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February 8, 2017

Honorable Judge Kevin W. Eide
Carver County District Court
604 East 4th Street
Chaska, MN 55318

Re: Estate of Prince Rogers Nelson, deceased.
Case No: 10-PR-16-46

Dear Judge Eide,

In a February 7, 2017, letter to the Court, Rodney J. Mason (as counsel for Petitioners Project Panther Ltd., Aspiro AD (“YIDAL”), and WiMP Music) requested that the Court set a telephonic conference to be held on or before Friday, February 10. The telephonic conference would involve those Petitioners’ petition for injunctive relief and mandatory disclosure regarding digital streaming rights. Mr. Mason’s letter cites “widespread media reports” regarding the availability of digital streaming rights in connection with the February 12 Grammy Awards.

The letter explicitly asserts that Petitioners will seek direct court action in the form of a stay “to preserve the status quo until the entire Verified Petition can be heard by the Court.” Therefore, the requested telephonic hearing would go beyond the typical informal nature of a Rule 115.04(d) conference.

Given the acknowledged widespread media interest in the subject of the Petition, Star Tribune requests that the requested telephonic hearing be conducted in such a manner that members of the press and public would have access to observe the court hearing/conference. The Court already has granted intervenor status to Star Tribune for purposes of asserting rights of access to court records and proceedings. *See* Order dated September 14, 2016. Any court proceeding in which a party requests affirmative relief, and which might result in the Court granting or denying such relief, should be open to the public, with the limited subject-area exceptions noted in the Court’s prior order. That public access should be afforded even if the hearing is conducted by telephone. *Cf.* proceedings earlier this week of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit regarding President Trump’s executive order on immigration.

If the Court denies this request for the press and public to observe the proposed (or any future) telephonic hearing/conference involving affirmative judicial action, Star Tribune requests that at the

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very least a stenographic and oral recording be created of the proceeding and that the press and public have access to that record.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leita Walker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leita Walker

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