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*Counsel for the Debtor
and Debtor in Possession***UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT****NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA****OAKLAND DIVISION**

In re:

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF
OAKLAND, a California corporation sole,

Debtor.

Case No. 23-40523 WJL

Chapter 11

**DECLARATION OF MATTHEW D. LEE IN
SUPPORT OF DEBTOR'S RESPONSE TO
THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF
UNSECURED CREDITORS' STATEMENT
IN SUPPORT OF THE DEBTOR'S MOTION
TO DISMISS CHAPTER 11 CASE
PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)**

Judge: Hon. William J. Lafferty

Date: October 29, 2025

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: United States Bankruptcy Court
1300 Clay Street, Courtroom 220
Oakland, CA 94612

1 I, Matthew D. Lee, hereby declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney admitted to practice in the State of Wisconsin, and *pro hac vice* before
3 this Bankruptcy Court in the above-captioned chapter 11 case. I am a partner with the law firm of Foley
4 & Lardner LLP and am one of the attorneys representing the Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland (the
5 “Debtor”) in this case.

6 2. I submit this Declaration in support of the concurrently filed *Debtor’s Response to the*
7 *Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors’ Statement in Support of the Debtor’s Motion to Dismiss*
8 *Chapter 11 Case Pursuant To 11 U.S.C. § 1112(b)* (the “Response”).¹

9 3. I have personal knowledge of the information contained in this Declaration. I have
10 personally reviewed the Response and believe its contents to be true and correct to the best of my
11 knowledge, information and belief.

12 4. In the nearly two and a half years since the Petition Date, the Committee has requested,
13 and the Debtor has produced, tens of thousands of documents. In total, the Committee has issued nearly
14 1,000 formal and informal discovery requests.

15 5. Following approval of the Disclosure Statement and commencement of formal discovery,
16 the Debtor timely produced written responses to all the Committee’s requests and began a rolling
17 document production. Multiple meet-and-confer calls were held to address issues and questions from the
18 Committee. This was not unlike any other case with voluminous discovery.

19 6. The Debtor is unaware of a single informal or formal request to which it did not respond
20 completely and honestly. Throughout this process, the Debtor and its team have committed significant
21 effort to review and produce thousands of documents.

22 7. The Debtor produced the December 2023 re-zoning application to the Committee in early
23 2024 along with several other documents concerning its rezoning efforts. A Bates-stamped copy of the
24 rezoning application December 2023 rezoning application is attached as Exhibit 1 to the declaration of
25 Attila Bardos.

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27
28 ¹ Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Response.

8. The Debtor produced additional documents concerning the present and potential future values of the Livermore Property through one of the mediators, Hon. Christopher Sontchi (retired), on April 12, 2024.

9. On June 27, 2024, the Debtor granted the Committee's professionals direct access via a Teams meeting to the Debtor's former CFO, Paul Bongiovanni, so he could update the Committee on the re-entitlement process on the Livermore Property and so its professionals could ask questions about it. This was one of multiple meetings regarding the Livermore Property the Debtor agreed to between its leadership and the Committee's professionals.

10. There are several examples of work product created in 2024 by the Committee's professionals, BRG and Douglas Wilson Companies, in which they acknowledge the information the Debtor supplied to the Committee about the Livermore Property. The documents were created in mediation.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on October 20, 2025, at Madison, Wisconsin.

/s/ Matthew D. Lee
Matthew D. Lee