

EXHIBIT 10

EXHIBIT 11

CITY COURT: NEW ROCHELLE
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER: STATE OF NEW YORK
-----X
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

-against-

MICHAEL MOLINA,

Defendant.
-----X

AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION
TO MOTION TO REARGUE

DOCKET 3495-21

I, STEVEN EPSTEIN, an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the Courts of this State,
affirm under penalty of perjury that the following statements are true:

1. I am an attorney associated with Barket Epstein Kearon Aldea & LoTurco, LLP, counsel to the Defendant, MICHAEL MOLINA, and I am familiar with the facts of this case and with the proceedings that have been had in the matter to date. I make this Affirmation in opposition to the People's motion for leave to reargue Molina's motion to invalidate a certificate of compliance and impose discovery sanctions against the People pursuant to CPL §245.80.

2. The motion to reargue should be denied. The People fail to set forth any matters of fact or law which the Court overlooked or misapprehended in its January 14, 2022, Decision & Order ("Order") determining the prior motion.¹ Rather, the People simply disagree with the Court's choice of remedy for the People's prejudicial failure to timely disclose a key witness's obviously discoverable disciplinary record. Admittedly unable to seek appellate review of the Order, the People have moved for a remedy to which they clearly are not entitled. Accordingly, leave to reargue should be denied.

¹ References below to "Motion" refer to Molina's original motion, dated Sept. 30, 2021. References to "Motion Opp." refer to the People's Affirmation, dated Nov. 11, 2021, in opposition to the Motion. References to "Motion Reply" refer to Molina's Reply Affirmation, dated Dec. 1, 2021, in further support of the Motion. The instant motion to reargue, dated Feb. 22, 2022, is hereinafter referred to as "Rearg. Motion."

Procedural History

3. The Defendant was arraigned on July 6, 2021, on the charge of violating Section 1192(3) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. The Defendant entered a plea of not guilty and the matter was adjourned to July 27, 2021, for the People to comply with their discovery obligations.
4. On July 27, 2021, the People were not ready and had not yet filed a certificate of compliance ("COC") pursuant to C.P.L. §245.20 and C.P.L. §30.30(5). The People appeared for a conference and advised the court that they could not file a COC. The matter was adjourned to August 10, 2021. The Defendant did not consent to this adjournment.
5. On July 28, 2021, the People filed a certificate of readiness for trial along with a COC pursuant to C.P.L. §245.20 and C.P.L. §30.30(5). See Motion Ex. A. On August 10, 2021, the People consented to pretrial hearings and the matter was adjourned to September 30, 2021, for that purpose, as well as for Molina to review the discovery provided by the People.
6. On or about September 28, 2021, Molina filed a "Notice of Objection" to the People's July 28 COC, and moved to strike the COC on the ground that the People, prior to July 28, had failed to turn over discoverable documents containing evidence and information tending to impeach the credibility of the arresting officer, Trooper Angelo Fortune (Rearg. Mot. Ex. 1).
7. On September 30, 2021, the Court directed the People to file any opposition papers to the Motion by October 28, 2021. Thereafter, ADA Phillip Mellea sought undersigned counsel's consent to a two-week extension of the October 28 deadline. Counsel consented as a matter of professional courtesy on the condition that the People consent to half of that extension (i.e., one week) being charged to the People for speedy trial purposes.

8. Prior to filing opposition papers, on November 5, 2021, the People turned over additional documents relating to Trooper Fortune, including: (a) a July 2019 Letter of Censure, Notice of Suspension, and other documents related to Fortune's failure to properly inventory an impounded vehicle, resulting in the failure to discover narcotics therein; and (b) reports and other documents regarding the investigation of a claim that Fortune had unlawfully arrested a person.

9. Five days later, on November 10, 2021, the People turned over two additional packets of documents relating to: (a) a 2015 complaint that Fortune had behaved rudely towards the victim of a car accident and; (b) a 2018 complaint that Fortune had conducted an improper search during which he touched the arrestee's "vaginal region."

