**VLO CLIENT ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, made by and between “Client” and the law firm of Vinson Law Offices, PLLC hereinafter called “Counsel”;

Whereas, Client stands charged with a traffic offense in the North Carolina General District and has consulted with Counsel and wishes to retain Counsel to represent client regarding this matter in North General District Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

Fee.  Client has agreed to pay to Counsel by way of advance fee, which shall be credited to Client’s account. Client understands that Client has not retained Vinson Law Offices, PLLC to be their attorney until Client has paid the full balance of the fee. Client understands that Client is responsible for any court costs and/or fines levied in connection with their case(s). In addition, Client understands that Client is responsible for disbursements made in connection with their case. Court costs, fines and disbursements are in addition to, and not included in, the legal fees. If Client fails to pay the above legal fees and costs as set forth in this agreement, Vinson Law Offices, PLLC, shall be entitled to all costs and expenses of collection including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees of 33-1/3% of the outstanding balance enforced and all court costs.

Period/Duration of Representation.  Client and Counsel acknowledge that this Agreement shall bind Counsel to represent Client only insofar as a nonjury trial through the District Court, but shall not bind Counsel to represent Client in any appeal or appellate proceeding incident to the above charge or lesser included offense nor to represent Client in any proceeding arising out of the events giving rise to this charge other than the present misdemeanor charge; in the event the present charge is appealed to the Superior Court, in such event, Client agrees that they shall negotiate compensation for representation in Superior Court at that time. If not paid upon demand, this shall constitute grounds for Counsel to withdraw as Client’s counsel.

**Unless otherwise agreed in writing, this Agreement covers only the court date for which Counsel is hired and one (1) continuance**. **If Counsel has to continue a case beyond this limit due to lacking information, required documents, or prepaid Court Costs and fines from the Defendant, the Defendant agrees to pay Counsel fifty dollars for each additional continuance if it is a traffic matter or two-hundred dollars if it is a criminal misdemeanor or DWI charge. This payment is to be made before the matter in this Agreement is finalized. If payment is not made for the continuance, Counsel is not obligated to finish the case in this Agreement and Counsel may withdraw from the case. The Defendant agrees to allow Counsel to use the debit or credit card on file to process this payment.**

Client understands that at any time after the second court date, at which point the Defendant has still not provided the Law Firm with the required documents, the Law Firm has the option to negotiate a plea with the Assistant District Attorney. The Defendant understands that without the documents requested by the Law Firm, the best outcome may not be obtained. If no plea can be reached, then the Defendant’s case will not be finished and the Defendant will be responsible for finishing the case on his own.

In addition to the foregoing, Counsel reserves the right to withdraw as counsel for Client upon the happening of any of the following events:

a. The development of any ethical conflict as the same may now or hereafter be defined by the Rules of Professional Conduct promulgated by the North Carolina State Bar.

b. Should Client make any untrue or misleading statements to Counsel, the Court, or to any party in response to pleadings in this case, in addition to withdrawal, Counsel reserves the right to correct the misrepresentation to the Court and/or to any other party.

c. In the event a supplementary statement for professional services rendered incident to this Agreement remains unpaid for a period in excess of 60 days.

Discharge of Counsel by Client. Client may discharge Counsel at any time during the representation contemplated by this Agreement. In the event of such discharge, Counsel shall be entitled to bill Client for time and out-of pocket expenses through the date of discharge.

Representations as to Results.  It is understood that Counsel makes no promises, guarantees, or representations, express or implied, as to the results that might be obtained for Client, except that Counsel shall use the best efforts to obtain a satisfactory result for Client and keep Client reasonably informed from time to time as to the status and progress of the matters entrusted to Counsel hereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Counsel and Client have hereunto set their hands and seals:

 By: (SEAL)

 L**akai Vinson**

 **for Vinson Law Offices, PLLC**

**Waiver of Appearance**

If Vinson Law Offices has informed me that they will appear on my behalf without the necessity of my appearance at the above stated court date, I do hereby waive my constitutional right to appear and contest the charges against me and appoint any Vinson Law Offices attorney or legal intern standing in their place to act on my behalf and to enter such plea(s) as they may deem fit to best represent me in this matter.

I request that the Court accept my waiver of trial and plea of responsible, and that a finding of responsible be entered. It is made with the full understanding that a finding of responsible will be entered against my record and that it will have the same legal effect for all purposes as a verdict of responsible after hearing, and that it may result in the assessment of points on my driving record.