

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Honorable Fredrick E. Clement
Bakersfield Federal Courthouse
510 19th Street, Second Floor
Bakersfield, California

PRE-HEARING DISPOSITIONS

DAY: WEDNESDAY
DATE: APRIL 5, 2017
CALENDAR: 10:00 A.M. CHAPTER 7 CASES

GENERAL DESIGNATIONS

Each pre-hearing disposition is prefaced by the words "Final Ruling," "Tentative Ruling" or "No Tentative Ruling." Except as indicated below, matters designated "Final Ruling" will not be called and counsel need not appear at the hearing on such matters. Matters designated "Tentative Ruling" or "No Tentative Ruling" will be called.

ORAL ARGUMENT

For matters that are called, the court may determine in its discretion whether the resolution of such matter requires oral argument. See *Morrow v. Topping*, 437 F.2d 1155, 1156-57 (9th Cir. 1971); accord LBR 9014-1(h). When the court has published a tentative ruling for a matter that is called, the court shall not accept oral argument from any attorney appearing on such matter who is unfamiliar with such tentative ruling or its grounds.

COURT'S ERRORS IN FINAL RULINGS

If a party believes that a final ruling contains an error that would, if reflected in the order or judgment, warrant a motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(a), as incorporated by Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 9024, then the party affected by such error shall, not later than 4:00 p.m. (PST) on the day before the hearing, inform the following persons by telephone that they wish the matter either to be called or dropped from calendar, as appropriate, notwithstanding the court's ruling: (1) all other parties directly affected by the motion; and (2) Kathy Torres, Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Fredrick E. Clement, at (559) 499-5860. Absent such a timely request, a matter designated "Final Ruling" will not be called.

1. [12-14300](#)-A-7 ARTURO/BERNICE HERNANDEZ MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF
MHR-1 JONATHAN NEIL & ASSOCIATES,
ARTURO HERNANDEZ/MV INC.
3-13-17 [[34](#)]
MICHAEL RAICHELSON/Atty. for dbt.

Final Ruling

Pursuant to Amended Notice, ECF #39, the hearing is set for May 3, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

2. [17-10832](#)-A-7 KOONGMENG XYONG MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
DJP-1 AUTOMATIC STAY
EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYEES CREDIT 3-22-17 [[9](#)]
UNION/MV
GABRIEL WADDELL/Atty. for dbt.
DON POOL/Atty. for mv.

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f) (2); no written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2013 Toyota RAV4 Limited Sport Utility 4D

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

STAY RELIEF

Subsection (d)(1) of § 362 of Title 11 provides for relief from stay for "cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party." 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1). Adequate protection may consist of a lump sum cash payment or periodic cash payments to the entity entitled to adequate protection "to the extent that the stay . . . results in a decrease in the value of such entity's interest in property." 11 U.S.C. § 361(1).

"Where the property is declining in value or accruing interest and taxes eat up the equity cushion to the point where the cushion no longer provides adequate protection, the court may either grant the motion to lift the stay or order the debtor to provide some other form of adequate protection." Kathleen P. March, Hon. Alan M. Ahart & Janet A. Shapiro, *California Practice Guide: Bankruptcy* ¶ 8:1096 (rev. 2015). Further, "[a]n undersecured creditor is entitled to adequate protection only for the decline in the [collateral's] value *after* the bankruptcy filing." *Id.* ¶ 8:1065.1 (citing *United Sav. Ass'n v. Timbers of Inwood Forest Assocs., Ltd.*, 484 U.S. 365, 370-73 (1988)). When a creditor is oversecured, however, an existing equity cushion

may adequately protect the creditor's security interest against a decline in the collateral's value while the stay remains in effect. See *id.* ¶ 8:1072 (citing cases). In calculating the amount of the movant creditor's equity cushion, the court ignores the debt secured by junior liens. See *id.* ¶ 8:1076 (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d 1396, 1400-01 (9th Cir. 1984)). "The Ninth Circuit has held that a 20% equity cushion (based on the property's fair market value . . .) adequately protects a creditor's security interest." March, Ahart & Shapiro, *supra*, at ¶ 8:1092 (citing *In re Mellor*, 734 F.2d at 1401).

Here, the equity cushion is only 13%, which is less than the 20% cushion ordinarily required to provide adequate protection. And the debtor has missed 1 postpetition payment, causing interest to accrue and further reduce the equity cushion. This constitutes cause for stay relief.

The court does not address grounds for relief under § 362(d)(2) as relief is warranted under § 362(d)(1). The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

Educational Employees Credit Union's motion for relief from the automatic stay has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as 2013 Toyota RAV4 Limited Sport Utility 4D, as to all parties in interest. The 14-day stay of the order under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) is waived. Any party with standing may pursue its rights against the property pursuant to applicable non-bankruptcy law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no other relief is awarded. To the extent that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

3. [16-13443](#)-A-7 R.L. SURGENER, INC.
KDG-4
JEFFREY VETTER/MV
LEONARD WELSH/Atty. for dbt.
LISA HOLDER/Atty. for mv.
RESPONSIVE PLEADING

MOTION TO SELL AND/OR MOTION TO
PAY
3-8-17 [[47](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Sell Property and Compensate Auctioneer

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party and approved as to form and content by the signature of counsel for Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

Property: Personal property including Inventory, Office Assets, and Machinery as those terms are defined in the motion (and scrap metal and miscellaneous office equipment only if the trustee determines such items may be sold rather than removed for disposal)

Sale Type: Public auction

The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

Section 363(b)(1) of Title 11 authorizes sales of property of the estate "other than in the ordinary course of business." 11 U.S.C. § 363(b)(1); *see also In re Lionel Corp.*, 722 F.2d 1063, 1071 (2d Cir. 1983) (requiring business justification). The moving party is the Chapter 7 trustee and liquidation of property of the estate is a proper purpose. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 704(a)(1). As a result, the court will grant the motion. The stay of the order provided by Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 6004(h) will be waived.

