UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ABUNDIO PABLO ARANDA

Petitioner,

v.

KEVIN GUTHRIE, in his official capacity as Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM); CARLOS R. NUNEZ, in his official capacity as Assistant Field Office Director, Krome North Service Processing Center; GARRET J. RIPA, in his official capacity as Miami Field Office Director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Enforcement and Removal Operations; TODD LYONS, in his official capacity as Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement; KRISTI NOEM, in her official capacity as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; and PAMELA BONDI, in her official capacity as U.S. Attorney General; EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW.

Respondents.

Case No. _____

Agency File: A[redacted]
A[redacted]

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS AND
<u>REQUEST FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE</u>

INTRODUCTION

1. Petitioner, Abundio Pablo Aranda, is in the physical custody of Respondents at the Florida Soft Side South ("Alligator Alcatraz") located at 54575 Tamiami Trl E; Ochopee, FL 34141. He now faces unlawful detention because the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and the Executive Office of Immigration Review ("EOIR") have concluded Petitioner is subject to mandatory detention.

2. Petitioner is charged with, inter alia, having entered the United States without admission or inspection. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i).

3. Based on this allegation Petitioner will be considered mandatory detention and therefore be denied a bond hearing and/or release from immigration custody, consistent with a new DHS policy issued on July 8th , 2025, instructing all Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") employees to consider anyone inadmissible under § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i)—i.e., those who entered the United States without admission or inspection—to be subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore ineligible to be released on bond.

4. Similarly, on September 5th, 2025, the Board of Immigration Appeals ("BIA" or "the Board") issued a precedent decision, binding on all immigration judges, holding that an immigration judge has no authority to consider bond requests for any person who entered the United States without admission. *See Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I. & N. Dec. 216 (BIA 2025). The Board determined that such individuals are subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. §1225(b)(2)(A) and therefore ineligible to be released on bond.

5. Petitioner's detention on this basis violates the plain language of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Section 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to individuals like Petitioner who previously entered and are now residing in the United States. Instead, such individuals are

subject to a different statute, § 1226(a), that allows for release on conditional parole or bond. That statute expressly applies to people who, like Petitioner, are charged as inadmissible for having entered the United States without inspection.

6. Respondents' new legal interpretation is plainly contrary to the statutory framework and contrary to decades of agency practice applying § 1226(a) to people like Petitioner.

7. Accordingly, Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus requiring that he be released unless Respondents provide a bond hearing under § 1226(a) within seven days.

JURISDICTION

8. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 2241(c)(5) (habeas corpus), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question), and Article I, section 9, clause 2 of the United States Constitution (the Suspension Clause).

9. This Court may grant relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241, the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq., and the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.

VENUE

10. Pursuant to *Braden v. 30th Judicial Circuit Court of Kentucky*, 410 U.S. 484, 493-500 (1973), venue lies in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which Petitioner currently is detained.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241 and 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Petitioner is detained at Alligator Alcatraz located at 54575 Tamiami Trl E; Ochopee, FL 34141, within the Middle District of Florida, and Petitioner's immediate physical custodian is in this District.

REQUIREMENTS OF 28 U.S.C. § 2243

12. The Court must grant the petition for writ of habeas corpus or issue an order to show cause to the Respondents "forthwith," unless the Petitioner is not entitled to relief. 28 U.S.C. § 2243. If an order to show cause is issued, the Court must require Respondents to file a return "within three days unless for good cause additional time, not exceeding twenty days, is allowed." Id.

13. Courts have long recognized the significance of the habeas statute in protecting individuals from unlawful detention. The Great Writ has been referred to as "perhaps the most important writ known to the constitutional law of England, affording as it does a swift and imperative remedy in all cases of illegal restraint or confinement." *Fay v. Noia*, 372 U.S. 391, 400 (1963).

PARTIES

14. Petitioner, Abundio Pablo Aranda, is a citizen of Mexico who has been in immigration detention since approximately March 11th, 2026. He is currently detained at Alligator Alcatraz located at 54575 Tamiami Trl E; Ochopee, FL 34141-0001.

15. Respondent, Kevin Guthrie, in his official capacity as Director of The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). In this capacity, he is the immediate custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Guthrie's address is 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100.

