District Court, El Paso County, State of Colorado
Court Address: P.O. Box 2980
270 South Tejon
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-2203
Phone Number: (719)448-7650

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO,
vs.

ANDERSON LEE ALDRICH,
Defendant.

Case Number:
2022CR6008

DATE FILED: December 2, 2022 3:34 PM

Court Use only

Case Number:
2022CR6008

THIS MATTER comes before the Court for consideration of a request for expanded media coverage by the following media outlets:

Law & Crime Trial Network and The Denver Post.

These outlets request WebEx and in-person access to the proceedings for the purpose of recording, streaming, and rebroadcasting the court appearance of December 6, 2022.

The court gave notice to the parties by email on November 29, 2022, that the court would issue a ruling on expanded media coverage on December 2, 2022, and that any objections to such coverage should be filed by the close of business on December 1. The defense filed an objection which the court has considered. The court received no objection from the People.

The Court has considered the issues of open and free press coverage and the rights of the parties, witnesses, and relatives of the alleged victims and the defendant, and hereby issues the following standing order subject to later revision after consultation with the parties:

## **Standards for Authorizing Coverage**

The presence of expanded media coverage in Colorado's judicial system is controlled by strict standards spelled out in Colorado Supreme Court Rules, Chapter 38, Rule 3, Media Coverage of Court Proceedings, effective July 1, 2010. In determining whether expanded media coverage should be permitted, a judge shall consider the following factors:

- 1. Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would interfere with the rights of the parties to a fair trial.
- 2. Whether there is a reasonable likelihood that expanded media coverage would unduly detract from the solemnity, decorum, and dignity of the Court; and
- 3. Whether expanded media coverage would create adverse effects that would be greater than those caused by traditional media coverage.

## **Analysis and Ruling**

After consideration of the above listed factors, this Court finds that limited and restricted expanded media coverage by WebEx should be permitted. Defense concerns about tainting the jury pool can be alleviated through other means such as voir dire or motions for change of venue. Concerns regarding the tainting of witness identifications vary according to the allegations in the case, and such matters are routinely considered at motion hearings. The court has considered such issues and finds that expanded coverage would not meaningfully interfere with the rights of the accused in this case. Therefore, expanded media coverage by WebEx will be permitted on December 6, 2022, for the filing of charges but not for the subsequent argument related to pending motions. In-person expanded coverage is denied for December 6, 2022.

Authority to Impose Restrictions on Expanded Media Coverage. A judge may restrict or limit expanded media coverage as may be necessary to preserve the dignity of the court or to protect the parties, witnesses, or jurors. A judge may terminate or suspend expanded media coverage at any time upon making findings of fact that: (1) rules established under this Canon or additional rules imposed by the judge have been violated; or (2) substantial rights of individual participants or rights to a fair trial will be prejudiced by such coverage if it is allowed to continue.

## WebEx Link

Any media outlet may record, stream, and/or rebroadcast the feed provided by the court's WebEx link found at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/mry66t5x">https://tinyurl.com/mry66t5x</a> for the portions of the hearing of December 6, 2022, authorized by this order. No other recording, streaming or rebroadcasting is permitted without a specific order of the court. Any violations of this order are subject to loss of expanded coverage and/or sanctions for contempt of court.

DONE THIS 2nd DAY OF December, 2022.

BY THE COURT:

MICHAEL P. MCHENRY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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