IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION

MICHAEL POWERS, :: Case No. 1:02-cv-00605

PLAINTIFF, :: (Judge Spiegel)

-vs-

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HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION, et al.

DEFENDANTS.

ORDER CERTIFYING A CLASS ACTION, PRELIMINARILY APPROVING SETTLEMENT AND APPROVING FORMS AND DISTRIBUTION OF NOTICE TO THE CLASS MEMBERS

After reviewing the Joint Motion of the parties (doc.) and the materials in support thereof the Court hereby certifies a class action for purposes of settlement, preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement, and orders, subject to alteration or amendment pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, as follows:

- Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meanings set forth in the Settlement Agreement attached as Exhibit 1 to the Joint Motion. Said Agreement is incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. Civil Case No. C-1-02-605 is hereby certified as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b)(3), and the proposed settlement is preliminarily approved.
- 3. The action will now be maintained on behalf of a class composed of all persons who were represented by the Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender and who, without an indigency hearing as described in Ohio Rev. Code § 2947.14, were committed to the custody

of a Hamilton County correctional facility by a Hamilton County Municipal or Common Pleas Court from August 21, 2000, to the present solely for the purpose of satisfying a fine and/or court costs, including persons who violated probation following a "stay to pay" sentence.

- 4. Michael Powers is designated Class Representative. Attorneys Robert B.
 Newman and Stephen R. Felson are appointed Counsel for the Settlement Class, with Stephen R.
 Felson designated Lead Counsel.
- 5. Final approval of the settlement is conditioned upon a final showing, to this Court's satisfaction, that it is fair, adequate and reasonable, is in the best interest of the Class, and should be approved. Prior to such a showing and determination, and until all appeals have been exhausted, there shall be no disbursements to Class Members or to Counsel for the Settlement Class.
- 6. If the proposed settlement is not approved, should the Settlement Agreement be terminated for any reason, or should it become impossible to enforce it, it shall have no further force or effect, the County and the Settlement Class Members will be released from all obligations arising under it, and the Settlement Class Members and Counsel for the Settlement Class will have no claim to any County funds.
- 7. The form and substance of the submitted notices are approved for mailing and publication as set forth in the Joint Motion and the attachments thereto. Dissemination of the class notice in substantially the form and in the manner set forth in the Joint Motion and the attachments thereto constitutes the best notice practicable in the circumstances, and satisfies the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. The parties shall use their best efforts to commence dissemination of notice within fourteen days after the entry of this

Order. The parties shall submit a certificate describing their compliance with these notice requirements no later than five days prior to the scheduled Fairness Hearing.

- 9. Upon receipt of written notification by a Class Members of that Member's intention to opt out of the settlement, the Clerk of the Court will forward a copy of such notification to:

Stephen R. Felson, Esq. 215 E. Ninth Street, Suite 650 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

and

David T. Stevenson, Esq. 230 E. Ninth St., 4th Floor Cincinnati, OH 45202

a.m. in room 20 of the United States Courthouse, 100 E. Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202 to determine whether to grant final approval of the proposed settlement. Any Class Member wishing to be heard at the Fairness Hearing must file with the Court and serve on counsel a written notice of intent to appear no later than 5:00 p.m. on 615109, mailed to the following:

Kenneth J. Murphy, Clerk United States District Court U.S. Courthouse 100 East Fifth Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Stephen R. Felson, Esq. 215 E. Ninth Street, Suite 650 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

and

David T. Stevenson, Esq. 230 E. Ninth St., 4th Floor Cincinnati, OH 45202

The proponents shall submit their papers in support of final settlement approval by 5:00 p.m. on _______, and may submit a reply, and any supporting materials, to any comments or objections in advance of the Fairness Hearing. The Fairness Hearing may, from time to time, and without further notice to the class, be continued or adjourned by the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ted: 7/27/29 , 20

The Honorable S. Arthur Spidgel,

Judge of the United States District Court for the

Southern District of Ohio