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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

IN RE PETITION OF INDEX
NEWSPAPERS LLC D/B/A THE
STRANGER TO UNSEAL ELECTRONIC
SURVEILLANCE DOCKETS,
APPLICATIONS, AND ORDERS

MISC. CIVIL ACTION No. 2:17-mc-00145_RSL

**[PROPOSED] ORDER RE: PETITION
TO UNSEAL ELECTRONIC
SURVEILLANCE DOCKETS,
APPLICATIONS, AND ORDERS**

ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the petition of Index Newspapers LLC d/b/a The Stranger seeking public docketing and unsealing of certain electronic surveillance applications and orders filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Having considered the written submissions and oral arguments of Petitioner and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Washington, and the entirety of the record before the Court in this matter, the Court **ORDERS** the following:

PROSPECTIVE RELIEF

For new cases filed in the Western District of Washington after the date of this Order:

1. All cases seeking any of the following shall be designated as a Magistrate Judge (MJ) case or as a Miscellaneous (MC) case in the Court’s CM/ECF system, and the docket sheets in

ORDER RE: PETITION TO UNSEAL ELECTRONIC
SURVEILLANCE DOCKETS, APPLICATIONS,
AND ORDERS - 1

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
COLUMBIA CENTER
701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 6100
SEATTLE, WA 98104-7043
PHONE: (206) 903-8800
FAX: (206) 903-8820

1 these cases shall be unsealed within 180 days after case opening, except to the extent the
2 Court grants a request for continued sealing:

- 3 a. an order authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or a trap and trace
4 device under 18 U.S.C. § 3123;
- 5 b. an order requiring a third party to provide information, facilities, or technical
6 assistance to law enforcement officials under 18 U.S.C. § 3124;
- 7 c. an order under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) requiring disclosure of communications,
8 records, or other information pertaining to a subscriber or customer, as described
9 in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(b) or (c);
- 10 d. a warrant requiring a provider of electronic communication service or remote
11 computing service to disclose the contents of a wire or electronic communication
12 as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(a) or (b), or a record or other information
13 pertaining to a subscriber or customer as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c);
- 14 e. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement
15 officials under 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(a)(ii); or
- 16 f. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement
17 officials under 28 U.S.C § 1651(a).
- 18 2. All applications and supporting documents, including affidavits, seeking any of 1(a)-(f)
19 and all orders granting or denying said applications shall be unsealed within 180 days after
20 case opening, except to the extent the Court grants a request for continued sealing.
- 21 3. Requests for continued sealing shall identify with particularity the information in each
22 docket sheet and document to remain sealed and the compelling interest (*e.g.*, to protect an
23 ongoing law enforcement investigation) that justifies the continued sealing of that
24 information. Except as otherwise provided by the Court, a continued sealing order shall
25 expire after 180 days, at which time the sealed information shall be unsealed and made

1 publicly available. The Court may authorize the redaction of certain information (*e.g.*,
2 personal identifiers) from unsealed docket sheets and documents.

- 3 4. To the extent not otherwise publicly disclosed, the following information shall be publicly
4 disclosed in a notice filed at the time of the initial application: (1) law enforcement agency
5 filing the application; (2) jurisdictional authority (*e.g.*, Wiretap Act, SCA, Pen/Trap
6 Statute, Fed. R. Crim. P. 41); (3) relief sought (*e.g.*, search warrant, seizure warrant, wire
7 interception, pen register, trap and trace, tracking device, prospective cell site data,
8 historical cell site data, toll records, email contents, customer account records); (4) type of
9 crime under investigation; (5) identity of recipient of order/warrant (*e.g.*, identity of phone
10 company, Internet Service Provider).

11 **RETROSPECTIVE RELIEF**

12 **For cases filed in the Western District of Washington between January 1, 2011 and the date**
13 **of this Order:**

- 14 5. All docket sheets for cases seeking any of the following shall be unsealed within 180 days
15 after the date of this Order, except to the extent the Court grants a request for continued
16 sealing:
- 17 a. an order authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or a trap and trace
18 device under 18 U.S.C. § 3123;
 - 19 b. an order requiring a third party to provide information, facilities, or technical
20 assistance to law enforcement officials under 18 U.S.C. § 3124;
 - 21 c. an order under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) requiring disclosure of communications,
22 records, or other information pertaining to a subscriber or customer, as described
23 in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(b) or (c);
 - 24 d. a warrant requiring a provider of electronic communication service or remote
25 computing service to disclose the contents of a wire or electronic communication

1 as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(a) or (b), or a record or other information
2 pertaining to a subscriber or customer as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c);

3 e. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement
4 officials under 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(a)(ii); or

5 f. an order requiring a third party to provide technical assistance to law enforcement
6 officials under 28 U.S.C § 1651(a).

7 6. All applications and supporting documents, including affidavits, seeking any of 5(a)-(f)
8 and all orders granting or denying said applications shall be unsealed within 180 days after
9 the date of this order, except to the extent the Court grants a request for continued sealing.

10 7. Requests for continued sealing shall be filed within 120 days of the date of this order. Such
11 requests shall identify with particularity the information in each docket sheet and document
12 to remain sealed and the compelling interest (*e.g.*, to protect an ongoing law enforcement
13 investigation) that justifies the continued sealing of that information. Except as otherwise
14 provided by the Court, a continued sealing order shall expire after 180 days, at which time
15 the sealed information shall be unsealed and made publicly available. The Court may
16 authorize the redaction of certain information (*e.g.*, personal identifiers) from unsealed
17 docket sheets and documents.

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19 **DATED** this ____ day of _____, 2018.

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22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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Presented by:

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner

By s/ Geoffrey M. Godfrey
Geoffrey M. Godfrey