# IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

LEAH GILLIAM,	§	
Plaintiff,	§ §	
v.	§ §	Case No.:
DAVID GERREGANO,	§ §	
COMMISSIONER OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF	§ §	
REVENUE, and	§ §	
HERBERT H. SLATERY III,	§	
TENNESSEE ATTORNEY GENERAL,	§ §	
Defendants.	§	

#### VERIFIED COMPLAINT

For her Complaint against the Defendants, verified by the Plaintiff's sworn affidavit attached to this Complaint as **Exhibit #1**, Plaintiff Leah Gilliam states as follows:

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Leah Gilliam is an astronomy buff and a gamer. To celebrate her interests, she sought, received, and—for more than a decade—has harmlessly displayed the following vanity plate on her car, which combines the year of the moon landing with a gaming term:



2. Notwithstanding the harmless and constitutionally protected nature of Ms. Gilliam's speech, on May 25, 2021, the Tennessee Department of Revenue (the "Department") sent Ms. Gilliam a threat letter summarily revoking her longtime vanity plate on the specific basis that it had "been deemed offensive." *See* Ex. 2. In pertinent part, the Department's threat letter to Ms. Gilliam states as follows:

# Re: Personalized License Plate 69PWNDU

Dear Leah,

The Tennessee Department of Revenue (the "Department") is writing this letter to notify you that the above-referenced personalized plate has been deemed offensive. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1) (2012) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) (2012), the Department may revoke a personalized registration plate that has been deemed offensive to good taste or decency. Therefore, the Department hereby revokes the above-referenced plate.

You may apply for a different personalized plate or request a regular, non-personalized plate to replace the revoked plate. The law requires you to immediately return the revoked plate. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a) (2012). . . . You will be unable to renew your vehicle registration until this plate has been returned.

Id.

- 3. Beyond prohibiting Ms. Gilliam from renewing her vehicle registration, *see id.*, the Department's summary revocation of Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate exposes her to the immediate threat of criminal liability—a fine and up to 30 days in jail—if she does not acquiesce to the Department's pre-hearing prior restraint against her constitutionally protected speech. *See* Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-120(a) ("It is a Class C misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of chapters 1-6 of this title unless such violation is by chapters 1-6 of this title or other law of this state declared to be a felony.").
- 4. The Department's asserted authority to revoke Ms. Gilliam's constitutionally protected vanity plate arises from Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2)—a

facially unconstitutional statute that expressly discriminates on the basis of viewpoint. *See id.* ("The commissioner shall refuse to issue any combination of letters, numbers or positions that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or that are misleading.").

- 5. Governmental discrimination on the basis of viewpoint is forbidden in any forum. *See Matal v. Tam*, 137 S. Ct. 1744, 1763 (2017). And although the sole basis for the Department's decision to revoke Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate is that it "has been deemed offensive," *see* Ex. 2, the U.S. Supreme Court has clearly established that: "Giving offense is a viewpoint." *Matal*, 137 S. Ct. at 1763.
- 6. Based on the U.S. Supreme Court's 2017 holding in *Matal*, courts in multiple jurisdictions have recently invalidated laws that are materially indistinguishable from Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) because they unconstitutionally discriminated based on viewpoint. *See*, *e.g.*, Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment and Denying Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment at 8, *Ogilvie v. Gordon*, No. 4:20-cv-01707-JST (N.D. Cal. Nov. 24, 2020), ECF No. 54 ("the Court holds that California's prohibition on personalized license plate configurations 'that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency' constitutes viewpoint discrimination under *Tam* and *Brunetti*."); *Carroll v. Craddock*, 494 F. Supp. 3d 158, 170 (D.R.I. 2020) ("the Court finds that Mr. Carroll has satisfied the criteria for issuance of a preliminary injunction on his claims that the R.I.G.L. § 31-3-17.1 is unconstitutional both as applied in this case and on its face as overbroad and void for vagueness."). *See also Kotler v. Webb*, No. CV 19-2682-GW-SKX, 2019 WL 4635168 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 29, 2019).
- 7. Several other pre- and post-*Matal* decisions—which further emphasize the unconstitutionally arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement that such a statute

