NYSCEF DOC. NO. 1

INDEX NO. 617287/2020

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 11/10/2020

STATE OF NEW YORK, SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

Dina Phillips,
Bradford Phillips,
Michael Capuano,
Stacy Ortiz Goldberg,
Kristen Rossi,
Paula Hughes
Peggy Brown,
Dina DeVito,
Melissa Clements,

SUMMONS

Index Number

Plaintiffs/Petitioners,

V.

Andrew Cuomo, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of New York,

Howard Zucker, in his official capacity as Commissioner of Health for the State of New York,

Defendants/Respondents.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Plaintiffs/Petitioners an answer to the Complaint and Verified Article 78 Petition in this action within twenty days (20) days after service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is completed if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York), and in the case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Verified Petition pursuant to CPLR Article 78.

DATED: November 10, 2020

Carl J. Schwartz, Jr., Esquire Attorney for Plaintiffs/Petitioners 131 Main Street, Suites 201-204

P.O. Box 681

Penn Yan, New York 14527

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14527



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NEW YORK STATE, SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

Dina Phillips,
Bradford Phillips,
Michael Capuano,
Stacy Ortiz Goldberg,
Kristen Rossi,
Paula Hughes,
Peggy Brown,
Dina DeVito,
Melissa Clements,

Plaintiffs/Petitioners,

COMPLAINT & ARTICLE 78 VERIFIED PETITION

Index	No.	

Against

Andrew Cuomo, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of New York,

Howard Zucker, in his official capacity as Commissioner of Health for the State of New York,

Defendants/Respondents.

AS AND FOR A PROCEEDING BROUGHT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 78 AND 3001 OF THE CPLR.

Plaintiffs/Petitioners, allege through counsel, the following:

NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING

1. This proceeding is brought pursuant to CPLR Articles 78 and 3001, seeking an injunction and declaratory relief, challenging as unlawful and unconstitutional, emergency measures, specifically, but not limited to as updated from time to time,



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pandemic.

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executive orders 202.1, 202.3, 202.4, 202.5, 202.6, 202.7, 202.8, 202.9, 202.10, 202.11,

202.13, 202.18, 202.48, 202.49, 202.53, 202.55, 202.28, 202.29, enacted by the Defendants/Respondents in their official capacities as Governor of the State of New York, and Commissioner of Health of New York State, in response to the Covid19

- 2. Plaintiffs/Petitioners allege that the emergency measures referenced above violate the rights of assembly and free speech clauses of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.
- 3. Plaintiffs/Petitioners allege that the emergency measures referenced above violate the government's taking and due process (being deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law) clauses of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.
- 4. Plaintiffs/Petitioners allege that the emergency measures referenced above violate the right of due process clause as well as the right to privacy as specifically set forth by the United States Supreme Court in the case of Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113, citing the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.
- 5. Plaintiffs/Petitioners allege that the emergency measures referenced above violate the rights of Plaintiffs/Petitioners to a plethora of medical rights including but not limited to those rights afforded by the Health Insurance Portability And Accountability Act (HIPAA) passed by the United States Congress at Public Law 104-191 on August 21, 1996.

PARTIES



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Plaintiffs/Petitioners Dina and Bradford Phillips are residents of Selden, County 6. of Suffolk, State of New York, and the parents of 2 school age children in the Middle Country School District, who are all subject to the rules and mandates issued out of Albany that are being adopted by the local school district and that are limiting and restricting their full and free access to the normal and customary educational and extracurricular activities that would otherwise be enjoyed. This includes masking, social distancing, hybrid or online schooling, lack of social interaction, and excessive medical mandates/Covid-19 procedures being imposed upon families through the New York State. Plaintiff, Bradford Phillips, an employee of a business subject to the mandates and various executive orders of the Respondents, has been furloughed and has not been able to return, creating a financial hardship for Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs, Dina and Bradford Phillips, are the parents of a child who, but for arbitrary and capricious regulations being foisted upon our houses of worship, was prepared to participate in the holy sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church. The rules that the Church felt compelled to obey as dictated by Respondents, rendered the sacrament and the ceremony so devoid of its holy nature that the Plaintiffs were unable to participate in the sacrament at this time.

Plaintiff/Petitioner Michael Capuano is a resident of Sound Beach, County of Suffolk, State of New York. Plaintiff is a father of 1 school age child in the Sachem Central School District. The district's insistence on full compliance with ALL mandates, guidelines and orders issued by Respondents has severely affected plaintiff's child's ability to learn and thrive. Social distancing has impacted her social and emotional health and forced isolation has stunted normal childhood development. The masking and limited



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school day has compelled Plaintiff to seek private school instruction for his child which has impacted Plaintiff's family financially, creating additional stress. Plaintiff is a landlord who has been significantly impacted by the Covid-19 shutdowns and New York State mandates/guidelines. Plaintiff's tenants have fallen behind in paying their monthly rent or do not pay on time. Due to the new regulations put in place by the State of New York, Plaintiff has no legal recourse at this time to collect rent. Plaintiff, Michael Capuano, and his family have been deprived the ability to attend weekly services and assemble as they see fit at their local church due to the excessive and unnecessary mandates restricting worship in New York State.

Plaintiff/Petitioner Stacy Ortiz Goldberg is a resident of Selden, County of Suffolk, State of New York, and a working parent of 2 school-age children in the Middle Country Central School District, who have been emotionally, mentally and physically impaired due to the rules and regulations imposed by the State including social distancing, restriction of extracurricular activities (and sports), and masking policies.

Plaintiff, Stacy Ortiz Goldberg, is a parent of a hearing-impaired child who has not received any specialized care from the district since school closed in March 2020 and the child has regressed due to the school's closure. Current school policies include masking at all times in addition to social distancing. These draconian regulations do not allow children who are hearing impaired to see teacher's mouths. Masking, specifically, does not allow for children to practice forming words correctly, see tongue placement, or mimic phonetics due to facial hindrance. Children with hearing impairments require



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