10. The People filed their opposition papers to the Motion on November 11, 2021 (Rearg. Mot. Ex. 2, "Motion Opp."). In relevant part, the prosecutor argued that he had exercised due diligence and made a good faith effort to comply with the People's discovery obligations prior to filing the July 28 COC.

11. While acknowledging that the above-referenced documents related to Trooper Fortune's credibility (*see* ¶¶ 8-9 above) had been disclosed "late," the prosecutor argued that Molina had not suffered prejudice by the late disclosure because there had been no adversarial proceedings.

12. On December 1, 2021, Molina filed a reply brief in further support of the Motion (Rearg. Mot. Ex. 3).

13. By Decision and Order dated January 14, 2022, the Court held that the material belatedly turned over regarding Trooper Fortune's disciplinary history was discoverable pursuant to CPL §245.20(1)(k)(iv) and, accordingly, the People's July 28, 2021 COC was invalid. (Rearg.

Mot. Ex. 4). The Court also concluded that, under the totality of the circumstances, Molina was prejudiced by the late disclosure of the impeachment material. As a result, pursuant to CPL §245.80 the Court imposed sanctions in the form of the preclusion of Trooper Fortune's testimony as well as "the use of any evidence procured by Trooper Fortune in this matter."²

14. The People's Motion to Reargue, dated February 22, 2022, argues that the Court's Order imposing discovery sanctions overlooked: (a) the lack of any prejudice to Molina from the People's admittedly late disclosures; and (b) the People's "good faith" compliance with their discovery obligations under CPL article 245 – both arguments that were previously raised by the People. In addition, the People suggest that reargument is appropriate because the Order precluding the testimony and other evidence from the People's chief witness is too drastic, and because the Court did not decide a purported motion to dismiss suggested by Molina's Notice of Objection. As explained below, none of these arguments is legally cognizable on reargument. Accordingly, the motion for reargument should be summarily denied.³

Discussion

15. A motion to reargue pursuant to CPLR 2221 is designed to afford the moving party the opportunity to establish that a court overlooked or misapprehended relevant facts, or misapplied

² On February 25, 2022, Molina served a copy of the Order with written notice of entry, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

³ Because the People's claims are not legally cognizable on reargument, the defense urges this Court to deny reargument—rather than again ruling on the merits and adhering to the initial decision. In this posture, the argument herein focuses on demonstrating why reargument should be denied, and only briefly discusses the merits of the substantive claims in this context. In the event that this Court nevertheless decides to grant reargument and then reconsider the People's substantive arguments, defendant requests an opportunity to provide supplemental briefing on the merits.

controlling principles of law. C.P.L.R. § 2221(d)(2). "It does not serve as a vehicle to permit the unsuccessful party . . . to argue again the very questions previously decided; nor does it permit one to advance different arguments than those made on the original application." *Rubin v. Dondysh, Corp.*, 21 A.D.3d 715, 718 (1st Dept. 2005) (citations omitted) (motion for reargument "not available where the movant seeks only to argue 'a new theory of liability not previously advanced'"); *People v. Williams*, 73 Misc. 3d 1209(A) (Crim. Ct. N.Y. Co. Oct. 19, 2021).

16. Here, the People provide no basis for a grant of reargument. They claim that the Court overlooked two issues raised by Molina's motion to strike the July 28 COC, but they are wrong. First, the People mistakenly argue that the Court overlooked the issue of prejudice to Molina flowing from the People's illusory July 28 COC (Rearg. Mot., Milaccio Aff. at 9-10; Memorandum of Law ("MOL") at 1-3). But the People's current prejudice argument is the very same issue they raised in their opposition to the Motion. Specifically, the People argued in opposition that no discovery sanction was warranted because Molina had "not alleged any prejudice," and that, even if Molina was prejudiced, "the Court has other, less extreme, remedies available" than striking the COC (Motion Opp., Memo. Of Law Point III) (citing CPL §245.80).⁴

17. Not only did the People raise the prejudice issue upon the underlying motion, the Court faced the issue squarely when it: (a) explicitly acknowledged the People's contention that Molina had not been prejudiced (Order at 2); and (b) subsequently found that "under the totality of the

⁴ This brief cites the Point associated with the relevant argument because the People did not number the pages of their memorandum of law in opposition to the Motion.

circumstances,” and contrary to the People’s arguments, Molina had been prejudiced by the belated disclosure (Order at 4).

