DECLARATION OF GEORGINE GETTY
(Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1776)

My name is Georgine Getty and I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration. Under penalty of perjury, I declare the following:

Personal Background

1. I was born and raised in Bettendorf, Iowa.

2. I obtained bachelor degrees in Philosophy and Religion from the University of Northern Iowa and a master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Cincinnati.

3. I have been working with individuals experiencing homelessness for over a decade. In 2001, I began working at First Step Home, a drug and alcohol treatment program for homeless women and their children. Then, from 2003 to 2009, I served as Executive Director of the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless (GCCH). GCCH is a membership organization that works to end homelessness through advocacy, education, and the coordination of services. The population GCCH serves is approximately 80 percent African American.

4. I have been the Executive Director of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati (IHNGC) since March 2009. IHNGC operates a day center and coordinates emergency shelter programs.

5. I also currently serve on the board of directors for the Homeless Clearinghouse and the Human Services Chamber of Hamilton County.

Helping the Homeless Vote During Golden Week

6. I was the Executive Director at GCCH in 2008.

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7. In 2008, the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness in Ohio provided GCCH with funding to transport homeless individuals in Cincinnati to the early voting location during Golden Week.

8. GCCH used these funds to rent a van to transport individuals experiencing homelessness to the polls.

9. We contacted our 52 membership agencies to let them know that we would be providing these services and have them notify the people they serve. We also posted flyers at the all member locations.

10. The individuals who we provided rides to either met at the GCCH office or our membership agencies contacted us when individuals wanted rides and we arranged a time to pick people up at shelters or day centers located in the city of Cincinnati.

11. I rode along with the GCCH staff member who drove the van when we were providing individuals rides to and from the polls.

12. Approximately 80 percent of the individuals who took advantage of our ride services were African American.

13. A couple of organizations that provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness took particular advantage of the van services in order to help the populations that they serve to vote during Golden Week. These organizations were Joseph House, an organization that offers transitional housing for veterans being treated for chemical dependency, and Lighthouse Youth Services, which assists homeless youth. Around 15 people from Joseph House and approximately 15 people from Lighthouse Youth Services were transported by our van to the early voting location during Golden Week.
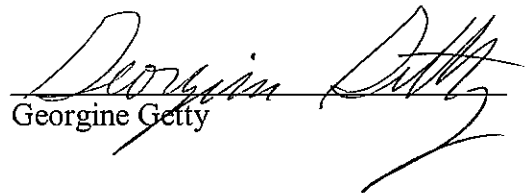
14. Lighthouse Youth Services operated a day center in 2008, which was a place that youths under the age of 24 could go in order to hang out during the day, obtain medical services, use a computer, and get a shower. I witnessed youths at the center create their own buzz about voting early. I saw youths express excitement at the prospect of to participating in the election and I witnessed them taking pictures of themselves, known as "selfies," while going to vote.

15. Golden Week is of the utmost importance if people experiencing homelessness in Ohio are even going to stand a chance of being able to exercise their right to vote. Because individuals experiencing homelessness have a floating address, without Golden Week they are likely to find themselves removed from the polls and unable to cast a regular ballot.

16. I believe that retaining Golden Week can mean the difference in homeless individuals having the option to vote and being completely prevented from participating in the democratic process.

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

Executed on June 4 , 2014.

Georgine Getty

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