



May 10, 2024

City of Boise
150 N Capitol Blvd
Boise, Idaho 83702

VIA USPS and EMAIL: cityclerk@cityofboise.org

AHJ Engineers
9751 W Chinden Blvd #200
Garden City, Idaho 83714

VIA USPS

Re: My Client: **Heirs of Mario Sontay:** Nancy Xol Rax for herself and on behalf of her daughter DS, Zuleyma Lopez on behalf of her son JS, Gloria Tzi and Pedro Sontay, Juan Sontay and Marlene Sontay.

Heirs of Mariano Coc: Ingrid Botzoc, Dorotea Och, and Emiliano Coc, Cristobal Coc and Maximiliano Coc.

Date of Incident: **January 31, 2024**

**TO: CITY OF BOISE
HJ ENGINEERS**

FACTS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a claim is hereby made against the City of Boise as well as their hired and contracted reviewing engineers AHJ Engineers, pursuant to the Idaho Tort Claims Act, Idaho Code § 6-901, et seq. This claim is brought by the heirs of Mario Sontay (listed above) as well as the heirs of Mariano Coc (listed above), hereinafter all referred to as “Claimants,” because of the wrongful deaths of Mariano Coc and Mario Sontay caused by the Jackson Jet Center Hangar Collapse on January 31, 2024. Pursuant to law, you are hereby advised and notified as follows:

A. CONDUCT AND CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CAUSED THE INJURY

On January 31, 2024, the Jackson Jet Center Hangar (“Hangar”) collapsed, killing 3 people and injuring several more. The City of Boise, by and through its third-party engineer, AHJ Engineers, approved the plans and issued building permits for the Hangar.

The City of Boise and AHJ Engineering approved plans that were deficient. Flaws have been identified in the structural design off the hanger. Inadequate bracing of the beams and columns and all connections have been identified and are present in the plans as approved. The City of Boise and AHJ Engineering should have validated through engineering analysis software the design of the plans before issuing the permits. This was no ordinary hangar. The size, weight, shape, and uniqueness of the designed called for a responsible and in-depth review based on actual engineering probabilities. The aforesaid deficiencies were contributing causes to the structural instability that lead to the Hangar collapse.

Other parties that contributed to the Hangar collapse in addition to the City of Boise and AHJ Engineering include and are not limited to: Big D Builders, Inc., Glancey Rockwell & Associates, Inland Crane, Steel Building Systems, LLC, Walker Structural Engineering, P.C., Ardurra, Structural Engineering Consultants, Tikker Engineering, E2Co, MBCI, and any other engineers/manufacturers and parties that reviewed and approved the plans as presented to the City as well as other potential parties that are currently unknown.

The City of Boise and AJH each had a duty of ordinary care to ensure the building plans were in compliance with applicable building codes and regulations and best practices. Both the City of Boise and AJH breached their duty of care by failing to ensure that the proper specifications, bracing, and plans would withstand the forces that ultimately made the hanger collapse. Moreover, the City of Boise and AJH breached their duties of care by failing to ensure the plans were in accordance with building codes, regulations, and acceptable engineering standards. The City of Boise and AJH were negligent and/or acted in a grossly negligent and reckless manner.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLAIMANTS' INJURIES

That conduct directly and proximately contributed and caused the wrongful deaths of Mariano Coc Och and Mario Rigoberto Sontay Tzi.

C. TIME AND PLACE OF INJURY

On January 31, 2024, around 4:51 pm, the Jackson Jet Center Hangar on 3669 West Wright Street in Boise, Idaho collapsed.

D. AMOUNT OF DAMAGES CLAIMED

Nancy Xol Rax for herself and on behalf of her daughter DS, Zuleyma Lopez on behalf of her son JS, Gloria Tzi and Pedro Sontay, Juan Sontay and Marlene Sontay are the heirs of Mario Sontay Tzi. Mario's heirs' damages include, but are not limited to, their loss of financial support from Mario and the reasonable value of their loss of Mario's care, comfort, and society. Mario's heirs request and demand damages in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000).

Mariano's heirs Ingrid Botzoc, Dorotea Och, Emiliano Coc, Cristobal Coc and Maximiliano Coc, damages include, but are not limited to, their loss of financial support from

Mariano and the reasonable value of their loss of Mariano's care, comfort, and society. Mariano's heirs request and demand damages in the amount of Fifteen Million Dollars (\$15,000,000).

E. RESIDENCE OF CLAIMANTS SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO HIS CLAIM

Mario's heirs all live together in Carchá, Guatemala. JS lives in El Salvador.

Mariano's heirs all live together in Carchá, Guatemala.

Mario and Mariano lived at 76 North Apartment 1 in Wendell, Idaho 83355.

Dated May 8, 2024

SERNA & ASSOCIATES PLLC

/s/ Enrique Serna

Enrique G. Serna

Attorneys for Heirs of Mario Sontay

Attorneys for Heirs of Mariano Coc

Co-Counsel:

JANE GORDON LAW

/s/ Jane Gordon

Jane Gordon