18. While the Court need not—and should not—address again the merits of the issue, nevertheless the Court decided the prejudice issue correctly. The People’s late disclosure caused an otherwise unnecessary adjournment of pretrial hearings, delaying the proceedings and causing Molina, who resides out of state, considerable additional delay and expense.

19. The People’s contention that “mere delay” is insufficient as a matter of law to warrant sanction under CPL §245.80 (MOL at 4) is baseless. The People rely for support on cases defining prejudice narrowly as an effective inability to use belatedly disclosed material (MOL at 6-7). But these cases concern constitutional *Brady* and *Rosario* violations, see *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963); *People v Rosario*, 9 N.Y.2d 286 (1961) (MOL 6-8). These cases should not define the scope of prejudicial conduct for purposes of CPL §245.80, and the People provide no support for that proposition.

20. Indeed, all but one of the cases cited by the People were decided decades before the enactment of CPL article 245. Accordingly, those decisions could not have possibly considered the “presumption of openness” and “the dramatic change in the burden, timing, and scope of disclosure” required by the new discovery rules. *People v. Faison*, 73 Misc. 3d 900, 906 (Crim. Ct., Kings Co. Sept. 3, 2021) (citing *People v. Mauro*, 71 Misc. 3d 548, 552 (Westchester Co. Ct. 2021)). Nor do those decisions account for the fact that, in enacting the new rules, the New York Legislature intended to “provide for broader and earlier disclosure than” the old discovery regime. *Id.* This intent is evident from the statutory text of the new rules. See CPL §245.20(7) (“There shall be a presumption in favor of disclosure when interpreting . . . section 245.20”).

21. At least one New York judge has recognized that CPL 245.20 "is not merely a codification of the disclosure rules of [*Brady*] and or *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972) as it mandates 'a presumption in favor of disclosure.'" *Hudson Police Loc. 3979 v. Bower*, 73 Misc. 3d 1063, 158 N.Y.S.3d 787 (Sup. Ct. Columbia Co. Nov. 24, 2021) (Zwack, J.) (citations omitted).

22. The People's reliance on *Matter of Johnson v Sackett*, 109 A.D.3d 427 (1st Dept. 2013) (MOL 11), is also inapposite. In that case, the First Department granted the People's CPLR article 78 petition seeking to prohibit a Bronx Supreme Court Justice from enforcing an order precluding a complainant from testifying at trial as a penalty for the witness' failure to consent to the release of his medical records. The First Department granted the People's petition because the trial court lacked any statutory authority to compel the discovery of the medical records at issue. *Id.* at 429.

23. Unlike *Sackett*, the People here were bound by statute, namely CPL §245.20 (1)(k)(iv), to disclose the impeachment material in Trooper Fortune's disciplinary records. They failed to do so before filing their July 28 COC. Accordingly, the Court possessed ample statutory authority under CPL §245.80 to issue its preclusion order. Thus, there is no basis for reargument on the issue of prejudice – which was already considered, and properly determined, by this Court.

24. *Second*, the People argue that the Court overlooked the prosecutor's "good faith" belief, at the time he filed the July 28 COC, that he was not required to disclose the records in the People's possession containing impeachment material as to Trooper Fortune (*Milaccio Aff.* at 10; MOL at 13). As with the prejudice issue, however, the People's current good faith argument is the very same issue they raised in their opposition to the Motion. Specifically, the People argued in

opposition that the People "acted in good faith" because the prosecutor disclosed "the information which we believed to be proper to disclose." (Motion Opp., Memo. Of Law Point II).