permits—are in accord. *See*, *e.g.*, *Lewis v. Wilson*, 253 F.3d 1077 (8th Cir. 2001); *Hart v. Thomas*, 422 F. Supp. 3d 1227 (E.D. Ky. 2019); *Montenegro v. New Hampshire Div. of Motor Vehicles*, 166 N.H. 215, 225, 93 A.3d 290, 298 (2014) ("We conclude that the restriction in Saf—C 514.61(c)(3) prohibiting vanity registration plates that are 'offensive to good taste' on its face 'authorizes or even encourages arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement,' *see MacElman*, 154 N.H. at 307, 910 A.2d 1267, and is, therefore, unconstitutionally vague."); *Matwyuk v. Johnson*, 22 F. Supp. 3d 812, 826 (W.D. Mich. 2014) ("the 'offensive to good taste and decency' language grants the decisionmaker undue discretion, thereby allowing for arbitrary application.").

8. Given the above context, Ms. Gilliam is: (a) being unlawfully ordered to cease displaying her constitutionally protected speech; (b) on a summary, pre-hearing basis; (c) under threat of immediate civil consequences and *criminal* liability; and (d) based upon authority conferred by a statute that is facially unconstitutional on at least two independent grounds. Ms. Gilliam has filed this action—which raises claims that cannot be raised in any administrative proceeding—accordingly. She also seeks temporary relief enjoining the Defendants from enforcing Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) against her pending the conclusion of judicial review.

#### II. PARTIES

- 9. Plaintiff Leah Gilliam is a citizen of Tennessee and a resident of Davidson County, Tennessee. Ms. Gilliam is an astronomy buff and a gamer, and until May 2021, she had displayed the vanity plate "69PWNDU" on her car without issue for more than a decade.
- 10. Defendant David Gerregano is the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Revenue, the governmental agency responsible for unconstitutionally

revoking Ms. Gilliam's license plate on a summary basis due to the viewpoint she expressed. Defendant Gerregano is sued in his official capacity with respect to the Plaintiff's claims for injunctive and declaratory relief, and he is sued in his individual capacity with respect to the Plaintiff's claim for damages.

11. Defendant Herbert H. Slatery III is the Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee. His duties include a general mandate "[t]o defend the constitutionality and validity of all legislation of statewide applicability," *see* Tenn. Code Ann. § 8-6-109(b)(9), and he is entitled to be heard in and made a party to this proceeding pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-14-107(b). As the Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, Defendant Herbert H. Slatery III is sued in his official capacity only regarding the Plaintiff's claims for declaratory relief.

#### III. JURISDICTION, AUTHORITY, AND VENUE

- 12. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 1-3-121; Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-14-102, *et seq.*; and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 13. This Court is vested with the authority to issue a declaratory judgment and an injunction with the force and effect of a final decree pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-14-102, Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-1-106, Tenn. Code Ann. § 1-3-121, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 14. As the jurisdiction where the Defendants reside and where the Plaintiff's injury occurred, venue is proper in this Court pursuant Tenn. Code Ann. § 20-4-101(a).

#### IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Approximately a decade ago, the Plaintiff applied for and then received a personalized plate—commonly known as a "vanity" plate—from the Tennessee Department of Revenue.
  - 16. The specific combination of characters that the Plaintiff applied for,

received, and then displayed—"69PWNDU"—combines the year of the moon landing (1969) with a common gaming term ("pwn"<sup>1</sup>).

- 17. Upon receiving her vanity plate, Ms. Gilliam harmlessly displayed her vanity plate without issue for more than a decade preceding this action.
- 18. To Ms. Gilliam's knowledge, her vanity plate has never caused anyone harm.

