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 Community Services, Inc.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

DEMONTAE SIMPSON, individually, and
 on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES,
 INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1
 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: RG21096395

CLASS ACTION

[Honorable Brad Seligman]

**JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION
 SETTLEMENT**

Complaint filed: April 20, 2021
 Trial date: Not set

JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

This Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement (“Joint Stipulation of Settlement” or “Settlement” or “Agreement”) is made and entered into by and between Plaintiff DEMONTAE SIMPSON, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, (“Plaintiff” or “Class Representative”), and Defendant BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. (“Defendant”). Plaintiff and Defendant are sometimes referred to individually as a “Party” or collectively referred to herein as “the Parties.” THE PARTIES STIPULATE AND AGREE as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. For purposes of this Settlement, “Complaint” refers to the first amended complaint filed on June 22, 2021 in this Action.

2. For purposes of this Settlement, this matter, entitled *Simpson v. Bay Area Community Services, Inc.*, Case No. RG21096395, is referred to herein as the “Action.”

3. For purposes of this Settlement, the “Class Period” is April 20, 2017 through the earlier of preliminary approval or November 30, 2022.

4. For purposes of this Settlement, the “Class” or “Class Members” consist of: All non-exempt employees of Defendant who worked for Defendant in California during the Class Period. “Settlement Class Members” are those Class Members who do not submit timely exclusion requests to the Settlement Administrator.

5. For purposes of this Settlement, “Class Counsel” means MOON & YANG, APC.

6. For purposes of this Settlement, “Court” means the Alameda County Superior Court.

7. For purposes of this Settlement, “Covered Workweeks” means the number of weeks a Class Member worked at Defendant’s locations in California during the Class Period.

8. For the purposes of this Settlement, “LWDA” means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

9. For purposes of this Settlement, “Response Deadline” means the date forty-five (45) days after the Settlement Administrator initially mails the Notice to Class Members (“Notice”) and the last date on which Class Members may submit a request for exclusion or written objection to the Settlement. In the case of a re-mailed Notice, the Response Deadline will be the later of 45 calendar days after initial mailing

1 or 14 calendar days from re-mailing. The Response Deadline may be extended only as expressly described
2 herein.

3 10. For purposes of the Settlement, “Defendant’s Counsel” means MESSNER REEVES LLP.

4 11. For purposes of this Settlement, “PAGA” means the Labor Code Private Attorneys
5 General Act of 2004 (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*).

6 12. For purposes of this Settlement, “FLSA”, means the Fair Labor Standards Act.

7 13. For purposes of this Settlement, “PAGA Allocation” means the portion of the Gross
8 Settlement Amount that the Parties have agreed to allocate to resolution of the Released PAGA Claims.
9 The Parties have agreed that the PAGA Allocation will be \$50,000 from the Gross Settlement Amount.
10 Pursuant to PAGA, Seventy Five Percent (75%), or \$37,500, of the PAGA Allocation will be paid to the
11 Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) (“PAGA Penalty Payment”), and Twenty Five
12 Percent (25%), or \$12,500, of the PAGA Allocation will be paid to the PAGA Employees (“PAGA
13 Settlement Payment”).

14 14. For purposes of this Settlement, “PAGA Period” means the period between April 20, 2020
15 through the earlier of preliminary approval or November 30, 2022.

16 15. For purposes of this Settlement, “PAGA Employee” means all non-exempt employees of
17 Defendant who worked for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period. It is stipulated by the Parties
18 that, for purposes of this Settlement, all PAGA Employees are “aggrieved employees” as defined pursuant
19 to PAGA.

20 16. For purposes of this Settlement, “PAGA Pay Periods” means the number of pay periods
21 each PAGA Employee worked during the PAGA Period.

22 17. For purposes of this Settlement, “PAGA Representative” means Plaintiff.

23 18. For purposes of this Settlement, “Released PAGA Claims” means all claims for penalties
24 and any other available relief pursuant to PAGA based on the facts and/or claims asserted in Plaintiff’s
25 Complaint arising during the PAGA Period.

26 19. For purposes of this Settlement, “Settlement Administrator” means and refers to ILYM
27 Corp., the third-party entity that will administer the Settlement/Agreement as outlined in Sections 27, 28,
28 29, 30 and 31, or any other third-party class action settlement claims administrator agreed to by the Parties

and approved by the Court for the purposes of administering the Settlement/Agreement. The Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.

20. For purposes of this Settlement, “Settlement Payment” means all of the payments to Settlement Class Members (the “Settlement Class Payment”) and all of the payments to PAGA Employees (the “PAGA Settlement Payment”).

