IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

NELLY MOREIRA, 2641 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009 Plaintiff,)		
v.)	Case No.	
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,)	Case No.	
CATHY LANIER, CHIEF OF POLICE,)		
VINCENT GRAY, MAYOR)))		
Defendants.)) _)		

DECLARATION OF NELLY MOREIRA

- 1. I, Nelly Moreira, am 52 years old. I have lived in Washington, D.C. with my family for 27 years. I have three children, ages 24, 21, and 19, and three grandchildren, ages 6, 3, and 10 months. I am a single mother and grandmother.
- 2. I am employed full-time for Trinity University as a housekeeper. I have worked there for 24 years. I work 40 hours per week, including every Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. I make \$15.11 per hour at Trinity University.
- 3. I am also a cleaning lady for 20 hours per week at the Treasury Department, where I work every Monday through Friday from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. I make \$14.85 per hour at that job.
- 4. On March 20, 2012, officers with the Metropolitan Police Department seized my car while my son was driving it. Officers claimed to find a firearm on the person of my son

when they searched him outside the car. I have never given permission to anyone to possess a firearm in my car, and I had no knowledge that a firearm was present in my car. I was not present for the incident, which took place while I was at work.

- 5. The police have held my car for almost four months since they took it. At no point have police provided me any chance to challenge their seizure of my car or their decision to hold it indefinitely.
- 6. I made numerous phone calls and visits to police stations in an effort to find out information about my car, a 2005 Honda Accord. Eventually, over a month after the car was taken, I was sent a letter telling me to pay \$1,020 for the opportunity to contest the seizure. I did not understand that the bond could be reduced or waived if I could not afford to pay it. As a result, I borrowed money in order to pay the police the money they wanted. I was told by police, though, that after I paid the bond I could go to court and get my car and my bond money back.
- 7. I paid the police the money on May 21, 2012. Even though nearly two months have passed since that date, I have still received no word about when anything will happen in my case.
- 8. I have worked long hours for many years to support my family since I came to this country 27 years ago. Nonetheless, money is very tight. I have a mortgage on my home with Bank of America which requires me to pay \$1,349.62 every month. My car note payment to Bank of America is \$476.56 every month, which I now have to pay even though the police have my car. Since 2006 when I got the car, I have made on-time payments on my car loan every month. Only recently, after I had to borrow money to pay the police the bond, did I fall behind on my car payment for the first time.

- 9. The increased financial stress has been extremely hard for me and my family. I am now forced to pay significant sums for public transportation to get to and from each job every day. On some days since the police took my car, I have not had enough money for food. I have had to go hungry at work without lunch.
- 10. Without my car, I have to wake up almost an hour earlier every morning.

 Because of my age and serious knee pains, I do not walk fast or move well on public transportation. In addition, I am no longer able to rest at home in between my jobs. I depended on a short nap in between my jobs in order to handle such a long work day given my age and health. Because I cannot do that when I take public transportation, work is much more physically grueling and exhausting now, and it is increasingly harder for me to do it every day.
- 11. Losing my car also hurts me because I cannot use it to get to appointments, to get groceries, to see family and friends, and to assist my children with the care of my grandchildren.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct.

Nelly Moreira

7-17-12 Date

I, Yolin Guevara, translated this document accurately and completely for Nelly Moreira.

yoli &

7/17/12