25. The Court did not overlook the issue of good faith, either. Rather, the Court explicitly acknowledged the People's contention that "they have exercised due diligence and that the [COC] was filed in good faith" (Order at 2). And the Court went on to decide the issue in Molina's favor. The Court's finding that the July 28 COC "was clearly not in accordance with" the People's discovery obligations (Order at 3) cannot be reconciled with a finding of good faith. Because CPLR §2221(d) does not provide the People with a chance to raise this same issue previously decided by the Court, *Rubin*, 147 Misc.2d at 223, reargument is unavailable.

26. While the Court should not address the merits of the good faith issue again, it bears noting that the People's continued protestations in the instant motion of their good faith are undermined by their own motion papers, which implicitly concede that some of the withheld documents in Trooper Fortune's disciplinary file are discoverable. After all, the People's argument in a footnote that they have not conceded the discoverability of "all of [the] materials" they belatedly disclosed (MOL at 12 n.1) (emphasis in original) contains the implicit admission that some of those documents are discoverable.

27. Similarly, the People's recognition that the prosecutor would have been "better suited" had he told the Court and Molina about the People's possession of Trooper Fortune's disciplinary file prior to filing the July 28 COC (MOL at 13) cannot be reconciled with their insistence on the prosecutor's good faith.

28. The People provide no support for their contention that discovery sanctions are unavailable under CPL §245.80 for a good faith failure to comply with the strict requirements of

CPL §245.20. In any event, however, the People did not have a good faith basis for withholding the impeachment material in Trooper Fortune's disciplinary file. Notwithstanding the cases cited by the People arriving at different conclusions as to exactly what is discoverable under CPL §245.20(1)(k)(iv), the clear judicial consensus to date is that documents related to substantiated or founded allegations of misconduct must be turned over.

29. Indeed, courts are increasingly finding that documents supporting *unsubstantiated* complaints must be disclosed. *See, e.g., Bower*, 158 N.Y.S.3d at 792 (finding no current consensus regarding discoverability of "unsubstantiated or unfounded" complaints). The *Bower* court went on to side with those courts finding that unsubstantiated are in fact discoverable, considering: (a) the "express language of CPL §245.20(1)(k)(iv);" (b) the legislative intent to provide "broad and all inclusive" discovery; and (c) the repeal of Civil Rights Law 50-a which had hitherto shielded such documents from disclosure.

30. In light of these factors, and because "it is not up to a District Attorney to decide if a particular item in a disciplinary record may be admissible or may impeach a witness," *Bower*, 158 N.Y.S.3d at 792, the People's claim of good faith here is tenuous at best.⁵ *See also People v. Herrera*, 71 Misc. 3d 1205A (Dist. Ct. Nassau Co. April 5, 2021) (noting the "very clear mandates" of CPL §245.20 and §245.55 that the People provide "all material and information" described in those respective sections). Accordingly, reargument is improper on the issue of good faith.

⁵ Even if the impeachment material in the Trooper's file were not discoverable under CPL §245.20(1)(k)(iv)—and it was—the People were required to disclose it as *Rosario* material prior to the hearing scheduled for September 30, 2021. They did not do so, and to this date have not provided any basis for that failure.

31. The People's argument that preclusion is too harsh a discovery sanction under the circumstances is also not cognizable on reargument. Reargument does not provide a party with an opportunity to advance different arguments than those made on the original application. *Rubin*, 147 Misc.2d at 223. But that is precisely what the People attempt to do throughout their reargument motion. In their opposition to the Motion, the People cited CPL §245.80 by name and argued that discovery sanctions in general, and striking the COC in particular, were not warranted because of the People's good faith efforts prior to filing the July 28 COC (Motion Opp., Memo. Of Law Point II). The People further cited a decision of Franklin County Court, *People v. Nelson*, 67 Misc. 3d 313 (Franklin Cty. Ct. Feb. 20, 2020), which discussed a trial court's discretion under CPL §245.80 to impose discovery sanctions.