STIPULATED BACKGROUND

21. On April 20, 2021, Plaintiff filed the putative class Action alleging the following labelled causes of action: (1) Failure to Pay Minimum Wage and Straight Time Wages [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 204, 1194, 1194.2, and 1197]; (2) Failure to Pay Overtime Compensation [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1194 and 1198]; (3) Failure to Provide Meal Periods [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7, 512]; (4) Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Breaks [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 226.7]; (5) Failure to Indemnify Necessary Business Expenses; (6) Failure to Timely Pay Final Wages at Termination [Cal. Lab. Code §§ 201-203]; (7) Failure to Provide Accurate Itemized Wage Statements [Cal. Lab. Code § 226]; and (8) Unfair Business Practices [Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*]. In the Complaint, Plaintiff sought to represent all persons that worked for Defendant in California as an hourly-paid, non-exempt employee at any time during the period beginning four years before the filing of the initial complaint and ending when Notice to the Class is sent.

22. Plaintiff satisfied the administrative exhaustion requirement that is a prerequisite to filing a claim for civil penalties under PAGA. On June 22, 2021, Plaintiff filed a first amended complaint adding a cause of action for civil penalties under PAGA .

23. Solely for purposes of settling this case, the Parties and their respective counsel stipulate and agree that the requisites for establishing class certification with respect to the Class Members have been met and are met. More specifically for settlement purposes only, the Parties stipulate and agree that:

(a) The Class is ascertainable and so numerous as to make it impracticable to join all Class Members.

(b) There are common questions of law and fact including, but not limited to, the following:

1) Whether or not Defendant paid proper wages to the Class;

- 2) Whether or not Defendant provided meal periods to the Class;
 - 3) Whether or not Defendant provided rest periods to the Class;
 - 4) Whether or not Defendant paid compensation timely upon separation of employment to former Class Members;
 - 5) Whether or not Defendant reimbursed the Class for necessary business expenses;
 - 6) Whether or not Defendant paid compensation timely throughout Class Members' employment;
 - 7) Whether or not Defendant provided accurate itemized statements to the Class;
 - 8) Whether or not waiting-time penalties are available to the Class for violation of California Labor Code § 203;
 - 9) Whether or not Defendant maintained requisite records;
 - 10) Whether or not Defendant paid proper meal period pay or rest period pay to the Class; and,
 - 11) Whether or not Defendant engaged in unlawful or unfair business practices affecting the Class in violation of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200-17208.
- (c) Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members.
- (d) Plaintiff and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.
- (e) The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct.
- (f) With respect to the Class, questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate over any questions affecting any individual member in such Class, and that a class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

1 24. Should, for whatever reason, the Settlement not become effective, the fact that the Parties
2 were willing to stipulate to certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, and shall not be
3 admissible in connection with, the issue of whether the Class Members and/or the Class claims should be
4 certified in a non-settlement context in this Action or in any other lawsuit. Defendant expressly reserves its
5 right to oppose claim or class certification in this or any other action should this Settlement not become
6 effective.

7 25. Defendant denies any liability or wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever associated with the
8 claims alleged in the Complaint, and Defendant further denies that, for any purpose other than settling this
9 lawsuit, the Action is appropriate for class or representative treatment. With respect to Plaintiff's claims,
10 Defendant contends, among other things, that Plaintiff and the Class Members have been paid proper
11 wages, have been provided meal periods or they have been made available as required, have been provided
12 rest periods or they have been authorized and permitted as required, have been paid timely wages upon
13 separation of employment, and have been provided with accurate itemized wage statements. Defendant
14 contends, among other things, that it has complied at all times with the California Labor Code and the
15 applicable Wage Orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission. Furthermore, with respect to all claims,
16 Defendant contends that it has complied at all times with the California Business and Professions Code,
17 and the FLSA.

18 26. It is the desire of the Parties to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise, and discharge
19 all disputes and claims arising from or related to the Complaint.

20 27. Class Counsel has conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of this Action,
21 including an extensive review of relevant documents, and has diligently pursued an investigation of the
22 claims of the Class against Defendant. Based on its own independent investigation and evaluation, Class
23 Counsel is of the opinion that the Settlement with Defendant for the consideration and on the terms set
24 forth in this Joint Stipulation of Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the
25 Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay, the risk the
26 Class will not be certified by the Court, defenses asserted by Defendant, and numerous potential appellate
27 issues. Defendant and Defendant's Counsel also agree that the Settlement is fair and in the best interest of
28 the Class.

29. The Parties agree to stay all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, pending the final approval hearing to be conducted by the Court.

29. The Parties agree to stay all proceedings in the Action, except such proceedings necessary to implement and complete the Settlement, pending the final approval hearing to be conducted by the Court.

PRIMARY TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

30. NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:

(a) It is agreed by and among the Class and Defendant that this Action and any claims, damages, or causes of action arising out of the disputes which are the subject of this Action, be settled and compromised as between the Class and Defendant, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Settlement and the approval of the Court.