  To the contrary, members of the public enjoy seeing it displayed.
- 19. On May 25, 2021, the Vehicle Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Revenue mailed Ms. Gilliam a threat letter summarily revoking her vanity plate on a single specified ground: that it "has been deemed offensive." *See* Ex. 2.
- 20. The Department's threat letter to Ms. Gilliam makes clear that her vanity plate was revoked immediately, summarily, and before hearing, stating without ambiguity that: "the Department hereby revokes the above-referenced plate."
- 21. Ms. Gilliam has only been permitted the opportunity to challenge the Department's revocation on a post-deprivation basis, which will not result in a hearing and ultimate adjudication until August 2021 at the earliest. *See* Ex. 3.
- 22. In the interim, Ms. Gilliam is subject to immediate civil consequences, including that she "will be unable to renew [her] vehicle registration until [her] plate has been returned." *Id*.
- 23. Ms. Gilliam is also subject to the immediate threat of criminal prosecution if she does not comply with the Department's summary revocation. *See* Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-120(a) ("It is a Class C misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of chapters 1-6 of this title unless such violation is by chapters 1-6 of this title or other law

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pwn, Dictionary.com (*last visited* June 28, 2021), <a href="https://www.dictionary.com/browse/pwn">https://www.dictionary.com/browse/pwn</a> (defining "pwn" as: "Slang. to totally defeat or dominate, especially in a video or computer game[.]")

of this state declared to be a felony.").

24. The Defendant Commissioner's summary revocation of Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate arises from three interconnected statutes:

*First*, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) obligates the Defendant Commissioner to refuse to issue any vanity plate "that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency[.]" *See id*. ("The commissioner shall refuse to issue any combination of letters, numbers or positions that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency or that are misleading.").

<u>Second</u>, even after being issued, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1) permits summary, pre-hearing revocation of a vanity plate "[w]hen the department is satisfied that the registration or that the . . . plate . . . was . . . erroneously issued[.]" See id.

<u>Third</u>, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a) provides that a revocation decision is immediate and effective even before hearing. ("Whenever the department as authorized hereunder cancels, suspends, or revokes the registration of a . . . plate or plates, . . . the owner or person in possession of the same shall immediately return the evidence of registration, title or license so cancelled, suspended, or revoked to the department.").

- 25. Ms. Gilliam has challenged the Department's revocation decision and demanded a hearing. She will not even be afforded a hearing, however, until August 11, 2021. See Ex. 3.
- 26. By law, Ms. Gilliam is not permitted to raise claims of facial unconstitutionality in her administrative proceeding, even though Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) is facially unconstitutional. Neither can Ms. Gilliam raise original tort claims or claims for damages, including under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, in any future petition for judicial review of an administrative order.

#### V. CAUSES OF ACTION

# 1. Violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments

(Content- and Viewpoint-Discrimination)

- 27. The Plaintiff reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 28. Because it requires the Defendant Commissioner and his Department to refuse to issue vanity plates "that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency," Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) facially discriminates on the basis of both content and viewpoint; it is presumptively unconstitutional; and it contravenes the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.
- 29. No compelling governmental interest supports Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2).
- 30. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) is not the least restrictive means of promoting any compelling governmental interest.
  - 31. Personalized plates, including Ms. Gilliam's, are not government speech.
- 32. By causing Ms. Gilliam to suffer a loss of her First Amendment freedoms, the Defendant Commissioner has caused Ms. Gilliam to suffer injury and damages that are subject to redress under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 33. Because it is facially unconstitutional, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) should be declared unconstitutional, and its enforcement should be permanently enjoined under Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-14-102, Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-1-106, Tenn. Code Ann. § 1-3-121, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

#### 2. Violation of Fourteenth Amendment

(Unconstitutional Vagueness)

34. The Plaintiff reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully

set forth herein.

