

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

KRISTINE KOUMENTAKOS,  
ET AL

Plaintiff

VS.

METROPOLITAN HERMAN, ET AL

Defendant

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Case No. 13-C-08-073089 OT

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH LICKWAR

FILED  
08 DEC 24 PM 2:37

COMES NOW your Affiant, and upon personal knowledge states:

1. My name is Joseph Lickwar. I am over the age of 18, competent to testify

and I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein.

2. I am an ordained a priest in The Orthodox Church in America. I am the

Chancellor of The Diocese of Washington and New York of the Orthodox Church in

America (hereinafter “the Diocese”) and have been in this position since 2004. As

Chancellor I act as the liaison between the Diocese and the parishes within the Diocese,

including overseeing matters involving The Orthodox Church in America ecclesiology,

doctrine, and faith.

3. The entity known as St. Matthew Housing Development, Inc. (SMHD, Inc.)

is not a part of the Diocese. The Diocese does not have any ownership in or control over

SMHD, Inc. or over its affairs. The Diocese does not exercise control or ownership over

the operation of SMHD, Inc. or its affairs.

4. The Diocese does not control all the conduct of all the priests at all the parishes throughout the Diocese. Specifically, the Diocese does not have any right to control Father Raymond Velencia as relates to the operation of SMHD, Inc., including any hiring or firing decisions as to its employees. SMHD, Inc. is not an Orthodox Church within the Diocese. In addition, the Diocese does not control Fr. Velencia's day-to-day conduct as a priest, including his private encounters with parishioners, such as in private counseling sessions he personally conducts or in his maintaining confidence over his conduct of the sacrament of confession for parishioners, including for Mr. and Mrs. Koumentakos. These encounters are private matters between the priest and parishioner.

5. Fr. Raymond Velencia is not and never has been an employee, agent nor servant of the Diocese. No written agreement has ever existed as to any agency between the Diocese and Fr. Raymond Velencia. The Diocese has never given Fr. Raymond Velencia any power to alter any of the Diocese's legal relations with anyone or any entity. The Diocese has never consented to Fr. Raymond Velencia acting on its behalf with respect to either the operation of SMHD, Inc. or insofar as his conduct with respect to his maintaining confidence as to confessions which he hears. Fr. Raymond Velencia has never requested and never received consent to act on behalf of the Diocese with respect to either the operation of SMHD, Inc. or in the maintenance of confidence with regard to confessions he hears. The Diocese did not have any knowledge of, any participation in nor did the Diocese ever consent to the alleged wrongful conduct by Fr. Raymond Valencia which is the subject of this proceeding.

**I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE AND AFFIRM UNDER THE  
PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE  
FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT.**

**Date:** 12/24/08

Joseph Lickwar

**Joseph Lickwar  
Chancellor  
The Diocese of Washinton and  
New York of the Orthodox  
Church in America**