

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

STRIKE 3 HOLDINGS, LLC,	)	
	)	
<i>Plaintiff,</i>	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No: 1:26-cv-01381-AJT-LRV
	)	
JOHN DOE infringer identified as using IP	)	
address 70.106.210.154	)	
	)	
<i>Defendant.</i>	)	
_____	)	

ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff’s Motion for Leave to File Unredacted Versions of Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint, Proposed Summons and Return of Service Under Seal (Dkt. No. 14) (the “Motion”) and the memorandum in support thereof (Dkt. No. 16). On September 15, 2026, Plaintiff filed its First Amended Complaint (Dkt. No. 11) against Defendant pseudonymously, ostensibly out of concern for Defendant’s privacy. (*See* Dkt. No. 16 ¶ 5.) That same day, Plaintiff filed the Motion requesting leave to file under seal unredacted versions of its First Amended Complaint, proposed summons, and return of service, which “include Defendant’s name, address, and other factual information central to Plaintiff’s claim.” (*Id.* ¶ 7.)

Local Civil Rule 5 provides specific procedures for requests to file documents under seal. Local Civil Rule 5(A) states that “[u]nless otherwise provided by law, Court rule, or prior order of the Court, no document or portion of a document may be filed under seal unless the filer has complied with the procedures set forth herein.”

The Court finds that Plaintiff did not comply with the procedures set forth in Local Civil Rule 5. The Motion’s supporting memorandum (Dkt. No. 16) fails to include “[a] statement . .

. why another procedure will not suffice, as well as appropriate evidentiary support for the sealing request”; “[r]eferences to the governing case law, an analysis of the appropriate standard to be applied for that specific filing, and a description of how that standard has been satisfied”; or “a statement as to the period of time the party seeks to have the matter maintained under seal and how the mater is to be handled upon unsealing.” L. Civ. R. 5(C)(2)–(4). The Motion’s proposed order (Dkt. No. 14-1) fails to “recite the findings required by governing case law to support the proposed sealing.” L. Civ. R. 5(C). Plaintiff did not file the unredacted version of what it seeks to seal despite expressly stating that “the documents to be filed under seal accompany this motion.” (Dkt. No. 14 at 1; *see also* L. Civ. R. 5(C) (“[A] portion of a document . . . may be filed under seal only if a motion to file under seal pursuant to this section is filed contemporaneously with the material for which sealing is requested.”).)

Though Plaintiff states that “Defendant does not oppose the relief requested herein” (Dkt. No. 16 ¶ 9), Local Civil Rule 5(C) is clear: “Agreement of the parties that a document . . . should be filed under seal . . . is not, by itself, sufficient justification for allowing a document . . . to be filed under seal.” Given the deficiency of the Motion, it is hereby

ORDERED that the Motion (Dkt. No. 14) is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. It is further

ORDERED that to the extent Plaintiff seeks to file the First Amended Complaint, Proposed Summons, and Return of Service under seal, Plaintiff must comply with the specific procedures set forth in Local Civil Rule 5. Plaintiff is advised of its responsibility to redact

certain personal identifying information according to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2.¹

ENTERED this 2nd day of October, 2026.



Lindsey R. Vaala
United States Magistrate Judge

Alexandria, Virginia.

¹ Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 provides for privacy protection of electronic or paper filings made with the court. Personal information protected by Rule 5.2(a) includes “an individual’s social-security number, taxpayer-identification number, or birth date, the name of an individual known to be a minor, or a financial-account number.” Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 5.2(a). A party making the filing may include only: “(1) the last four digits of the social-security number and taxpayer-identification number; (2) the year of the individual’s birth; (3) the minor’s initials; and (4) the last four digits of the financial-account number.” *Id.*