(b) Effective Date: The terms of settlement embodied in this Settlement shall become effective when all of the following events have occurred: (i) this Joint Stipulation of Settlement has been executed by all Parties and their respective counsel; (ii) the Court has given preliminary approval to the Settlement; (iii) the Notice has been given to the Class, providing them with an opportunity to dispute information contained in the Notice, to opt out of the Settlement, or to object to the Settlement; (iv) the Court has held a final approval hearing and entered a final order and judgment certifying the Class and approving this Settlement; and (v) the later of the following events: (a) the day final approval is granted if there are no objections to the settlement; (b) sixty-five (65) days following notice of entry of the Court's final order approving the Settlement if there are any objections by any Class Member; (c) or if any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing this Settlement has been filed within sixty-five (65) days following notice of entry of the Court's final order approving the Settlement, then twenty (20) days after when any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the Settlement has been resolved finally

1 and conclusively with no right to pursue further remedies or relief (“Effective
2 Date”).

3 (c) Gross Settlement Amount: Defendant’s maximum total payment under the
4 Settlement, including all attorney’s fees and costs, the Service Payment to the
5 named Plaintiff, the costs of settlement administration, the PAGA Allocation, and
6 any other payments provided by this Settlement, is \$875,000.00 (“Gross Settlement
7 Amount”), subject to the Escalator Clause and except that, to the extent that any
8 portions of the Settlement Class Payment constitute wages, Defendant will be
9 separately responsible for any employer payroll taxes required by law, including
10 the employer FICA, FUTA, and SDI contributions.

11 (d) Escalator Clause: The Parties estimate that as of May 9, 2022, the number of
12 workweeks worked by Settlement Class Members during the Class Period is
13 approximately 53,117. If it is determined that the workweeks during the Class
14 Period exceeds 63,740 (53,117 plus 20%), the Gross Settlement Amount, will be
15 increased by the same number of percentage points above 20% by which the actual
16 number of workweeks exceeds 63,740. For example, if the actual number of
17 workweeks is determined to be 22% higher than 53,117, the Gross Settlement
18 Amount will be increased by 2% not 22% (the “Escalator Clause”). In the
19 alternative, Defendant in its sole discretion may elect to end the release period on
20 the date on which the workweeks reach 63,740. The Gross Settlement Amount will
21 not be reduced for any reason.

22 (e) Non-reversionary Settlement: No portion of the Gross Settlement Amount will
23 revert to Defendant.

24 (f) No Claims Required: Class Members will not be required to submit a claim to
25 receive their Settlement Payment.

26 (g) Net Settlement Amount: The Net Settlement Amount for the Settlement Class
27 Payment shall be calculated by deducting from the Gross Settlement Amount
28 (\$875,000.00) the following sums, subject to approval by the Court: (1) attorney’s

fees (not to exceed 33 and one-third% of the Gross Settlement Amount); (2) reasonable litigation costs (not to exceed \$15,000.00); (3) the Service Payment (not to exceed \$10,000.00 to the named Plaintiff); (4) the PAGA Allocation in the amount of \$50,000.00; and (5) costs of settlement administration (estimated not to exceed \$20,000) ("Net Settlement Amount"). Settlement Payments to the Class Members will be calculated by the Settlement Administrator and paid out of the Net Settlement Amount as set forth below.

(h) Payroll Taxes and Required Withholdings: To the extent that any portions of the Settlement Class Members' Settlement Payments constitute wages, Defendant will be separately responsible for any employer payroll taxes required by law, including the employer FICA, FUTA, and SDI contributions. Except for any employer payroll taxes, it is understood and agreed that Defendant's maximum total liability under this Settlement shall not exceed the Gross Settlement Amount. The Settlement Administrator will calculate and submit the Defendant's employer share of payroll taxes after advising Defendant of the total amount owed, in aggregate, as employer-side payroll taxes and receiving a lump sum payment from Defendant in that amount when the Gross Settlement Amount is delivered to the Settlement Administrator.

(i) Settlement Class Payments (Excludes PAGA Allocation): Settlement Class Payments will be paid out of the Net Settlement Amount. Each Settlement Class Member will be paid a pro-rata share of the Net Settlement Amount as calculated by the Settlement Administrator. The pro-rata share will be determined by comparing the individual Settlement Class Member's Covered Workweeks employed during the Class Period in California to the total Covered Workweeks of all the Settlement Class Members during the Class Period as follows: [Covered Workweeks worked by a Settlement Class Member] ÷ [Sum of all Covered Workweeks worked by all Settlement Class Members] × [Net Settlement Amount] = individual Settlement Payment for a Settlement Class Member. Settlement Class

Payments in the appropriate amounts will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator by mail to the Settlement Class Members. Un-cashed, unclaimed or abandoned checks, shall be transmitted to the California Controller's Office, as set forth below.