32. In making those arguments, the People could have raised the arguments they raise in the instant motion that preclusion, like striking the COC, was too "severe" a sanction and "unauthorized" by CPL §245.80 (e.g., *Rearg. Motion*, MOL at 1, 8, 11). After all, CPL §245.80 explicitly names preclusion among its non-exhaustive list of potential violations. The People chose not to raise these arguments in the first instance; accordingly, they may not do so for the first time in an application for reargument.

33. Similarly, when Molina specifically asked the Court to impose sanctions pursuant to CPL §245.80 in his reply brief (Motion Reply ¶20), the People could have—but did not—move to strike that application for failure to raise it in the initial motion, or seek permission to file a sur-reply in order to respond. Thus, the Court may not and should not consider that argument for the first time now (*Rearg Mot.*, Aff. at 8). Accordingly, the Court should not address the merits of the People's complaints regarding the propriety of the sanction imposed by this Court's Order.

34. In any event, the Court was well within its discretion to issue its preclusion order. The withheld documents in Trooper Fortune's disciplinary file related to substantiated complaints were clearly discoverable, and were admittedly in the People's possession (Rearg Mot., Aff. at 10). Indeed, the People conceded that their disclosure of those documents in November 2021—more than 3 months after the filing of the COC—was late (Motion Opp., MOL Point II (referring to "belated disclosures"); Point III (arguing that Molina had not explained why the "late disclosure of credibility information" warranted discovery sanctions). Accordingly, preclusion was an authorized—and appropriate—remedy. *See e.g., People v. Rodriguez*, 73 Misc. 3d 411, 421 (Sup. Ct., Queens Cty. Sept. 7, 2021) (search warrant materials precluded "for the People's failure to disclose [them] in a timely fashion).

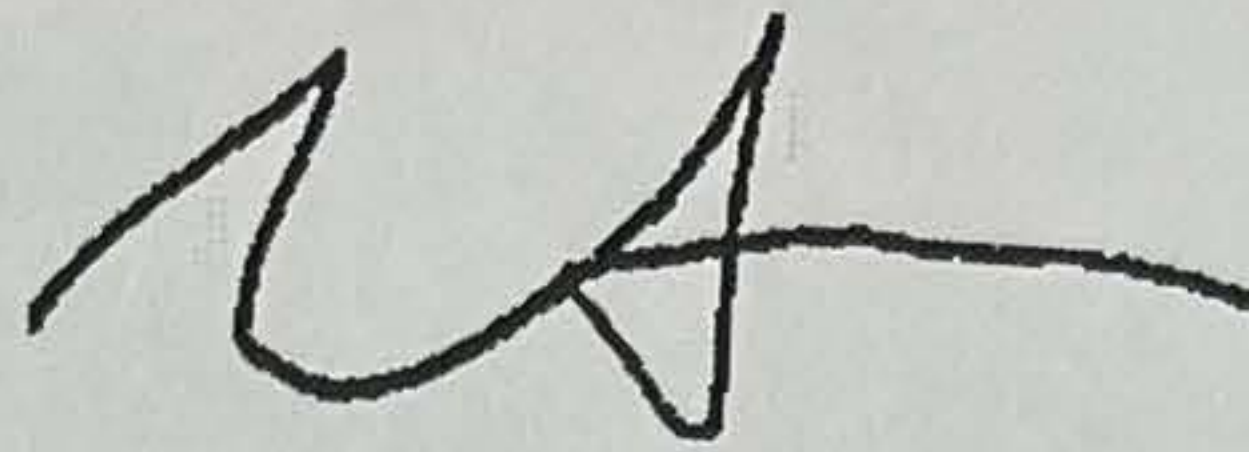
35. Lastly, the People argue that the Court's Order left unresolved that portion of the Notice of Objection seeking dismissal (Milaccio Aff. At 10; MOL 13-16). However, the Court did not overlook or misapprehend Molina's actual motion. The only relief requested by counsel in the Motion was a finding that "the People have not met their obligations pursuant to CPL §245.20 and pursuant to CPL §30.30(5)" (Motion ¶2), and "an Order rejecting" the People's July 28 COC (*id.* ¶19), as the People themselves acknowledge (Rearg. Motion Aff. at 4 n.1). This was *precisely* the relief that the Court ordered. To the extent the "Notice of Objection" sought dismissal pursuant to CPL §30.30(1)(b) and §170.30(e), the Court properly declined to address that relief since it was not raised anywhere in counsel's affirmation. While Molina has not yet sought dismissal under CPL §30.30, he reserves the right to do so in the future.