16. Respondent, Carlos R. Nunez, is named in his official capacity as the Assistant Field Office Director of Krome North Service Processing Center. In this capacity, he is responsible for the immediate execution of detention over the Petitioner, and as such he is a

custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Nunez's address is 18201 SW 12th Street; Miami, FL 33194-2700.

17. Respondent, Garret J. Ripa, is named in his official capacity as Miami Field Office Director of the ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations ("ERO"). In this capacity, he is responsible for the administration of immigration laws and the execution of immigration confinement and the institution of removal proceedings in Miami, Florida, which is the jurisdiction where Petitioner is confined. As such, he is a custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Ripa's address is 865 SW 78th Avenue., Suite 101; Plantation, FL 33324-3264.

18. Respondent, Todd Lyons, is named in his official capacity as Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"). As the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director of ICE, he is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the immigration laws of the United States and is legally responsible for pursuing any effort to remove Petitioner and confine him pending removal. As such, he is a custodian of Petitioner. His address is ICE, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, 500 12th ST SW, Mail Stop 5900; Washington, DC 20536-5900.

19. Respondent, Kristi Noem, is named in her official capacity as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. In this capacity, she is responsible for the administration of the immigration laws pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1103(a); is legally responsible for pursuing any effort to confine and remove the Petitioner; and as such is a custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Noem's address is U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the General Counsel, 2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE; Washington, DC 20528-0485.

20. Respondent, Pamela Bondi, is named in her official capacity as Attorney General of the United States. In this capacity, she is responsible for the administration of the immigration

laws pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1103(g); and as such is a custodian of Petitioner. Respondent Bondi's address is U.S. Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW; Washington, DC 20530-0001.

21. Respondent Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR") is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing the INA in removal proceedings, including for custody redeterminations in bond hearings. The address for Respondent is 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

22. The INA prescribes three basic forms of detention for the vast majority of noncitizens in removal proceedings.

23. First, 8 U.S.C. § 1226 authorizes the detention of noncitizens in standard removal proceedings before an IJ. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. Individuals in § 1226(a) detention are generally entitled to a bond hearing at the outset of their detention, *see* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.19(a), 1236.1(d), while noncitizens who have been arrested, charged with, or convicted of certain crimes are subject to mandatory detention, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

24. Second, the INA provides for mandatory detention of noncitizens subject to expedited removal under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1) and for other recent arrivals seeking admission referred to under § 1225(b)(2).

25. Last, the INA also provides for detention of noncitizens who have been ordered removed, including individuals in withholding-only proceedings, *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)–(b).

26. This case concerns the detention provisions at §§ 1226(a) and 1225(b)(2).

27. The detention provisions at § 1226(a) and § 1225(b)(2) were enacted as part of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act ("IIRIRA") of 1996, Pub. L.

No. 104—208, Div. C, §§ 302–03, 110 Stat. 3009-546, 3009–582 to 3009–583, 3009–585. Section 1226(a) was most recently amended earlier this year by the Laken Riley Act, Pub. L. No.119-1, 139 Stat. 3 (2025).

28. Following the enactment of the IIRIRA, EOIR drafted new regulations explaining that, in general, people who entered the country without inspection were not considered detained under § 1225 and that they were instead detained under § 1226(a). *See* Inspection and Expedited Removal of Aliens; Detention and Removal of Aliens; Conduct of Removal Proceedings; Asylum Procedures, 62 Fed. Reg. 10312, 10323 (Mar. 6, 1997).

29. Thus, in the decades that followed, most people who entered without inspection and were placed in standard removal proceedings received bond hearings, unless their criminal history rendered them ineligible pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c). That practice was consistent with many more decades of prior practice, in which noncitizens who were not deemed "arriving" were entitled to a custody hearing before an IJ or other hearing officer. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1252(a) (1994); *see also* H.R. Rep. No. 104-469, pt. 1, at 229 (1996) (noting that § 1226(a) simply "restates" the detention authority previously found at § 1252(a)).

30. On July 8th, 2025, ICE, "in coordination with" DOJ, announced a new policy that rejected well-established understanding of the statutory framework and reversed decades of practice.

31. The new policy, entitled "Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission,"[1] claims that all persons who entered the United States without inspection shall now be subject to mandatory detention provision under § 1225(b)(2)(A). The

[1] *Available at* https://www.aila.org/library/ice-memo-interim-guidance-regarding-detention-authority-forapplications-for-admission.

policy applies regardless of when a person is apprehended and affects those who have resided in the United States for months, years, and even decades.