(j) PAGA Payments: Each PAGA Employee will be paid a pro-rata share of the PAGA Settlement Payment as calculated by the Settlement Administrator. Class Members will not be permitted to exclude themselves from this portion of the Settlement. The pro-rata share will be determined by comparing the individual PAGA Employees' PAGA Pay Periods during the PAGA Period to the total PAGA Pay Periods of all the PAGA Employees during the PAGA Period as follows:
$$[\text{PAGA Pay Periods worked by a PAGA Employee}] \div [\text{Sum of all PAGA Pay Periods worked by all PAGA Employees}] \times [\text{PAGA Settlement Payment}] =$$
 individual PAGA Employee's portion of the PAGA Settlement Payment. PAGA Settlement Payments to PAGA Employees in the appropriate amounts will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator by mail to the PAGA Employees at the same time Settlement Class Payments issue to the Settlement Class. Un-cashed, unclaimed or abandoned checks, shall be transmitted to the California Controller's Office, as set forth below. The LWDA's PAGA Penalty Payment will issue to the LWDA at the same time Settlement Payments issue to the Settlement Class.

(k) Allocation of Settlement Payments: The Parties have agreed that Settlement Class Payments will be allocated as follows: 20% to wages, 40% to penalties, and 40% to interest. The PAGA Settlement Payment shares to PAGA Employees will be entirely allocated to penalties. Appropriate federal, state and local withholding taxes will be taken out of the wage allocations, and each Class Member will receive an IRS Form W-2 with respect to this portion of the Settlement Payment. Defendant's share of payroll taxes and other required withholdings will be paid as set forth above, including but not limited to the Defendant's FICA and FUTA contributions, based on the payment of claims to the Class Members. IRS Forms

1099 will be issued to each Class Member reflecting the payments for penalties and interest. Class Members are responsible to pay appropriate taxes due on the Settlement Payments they receive. To the extent required by law, IRS Forms 1099 and W-2 will be issued to each Class Member with respect to such payments.

(l) Settlement Payments Do Not Give Rise to Additional Benefits: All Settlement Payments to individual Class Members shall be deemed to be paid to such Class Member solely in the year in which such payments actually are received by the Class Member. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of such Settlement Payments will not entitle any Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any company bonus, contest or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Settlement up to and including the date the Settlement becomes effective, nor will it entitle any Class Member to any increased retirement, 401(k) benefits or matching benefits or deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent that the Settlement Payments provided for in this Settlement are the sole payments to be made by Defendant to the Class Members, and that the Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received the Settlement Payments (notwithstanding any contrary language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have been in effect during the period covered by this Settlement).

(m) Attorney's Fees and Costs: Subject to approval by the Court, Defendant will not object to Class Counsel's application for attorney's fees not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses not to exceed \$15,000.00.

(n) Service Payment: Subject to Court approval, and in exchange for a general release, Defendant will not object to Class Counsel's application for an additional payment of up to \$10,000.00 to Plaintiff for service as a Class Representative ("Service Payment"). It is understood that the Service Payment is in addition to the individual

Settlement Payment to which a Class Representative is entitled to along with the other Class Members. In exchange, Plaintiff has agreed to release all claims, whether known or unknown, under federal law or state law against the Releasees, to the extent permitted by law, through the Class Period ("Plaintiff's Released Claims"). Plaintiff understands that this release includes unknown claims and that he is, as a result, waiving all rights and benefits afforded by Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

Specifically excluded from Plaintiff's Released Claims are any claims for workers' compensation benefits. The Service Payment will issue at the same time all Settlement Payments are mailed to the Settlement Class.

- (o) Defendant or the Settlement Administrator will issue an IRS Form 1099 for the Service Payment to the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff will be individually responsible for correctly characterizing this compensation on personal income tax returns for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on the amounts received. Should the Court approve a Service Payment in an amount less than that set forth above, the difference between the lesser amount(s) approved by the Court and the Service Payment amount(s) set forth above shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount. Plaintiff agrees not to opt out or object to the Service Payment as the Class Representative.
- (p) Settlement Administrator: The Settlement Administrator will be ILYM Group, Inc., or such Settlement Administrator as may be mutually agreeable to the Parties and approved by the Court. Cost of settlement Administration are estimated not to exceed \$20,000. The costs of the Settlement Administrator for work done shall be paid regardless of the outcome of this Settlement.
- (q) Funding of Settlement Account: Defendant will fund the settlement account no

1 later than 14 days after the Effective Date.

2 (r) Mailing of Settlement Payments: The Settlement Administrator shall cause the
3 Settlement Payments to be mailed to the Class Members within 14 calendar days of
4 the receipt of funding.