- 35. Because it requires the Defendant Commissioner and his Department to refuse to issue vanity plates "that may carry connotations offensive to good taste and decency," Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) is unconstitutionally vague.
- 36. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) fails to provide legally adequate notice of what it prohibits.
- 37. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) requires reasonable people to guess at its meaning.
- 38. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) denies fair notice of the standard of conduct for which a citizen is to be held accountable.
- 39. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) is an unrestricted delegation of power which leaves the definition of its terms to law enforcement officers.
- 40. Enforcement of Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) turns upon subjective and unascertainable standards.
- 41. The Defendant Commissioner's enforcement of Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) is not subject to objective criteria.
  - 42. *De gustibus non est disputandum* ("there is no disputing matters of taste").
- 43. By causing Ms. Gilliam to suffer a loss of her First Amendment freedoms, the Defendant Commissioner has caused Ms. Gilliam to suffer injury and damages that are subject to redress under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
- 44. Because it is unconstitutionally vague, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) should be declared unconstitutional and its enforcement should be permanently enjoined pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-14-102, Tenn. Code Ann. § 29-1-106, Tenn. Code Ann. § 1-3-121, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

## 3. Violation of Fourteenth Amendment

(Due Process)

- 45. The Plaintiff reincorporates and realleges the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.
- 46. Ms. Gilliam has been subjected to a summary, *pre-hearing* suspension of her vanity plate pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2), Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1), and Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a).
- 47. Based on these statutes, "[t]he law requires [Ms. Gilliam] to immediately return the revoked plate." *See* Ex. 2.
- 48. Ms. Gilliam "may request a hearing to challenge this revocation under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act by submitting a written request for a hearing within ten days of the date of [the Department's threat] letter," *id.*, but in the interim, she has had her rights summarily terminated and has been deprived of her rights on a prehearing basis.
- 49. Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate does not present an emergency that warrants summary, pre-hearing revocation, and continuing to display her vanity plate pending a hearing will not harm anyone.
- 50. Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate has nonetheless been summarily revoked before providing Ms. Gilliam an opportunity to be heard, and she will not be afforded a hearing and final adjudication until at least August 2021. *See* Ex. 3.
- 51. The private interest affected by the Defendant Commissioner's summary revocation of Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate—Ms. Gilliam's free speech—carries surpassing importance, because loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, constitutes irreparable injury.

- 52. With respect to revoking vanity plates based on the Defendant Commissioner's assertion that they do not comply with Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2), the risk of an erroneous deprivation prior to a hearing is high.
- 53. The Defendant Commissioner's revocation of Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate is, in fact, erroneous, unlawful, and unconstitutional.
- 54. The Defendants have no legitimate interest in summarily imposing prehearing prior restraints against speech that could not plausibly harm the public, and the public has fundamental rights to hear what others have to say.
- 55. The Defendant's summary, pre-hearing revocation of Ms. Gilliam's vanity plate subjects her to immediate civil consequences and the threat of criminal prosecution if she does not comply. *See* Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-120(a) ("It is a Class C misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of chapters 1-6 of this title unless such violation is by chapters 1-6 of this title or other law of this state declared to be a felony.").
- 56. Due process requires that the Defendants afford Ms. Gilliam a hearing before revoking her vanity plate, rather than affording her a hearing months afterward.
- 57. With respect to vanity plate revocations, Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1)'s and Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a)'s provisions authorizing summary, pre-hearing revocations violate Ms. Gilliam's constitutional right to due process, and their continued enforcement should be enjoined.

#### VI. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

## **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff respectfully prays:

1. That process issue and be served upon the Defendants, and that the Defendants be required to appear and answer this Complaint within the time required by law.

- 2. That this Court issue a <u>temporary</u> injunction that:
- a. Enjoins the Defendant Commissioner from enforcing Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) against the Plaintiff pending the conclusion of judicial review; and
- b. Enjoins the Defendant Commissioner from summarily revoking the Plaintiff's vanity plate on a pre-hearing basis under Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a).
- 3. That this Court issue a <u>permanent</u> injunction that:
- a. Enjoins the Defendant Commissioner from enforcing Tenn. Code
  Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2); and
- b. Enjoins the Defendant Commissioner from summarily revoking vanity plates on a pre-hearing basis under Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a).
- 4. That this Court issue a final judgment declaring that Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) is facially unconstitutional and violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments.
- 5. That this Court award Ms. Gilliam damages in an amount of \$1.00 per day that she was unlawfully forbidden from displaying her constitutionally protected vanity plate.
- 6. That this Court grant the Plaintiff her reasonable costs and attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988(b).
  - 7. That this Court grant the Plaintiff all other relief to which she is entitled.

