

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

**Kristen McDonald, *individually and
on behalf of a class of others
similarly situated,***

Case No. 2:13-cv-503

Plaintiff,

Judge Michael H. Watson

v.

Magistrate Judge Vascura

Franklin County, Ohio,

Defendant.

FINAL APPROVAL ORDER

WHEREAS, Kristen McDonald (“Plaintiff” or the “Class Representative”) and Franklin County, Ohio (“Defendant”) entered into a settlement agreement (the “Settlement Agreement”) on November 23, 2021, to settle this class action lawsuit (the “Class Action”); and,

WHEREAS, the Court entered an Order dated February 8, 2022 (the “Preliminary Approval Order”), preliminarily approving the parties’ settlement consistent with the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, certifying a class for settlement purposes (the “Settlement Class”) and ordering notice be sent to Settlement Class members providing Settlement Class members with an opportunity either to participate in the settlement, exclude themselves from the Settlement Class, or object to the proposed settlement; and,

WHEREAS, the Court held a settlement fairness hearing on May 12, 2022, to determine whether to give final approval to the proposed settlement; and,

WHEREAS, the Court makes the following combined findings of fact and conclusions of law in support of approval of the proposed settlement.

THEREFORE, based on the submissions of the parties, upon reviewing all prior proceedings, and on the evidence adduced at the settlement fairness hearing, it is hereby **ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** as follows:

1. Incorporation of Other Documents. This final order approving class settlement (the "Final Approval Order") incorporates herein the Settlement Agreement. Unless otherwise provided herein, all capitalized terms in this Final Approval Order shall have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

2. Jurisdiction. Because adequate notice has been disseminated and all Settlement Class members have been given the opportunity to opt-out of the Class Action, the Court has personal jurisdiction with respect to the claims of all Settlement Class members because none have requested exclusion from this Class Action. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the Class Action, including jurisdiction to approve the proposed settlement, grant final certification of the Settlement Class, and dismiss the Class Action with prejudice.

3. Final Class Certification. The Settlement Class is certified for settlement purposes only, the Court finding that the Settlement Class satisfies all

applicable requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The

Settlement Class consists of:

All female detainees who have been placed into the custody of the Franklin County Correctional Center Two ("Jackson Pike"), after being charged with misdemeanors, minor misdemeanors, violations of probation, traffic infractions, civil commitments, city code violations or other minor crimes, including failure to pay fines, and had photographs taken of their breasts, hypogastric region, genitals, and/or buttocks upon their entry into the Jackson Pike facility prior to being arraigned before a judicial officer, pursuant to the policy, custom and practice of the County of Franklin. Detainees who are members of the class had photographs taken of their genitals, their hypogastric region, the lobes of their buttocks and/or the lobes of their breasts at the Jackson Pike facility. The class period commences on May 23, 2011, and extends until April 30, 2014.

4. Adequacy of Representation. Elmer Robert Keach, III of Law Offices of Elmer Robert Keach, III, PC, Andrew Baker of the Baker Law Group, Nicholas A. Migliaccio and Jason S. Rathod of Migliaccio & Rathod LLP, and D. Aaron Rihn and Sara Watkins of Robert Peirce & Associates, P.C., as Class Counsel have fully and adequately represented the Settlement Class for purposes of entering into and implementing the settlement and have satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

5. Class Notice. The Court finds that the Class notices and their distribution to Settlement Class members have been implemented pursuant to the Settlement Agreement and this Court's Preliminary Approval Order and that they:

a) constitute the best practicable notice to Settlement Class members under the circumstances of the Class Action;

b) constitute notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class members of (i) the pendency of the Class Action; (ii) the terms and conditions of the settlement and their rights under the settlement; (iii) their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class and the proposed settlement; (iv) their right to object to any aspect of the proposed settlement (including final certification of the Settlement Class, the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the proposed settlement, the adequacy of the Settlement Class' representation by the Class Representative and Class Counsel, and/or the award of attorneys' fees and costs and the enhancement payment to the Class Representative, (v) their right to appear at the settlement fairness hearing, either on their own behalf or through counsel hired at their own expense, if they did not exclude themselves from the Settlement Class, and (vi) the binding effect of the orders and judgment in the Class Action, whether favorable or unfavorable, on all persons who do not request exclusion from the Settlement Class;

c) constitute notice that was reasonable, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to be provided with notice; and,

d) constitute notice that fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process.