5 (s) Notice of Settlement: Each Class Member will be mailed a notice setting forth the
6 material terms of the proposed Settlement, along with instructions about how to
7 object or request exclusion from the proposed class action Settlement ("Notice").
8 For each Class Member, there will be pre-printed information on the mailed
9 Notice, based on Defendant's records, stating the Class Member's Covered
10 Workweeks during the Class Period and the estimated total Settlement Payment
11 under the Settlement, including the Settlement Class Payment and the PAGA
12 Settlement Payment that will be distributed irrespective of any exclusion request.
13 The pre-printed information based on Defendant's records shall be presumed to be
14 correct. A Class Member may dispute the pre-printed information on the Notice as
15 to his or her Covered Workweeks during the Class Period. Class Members must
16 submit any dispute regarding the information on the Notice as to his or her
17 Covered Workweeks within the Response Deadline. Unless a disputing Class
18 Member submits documentary evidence in support of his or her dispute, the
19 records of the Defendant will be determinative.

20 (t) Settlement Notice Language: The Notice will issue in English and Spanish.

21 (u) Class Members Cannot Exclude Themselves from the Released PAGA Claims:
22 Class Members submitting a Request for Exclusion will nevertheless receive their
23 pro-rata share of the PAGA Settlement Payment. If the Court approves the PAGA
24 Allocation, all Class Members are bound by the Court's resolution of the PAGA
25 claim. Plaintiff shall serve a notice of settlement on the LWDA at or before the
26 time Plaintiff files the motion for preliminary approval.

27 (v) Resolution of Workweek Disputes: If a Class Member disputes the accuracy of
28 Defendant's records used to calculate Covered Workweeks, and the Parties'

counsel cannot resolve the dispute informally, the matter will be referred to the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will review Defendant's records and any information or documents submitted by the Class Member and issue a non-appealable decision regarding the dispute. The Class Member must submit information or documents supporting his or her position to the Settlement Administrator prior to the expiration of the Response Deadline. Information or documents submitted after the expiration of the Response Deadline will not be considered by the Settlement Administrator, unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties.

(w) Right of Class Member to Request Exclusion from the Settlement Class Payment:

Any Class Member may request to be excluded from the Settlement Class Payment by mailing a "Request for Exclusion" from the Settlement Class Payment within the Response Deadline. Any Request for Exclusion must include the name, address, telephone number, last four digits of the Class Member's Social Security Number, and the signature of the Class Member requesting exclusion. Any such request must be made in accordance with the terms of the Notice, and the Notice will advise Class Members of these requirements. Any Class Member who timely requests exclusion in compliance with these requirements (i) shall not have any rights under this Settlement other than a right to receive a pro-rata share of the portion of the PAGA Settlement Payment allocated to the Class Members if the Class Member is also PAGA Employee; (ii) shall not be entitled to receive any Settlement Payments under this Settlement other than as stated in Paragraph 30(j); and (iii) shall not be bound by this Settlement or the Court's order and final judgment other than as it applies to the PAGA Allocation.

(x) Right of Class Members to Object to the Settlement: Any Class Member may object to the Settlement. To object, the Class Member may (1) appear at the final approval hearing, remotely or in person, to explain any objection, (2) have an attorney object for the Class Member, or (3) submit a simple written brief or

statement of objection to the Settlement Administrator. If any Class Member chooses to submit a written objection, the written objection should contain sufficient information to confirm the identity of the objector and the basis of the objection, including (1) the full name of the Class Member; (2) the signature of the Class Member; (3) the grounds for the objection; and (4) be postmarked within the Response Deadline to permit adequate time for processing and review by the Parties of the written statement or objection. Class Counsel shall ensure that any written objections are transmitted to the Court for the Court's review (either by Class Counsel or as an attachment to declaration from the Settlement Administrator). Regardless of the form, an objection alone will not satisfy the requirement that a Class Member must either make a timely complaint in intervention before final judgment or by file a motion to set aside and vacate the class judgment under Code of Civil Procedure § 663 to have standing to appeal entry of judgment approving this Settlement, as is required under the California Supreme Court decision of *Hernandez v. Restoration Hardware*, 4 Cal. 5th 260 (2018). A Class Member who does not object prior to or at the final approval hearing, will be deemed to have waived any objections and will be foreclosed from making any objections (whether at the final approval hearing, by appeal, or otherwise) to the Settlement. If the objecting Class Member does not formally intervene in the action or move to set aside any judgment and/or the Court rejects the Class Member's objection, the Class Member will still be bound by the terms of this Agreement. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel may, at least five (5) calendar days (or some other number of days as the Court shall specify) before the final approval hearing, file responses to any written objections submitted to the Court.

THE SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATOR'S PRIMARY DUTIES

31. Subject to the Court's approval, and subject to reconsideration by the Parties after a competitive bidding process, the Parties have agreed to the appointment of ILYM Group, Inc. to perform

1 the customary duties of Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will mail the Notice,
2 both in English and Spanish, to the Class Members.

