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Christopher Lipsey*

17 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
18 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
19 SACRAMENTO DIVISION

20 **RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,**
21 Plaintiffs,
22 v.
23 **GAVIN NEWSOM, et al.,**
24 Defendants.

Case No. 2:90-cv-00520 KJM-DB (PC)

**STIPULATION AND ORDER
APPROVING SETTLEMENT OF
PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR
CHRISTOPHER LIPSEY'S CLAIM IN
INTERVENTION**

Judge: The Hon. Kimberly J. Mueller

1 On February 25, 2022, at the parties' request, the Court referred the issues raised in Plaintiff-
2 Intervenor Christopher Lipsey's ("Lipsey") claim-in-intervention to Chief Magistrate Judge
3 Kendall Newman for mediation, which was conducted with input from the Special Master and his
4 suicide prevention expert. ECF No. 7478. On March 23, 2022, Lipsey and the California
5 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ("CDCR") reached a settlement as to Lipsey's claim-
6 in-intervention "subject to submission of documents and approval by [this Court]." Minutes, ECF
7 No. 7512. The Settlement and Release Agreement ("Agreement") is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.
8 As directed by Chief Magistrate Judge Newman, *see* ECF No. 7512, the parties now request this
9 Court's approval of the Agreement.

10 The parties therefore jointly request that the Court order as follows:

- 11 1. The Settlement and Release Agreement, a true and correct copy of which is attached
12 as Exhibit 1 to this Stipulation, is approved.
- 13 2. Within fourteen days of the date that both (i) the Court has issued a final order
14 approving the Agreement, and (ii) "the settlement amount due under the Agreement
15 has been paid to Lipsey," *see* Ex. 1, ¶ 14, CDCR and Lipsey shall file the voluntary
16 dismissal with prejudice of Lipsey's complaint-in-intervention described in
17 Paragraph 14 of the Agreement. This Court's jurisdiction over Lipsey's claim-in-
18 intervention will terminate upon filing of that dismissal, except that the Court will
19 retain jurisdiction only to enforce the monetary settlement due to Lipsey under the
20 Agreement and to enforce his individual right to receive earplugs in segregated
21 housing units in accord with Paragraph 13(a) of the Agreement, and to enforce the
22 terms of Exhibit 1, Paragraph 13, as to the *Coleman* class.

1 **IT IS SO STIPULATED.**

2
3 Dated: July 29, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

4 /s/ Brian C. Baran

/s/ Namrata Kotwani (as authorized 7/29/22)

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20 /s/ Ernest Galvan (as authorized 7/27/22)

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

28 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: August 1, 2022.



CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Exhibit 1

1 ROB BONTA, State Bar No. 202668
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16 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
17 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
18 SACRAMENTO DIVISION

19
20 **RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,**

21 Plaintiffs,

22 v.

23 **GAVIN NEWSOM, et al.,**

24 Defendants.
25

Case No. 2:90-cv-00520 KJM-DB (PC)

**SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE
AGREEMENT**

1 This Settlement Agreement and Release (“Agreement”) concerns Plaintiff-Intervenor
2 Christopher Lipsey, Jr. (“Lipsey”) and the California Department of Corrections and
3 Rehabilitation (“CDCR”). Lipsey and CDCR shall be referred to as “the parties.” The parties
4 enter into this Agreement to address and settle Lipsey’s claims for damages, declaratory, and
5 injunctive relief regarding the Guard One electronic monitoring system. Defendant California
6 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”) installed Guard One in all segregated
7 housing units to monitor correctional officers’ compliance with court-ordered twice-hourly
8 security and welfare checks. Lipsey alleged that the use of Guard One violates his Eighth
9 Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution because it creates noise during the night that
10 prevents him from sleeping. The Court allowed Lipsey to intervene in *Coleman v. Newsom*, 2:90-
11 CV-00520 KJM-DB (PC) (“*Coleman*”), on that basis.

12 I. RECITALS

13 1. The purpose of this Agreement is to facilitate the settlement, dismissal with prejudice,
14 and release of any and all claims that were asserted, or which could have been asserted, with
15 respect to the facts giving rise to Lipsey’s complaint-in-intervention in *Coleman*, a lawsuit now
16 pending in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

17 BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL POSTURE

18 2. Since May 9, 2014, CDCR requires officers to conduct twice-hourly welfare and
19 security checks for all inmates in Administrative Segregation Units (“ASUs”), Segregated
20 Housing Units (“SHUs”), and Condemned Units; the interval between checks should not exceed
21 35 minutes. (ECF No. 5259, at 14.) These checks are recorded using the Guard One system.
22 (*Id.*) In the Pelican Bay State Prison SHU, the frequency of the checks is reduced to hourly
23 during first watch. (ECF No. 5487.)

