

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK: PART 59

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

- against -

DONALD J. TRUMP,

Defendant.

DECISION AND ORDER
ON PUBLIC FILINGS

Ind. No. 71543/2023

HON. JUAN M. MERCHAN A.J.S.C.:

BACKGROUND

On March 10, 2024, the Defendant filed a pre-motion letter seeking leave to file a motion for the “(1) unsealing and public access to all pleadings, orders, and written communications that have involved the Court and the parties, including communications sent by letter and substantive email, and (2) simultaneous public access of all future pleadings, orders, and written communications except to the extent redactions are required by the protective order or law.” Defendant’s March 10, 2024, Pre-Motion Letter for Unsealing and Public Access. The Defendant’s motion, which was attached to his Pre-Motion Letter as an exhibit, was accepted by this Court. On March 12, 2024, the People responded to the motion. On March 26, 2024, this Court issued a Decision and Order (hereinafter “Public Proceedings Decision”) on Defendant’s March 10, 2024, motion.

After the People’s response and prior to the Public Proceedings Decision, a Discovery Hearing was conducted on March 25, 2024, whereupon the parties were to submit certain materials to assist the Court with its decision. This hearing was ordered after the People’s March 14, 2024, letter disclosing that they had received an additional 31,000 pages of documents from the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York (hereinafter “USAO-SDNY”) on March 13, 2024 and that they expected to receive an additional voluminous production in the following days. People’s March 14, 2024, Letter. As a result, this Court ordered, among other things, that a hearing be conducted on March 25, 2024, to determine why this production arrived at such a late hour. The Court also directed the parties to submit exhibits *specifically* related to the subject of the hearing. Court’s March 15, 2024, Letter. On March 20, 2024, in response to the People’s request for a clarification of the Court’s March 15, 2024, letter, the Court informed the parties that submissions for the March 25,