3 32. The Settlement Administrator will independently review the Covered Workweeks
4 attributed to each Class Member and will calculate the estimated amounts due to each Class Member and
5 the actual amounts due to each Settlement Class Member in accordance with this Settlement. The
6 Settlement Administrator shall report, in summary or narrative form, the substance of its findings.
7 Defendant will provide the information needed by the Settlement Administrator.

8 33. In accordance with the terms of this Settlement, and upon receipt of Gross Settlement
9 Amount from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will issue and send out the Settlement Payment
10 checks to the Class Members. Tax treatment of the Settlement Payments will be as set forth herein, and in
11 accordance with state and federal tax laws. All disputes relating to the Settlement Administrator's
12 performance of its duties shall be referred to the Court, if necessary, which will have continuing
13 jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of this Settlement until all payments and obligations
14 contemplated by this Settlement have been fully carried out.

15 34. The Settlement Administrator will post the final judgment approving the Settlement on a
16 website maintained by the Settlement Administrator for a period of not less than 90 calendar days after the
17 final judgment is entered. The address of that website will be included in the Notice.

18 **ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS**

19 35. In consideration for resolving this matter and in exchange for the release of all claims by
20 the Class Members, including Plaintiff, and subject to approval by the Court, Defendant will not object to
21 Class Counsel's application for attorney's fees not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount
22 and litigation costs not to exceed \$15,000.00. The amounts set forth above will cover all work performed
23 and all fees and costs incurred to date, and all work to be performed and all fees and costs to be incurred in
24 connection with the approval by the Court of this Settlement and administration of the Settlement. Should
25 Class Counsel request a lesser amount and/or the Court approve a lesser amount(s) of attorney's fees
26 and/or attorneys' costs, the difference between the lesser amount(s) and the maximum amount set forth
27 above shall be added to the Net Settlement Amount. The Parties agree that there is no prevailing party,
28 and the Class and Class Counsel shall not be entitled to any fees or costs other than those awarded out of

1 and deducted from the Gross Settlement Amount. the attorney's fees and costs approved by the Court
2 shall be distributed by the Settlement Administrator to Class Counsel within 14 calendar days of the
3 receipt of settlement funds by the Settlement Administrator. In the event that the Court awards less than
4 25% of the Gross Settlement Amount for attorney's fees, Class Counsel shall retain the right to appeal that
5 portion of any final approval order and judgment.

6 **THE NOTICE PROCESS**

7 36. A Notice in approximately the form attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and as approved by the
8 Court, shall be sent by the Settlement Administrator to the Class Members by first class mail. The Notice
9 shall be translated into Spanish so that Spanish and English language versions of the Notice are included in
10 the mailing. Any returned envelopes from this mailing with forwarding addresses will be utilized by the
11 Settlement Administrator to forward the Notices to the Class.

- 12 (a) Within 7 calendar days from the date of preliminary approval of this Settlement by
13 the Court, Defendant shall provide to the Settlement Administrator a class database
14 containing the following information for each Class Member: (1) name; (2) last
15 known address; (3) social security number; and (5) dates of employment at
16 Defendant's locations in California. This database shall be based on Defendant's
17 payroll and other business records and shall be provided in a reasonable format to
18 the Settlement Administrator. Defendant agrees to consult with the Settlement
19 Administrator prior to the production date to ensure that the format will be
20 acceptable to the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will run
21 a check of the Class Members' addresses against those on file with the U.S. Postal
22 Service's National Change of Address List; this check will be performed only once
23 per Class Member by the Settlement Administrator. Absent mutual written
24 agreement of counsel for the Parties or Court order, the Settlement Administrator
25 will keep this database confidential and secure and use it only for the purposes
26 described herein, and will return this database to Defendant upon final approval of
27 the settlement or destroy electronic records containing the database after the
28 Settlement is final and all payments are distributed as required under this

1 Agreement.

2 (b) Within 14 calendar days after the Class database is provided to the Settlement
3 Administrator, the Settlement Administrator will mail the Notices to the Class
4 Members by First Class United States mail.

5 (c) Notices returned to the Settlement Administrator as non-deliverable on or before
6 the initial Response Deadline shall be resent to the forwarding address, if any, on
7 the returned envelope. A returned Notice will be forwarded by the Settlement
8 Administrator any time that a forwarding address is provided with the returned
9 mail. If there is no forwarding address, the Settlement Administrator will do a
10 computer search for a new address using the Class Member's social security
11 number or other information. In any instance where a Notice is re-mailed, that
12 Class Member will have until the extended Response Deadline as described above.
13 A letter prepared by the Settlement Administrator will be included in the re-mailed
14 Notice in that instance, stating the extended Response Deadline. Upon completion
15 of these steps by the Settlement Administrator, Defendant and the Settlement
16 Administrator shall be deemed to have satisfied their obligations to provide the
17 Notice to the affected Class Member. The affected Class Member shall remain a
18 Class Member and shall be bound by all the terms of the Settlement and the
19 Court's order and final judgment.

