Ashlee B. Hesman
Nevada Bar No. 012740
STRUCK LOVE ACEDO, PLC
3100 West Ray Road, Suite 300
Chandler, Arizona 85226
Tel.: (480) 420-1600
Fax: (480) 420-1695
ahesman@strucklove.com

James E. Harper
Nevada Bar No. 9822
HARPER | WIXOM
1935 Village Center Circle
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134
Tel: (702) 252-5002
Fax: (702) 252-5006
eservice@harperwixom.com

Attorneys for Respondent John Mattos

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Naim Vijdani, Petitioner, v. John Mattos, et al., Respondents.	Case No. 2:25-cv-02496-GMN-EJY **RESPONDENT MATTOS' RESPONSE TO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

On February 13, 2026, the Court ordered Respondents to show cause as to why they should not be held in contempt of Court for transferring Petitioner out of the District, in violation of the Court's December 19, 2025 Order. (Dkt. 3; Dkt. 15.) For the reasons detailed below, and those outlined in the Federal Respondents' Response,[1] the Court should not hold Warden Mattos in contempt of Court as Petitioner's transfer was necessary to ensure he received necessary mental health treatment on an emergent basis.

[1] Warden Mattos joins in the arguments contained in Federal Respondents' Response and incorporates them here. (Dkt. 18.)

Among other things, the Court's December 19, 2025 Order ordered that Respondents shall not transfer Petitioner out of this District. (Dkt. 3 at 4.) Warden Mattos, however, did not receive a copy of this Order. While the Court issued a second Order on February 2, 2026, which reiterated that Petitioner should not be transferred out of the District, Petitioner had already been transferred to seek necessary mental health treatment. (Dkt. 11.)

Specifically, on January 31, 2026, ICE notified CoreCivic that Petitioner was to be transferred to ICE's LVG location no later than 7:00 am on February 1, 2026. CoreCivic staff complied and Petitioner was transferred the following day. Indeed, as warden of CoreCivic's Nevada Southern Detention Center ("NSDC"), Warden Mattos does not have the legal authority to detain, transfer, hold, or release U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") detainees that are detained at NSDC because ICE detainees are detained by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), not CoreCivic. Thus, while Warden Mattos may have physical custody over detainees, it is DHS/ICE who dictate where their detainees are moved or transferred to and when.[2]

Significantly, as detailed in Federal Respondents' Response, Petitioner required in-patient mental health treatment that could not be provided at NSDC because it does not have an in-patient mental health facility on site. Thus, his transfer was medically necessary to ensure he received necessary and comprehensive care to treat his mental health conditions. CoreCivic medical providers recommended he receive in-patient treatment, DHS agreed, and then DHS determined where he would receive treatment. Such transfer was done to benefit Petitioner and not to divest the Court of jurisdiction or intentionally defy the Court's Order.

Conclusion

For these reasons, and those detailed in Federal Respondents' Response, the Court should discharge the Order to Show Cause.

[2] For these same reasons, Warden Mattos has no involvement in their immigration proceedings and has taken no position on the habeas or bond relief sought in the many habeas petitions filed in this District.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 18th day of February 2026.

STRUCK LOVE ACEDO, PLC

By /s/ Ashlee B. Hesman

Ashlee B. Hesman
3100 West Ray Road, Suite 300
Chandler, AZ 85226
ahesman@strucklove.com

James E. Harper
HARPER | WIXOM
1935 Village Center Circle
Las Vegas, Nevada 89134
eservice@harperwixom.com

Attorneys for Respondent John Mattos

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 18, 2026, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following CM/ECF registrants:

Hannah D. Nelson
Federal Public Defender
Capital Habeas
411 E. Bonneville Ave., Ste. 250
Las Vegas, 89101
Hannah_nelson@fd.org

Rene Valladares
Laura Angeline Barrera
Federal Public Defender
411 E. Bonneville Ave., Ste. 250
Las Vegas, 89101
Rene_valladares@fd.org
Laura_barrera@fd.org

Attorneys for Petitioner

Virginia Tomova
DOJ-USAO
501 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Suite 1100
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Virginia.tomova@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Respondents Bondi, Lyons, Quihuis, Bernacke, Noem

Sigal Chattah , Govt
US Attorney's Office
District of Nevada
501 Las Vegas Blvd South
Suite 1100
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Sigal.Chattah@usdoj.gov

Summer Allegra Johnson
DOJ-USAO
501 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Suite 1100
Las Vegas, NV 89101
summer.johnson@usdoj.gov

Attorney for Interested Party United States Attorney for the District of Nevada

/s/ E. Percevecz