32. On September 5th, 2025, the BIA adopted this same position in a published decision, *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*. There, the Board held that all noncitizens who entered the United States without admission or parole are subject to detention under § 1225(b)(2)(A) and are ineligible for IJ bond hearings.

33. Since Respondents adopted their new policies, dozens of federal courts have rejected their new interpretation of the INA's detention authorities. Courts have likewise rejected *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, which adopts the same reading of the statute as ICE.

34. Even before ICE or the BIA introduced these nationwide policies, IJs in the Tacoma, Washington, immigration court stopped providing bond hearings for persons who entered the United States without inspection and who have since resided here. There, the U.S. District Court in the Western District of Washington found that such a reading of the INA is likely unlawful and that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to noncitizens who are not apprehended upon arrival to the United States. *Rodriguez Vazquez v. Bostock*, 779 F. Supp. 3d 1239 (W.D. Wash. 2025).

35. Subsequently, court after court has adopted the same reading of the INA's detention authorities and rejected ICE and EOIR's new interpretation. *See, e.g.*, *Gomes v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11571-JEK, 2025 WL 1869299 (D. Mass. July 7, 2025); *Diaz Martinez v. Hyde*, No. CV 25-11613-BEM, --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2084238 (D. Mass. July 24, 2025); *Rosado v. Figueroa*, No. CV 25-02157 PHX DLR (CDB), 2025 WL 2337099 (D. Ariz. Aug. 11, 2025), *report and recommendation adopted*, No. CV-25-02157-PHX-DLR (CDB), 2025 WL 2349133 (D. Ariz. Aug. 13, 2025); *Lopez Benitez v. Francis*, No. 25 CIV. 5937 (DEH), 2025

WL 2371588 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 13, 2025); *Maldonado v. Olson*, No. 0:25-cv-03142-SRN-SGE, 2025 WL 2374411 (D. Minn. Aug. 15, 2025); *Arrazola-Gonzalez v. Noem*, No. 5:25-cv-01789-ODW (DFMx), 2025 WL 2379285 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 15, 2025); *Romero v. Hyde*, No. 25-11631-BEM, 2025 WL 2403827 (D. Mass. Aug. 19, 2025); *Samb v. Joyce*, No. 25 CIV. 6373 (DEH), 2025 WL 2398831 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 19, 2025); *Ramirez Clavijo v. Kaiser*, No. 25-CV-06248-BLF, 2025 WL 2419263 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2025); *Leal-Hernandez v. Noem*, No. 1:25-cv 02428-JRR, 2025 WL 2430025 (D. Md. Aug. 24, 2025); *Kostak v. Trump*, No. 3:25-cv-01093 JE-KDM, 2025 WL 2472136 (W.D. La. Aug. 27, 2025); *Jose J.O.E. v. Bondi*, No. 25-CV-3051 (ECT/DJF), --- F. Supp. 3d ----, 2025 WL 2466670 (D. Minn. Aug. 27, 2025) *Lopez-Campos v. Raycraft*, No. 2:25-cv-12486-BRM-EAS, 2025 WL 2496379 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 29, 2025); *Vasquez Garcia v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-02180-DMS-MM, 2025 WL 2549431 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2025); *Zaragoza Mosqueda v. Noem*, No. 5:25-CV-02304 CAS (BFM), 2025 WL 2591530 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 8, 2025); *Pizarro Reyes v. Raycraft*, No. 25-CV-12546, 2025 WL 2609425 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 9, 2025); *Sampiao v. Hyde*, No. 1:25-CV-11981-JEK, 2025 WL 2607924 (D. Mass. Sept. 9, 2025); *see also, e.g.*, *Palma Perez v. Berg*, No. 8:25CV494, 2025 WL 2531566, at *2 (D. Neb. Sept. 3, 2025) (noting that "[t]he Court tends to agree" that § 1226(a) and not § 1225(b)(2) authorizes detention); *Jacinto v. Trump*, No. 4:25-cv-03161-JFB-RCC, 2025 WL 2402271 at *3 (D. Neb. Aug. 19, 2025) (same); *Anicasio v. Kramer*, No. 4:25-cv-03158-JFB RCC, 2025 WL 2374224 at *2 (D. Neb. Aug. 14, 2025) (same).