Section 330(a) of Title 11 authorizes "reasonable compensation for actual, necessary services" rendered by a professional person employed under § 327 and "reimbursement for actual, necessary expenses." 11 U.S.C. § 330(a). Reasonable compensation is determined by considering all relevant factors. *See id.* § 330(a)(3). The court finds that the compensation sought is reasonable and will approve the application as to the auctioneer.

4. [16-13443](#)-A-7 R.L. SURGENER, INC.
KDG-5
JEFFREY VETTER/MV
LEONARD WELSH/Atty. for dbt.
LISA HOLDER/Atty. for mv.

MOTION TO PAY
3-8-17 [[53](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Allowance and Payment of Administrative Expenses

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(2); no written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Prepared by moving party

Description of Administrative Expenses:

- Cost advance to be reimbursed to trustee: PG&E, \$1,101.14
- Cost advance to be reimbursed to KDG: PG&E, \$1,101.41
- Trustee's Insurance Agency: \$5,850.21
- PG&E bills through May 2017 (estimated): \$2,000.00
- James W. Boylan, Inc. (rents for Bakersfield, CA property):
\$17,651.07
- The Kralow Company (rents for the Orange, CA property): \$5,000.00

Statutory Basis for Administrative Priority: § 503(b)(1)(A) ("actual and necessary expenses of preserving the estate")

A supplement was filed to the motion less than 28 days prior to the hearing. The supplement added an administrative creditor and increased the amount paid to another administrative creditor previously specified in the motion. The court will treat the motion as having been filed under the notice procedure of LBR 9014-1(f)(2).

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

The trustee seeks an order allowing administrative expenses in the amounts described in the motion and for approval of payment of such expenses. The expenses described

5. [16-12652](#)-A-7 FRANCES HARRIS
CJO-1
U.S. BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION/MV
ROBERT WILLIAMS/Atty. for dbt.
CHRISTINA O/Atty. for mv.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
AUTOMATIC STAY
2-27-17 [[58](#)]

Tentative Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f) (2); no written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 7401 Feather River Drive, Bakersfield, CA

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P. 55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

STAY RELIEF

Section 362(d) (2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d) (2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. *In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc.*, 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a) (3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil minutes for the hearing.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, has filed a motion for relief from the automatic stay that has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as 7401 Feather River Drive, Bakersfield, CA, as to all parties in interest. The 14-day stay of the order under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a) (3) is waived. Any party with standing may pursue its rights against the property pursuant to applicable non-bankruptcy law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no other relief is awarded. To the extent

that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

6. [12-17364](#)-A-7 JOSUE HARO MOTION TO AVOID LIEN OF
RSW-2 CITIBANK SOUTH DAKOTA
JOSUE HARO/MV 3-16-17 [[21](#)]
ROBERT WILLIAMS/Atty. for dbt.

No tentative ruling.

7. [16-14489](#)-A-7 SANTOS/HERMINIA LUEVANO MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM
ABG-1 AUTOMATIC STAY
KINECTA FEDERAL CREDIT 2-23-17 [[16](#)]
UNION/MV
PATRICK KAVANAGH/Atty. for dbt.
MARK BLACKMAN/Atty. for mv.

Final Ruling

Motion: Stay Relief

Notice: LBR 9014-1(f)(1); written opposition required

Disposition: Granted

Order: Civil minute order

Subject: 2014 Dodge Avenger

Unopposed motions are subject to the rules of default. Fed. R. Civ. P.55, *incorporated by* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7055, 9014(c). Written opposition to this motion was required not less than 14 days before the hearing on this motion. LBR 9014-1(f)(1)(B). None has been filed. The default of the responding party is entered. The court considers the record, accepting well-pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F.2d 915, 917-18 (9th Cir. 1987).

STAY RELIEF

Section 362(d)(2) authorizes stay relief if the debtor lacks equity in the property and the property is not necessary to an effective reorganization. 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(2). Chapter 7 is a mechanism for liquidation, not reorganization, and, therefore, property of the estate is never necessary for reorganization. *In re Casgul of Nevada, Inc.*, 22 B.R. 65, 66 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 1982). In this case, the aggregate amount due all liens exceeds the value of the collateral and the debtor has no equity in the property. The motion will be granted, and the 14-day stay of Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) will be waived. No other relief will be awarded.

CIVIL MINUTE ORDER

The court shall issue a civil minute order that conforms substantially to the following form:

Findings of fact and conclusions of law are stated in the civil

minutes for the hearing.

Kinecta Federal Credit Union's motion for relief from the automatic stay has been presented to the court. Having entered the default of respondent for failure to appear, timely oppose, or otherwise defend in the matter, and having considered the well-pleaded facts of the motion,

IT IS ORDERED that the motion is granted. The automatic stay is vacated with respect to the property described in the motion, commonly known as a 2014 Dodge Avenger, as to all parties in interest. The 14-day stay of the order under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(a)(3) is waived. Any party with standing may pursue its rights against the property pursuant to applicable non-bankruptcy law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no other relief is awarded. To the extent that the motion includes any request for attorney's fees or other costs for bringing this motion, the request is denied.

8. [16-14489](#)-A-7 SANTOS/HERMINIA LUEVANO
JMV-1

OPPOSITION RE: TRUSTEE'S MOTION
TO DISMISS FOR FAILURE TO
APPEAR AT SEC. 341(A) MEETING
OF CREDITORS
2-10-17 [[11](#)]

PATRICK KAVANAGH/Atty. for dbt.

No tentative ruling.