Conclusion

36. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons the People's motion for reargument should be denied in its entirety.

Dated: Garden City, New York 11530
March 11, 2022

Respectfully submitted by:



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EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

CITY COURT: NEW ROCHELLE
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER: STATE OF NEW YORK
-----X
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NOTICE OF ENTRY

Docket No.: 3495-21

MICHAEL MOLINA,

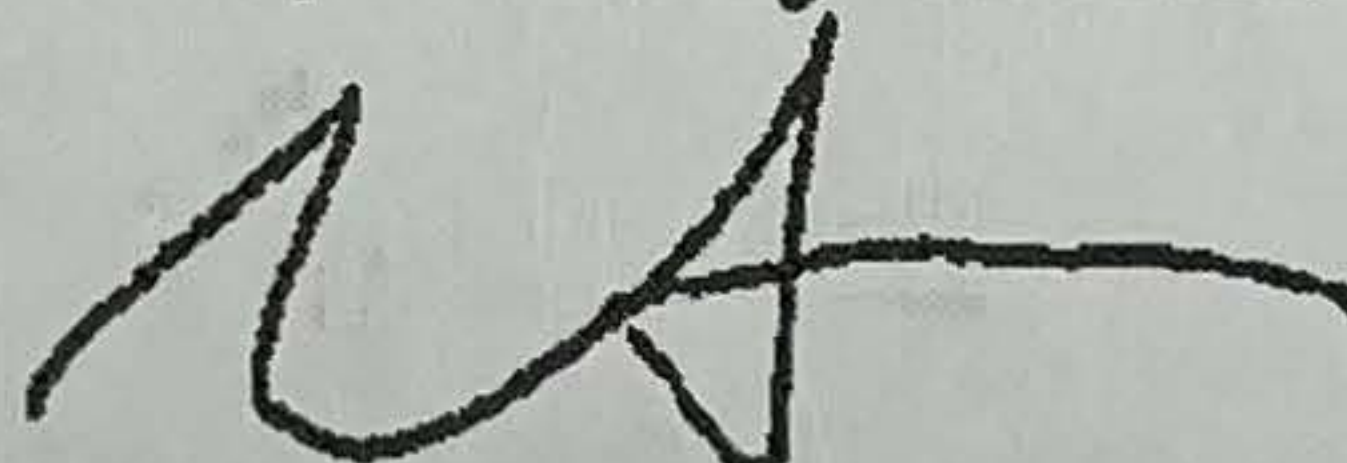
Defendant.

SIR:-----X

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the within is a true copy of the Decision and Order signed by Honorable Matthew J. Costa and entered in the office of the clerk of the within named court on or about the 14th day of January, 2022.

DATED: February 25, 2022
Garden City, New York

Respectfully submitted,



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TO: ADA Philip Mellea
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Clerk's Office
New Rochelle City Court
475 North Avenue,
New Rochelle, NY 10801

CITY COURT: NEW ROCHELLE
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER: STATE OF NEW YORK
-----X
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