20 (d) Class Counsel shall provide to the Court, at least five calendar days prior to the
21 final approval hearing, or such other date as set by the Court, a declaration by the
22 Settlement Administrator of due diligence and confirming mailing of the Notices.

23 **DISPOSITION OF SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS AND UNCASHED CHECKS**

24 37. As set forth above, each Class Member will have until the expiration of the applicable
25 Response Deadline to submit to the Settlement Administrator any challenge or dispute to the Class
26 Member's Covered Workweek information on the Notice. No disputes will be honored if they are
27 submitted after the Response Deadline, unless the Parties mutually agree to accept the untimely dispute.
28 Each Class Member is responsible to maintain a copy of any documents sent to the Settlement

1 Administrator and a record of proof of mailing.

2 38. The Settlement Administrator shall cause the Settlement Payments to be mailed to the
3 Settlement Class Members and PAGA Employees as provided herein. Settlement Class Payments and
4 PAGA Settlement Payments may be combined into one check. Settlement Payment checks shall remain
5 valid and negotiable for 180 calendar days from the date of their issuance. Settlement Payment checks
6 will automatically be cancelled by the Settlement Administrator if they are not cashed by the Class
7 Member within that time, and the Class Member's relevant claims will remain released by the Settlement.
8 Settlement Payment checks which have expired will not be reissued.

9 39. Funds from un-cashed or abandoned Settlement Payment checks, based on a 180-day void
10 date, shall be transmitted to the California State Controller's Office for Unclaimed Property in the name of
11 each Class Member who failed to cash their Settlement Payment check prior to the void date.

12 40. Upon completion of its calculation of Settlement Payment, the Settlement Administrator
13 shall provide Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel with a report listing the amounts of all payments to
14 be made to Class Members (to be identified anonymously by employee number or other identifier). A
15 declaration attesting to completion of all payment obligations will be provided to Class Counsel and
16 Defendant's Counsel and filed with the Court by Class Counsel.

17 **RELEASE BY THE CLASS AND PAGA EMPLOYEES**

18 41. Upon the final approval by the Court of this Settlement and Defendant's payment of all
19 sums due pursuant to this Settlement, and except as to such rights or claims as may be created by this
20 Settlement, the Class Representative, the Class and each Class Member who has not submitted a valid and
21 timely request for exclusion as to claims other than the PAGA claim, and each PAGA Employee,
22 regardless of whether they have requested exclusion from the Settlement of Class claims, will release
23 claims as follows:

- 24 (a) **Identity of Released Parties.** The released parties are Defendant, and each of its
25 former and present direct and/or indirect owners, dba's, affiliates, parents,
26 subsidiaries, brother and sister corporations, divisions, related companies,
27 successors and predecessors, and current and former employees, attorneys, officers,
28 directors, shareholders, owners, trustees, attorneys, fiduciaries, beneficiaries,

subrogees, executors, partners, privies, agents, servants, insurers, representatives, administrators, employee benefit plans, and assigns of said entities (collectively “Releasees”).

(b) **Date Release Becomes Active.** The Released Claims and Released PAGA Claims will be released upon the later of (1) the Settlement’s Effective Date, or (2) the satisfaction of Defendant’s obligation to provide to the Settlement Administrator a sum in the amount required to satisfy all required payments and distributions pursuant to this Settlement and the order and judgment of final approval. Class Members will not release the Released Claims or Released PAGA Claims until both the Effective Date of the Settlement has occurred, and Defendant has paid all amounts owing under the Settlement.

(c) **Claims Released by Settlement Class Members.** Each and every Class Member, on behalf of himself or herself and his or her heirs and assigns, unless he or she has submitted a timely and valid Request for Exclusion (which will not effectuate an opt-out from the release of Released PAGA Claims), hereby releases Releasees from the following claims for the entire Class Period:

- 1) any and all claims stated in the Action, or that could have been stated based on the facts alleged in the Action, including but not limited to all state wage and hour claims (including all claims under the California Labor Code) for unpaid wages, minimum wage, overtime, off-the-clock work, meal periods, rest periods, unreimbursed business expenses, wage statement violations, interest, penalties, and attorneys’ fees, waiting time penalties, withholding from wages and the related provisions of the Labor Code including but limited to Labor Code §§ 201-204, 210, 216, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 512.5, 558, 1194, 1194.2, 1198, 2802 derivative claims under California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq., and all claims under the governing Wage Order, and FLSA (“Released Claims”);
- 2) as to any Class Member who cashes their Settlement Payment, the

Settlement Administrator shall include language on the Settlement Payments that informs the Class Members that the signing and negotiation of that check shall serve as the Class Member's consent to join the Action for purposes of releasing all claims arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act that are alleged in the Action or related to the claims stated or that could have been stated in the Action, implicitly or explicitly;

- (d) **Claims Released by the Class, Including PAGA Employees.** All Class Members, including all PAGA Employees, release the Released PAGA Claims, regardless of whether they have requested exclusion from the Settlement as to Class Released claims.

