1 RACHEL H. MITCHELL MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY FILED 2 JEANNE A. NAUGHTON, CLERK By: Peter Muthig **Deputy County Attorney** 3 NOV 09 2023 State Bar No. 018526 U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT MCAO Firm No. 00032000 4 E-mail: muthigk@mcao.maricopa.gov DEPUTY CIVIL SERVICES DIVISION 5 225 W. Madison Street Phoenix, Arizona 85003 6 Telephone (602) 506-1923 7 Attorneys for Maricopa County Treasurer 8 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 9 DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY 10 In Re: Case No. 23-14853 (JKS) 11 Chapter 11 Cyxtera Technologies, Inc., et al., 12 (Jointly Administered) Debtors. 13 Hearing Date: November 16, 2023 Hearing Time: 2:00 p.m. (ET) 14 [Relates to Docket No. 551 and 648] 15 16 MARICOPA COUNTY TREASURER'S OBJECTION TO SECOND AMENDED JOINT 17 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION OF CYXTERA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. AND ITS DEBTOR AFFILIATES PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 11 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE 18 Maricopa County Treasurer ("MCT"), a secured tax lien creditor, by and through 19 its undersigned counsel, hereby objects to the Second Amended Joint Plan of 20 Reorganization of Cyxtera Technologies, Inc. and Its Debtor Affiliates Pursuant to 21 Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. (DE 551) (the "Plan"). MCT objects to the Plan for 22 the reasons set forth below. 23

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1. MCT's Claims

On August 30, 2023, MCT filed Secured Tax Proof of Claim, Claim #485¹, (the "MCT Claim") in the joint case of Cyxtera Communications, LLC in the amount of \$142,682.56 representing the 2023 personal property taxes on Debtors' property located in Maricopa County, Arizona and identified by parcel number 994-58-193. Interest accrues, or will accrue, at the statutory rate of 16% per year simple, if not timely paid, until paid in full. See 11 U.S.C. § 511 and Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 42-18053.

Arizona law provides the following.

- a. The personal property tax liens attached on January 1 of the respective tax year and the taxes are not discharged until the taxes and interest are paid in full or title to the property vests in a purchaser of the property for taxes. A.R.S. §§ 42-17153 and 42-19106. Accordingly, the liens for personal property taxes encumbering the property cannot be removed until the personal property taxes are paid in full.
- b. The tax liens are "prior and superior to any other liens of every kind and description regardless of when another lien attached." A.R.S. § 42-17153 and 42-19106.
- c. Interest accrues at the statutory rate of 16% per annum until the taxes are paid in full. 11 U.S.C. § 511 and A.R.S. § 42-18053.
- d. "If the tax has not been paid on property sold at judicial sale, or sold by an executor, administrator, guardian or trustee, the person making the sale shall pay the taxes, penalties and costs from the proceeds of the sale." A.R.S. § 42-

¹ MCT's original Proof of Claim, Claim #12, was filed on June 20, 2023.

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- e. "It is unlawful for the owner, a lienholder, a conditional vendor or any other person to knowingly sell or transfer personal property or remove it from its location until the taxes on the property are paid." A.R.S. § 42-19107.
- f. Arizona law provides that "[t]he tax on personal property is a debt against the owner to whom the property is assessed and against the owner's successors and assigns." A.R.S. § 19117(A). In the event the taxes and any statutory interest are not paid in full from the sale proceeds, MCT may pursue collection of the unpaid taxes and interest due from the Buyer. A.R.S. § 42-19117. MCT also requests that the Buyer provide MCT with the correct address to mail tax bills.

2. Objections

MCT objects to the Plan and the related Sale Transaction (DE 648) to the extent that Debtors seek to sell, transfer or remove the personal property in Maricopa County prior to payment in full of the 2023 personal property taxes. The second half 2023 taxes remain due and payable in the amount of \$75,689.91. However, the Plan and Sale Transaction are not clear as to who will pay the remainder of the 2023 taxes and when. Will the Debtors and/or Buyer pay the second half 2023 taxes in full upon closing of the sale, or will the Buyer pay the second half 2023 taxes when they become due under Arizona law? Further, it is not clear if the full amount owed for the second half 2023 taxes is an Assumed Liability of the Purchaser.

MCT further objects to the Plan and the related Sale Transaction to the extent that Debtors seek to sell, transfer or remove the personal property in Maricopa County without retention of the tax liens on the property until the taxes and any interest are paid in full.

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Pursuant to the Sale Transaction, the second half 2023 tax liens qualify as Permitted Encumbrances. However, as stated above, it is not clear if the 2023 taxes will be paid in full upon closing of the sale, or if the Purchaser is assuming liability for payment of the second half 2023 taxes. Therefore, MCT requests clarification on the issue of when and by whom the taxes will be paid, and adequate protection of its tax liens by including a provision that the states the MCT tax liens shall be retained on the property until the taxes and interest are paid in full. WHEREFORE, MCT objects to the Plan and related Sale Transaction unless the Debtors and/or Purchaser pay the second half 2023 taxes or include agreed upon language in the confirmation order to resolve MCT's objections. RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 3rd day of November, 2023. RACHEL H. MITCHELL MARICOPA COUNTY ATTORNEY BY: PETER MUTHIG Deputy County Attorney Attorney for Maricopa County Treasurer ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed by overnight mail this 3rd day of November, 2023, with: Clerk, United States Bankruptcy Court District of New Jersey MLK Jr Federal Building 50 Walnut Street Newark, NJ 07102 COPY of the foregoing mailed/e-mailed, this 3rd day of November, 2023, to: Alexandria Nikolinos Fran B. Steele U.S. Department of Justice

1	Office of the US Trustee
2	One Newark Center, Suite 2100 Newark, NJ 07102-5504 Email: <u>alexandria.nikolinos@usdoj.gov</u>
3	Email: <u>Fran.B.Steele@usdoj.gov</u>
4	Christopher Marcus, P.C. Derek I. Hunter
5	Kirklnd & Ellis LLP 601 Lexington Avenue
6	New York, NY 10022 Email: Christopher.marcus@kirkland.com
7	Email: derek.hunter@kirkland.com Co-Counsel for Debtors
8	Michael D. Sirota Warren A. Usatine
9	Felice R. Yudkin Cole Schotz P.C.
10	25 Main Street Hackensack, NJ 07601
11	Email: <u>msirota@coleschotz.com</u> Email: <u>wusatine@coleschotz.com</u> Email: <u>fyudkin@coleschotz.com</u>
12	Co-Counsel for Debtors
13	Edward T. Ackerman Jacob A. Adlerstein
14	Brian S. Hermann Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP
15	1285 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10019-6064
16	Email: <u>eackerman@paulweiss.com</u> Email: adlerstein@paulweiss.com
17	Email: <u>bhermann@paulweiss.com</u> Counsel to Purchaser
18	Typa Garcia
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