# Respectfully submitted:

By: /s/ Daniel A. Horwitz

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

# IN THE CHANCERY COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

LEAH GILLIAM,	§	
Plaintiff,	§ §	
v.	§ §	Case No.:
DAVID GERREGANO,	§ §	
COMMISSIONER OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF	§	
REVENUE, and	§ §	
HERBERT H. SLATERY III,	§ §	
TENNESSEE ATTORNEY GENERAL,	§ §	
Defendants.	§ §	

#### VERIFICATION AND AFFIDAVIT OF LEAH GILLIAM

- 1. My name is Leah Gilliam, I have personal knowledge of the facts affirmed in this Affidavit, I am competent to testify regarding them, and I swear under penalty of perjury that they are true.
- 2. I am the Plaintiff in this matter and the owner of the personalized license plate "69PWNDU," which I was issued by the Tennessee Department of Revenue and have displayed on my car for more than a decade.
- 3. I am an astronomy buff and a gamer. To celebrate these interests, my personalized license plate represents a combination of the year of the moon landing—1969—and a common gaming term ("PWND").
- 4. I would like to continue displaying my personalized license plate, but I am presently prohibited from doing so based on a revocation letter that the Tennessee

Department of Revenue sent me on May 25, 2021. A true and correct copy of that letter

is attached to my Complaint as Exhibit #2.

5. My right to display my personalized license plate has been summarily

suspended, even though I have not yet received a hearing. I will not be afforded a hearing

until August 2021. I understand that displaying my personalized license plate in the

interim will subject me to civil and potential criminal consequences.

6. To the best of my knowledge, my license plate has never caused anyone

harm, and other people enjoy seeing it.

7. I have reviewed the allegations set forth in the accompanying Complaint

filed in this matter; I have personal knowledge regarding them; and I verify under penalty

of perjury that the factual claims in the Complaint are true and correct to the best of my

knowledge.

Further affiant sayeth not.

Pursuant to Tenn. R. Civ. P. 72, I declare under penalty of perjury that the

foregoing is true and correct.

Leah Gilliam (Jun 27, 2021 16

Leah Gilliam

Jun 27, 2021

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

-2-

# Exhibit #1 (Verification and Affidavit)

Final Audit Report 2021-06-27

Created: 2021-06-27

By: Horwitz Law PLLC (daniel@horwitz.law)

Status: Signed

Transaction ID: CBJCHBCAABAA4q1qpnnaoqcurk6TCuF2fVUVqyQrt99U

# "Exhibit #1 (Verification and Affidavit)" History

Document created by Horwitz Law PLLC (daniel@horwitz.law) 2021-06-27 - 9:15:05 PM GMT- IP address: 69.226.239.171

Document emailed to Leah Gilliam (happigrl@gmail.com) for signature 2021-06-27 - 9:15:40 PM GMT

Email viewed by Leah Gilliam (happigrl@gmail.com) 2021-06-27 - 9:20:09 PM GMT- IP address: 66.249.88.150

Document e-signed by Leah Gilliam (happigrl@gmail.com)

Signature Date: 2021-06-27 - 9:21:20 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 92.119.17.214

Agreement completed. 2021-06-27 - 9:21:20 PM GMT



Inventory Unit - Personalized Plate Rejection

Leah Gilliam 4712 Trousdale Dr Nashville, TN 37220-1315

May 25, 2021

Via U.S. Mail

Re: Personalized License Plate: 69PWNDU

Dear Leah,

The Tennessee Department of Revenue (the "Department") is writing this letter to notify you that the above-referenced personalized registration plate has been deemed offensive. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1) (2012) and Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-4-210(d)(2) (2012), the Department may revoke a personalized registration plate that has been deemed offensive to good taste or decency. Therefore, the Department hereby revokes the above-referenced plate.