24 3. The correctional officers using Guard One carry a small metal wand or pipe that,
25 when touched to a metal button outside of each cell, electronically records that the officer has
26 checked that cell to confirm the security and welfare of the individuals in the cell. (ECF
27 No. 5259, at 14.) The data from the pipe is then downloaded into the Guard One software
28

1 program on a desktop computer in the housing unit by a supervisor, and is reviewed daily to
2 ensure compliance. (*Id.*)

3 4. On February 27, 2020, the *Coleman* court allowed Lipsey to intervene for the purpose
4 of resolving his claim that the “use of Guard One violates his Eighth Amendment right under the
5 U.S. Constitution because it creates noise during the night that prevents [him] from sleeping.”
6 (ECF No. 6487 at 3.)

7 5. The parties to this Agreement and their counsel recognize that, in the absence of an
8 approved settlement, they face lengthy and substantial litigation, including an evidentiary hearing
9 and potential appellate proceedings, all of which will consume time and resources and present the
10 parties with ongoing litigation risks and uncertainties. The parties wish to avoid these risks,
11 uncertainties, and consumption of time and resources through a settlement under the terms and
12 conditions of this Agreement.

13 6. The parties have conducted extensive negotiations to resolve Lipsey’s demands
14 related to CDCR’s use of Guard One, the court-ordered security and welfare checks, and noise
15 mitigation associated with such security and welfare checks. Those negotiations have been
16 undertaken at arm’s length and in good faith between Lipsey’s counsel, *Coleman* class counsel,
17 and high-ranking state officials and their counsel. The *Coleman* Special Master and his suicide
18 prevention expert also participated in the settlement negotiations. The parties have reached
19 agreement on statewide practices that CDCR will implement, as well as the payment of a
20 monetary sum to Lipsey, to settle Lipsey’s claim in intervention for declaratory and injunctive
21 relief. The parties freely, voluntarily, and knowingly, with the advice of counsel, enter into this
22 Agreement for that purpose.

23 7. In addition, Lipsey has agreed, upon receipt of the monetary amounts due under this
24 Agreement, to voluntarily dismiss with prejudice all his pending actions in federal and state court
25 and to withdraw administrative appeals that assert claims against CDCR and its employees,
26 including but not limited to *Lipsey v. Kalil et al.*, 2:17-cv-01429-TLN-AC; *Lipsey v. Reddy et al.*,
27 2:17-cv-01434-KJM-JDP; *Lipsey v. Depovic et al.*, No. 1:18-cv-00767-LJO-JDP; and *Lipsey v.*
28 *Norum et al.*, 2:18-cv-00362 KJM-DBP.

1 8. ACCORDINGLY, without any admission or concession by Defendants concerning
2 any alleged current and ongoing violations of a federal right, all claims arising from Lipsey's
3 complaint-in-intervention in *Coleman* shall be finally and fully compromised, settled, and
4 released, subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, which the parties enter into
5 freely, voluntarily, knowingly, and with the advice of counsel.

6 **II. PARTIES**

7 9. Plaintiff-Intervenor Lipsey is an inmate currently incarcerated at California State
8 Prison, Corcoran. He was allowed to intervene in *Coleman* for the purpose of litigating his claim
9 that the use of Guard One violates his Eighth Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution
10 because it creates noise during the night that prevents him from sleeping.

11 10. The Plaintiffs in *Coleman* are prisoners with serious mental disorders who are now or
12 will be confined in a California state prison. Plaintiff-Intervenor Lipsey is a *Coleman* class
13 member.

14 11. Defendants in *Coleman* are the Governor of the State of California, Gavin Newsom;
15 CDCR Secretary, Kathleen Allison; CDCR Undersecretary, Dr. Diana Toche; CDCR Deputy
16 Director of the Statewide Mental Health Program, Dr. Amar Mehta; Director of the Department
17 of Finance for the State of California, Keeley Bosler; and the Director of the Department of State
18 Hospitals, Stephanie Clendenin. CDCR Secretary Allison was named as the defendant-in-
19 intervention by Lipsey. Each Defendant is a state official sued in their official capacity.

20 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 12. The Court has jurisdiction of this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343. Venue is
22 proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Plaintiffs'
23 claims occurred in the Eastern District of California.