Plaintiff,

-against-

NOTICE OF ENTRY

Docket No.: 3495-21

MICHAEL MOLINA,

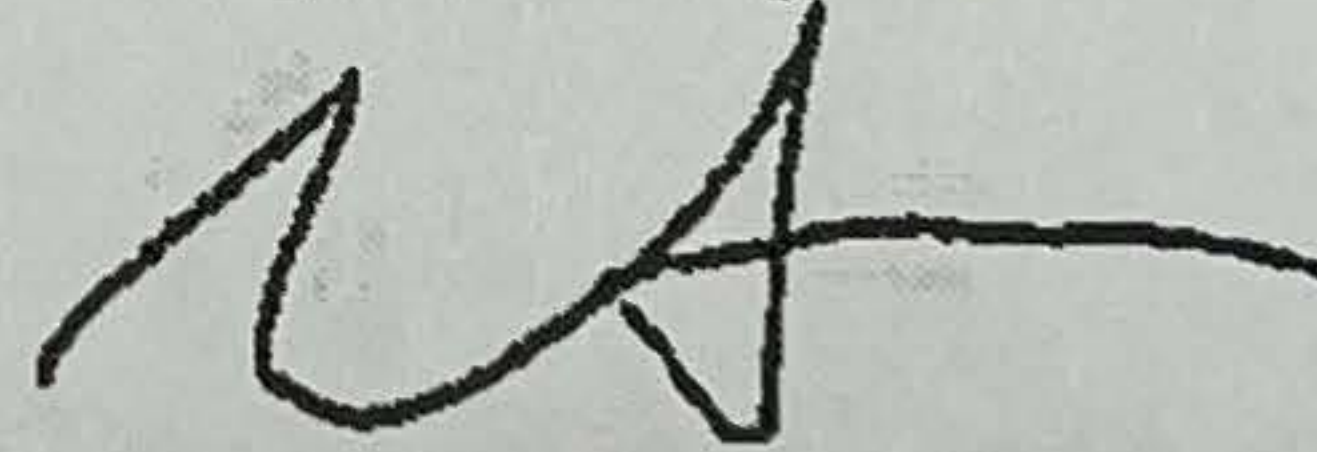
Defendant.

-----X
SIR:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the within is a true copy of the Decision and Order signed by Honorable Matthew J. Costa and entered in the office of the clerk of the within named court on or about the 14th day of January, 2022.

DATED: February 25, 2022
Garden City, New York

Respectfully submitted,



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TO: ADA Philip Mellea
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CITY COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

-against-

Docket # CR-3495-21

MICHAEL MOLINA,
Defendant.

DECISION AND ORDER

PHILIP J. MELLEA, A.D.A.
Office of the District Attorney
Westchester County
New Rochelle Branch
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STEVEN EPSTEIN, ESQ.
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Attorney for Defendant

Costa, J.:

The following papers were read on this motion:
Notice of Motion to Dismiss with Affirmation in Support and
Exhibits A-B
Affirmation in Opposition and Memorandum of Law with
Exhibits A-F
Reply Affirmation with Exhibit A

1-2, 3-4

5-6, 7-12

13, 14

In this criminal matter, the defendant Michael Molina is charged with violating: VTL 1192.3 Driving While Intoxicated; VTL 375(2)(a) No Headlights/Inclement; VTL 1128(a) Moved From Lane Unsafely; VTL 1163(a) Improper or Unsafe Turn Without Signal and VTL 1194(1)(b) Refusal To Take Breath Test. The defendant was arraigned on these charges on July 2, 2021. The defendant entered a plea of not guilty to all charges. The case was adjourned to July 27, 2021, for the People to provide discovery. The People provided some discovery to defendant's counsel via the Westchester District Attorney's Office discovery portal on July 8, 2021. On July 27, 2021, the case was adjourned to August 10, 2021, at the People's request to file a certificate of compliance.

On July 28, 2021, the People filed their certificate of compliance via the Westchester District Attorney's Office discovery portal and announced their readiness for trial.

On August 10, 2021, the People advised the Court, the defendant and the defendant's counsel on the record that the certificate of compliance was filed via their office's discovery portal and declared their readiness for trial. In response, defense counsel requested pre-trial hearings and stated that if an objection to certificate of compliance was found a motion would be filed on September 30, 2021, the date set for hearings.