You may apply for a different personalized plate or request a regular, non-personalized plate to replace the revoked plate. The law requires you to immediately return the revoked plate. Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-119(a) (2012). You may either return the plate to your local county clerk's office or mail the plate to: Tennessee Department of Revenue, Vehicles Services Division, 500 Deaderick Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37242. You will be unable to renew your vehicle registration until this plate has been returned.

You may request a hearing to challenge this revocation under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act by submitting a written request for a hearing within ten days of the date of this letter. The scope of the hearing is limited to whether the Department of Revenue, Vehicle Services Division, properly undertook this action based on the record and the law. Requests for an administrative hearing must be submitted in writing to the Tennessee Department of Revenue at the following address: Hearing Office, Andrew Jackson State Office Building 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 500 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN 37242. Alternatively, you may fax the request to (615) 741-6463 or email it to Karyn.Hill@tn.gov.

If you would like to reapply for a personalized plate, please contact Tammie Moyers at 615-532-1263. Please use the contact information at the bottom of this correspondence for any inquiries you have.

Vehicle Services Division Tennessee Department of Revenue

Enclosure

Cc: Brenda Wynn, Davidson County Clerk

#### STATE OF TENNESSEE

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
LEAH GILLIAM	)	
PETITIONER/CLAIMANT	)	
v.	) DOCKET NO: 21-0	06
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,	)	
RESPONDENT.	)	

# ORDER SETTING HEARING AND PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-1-105, I have been appointed by the Commissioner of Revenue as Administrative Judge in this matter which involves the Department's revocation of your personalized license plate registration under Tenn. Code Ann. § 55-5-117(a)(1) (2012) and § 55-4-210(d)(2) (2012). The **contested case** has been added to my docket. The parties will receive a Teams invite via email to join this Hearing virtually, or if preferred, the Hearing can be done over the phone. This can be decided at the pre-hearing conference.

This hearing will be conducted pursuant to the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-101 *et seq.*, and the Uniform Rules of Procedure for Hearing Contested Cases before State Administrative Agencies, Rule 1360-4-1 *et seq.* 

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-5-306, a <u>pre-hearing conference</u> has been set for <u>2:00 p.m. on Friday, July 9, 2021</u>. To join this pre-hearing conference call, on the scheduled date and time, the parties should call 833-842-8258 and when the recording begins press 1170#. Either party may make a motion for an earlier or additional pre-hearing conference should issues arise which support the need for such conference.

Each party in a contested case hearing has the right to be represented by counsel. The

contested case has been set on my docket to be heard beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday,

August 11, 2021.

At least five (5) days prior to the hearing date of this matter, the names and addresses of

witnesses and copies of all proposed exhibits shall be furnished to opposing counsel, or to the

opposing party if the party is proceeding pro se, and to the Administrative Judge.

The parties are responsible for securing the services of a court reporter on the date of the

hearing.

Each party is responsible for issuing its own subpoenas.

All motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment shall be filed with this judge at

least 30 days prior to the hearing date. All other pre-hearing motions and briefs shall be filed

with this judge no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing date.

All other matters are reserved.

Entered and effective this \_\_17th\_\_ day of June 2021

\_/PLE/\_\_\_\_

Phillip L. Ewing Administrative Judge

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have this date served a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading upon counsel for the interested parties at the addresses listed below, via personal service upon counsel for the Respondent and via certified United States Mail to the Petitioner.

Ms. Camille Cline Assistant General Counsel Tennessee Dept. of Revenue – Legal Office 11<sup>th</sup> Floor – Andrew Jackson Bldg. Nashville, TN 37242

Leah Gilliam 4712 Trousdale Dr. Nashville, TN 37220-1315

on this \_17th\_ day of June 2021.

\_\_/KH/\_\_ Karyn Hill

Legal Assistant, Hearing Office Karyn.hill@tn.gov