24 **IV. TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

25 13. CDCR agrees to implement the following systemwide measures to address sleep
26 deprivation issues associated with welfare checks in segregated housing units:

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- a. Provide earplugs to all persons housed in a segregated housing unit where they are subject to welfare checks, without cost to these persons, as part of their weekly supplies.
- b. Issue a memorandum reiterating that, during security/welfare checks, Guard One pipes are used only in silent mode during first watch; that the Guard One pipe-button contact be performed without banging or unnecessary noise; and that officers take all steps necessary and appropriate to mitigate noise caused by officers' gear during their first watch rounds.
- c. Conduct and document systemwide training to appropriate custody officers and supervisors on the performance of welfare checks, including but not limited to compliance with the policies in Paragraph 13.b above.
- d. Ensure that housing unit custody supervisors are also trained on the expectations for security and welfare checks, including the expectation that they monitor their officers' conduct during security and welfare checks. The Special Master will monitor first watch welfare checks as appropriate, including with regard to the requirements in Paragraph 13.b above.
- e. Investigate the remaining usable life of CDCR's Guard One equipment and software as well as current repair costs associated with the system in order to gauge when a replacement will be necessary, and report the results to Plaintiffs' Counsel and the Special Master.
- f. Investigate whether the Guard One report printouts can confirm whether a silent pipe was used for the checks, or whether a printout can be developed that so confirms.
- g. Review the location of the Guard One buttons to determine which buttons can be moved to minimize noise produced while still providing for accurate welfare check confirmation.

1 It is Defendants' intention that barring any reasonable delays in implementation, CDCR shall
2 complete its implementation of its obligations under this Paragraph within 90 days of the
3 execution of this Agreement. Defendants agree to communicate any delays in implementation
4 including, but not limited to, union notification issues, as soon as they become aware of such
5 delays. Lipsey assigns the right to enforce the systemwide measures described in this
6 Paragraph 13 to the *Coleman* Plaintiff class. Only Class Counsel for *Coleman* Plaintiffs may seek
7 enforcement for the systemwide measures described in this Paragraph 13 of this Agreement from
8 the *Coleman* Court, and this Court retains jurisdiction with respect to such enforcement.

9 Notwithstanding the foregoing, Lipsey retains the ability and right to enforce his individual
10 entitlement to receive earplugs in segregated housing units in accord with Paragraph 13(a).

11 14. Lipsey shall provide CDCR with a signed voluntary dismissal with prejudice of his
12 complaint-in-intervention in *Coleman* (Intervention Complaint) under Federal Rule of Civil
13 Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii). Lipsey shall also provide CDCR with signed voluntary dismissals with
14 prejudice of his other pending actions as discussed in Paragraphs 7 and 15. These signed
15 dismissals (and the releases referenced in paragraph 15 relating thereto) shall be held by CDCR,
16 shall not be filed, and will have no force or effect until: (a) the Court issues a final order
17 approving this Agreement, and (b) the settlement amount due under the Agreement has been paid
18 to Lipsey. The *Coleman* Court's jurisdiction over Lipsey's claim-in-intervention will terminate
19 upon filing a dismissal, except that the Court shall retain jurisdiction only to enforce the monetary
20 settlement due to Lipsey under the Agreement and to enforce his individual right to receive
21 earplugs in segregated housing units in accord with Paragraph 13(a).

22 15. Lipsey shall sign a voluntary dismissal with prejudice of all pending actions against
23 CDCR or its employees that he has brought in federal or state court in their entirety, and
24 withdraw all pending administrative appeals alleging constitutional claims against CDCR or its
25 employees. Lipsey shall release and forever discharge CDCR and its employees from all pending
26 actions, causes of action, lawsuits, claims, administrative appeals alleging constitutional claims,
27 and demands of every kind and nature, including but not limited to *Lipsey v. Kalil et al.*, 2:17-cv-
28 01429-TLN-AC; *Lipsey v. Reddy et al.*, 2:17-cv-01434-KJM-JDP; *Lipsey v. Depovic et al.*, No.

1 1:18-cv-00767-LJO-JDP; and *Lipsey v. Norum et al.*, 2:18-cv-00362 KJM-DBP. This includes
2 releasing CDCR and its employees from all claims for damages, costs, expenses, and
3 compensation. CDCR and its employees are released from claims for any recovery for insurance
4 proceeds, personal injury, property damage, out-of-pocket expenses, loss of use, lost income, lost
5 profits, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of services, future damages, interest,
6 costs, attorney's fees, punitive damages, or any other damages or expenses of any kind or
7 character whatsoever, whether based on tort, contract, or other theory of recovery, whether known
8 or unknown, whether directly or indirectly, caused by, connected with, resulting from, or arising
9 in any way out of pending actions brought by Lipsey against CDCR and its employees. The
10 dismissals and releases set forth in this paragraph shall be held by CDCR, shall not be filed, and
11 will have no force or effect until: (a) the Court issues a final order approving this Agreement, and
12 (b) the settlement amount due under the Agreement has been paid to Lipsey.

