

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 1:24-cv-21983-JB

CUBANOS PA'LANTE, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

FLORIDA HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, *et al.*,

*Defendants.*

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**JOINT MOTION TO EXTEND MEDIATION DEADLINE**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4), the Parties respectfully move to extend the deadline to complete mediation to November 13, 2025—the default deadline provided by Local Rule 16.2(d)(1)(A).

1. In its Scheduling Order issued March 17, 2025, the Court required mediation be completed before Michael Hanzman by May 15, 2025. ECF No. 98 at 1.

2. The Parties have conferred with Mr. Hanzman and are unavailable on the three dates he is available before the mediation deadline.

3. Local Rule 16.2(d)(1)(A) provides that an order referring a case to mediation “shall . . . [d]irect mediation be conducted not later than sixty (60) days before the scheduled trial date . . . .”

4. This case is set for trial during the two-week period beginning January 12, 2026. ECF No. 98 at 1.

5. This Court may for “good cause” modify the schedule established in this case. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4). The authority of federal district courts to control their dockets “includes broad discretion in deciding how best to manage the cases before them.” *Smith v. Psychiatric Sols., Inc.*, 750 F.3d 1253, 1262 (11th Cir. 2014) (internal marks omitted).

6. Extending the mediation deadline to the sixtieth day before trial will give the Parties adequate time to schedule and prepare for a more productive mediation. These reasons are good cause for an extension.

7. If the Court is disinclined to extend the mediation deadline to November 13, 2025, then the Parties respectfully request the Court either extend the mediation deadline to an extent the

Court deems appropriate or to authorize the Parties to use a different mediator, mutually agreed upon by the Parties, other than Mr. Hanzman. This would allow the Parties to select a mediator who has more availability to accommodate the Parties' schedule. Even in the latter scenario, the Parties request the deadline for mediation to be extended by at least one month to June 20, 2025.

**WHEREFORE**, the Parties respectfully request that the Court extend the deadline for the Parties to complete mediation to the sixtieth day before this case's trial term, *i.e.*, November 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted April 1, 2025,

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**ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO EXTEND MEDIATION DEADLINE**

Before the Court is the Parties' Joint Motion to Extend Mediation Deadline (ECF No. 102). Upon due consideration of the Motion, the record, and the relevant authorities, the Motion is **GRANTED**. The Parties shall complete mediation no later than **November 13, 2025**. This Court's Scheduling Order (ECF No. 98) shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

**DONE AND ORDERED** this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2025.

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**BRITT C. GRANT**  
**UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE**

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**RODOLFO A. RUIZ II**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JACQUELINE BECERRA**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**