

DOLORES COUNTY COMBINED COURTS 409 Main St, Dove Creek, CO 81324 (970)677-2258	
<b>PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO</b>  vs. <b>RONALD MOROSKO</b> <b>Defendant</b>	DATE FILED: September 21, 2022 4:58 PM  <b>▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲</b>
Honorable Matthew Margeson (Atty Reg. #39015) District Attorney for the 22nd Judicial District 109 West Main Street, Suite 303, Cortez, Colorado 81321 Phone: (970) 565-3788 Fax: (970) 565-9396	Case No: 21CR11
<b>RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR EXPANDED MEDIA COVERAGE</b>	

The People of the State of Colorado, by and through Matthew Margeson, District Attorney in and for the Twenty-Second Judicial District, County of Montezuma, State of Colorado, respectfully submits the following response to the Journal’s request for expanded media coverage as follows:

1. The Journal filed a request with the Court on August 22, 2022 requesting that coverage of Mr. Morosko’s trial be expanded to allow video, audio, and still photography within the courtroom as well as recording via various means of any webex broadcast of the trial.
2. The People note that this is a matter within the public’s purview, has had previous media coverage by various outlets, and regardless of the court’s order will still very likely be the subject of media articles.
3. Regardless, of whether or not this Court allows audio, video, and still photography, as is being requested by The Journal, any reporter would be otherwise free to sit and document the goings on at trial. To a large extent this means that fears the Defendant expresses in his objection will come to pass regardless of the format in which the coverage is presented.
4. The People’s only concern here relates to protection of the family of the victim, jurors, and witnesses while proceedings are occurring. The Court has specific power to “limit expanded media coverage as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the court or to protect the parties, witnesses, or jurors.” *Colorado Supreme Court Rules, Chapter 38, Rule 3(a)(4)*.
5. To that end, the People request that, regardless of the Court’s ruling as it relates to what recording devices are allowed in the courtroom, that the Court forbid still or motion photography of the faces of jurors during the pendency of the case. The People’s primary concern is that a juror not feel undue pressure, based on being identified in a media outlet, to come to any particular conclusion in this case.
6. Because this matter directly impacts the family of the victim in this case efforts were made pursuant to the Victim’s Rights Act to obtain the families position as to expanded media coverage. Gregory Gabrisch’s surviving family is opposed to expanded media coverage. This family has suffered a tremendous loss and is

concerned that allowing photography, videography, or audio recordings risk turning an otherwise solemn proceeding into a spectacle.

7. As pointed out by the Defendant's Objection To Expanded Media Coverage filed August 26, 2022 one of the factors the Court may consider in determining whether to allow expanded media coverage is "[w]hether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum and dignity of the Court." *Colorado Supreme Court Rules, Chapter 38, Rule 3(a)(2)(B)*.

WHEREFORE, the People object in part to The Journal's request for expanded media coverage.

Respectfully submitted this 21st day of September, 2022.

MATTHEW MARGESON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

By: /s/ Matt Margeson  
Matthew Margeson #39015

CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY:

I hereby certify that on September 21, 2022, I delivered a true and accurate copy of this document to Defense counsel of record via ICCES.

/s/ Matt Margeson