6. Final Settlement Approval. The terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement have been entered into in good faith and are the product

of arms-length negotiations by experienced counsel who have done a meaningful investigation of the claims in the dispute. No person objected to the Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement and all of its terms are fully and finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interest of each of the parties and the Settlement Class. The Parties are hereby directed to implement and consummate the Settlement Agreement according to its terms and provisions, including the payment of \$2,500,000.00 to fund the settlement, and the pro rata payments to each of the 679 class members from the settlement fund, after payment from the settlement fund of attorneys' fees, administrative expenses, litigation expenses, and the service award for the class representative, as detailed later in this order.

7. Class Action Fairness Act. All notice requirements of the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1715 et seq., have been complied with and there have been no objections from any state or federal officials regarding the Settlement Agreement.

8. Binding Effect. The terms of the Settlement Agreement, this Final Approval Order, and the accompanying final judgment are binding on the Settlement Class members, as well as their heirs, executors and administrators, successors and assigns, and those terms shall have res judicata and other preclusive effects in all pending and future claims, lawsuits or other proceedings maintained by or on behalf of any such persons, to the extent those claims, lawsuits or other proceedings involve matters that were or could have been

raised in the Class Action and are encompassed by the Release set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

9. Release. The Settlement Class members who did not exclude themselves from the settlement in the manner required by the Settlement Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order shall be bound by the Release provided in the Settlement Agreement, which is incorporated herein in all respects, regardless of whether such persons receive any compensation under the Settlement Agreement. The Release is effective as of the date of this Final Approval Order and the accompanying final judgment.

10. Permanent Injunction. The Settlement Class members who did not exclude themselves from the settlement in the manner required by the Settlement Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order are barred and enjoined from (i) filing, commencing, prosecuting, maintaining, intervening in, participating in (as class members or otherwise), or receiving any benefits or other relief from, any other claim, lawsuit, arbitration, or administrative, regulatory or other proceeding or order in any jurisdiction based on claims included in the Settlement Agreement's Release; and (ii) organizing or soliciting the participation of any Class Members into a separate class for purposes of pursuing as a purported class action (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or by seeking class certification in a pending action) any claim, lawsuit, or other proceeding based on claims included in the Settlement Agreement's Release. The Court finds that issuance of this

permanent injunction is necessary and appropriate in aid of the Court's jurisdiction over the Class Action and to protect and effectuate the Court's Final Approval Order and final judgment.

11. Injunctive Relief against Franklin County. Within thirty days of the date of this order, Franklin County will enact a written policy forbidding the photographing of the tattoos of misdemeanor detainees absent extraordinary circumstances, and will train its Identification Bureau employees on the new policy within 120 days of the date of this order. Extraordinary circumstances include developments in the law with respect to misdemeanor detainees. It is further ordered that all photographs of the tattoos of the 679 class members are hereby sealed, effective sixty days from the date of this order, and those photographs will no longer be accessible on whatever photograph storage system is currently being utilized by or will be utilized in the next five years by Franklin County. If necessary for legitimate law enforcement purposes and, upon notice to Plaintiff, Defendant shall petition the Court for access to the photographs. Plaintiff will not unreasonably withhold consent to Defendant's request. The decision whether to grant Defendant's request will be committed to the sound discretion of the Court. Those photographs are further ordered to be destroyed five years from the date of this order.

12. Enforcement of Settlement. Nothing in this Final Approval Order or the accompanying final judgment shall preclude any action to enforce the terms

of the Settlement Agreement and the Court shall have continuing jurisdiction over the settlement for purposes of enforcement.