36. Courts have uniformly rejected DHS's and EOIR's new interpretation because it defies the INA. As the *Rodriguez Vazquez* court and others have explained, the plain text of the statutory provisions demonstrates that § 1226(a), not § 1225(b), applies to people like Petitioner.

37. Section 1226(a) applies by default to all persons "pending a decision on whether the [noncitizen] is to be removed from the United States." These removal hearings are held under § 1229a, to "decid[e] the inadmissibility or deportability of a[] [noncitizen]."

38. The text of § 1226 also explicitly applies to people charged as being inadmissible, including those who entered without inspection. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c)(1)(E). Subparagraph (E)'s reference to such people makes clear that, by default, such people are afforded a bond hearing under subsection (a). As the *Rodriguez Vazquez* court explained, "[w]hen Congress creates 'specific exceptions' to a statute's applicability, it 'proves' that absent those exceptions, the statute generally applies." *Rodriguez Vazquez*, 779 F. Supp. 3d at 1257 (citing *Shady Grove Orthopedic Assocs., P.A. v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 559 U.S. 393, 400 (2010)); *see also Gomes*, 2025 WL 1869299, at *7.

39. Section 1226 therefore leaves no doubt that it applies to people who face charges of being inadmissible to the United States, including those who are present without admission or parole.

40. By contrast, § 1225(b) applies to people arriving at U.S. ports of entry or who recently entered the United States. The statute's entire framework is premised on inspections at the border of people who are "seeking admission" to the United States. 8 U.S.C. §1225(b)(2)(A). Indeed, the Supreme Court has explained that this mandatory detention scheme applies "at the Nation's borders and ports of entry, where the Government must determine whether a[] [noncitizen] seeking to enter the country is admissible." *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583 U.S. 281, 287 (2018).

41. Accordingly, the mandatory detention provision of § 1225(b)(2)(A) does not apply to people like Petitioner, who have already entered and were residing in the United States at the time they were apprehended.

FACTS

42. Petitioner has resided in the United States since approximately March 10th, 2004.

43. On January 12th, 2013, Petitioner was a victim of a robbery/home invasion with a firearm/deadly weapon as well as kidnapping and false imprisonment by three (3) unknown black males.

44. On February 18th, 2016, the Sanford Police Department signed an I-918 Supplement B: U Nonimmigrant Status Certification on behalf of the Petitioner. *See Exhibit A.*

45. On April 25th, 2016, Petitioner submitted an I-918: Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"). *See Exhibit B.* Said petition was approved on November 17th, 2022, and with the approval he was issued an I-94: Departure Record valid from November 17th, 2022, to November 16th, 2026. *See Exhibit C.*

46. On June 11th, 2021, Petitioner submitted an I-192: Application for Advance Permission to Enter as Nonimmigrant with the USCIS. *See Exhibit D.* Said application was approved on November 17th, 2022. *See Exhibit E.*

47. On November 17th, 2022, Petitioner was also issued an Employment Authorization Card valid from November 17th, 2022, to November 16th, 2026. *See Exhibit F.*

48. On June 27th, 2022, 2022, Petitioner was issued a Florida Driver's License that is valid until May 19th, 2026. *See Exhibit G.*

49. Petitioner was in the process of gathering all the required documentation to file an I-485: Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, to adjust his status that of a

lawful permanent resident when on or about March 11th, 2026, Petitioner was arrested by a Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") officer, who turned him into ICE after the encounter despite driving with a valid driver's license and despite having a valid employment authorization document. Petitioner is now detained at the Alligator Alcatraz.

50. DHS will place Petitioner in removal proceedings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1229a. ICE has charged Petitioner with, *inter alia*, being inadmissible under 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(A)(i) as someone who entered the United States without inspection.

51. Petitioner's contacts with law enforcement consist of minor misdemeanor offenses demonstrating that he is neither a flight risk nor a danger to the community.

52. Following the Petitioner's arrest, he was taken to Alligator Alcatraz. Subsequently, ICE issued a custody determination to continue Petitioner's detention without an opportunity to post bond or be released on other conditions.

53. Pursuant to *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, the immigration judge is unable to consider Petitioner's bond request. Despite the fact that on February 18th, 2026, in *Maldonado Bautista v. Noem*, No. 25-1873 (C.D. Cal), the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California issued a decision explicitly vacating the Board of Immigration Appeals decision in *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, 29 I&N Dec. 216 (BIA 2025), finding that the nationwide class members, including noncitizens like the Petitioner, are subject to detention pursuant to INA § 236 and not INA § 235, the Immigration Judges in this jurisdiction continue to deny bond hearings stating that they do not have to follow the decision in Maldonado Bautista and that they still have no jurisdiction to hear bond hearings.

54. As a result, Petitioner remains in detention. Without relief from this court, he faces the prospect of months, or even years, in immigration custody, separated from his family and community.

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I
Violation of the INA

55. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

56. The mandatory detention provision at 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2) does not apply to all noncitizens residing in the United States who are subject to the grounds of inadmissibility. As relevant here, it does not apply to those who previously entered the country and have been residing in the United States prior to being apprehended and placed in removal proceedings by Respondents. Such noncitizens are detained under § 1226(a), unless they are subject to § 1225(b)(1), § 1226(c), or § 1231.

57. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates the INA.

COUNT II
Violation of the Bond Regulations

58. Petitioner incorporates by reference the allegations of fact set forth in preceding paragraphs.

59. In 1997, after Congress amended the INA through IIRIRA, EOIR and the then-Immigration and Naturalization Service issued an interim rule to interpret and apply IIRIRA. Specifically, under the heading of "Apprehension, Custody, and Detention of [Noncitizens]," the agencies explained that "[d]espite being applicants for admission, [noncitizens] who are present

without having been admitted or paroled (formerly referred to as [noncitizens] who entered without inspection) will be eligible for bond and bond redetermination." 62 Fed. Reg. at 10323 (emphasis added). The agencies thus made clear that individuals who had entered without inspection were eligible for consideration for bond and bond hearings before IJs under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 and its implementing regulations.

60. Nonetheless, pursuant to *Matter of Yajure Hurtado*, EOIR has a policy and practice of applying § 1225(b)(2) to individuals like Petitioner.

61. The application of § 1225(b)(2) to Petitioner unlawfully mandates his continued detention and violates 8 C.F.R. §§ 236.1, 1236.1, and 1003.19.

COUNT III
Violation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process

62. Petitioner repeats, re-alleges, and incorporates by reference each and every allegation in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

63. The government may not deprive a person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. U.S. Const. amend. V. "Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty that the Clause protects." *Zadvydas v. Davis*, 533 U.S. 678, 690 (2001).

64. Civil immigration detention violates due process if it is not reasonably related to its statutory purpose. *See id.* at 690 (citing *Jackson v. Indiana*, 406 U.S. 715, 738 (1972)). With respect to immigration confinement, the Supreme Court has recognized two special justifications: (1) preventing flight and (2) preventing danger to the community. *See id* at 690.

65. Petitioner has a fundamental interest in liberty and being free from official restraint.

66. The government's detention of Petitioner without a bond redetermination hearing to determine whether he is a flight risk or danger to others violates his right to due process.

COUNT IIII
Violation of Eighth Amendment Right to Bail

67. Petitioner re-alleges and incorporates by reference the paragraphs above.

68. The Eighth Amendment prohibits "[e]xcessive bail." U.S. Const. amend. VIII.

69. The government's categorical denial of bail to certain noncitizens violates the right to bail encompassed by the Eighth Amendment.

70. For these reasons, petitioner's ongoing prolonged detention without a bond hearing violates the Eighth Amendment.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that this Court grant the following relief:

(1) Assume jurisdiction over this matter;

(2) Order that Petitioner shall not be transferred outside the Middle District of Florida while this habeas petition is pending;

(3) Issue an Order to Show Cause ordering Respondents to show cause why this Petition should not be granted within three days;

(4) Issue a Writ of Habeas Corpus requiring that Respondents release Petitioner or, in the alternative, provide Petitioner with a bond hearing pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) within seven days;

(5) Declare that Petitioner's detention is unlawful; and

(6) Grant any other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Virlenys H. Palma*
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Dated: March 18th, 2026.

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 2242

I represent Petitioner, Abundio Pablo Aranda, and submit this verification on his behalf. I hereby verify that the factual statements made in the foregoing Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

/s/ *Virlenys H. Palma*
Virlenys H. Palma, Esq.

Dated: March 18th, 2026.