13 16. Lipsey shall cooperate fully in signing the stipulations for dismissal with prejudice for
14 the pending actions dismissed under and in accord with the terms of this Agreement, and any
15 other documents required to be signed to effectuate the dismissals of the pending actions.
16 Payment of the settlement proceeds to Lipsey under Paragraph 18 below shall be due only after
17 Lipsey delivers signed stipulations for dismissal to defense counsel, in accord with the terms of
18 this Agreement, of the actions against CDCR and its employees.

19 17. Lipsey reserves the right to bring administrative appeals and actions for any alleged
20 violations of his constitutional or other rights that occur after the execution of this Agreement.

21 18. CDCR shall pay Lipsey Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). However, Lipsey
22 understands that CDCR is obligated by California Penal Code section 2085.8 to collect any
23 amounts owed by a prisoner under a restitution fine or order, including any administrative fees
24 related to such amounts. Such amounts and fees will be deducted from the settlement amount and
25 paid on Lipsey's behalf as required by Penal Code section 2085.8. As of the date of this
26 Agreement, the amounts that are required to be deducted under California Penal Code section
27 2085.8 is \$6,580.31, and CDCR is not aware of any further restitution fines or orders or
28 administrative fees that are presently being sought from Lipsey. If the settlement amount exceeds

1 the restitution amounts and fees, payment of the excess balance shall be made by check to
2 Lipsey's inmate trust account. Lipsey further understands that CDCR is obligated to pay all
3 outstanding liens against Lipsey, known or unknown, if any, which amounts must be deducted
4 from the settlement amount and paid on Lipsey's behalf to the lienholder(s); however, CDCR is
5 not aware of any such outstanding liens.

6 19. In consideration for the monetary and prospective relief provided for in this
7 Agreement, effective upon Court approval of this Agreement and payment of the settlement
8 amount described in this Agreement, Lipsey waives his right to seek attorneys' fees and costs for
9 the matters settled and released in this Agreement, as identified in Paragraphs 7, 14, and 15.
10 Accordingly, none of the settlement amount is to be paid to Lipsey's counsel.

11 20. Lipsey shall complete a Payee Data Form to enable payment and credit toward his
12 restitution obligations. Lipsey shall return the completed Payee Data Form to Defendants'
13 counsel as soon as reasonably possible.

14 21. CDCR will make a good-faith and diligent effort to pay the settlement amount (minus
15 any restitution amounts, liens and fees) within 180 days from the date Lipsey delivers to
16 Defendants a signed copy of this Agreement, the notices of voluntary dismissals with prejudice
17 required under Paragraphs 14 and 15, and all of the required Payee Data Forms. Lipsey
18 understands that payment may be delayed by the lack of a State budget, a funding shortfall
19 despite a State budget, the processing efforts of the State Controller's Office, and other events not
20 attributable to Defendants or CDCR but, in the event of any such delay, CDCR will continue to
21 make a good-faith and diligent effort to thereafter promptly pay the amounts due. Interest shall
22 accrue on the settlement amount beginning on the day after the 180-day period and at the rate and
23 terms specified in 28 U.S.C. section 1961.

24 22. No other monetary sum will be paid to Lipsey, or to his counsel related to Lipsey's
25 action in intervention or any of the actions referred to in Paragraphs 7 and 15.

26 23. Each party to the actions brought by Lipsey and resolved herein shall bear its own
27 costs and attorney's fees.

28 24. There are no other actions required on the part of CDCR or Defendants.

1 **V. GENERAL RELEASE**

2 25. It is the intention of the parties in signing this Agreement that it shall be effective as a
3 full and final accord and satisfaction and release from all claims asserted in Lipsey's complaint-
4 in-intervention in *Coleman*. By signing this Agreement, Lipsey (on his own behalf and on behalf
5 of his agents, attorneys, successors, assigns, heirs, descendants, executors, and representatives)
6 releases CDCR, Defendants, whether served or unserved, and any other past or current CDCR
7 employees and each of their principals, agents, attorneys, successors, assigns, heirs, descendants,
8 executors, representatives, partners, and associates from all claims, past, present and future,
9 known or unknown, that arise or could arise from the facts alleged in his complaint in
10 intervention. In addition, Lipsey releases CDCR and its employees, and Defendants from all
11 pending actions, causes of action, lawsuits, claims, administrative appeals alleging constitutional
12 claims, and demands of every kind and nature that he has brought prior to the execution of this
13 Agreement.

