NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts

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Arizona Supreme Court Denies Stay in Gallego Divorce Proceedings Disclosure

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court today denied a last-minute motion from Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego and U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego to prevent disclosure of redacted records from their divorce proceedings.

The records were initially sealed by the Yavapai County Superior Court, where the divorce was granted. A newspaper, the Washington Free Beacon, filed a lawsuit in Yavapai County Superior Court asking it to unseal the records. Holding that such records should be a matter of public record, the court unsealed them while redacting certain private matters.

On appeal, the Arizona Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court order, holding that the redacted divorce records are subject to public disclosure, and issued a stay until Oct. 17. On Oct. 15, the Gallegos filed a motion in the Arizona Supreme Court seeking to extend the stay against disclosure of all of the records.

The Arizona Supreme Court denied the stay, holding the Gallegos had not demonstrated a likelihood of success on the merits, nor had they identified specific additional portions of the record whose disclosure would cause irreparable harm.

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This decision summary is intended solely to notify the public about an Arizona Supreme Court decision order. It is not to be considered an official commentary by the Court or any member of the Court, nor may it be cited as legal authority for any reason or purpose.

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