13. Attorneys' Fees and Expenses. Class Counsel are hereby awarded attorneys' fees, totaling \$833,333.33, and costs and expenses totaling \$37,411.06. Such fees and expenses are to be paid pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Defendant shall not be required to pay for any other attorneys' fees and expenses, costs, or disbursements incurred by Class Counsel or any other counsel representing the Class Representative or Settlement Class members, or incurred by the Class Representative or Settlement Class members, or any of them, in connection with or related in any manner to the Class Action, the settlement of the Class Action, the administration of such settlement, and/or the claims settled in the Class Action.

14. Class Representative's Service Payment. The Court finds that a service payment to the Class Representative in the amount of \$50,000.00, to be paid from the Settlement Fund for service and assistance to the Settlement Class in the Class Action, is reasonable and appropriate. The service payment is to be paid pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

15. Settlement Administration Costs. The Court finds that administrative costs of the third-party administrator in an amount of up to \$38,700, to be paid by Defendant to the Claims Administrator, are reasonable and appropriate. Settlement administration costs are to be paid pursuant to the conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

16. **Modification of Settlement Agreement.** The parties are hereby authorized, upon approval of the Court, to agree to and adopt such amendments to, and modifications and expansions of, the Settlement Agreement, as are in writing and signed by the parties' counsel and are consistent with this Final Approval Order and do not limit the rights of Settlement Class members under the Settlement Agreement.

17. **Retention of Jurisdiction.** The Court has jurisdiction to enter this Final Approval Order and the accompanying final judgment. This Court expressly retains jurisdiction as to all matters relating to the administration, consummation, enforcement, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order and the accompanying final judgment, and for any other necessary purpose, including, without limitation:

a) enforcing the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement and resolving any disputes, claims, or causes of action in the Class Action that, in whole or in part, are related to or arise out of the Settlement Agreement, this Final Approval Order or the final judgment;

b) entering such additional orders as may be necessary or appropriate to protect or effectuate the Court's Final Approval Order and the final judgment approving the Settlement Agreement, and permanently enjoining Settlement Class members who did not exclude themselves from the settlement in the manner required by the Settlement Agreement and the Preliminary Approval Order from initiating or pursuing related

proceedings, or to ensure the fair and orderly administration of this settlement; and,


c) entering any other necessary or appropriate orders to protect and effectuate this Court's retention of continuing jurisdiction.

18. No Admissions. Neither this Final Approval Order and the accompanying final judgment nor the Settlement Agreement (nor any other document referred to here, nor any action taken to carry out this final approval order and the final judgment) is, may be construed as, or may be used as, an admission or concession: (a) by or against Defendant of the validity of any claim or any actual or potential fault, wrongdoing, or liability, or (b) by the Class Representatives that the claims they have asserted in the Class Action lack merit. Entering into or carrying out the Settlement Agreement, and any negotiations or proceedings related to it, shall not be construed as, or deemed to be evidence of, an admission or concession as to Defendant's denials or defenses or an admission or concession as to the merits of Plaintiff's claims and shall not be offered or received in evidence in any action or proceeding against any party hereto in any court, administrative agency, or other tribunal for any purpose whatsoever, except as evidence of the settlement or to enforce the provisions of this Final Approval Order and final judgment and the Settlement Agreement; provided, however, that this Final Approval Order, the accompanying final judgment, and the Settlement Agreement may be filed in any action against or by Defendant to support a defense of res judicata, collateral estoppel, release,

waiver, good-faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, full faith and credit, or any other theory of claim preclusion, issue preclusion, or similar defense or counterclaim.

19. Dismissal with Prejudice. Except where it is necessary for the Court to enforce the terms of this order and the terms of the Settlement Agreement, all claims in this matter are hereby dismissed with prejudice, including claims for monetary damages, declaratory relief, and injunctive relief.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


MICHAEL H. WATSON, JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT