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1 MARC A. LEVINSON (STATE BAR NO. 57613)  
 malevinson@orrick.com  
 2 NORMAN C. HILE (STATE BAR NO. 57299)  
 nhile@orrick.com  
 3 JOHN W. KILLEEN (STATE BAR NO. 258395)  
 jkilleen@orrick.com  
 4 ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP  
 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 3000  
 5 Sacramento, California 95814-4497  
 Telephone: (916) 447-9200  
 6 Facsimile: (916) 329-4900

7 Attorneys for Debtor  
 City of Stockton  
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9 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
 10 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 11 SACRAMENTO DIVISION  
 12

13 In re:  
 14 CITY OF STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA,  
 15 Debtor.

Case No. 2012-32118  
 D.C. No. MH-001  
 Chapter 9

**DECLARATION OF ERICH W.  
 SHINERS IN SUPPORT OF CITY OF  
 STOCKTON'S OPPOSITION TO  
 MOTION BY RONALD HITTLE FOR  
 RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY**

Date: November 20, 2012  
 Time: 9:30 A.M.  
 Dept: C, Courtroom 35  
 Judge: Hon. Christopher M. Klein

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1 I, Erich W. Shiners, declare:

2 1. I am an attorney with Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai LLP ("Renne Sloan"). Renne  
3 Sloan represents the City of Stockton (the "City") and two of its employees, City Manager Robert  
4 Deis and Deputy City Manager Laurie Montes, in the case *Hittle v. City of Stockton, et al.*, No.  
5 2:12-cv-00766-GEB-KJN (E.D. Cal. filed Mar. 23, 2012) (the "Hittle Litigation"). I make this  
6 declaration in support of the City's Objection to the Motion by Ronald Hittle for Relief from the  
7 Automatic Stay. Except as to those matters set forth on information and belief, I have personal  
8 knowledge of the facts set forth herein and if called as a witness herein I could testify  
9 competently to such facts.

10 2. I attended college at California State University, Sacramento, where I obtained a  
11 Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in 2001. I obtained my Juris Doctorate in 2006 from the  
12 University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. I have been an attorney for six years and an  
13 associate at Renne Sloan since May 9, 2011.

14 3. To date, Renne Sloan has invoiced the City for \$14,446.04 in legal fees for the  
15 Hittle Litigation. On May 29, 2012, Renne Sloan filed a motion to dismiss six of the nine causes  
16 of action pled in Hittle's complaint. The automatic stay took effect on June 28, 2012. On July 6,  
17 2012, the district court deemed the City's motion to dismiss withdrawn by operation of the stay.  
18 The district court extended the stay to Hittle's claims against Deis and Montes by an order signed  
19 September 5, 2012. To date, no discovery has taken place in the Hittle Litigation, and Renne  
20 Sloan will have to re-file the motion to dismiss once the stay is lifted.

21 4. Based on the legal fees and expenses Renne Sloan incurred in a comparable case, I  
22 anticipate that defending the Hittle Litigation through trial would cost the City approximately  
23 \$350,000 to \$400,000 in legal fees. The comparable case involved a claim that a family court  
24 mediator was discharged because of her whistleblowing activity. I anticipate that the number of  
25 witnesses, depositions, motions, and days of trial in the Hittle Litigation will be similar to those in  
26 the comparable case.

27 Executed this 6th day of November, 2012, at Sacramento, California.  
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

  
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Erich W. Shiners