14 26. In furtherance of this intention, the parties acknowledge that they are familiar with,
15 and expressly waive, the provisions of California Civil Code section 1542, which states:

16 A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does
17 not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release
18 and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her
19 settlement with the debtor or released party.

20 27. This Agreement is the compromise of various disputed claims and shall not be treated
21 as an admission of liability by any of the parties for any purpose. The signature of or on behalf of
22 the respective parties does not indicate or acknowledge the validity or merits of any claim or
23 demand of the other party.

23 **VI. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**

24 28. This Agreement shall be binding on the parties and their respective officers, agents,
25 administrators, successors, assignees, heirs, executors, trustees, attorneys, consultants, and any
26 committee or arrangement of creditors organized with respect to the affairs of any such party.

27 29. Plaintiff-Intervenor Lipsey represents that he owns the interests, rights, and claims
28 that are the subject matter of this Agreement.

1 **VII. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES**

2 30. Court approval. If this Agreement is not approved by the Court in the form executed
3 by the parties, the parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the action as of the date
4 on which the Agreement was entered, the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall have no
5 force and effect, and this Agreement shall not be used in this action or in any proceeding for any
6 purpose, and the litigation of this action would resume as if there had been no settlement.

7 31. No other consideration. The consideration recited in this Agreement is the only
8 consideration for this Agreement, and no representations, promises, or inducements have been
9 made to the parties, or any of their representatives, other than those set forth in this Agreement.

10 32. Execution in counterpart. This Agreement may be executed simultaneously in one or
11 more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall
12 constitute one and the same instrument.

13 33. Execution of further documents. Each party to this Agreement shall complete,
14 execute or cause to be executed such further and other documents as are needed to carry out the
15 expressed intent and purpose of this Agreement.

16 34. Entire agreement. This Agreement constitutes a single, integrated agreement
17 expressing the entire agreement of the parties, and there are no other agreements, written or oral,
18 express or implied, between the parties, except as set forth in this Agreement.

19 35. No oral modifications or waiver. No supplement, modification, or amendment to this
20 Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by all the parties. No waiver of any
21 provision of this Agreement shall be binding unless executed in writing by the party making the
22 waiver. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed, or shall constitute, a
23 waiver of any other provision, whether or not similar, nor shall any waiver constitute a continuing
24 waiver.

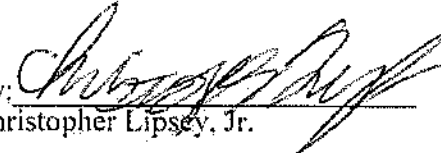
25 36. Governing law. Unless expressly stated otherwise in this Agreement, the terms,
26 conditions, and provisions of this Agreement are governed by and interpreted under California
27 state law.

28

1 37. Severability. Should any provision of this Agreement be held invalid or illegal, such
2 illegality shall not invalidate the whole of this Agreement, but the Agreement shall be construed
3 as if it did not contain the illegal part, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be
4 construed and enforced accordingly.

5
6 The undersigned agree to the above:

7 Dated: 7-13-2022

8 By: 
Christopher Lipsey, Jr.

9
10 Dated: _____

11 By: _____
12 Jared Lozano
13 Deputy Director, Facility Support
14 Division of Adult Institutions
15 California Department of Corrections and
16 Rehabilitation

17 Approved as to form:

18 _____
19 REICHMAN JORGENSEN
20 LEHMAN & FELDBERG LLP
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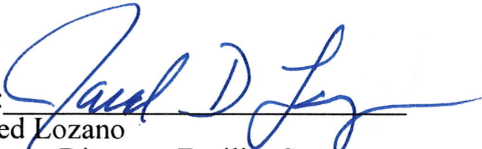
1 37. Severability. Should any provision of this Agreement be held invalid or illegal, such
2 illegality shall not invalidate the whole of this Agreement, but the Agreement shall be construed
3 as if it did not contain the illegal part, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be
4 construed and enforced accordingly.

5
6 The undersigned agree to the above:

7
8 Dated: _____

By: _____
Christopher Lipsey, Jr.

9
10 Dated: 7-15-22

By: 
Jared Lozano
Deputy Director, Facility Support
Division of Adult Institutions
California Department of Corrections and
Rehabilitation

11
12
13 Approved as to form:

14
15 _____

/s/ Namrata Kotwani

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