

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND  
(Northern Division)**

BALTIMORE COUNTY BRANCH OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, *et al.*,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND,

*Defendant.*

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-03232-LKG

**JOINT STATUS REPORT**

Plaintiffs Baltimore County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, Common Cause of Maryland, Charles Sydnor, Anthony Fugett, Dana Vickers Shelley, Danita Tolson, Sharon Blake, Gerald Morrison, and Niesha McCoy (“Plaintiffs”), along with Defendant Baltimore County, Maryland (the “County”) (collectively, “the Parties”), by their undersigned counsel and pursuant to this Court’s Order Continuing Stay of November 7, 2023, ECF 101, hereby submit a Joint Status Report.

1. On November 6, 2023, the Parties filed a joint status report requesting the Court to continue the stay of proceedings in this matter pending the result of a settlement conference with the Honorable A. David Copperthite. ECF 100.

2. On November 7, 2023, the Court ordered the stay of proceedings up to January 18, 2024, or until such time as any Party requests that the stay be lifted, whichever is earlier. ECF 101. The Court also ordered the Parties to file a joint status report on or before January 18, 2024,

stating their respective views as to whether the Court should lift the stay of proceedings, and, if so, proposing a schedule for further proceedings. *Id.*

3. On January 16, 2024, Judge Copperthite conducted a telephone conference call with counsel in advance of the settlement conference scheduled for the next day. Following the conference call, Judge Copperthite issued a paperless order canceling the settlement conference and indicated that the Parties would submit a proposed briefing schedule on Plaintiffs’ upcoming Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses. ECF 102.

4. The Parties have conferred regarding a proposed briefing schedule for Plaintiffs’ Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses. Accordingly, the Parties request that the Court enter the following briefing schedule:

Brief	Deadline
Plaintiffs’ Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses	February 5, 2024
Defendant Baltimore County’s Opposition to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses	February 26, 2024
Plaintiffs’ Reply in Support of Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses	March 18, 2024

5. Plaintiffs suggest that the Court consider referring the Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Litigation Expenses to a magistrate judge for a report and recommendation, as Judge Garbis did in another significant civil rights case, *Thompson v. United States Dep’t of Hous. and Urb. Dev.*, 2001 WL 1636517 (D. Md. Dec. 12, 2001) (Grimm, M.J.). The County opposes this request because doing so will likely add another layer of unnecessary briefing.

**WHEREFORE**, the Parties jointly submit this Joint Status Report and request that the Court enter an order setting the schedule for further proceedings as proposed above.

Dated: January 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew D. Freeman\*

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*\*signed with permission*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that on January 18, 2024, a copy of the foregoing was electronically filed and served via the Court's CM/ECF system on all counsel of record.

*/s/ Melissa O. Martinez* \_\_\_\_\_

Melissa O. Martinez

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**ORDER**

**UPON CONSIDERATION** of the Parties' request in their January 18, 2024 Joint Status Report regarding the proposed briefing schedule for Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses, it is **HEREBY**

**ORDERED** that the following schedule shall govern the briefing schedule for further proceedings in the above-captioned case:

Brief	Deadline
Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses	February 5, 2024
Defendant Baltimore County's Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Expenses	February 26, 2024
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Hon. Lydia Kay Griggsby  
United States District Judge

cc: All Counsel of Record