business with the Town, especially when they pay taxes or fees to the Town. Given that Ms. Viles has been indicted for misappropriating a significant amount of money that she collected from Anson citizens in the form of taxes, the Townspeople will not have confidence that they should make their tax payments through Ms. Viles and/or that their payments will be handled properly. Letting Ms. Viles continue to receive and handle tax payments and otherwise act as Town Tax Collector while she is under indictment for misappropriating Town tax funds also will cause the public to lose confidence in other functions of town government, by extension. Members of the public have already expressed concern and anxiety to the Board, publicly and privately, about Ms. Viles continuing to act as Tax Collector after she has been indicted for fraud, tampering with records and conversion, all related to the handling of residents' payments of taxes and fees.

Neither the Board of Selectmen nor the public can suspend Ms. Viles from continuing to act as Tax Collector while the charges are pending; the Court, through the imposition of bail conditions, is the only such authority. The Board of Selectmen believe that imposing the requested conditions strikes the right balance between the interests of the public, specifically the citizens of the Town of Anson, and the interests of Claudia Viles. The Board appreciates the Court's consideration of this request.

Dated: 9-15-15

TOWN OF ANSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

By: 

ARNOLD LUCE, CHAIRMAN