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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The City of North Miami Files Legal Action Against MOCA Board

Legal Team Files A Motion to Dismiss Complaint

North Miami, FL – April 29, 2014 – Today the City of North Miami announced several new steps in its fight to keep the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) North Miami and its celebrated permanent art collection of more than 600 pieces.

First, the City of North Miami has asked a judge to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the MOCA Board of Trustees in April calling it “legally deficient.” Further, the City has taken other actions to secure all of the art and funds donated to MOCA and to ensure that none of it can be removed from MOCA until a judge has ruled on the case. Finally, the City of North Miami maintains that the Board has breached its legal obligations to the City and MOCA that are outlined in a Management Agreement between the City and the Board of Trustees. A default letter has been sent to the Board. The letter also warns the Board that any removal of the art or property belonging to MOCA will be considered theft and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

“Moving the collection to Miami Beach in no way represents the will of this community or the intent of the mission of MOCA,” said Mayor Lucie Tondreau. “The City was forced to take this position because of the Board of Trustees’ insistence to continue to negotiate with the Bass Museum despite the clear admonition of the City Council that these negotiations do not match the mission for which MOCA exists.”

The mission statement of MOCA North Miami is “making contemporary art accessible to diverse audiences, especially underserved populations, through the collection, preservation and exhibition of the best of contemporary art and its art historical influences.”

“This is a modern day art heist,” said Councilman Scott Galvin. “The board has somehow deluded themselves into thinking they personally own the art, when in fact, the art is owned by MOCA and not by the Board of Trustees. The collection is our *community’s* collection and we want it to stay.”

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