On September 28, 2021, the defendant filed the instant motion seeking an order dismissing the accusatory instruments pursuant to CPL 30.30(1)(b) and 170.30(c) and the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution. The defendant argues that the People were not ready for trial when they filed the certificate of compliance as they did not complete their discovery obligations under CPL 245.20. Specifically, the defendant asserts that it is undisputed that the People did not produce the disciplinary file of the arresting state trooper Angelo Trooper Fortune, which is required under CPL 245.20(1)(k)(iv), until November 10, 2021, as the trooper is a key prosecution witness. In the alternative, the defendant seeks an order from the Court invalidating the People's certificate of compliance and imposing sanctions against the People under CPL 245.80, for the People's discovery violations as the People have failed to offer an explanation for said violations in this case.

The People oppose the instant motion arguing that it is well within its time limits under CPL 30.30 and that only 26 days are chargeable to the People. The People also assert that they have exercised due diligence and that the certificate of compliance was filed in good faith. Moreover, the People argue that the defense has not been prejudiced by the delay in providing discoverable state police records as there have yet to have any adversarial proceeding in the case.

Although the papers submitted on this motion are filled with learned and interesting discussions of the interplay between CPL 30.30 and 245, especially with the newly developing

case law surrounding CPL 245, the Court, however, finds that it needs to look no further than the clear and unambiguous language of CPL 245 to address the defense's challenge to the People's certificate of compliance; the statutory interpretation is dispositive. Initial discovery is governed by CPL 245.20. The People's obligations are clearly stated in CPL 245.20(1):

the prosecution shall disclose to the defendant, and permit the defendant to discover, inspect, copy, photograph and test, all items and information that relate to the subject matter of the case and are in the possession, custody or control of the prosecution or persons under the prosecution's direction or control.

Moreover, CPL 245.20(1)(k) provides that

All evidence and information, including that which is known to police or other law enforcement agencies acting on the government's behalf in the case, that tends to: ... (iv) impeach the credibility of a testifying prosecution witness; ... Information under this subdivision shall be disclosed whether or not such information is recorded in tangible form and irrespective of whether the prosecutor credits the information. The prosecutor shall disclose the information expeditiously upon its receipt and shall not delay disclosure if it is obtained earlier than the time period for disclosure in subdivision one of section 245.10 of this article.

In the instant case, at issue is when Trooper Fortune's disciplinary records should have been produced. As the summary of his disciplinary file indicates, the investigation on the most recent complaint against Trooper Fortune, on a case which also involved a refusal, was completed on or about December 16, 2020, and resulted in a finding of poor judgment, and for which the trooper was censured on January 7, 2021. Clearly, this information that was in possession of the state police when the defendant was arraigned on July 2, 2021; and therefore, pursuant to CPL 245.20(1)(k)(iv) the People were required to disclose this information as soon as practicable after the defendant's arraignment. Instead, disclosure of this information did not occur until November 10, 2021. Thus, the Court finds that the filing of the certificate of compliance on July 28, 2021, was clearly not in accordance with the CPL 245.20(1)(k)(iv).


When information that is discoverable is disclosed belatedly and in violation of Article 240, CPL 245.80(1) provides that the Court may impose an appropriate remedy or sanction for discovery violation(s) if the party entitled to discovery shows it was prejudiced. In pertinent part, CPL 245.80(2), provides that the Court may "preclude or strike a witness's testimony or a portion of a witness's testimony, admit or exclude evidence"

In this matter, defendant's counsel has shown under the totality of the circumstances that it was prejudiced when the People filed its certificate of compliance on July 28, 2021, when it did not provide pertinent information that tended to impeach the credibility of the prosecution's witness, Trooper Fortune. Accordingly, as the Court has found the People in violation of its discovery obligations, the Court pursuant to CPL 245.80 sanctions the People by the precluding the testimony of Trooper Fortune and by precluding the use of any evidence procured by Trooper Fortune in this matter.

The parties are directed to appear January 25, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., for further proceedings.

The foregoing constitutes the decision and order of the court.

Dated: January 14, 2022
New Rochelle, New York


MATTHEW J. COSTA, JUDGE

CITY COURT: NEW ROCHELLE
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER: STATE OF NEW YORK
-----X
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

-against-

Docket No.: CR-3495-21

MICHAEL MOLINA,

Defendant.

AFFIRMATION IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO REARGUE

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