EMPLOYMENT BY DEFENDANT

42. Employment of Plaintiff by Defendant is not consideration for, or a condition of, this Settlement.

DUTIES OF THE PARTIES PRIOR TO COURT APPROVAL

43. The Parties shall submit this Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement to the Court in support of Plaintiff's unopposed motion for preliminary approval for determination by the Court as to its fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness. Upon execution of this Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement, the Parties shall apply to the Court for the entry of an order:

- (a) Scheduling a final approval and fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, including payment of attorney's fees and costs, and the Class Representative's service payment, should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the members of the Class;
- (b) Certifying a Class;
- (c) Approving as to form and content the proposed Notice;
- (d) Directing the mailing of the Notice;
- (e) Preliminarily approving the Settlement subject only to the objections of Class Members and final review by the Court;
- (f) Conditionally appointing Plaintiff and Class Counsel as representatives of the

proposed Class Members; and,

- (g) Appointing ILYM Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator, and order the Settlement Administrator to issue Notices as outlined above.

DUTIES OF THE PARTIES FOLLOWING FINAL COURT APPROVAL

44. In conjunction with the hearing of a motion for final approval by the Court of the Settlement provided for in this Joint Stipulation of Settlement, Class Counsel will provide to Defendant's Counsel for review and approval and then submit to the Court a proposed final order and judgment containing provisions sufficient to accomplish the following:

- (a) Approving the Settlement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;
- (b) Approving Class Counsel's application for an award of attorney's fees and costs;
- (c) Approving the Service Payment to the Class Representative;
- (d) Adjudging the Settlement Administrator has fulfilled its initial notice and reporting duties under the Settlement.
- (e) Adjudging Plaintiff and Class Counsel may adequately represent the final settlement class for the purpose of entering into and implementing the Agreement;
- (f) Entering a final judgment in the action;
- (g) Adjudging that notwithstanding the submission of a timely request for exclusion, Class Members are still bound by the settlement and release of the Released PAGA Claims or remedies under the Judgment pursuant to *Arias v. Superior Court*, 46 Cal. 4th 969 (2009), as requests to be excluded from the Settlement do not apply to the Released PAGA Claims, and further affirms that the State of California's claims for civil penalties pursuant to PAGA are also extinguished;
- (h) Directing the posting of the final judgment on a website maintained by the Settlement Administrator for a period of not less than 90 calendar days after entry of final judgment.

Any revised final judgments will also be provided to Defendant's Counsel for review and approval before they are submitted to the Court.

NULLIFICATION AND TERMINATION

45. This Settlement will be null and void if any of the following occur: (a) the Court should for any reason fail to certify a class for settlement purposes; (b) the Court should for any reason fail to preliminarily or finally approve of this Settlement in the form agreed to by the Parties, other than adjustments made to the attorney's fees and costs or granting of Service Payments; (c) the Court should for any reason fail to enter the final judgment; (d) the final judgment is reversed, modified, or declared or rendered void; or (e) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason.

46. If 10% or more of the Class Members opt out of this Settlement, then Defendant in its sole discretion may terminate, nullify and void this Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall provide Defendant's Counsel and Class Counsel with weekly opt-out reports and a final closing report containing the information necessary to effectuate this provision. To terminate this Settlement under this paragraph, Defendant's Counsel must give Plaintiff's Counsel written notice, by facsimile, e-mail, or mail, no later than 30 calendar days after the Response Deadline. If this option is exercised by Defendant, Defendant shall be solely responsible for the costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator for the settlement administration.

47. In the event this Settlement is nullified or terminated as provided above: (i) this Settlement shall be considered null and void, (ii) neither this Settlement nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings shall have any force or effect and no Party shall be bound by any of its terms, and (iii) all Parties to this Settlement shall stand in the same position, without prejudice, as if the Settlement had been neither entered into nor filed with the Court.

PARTIES' AUTHORITY

48. The signatories hereto hereby represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Settlement and bind the Parties hereto to the terms and conditions thereof.

MUTUAL FULL COOPERATION

49. The Parties agree to fully cooperate with each other to accomplish the terms of this Settlement including, but not limited to, execution of such documents and taking such other action as reasonably may be necessary to implement the terms of this Settlement. The Parties to this Settlement shall use their best efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Settlement and any other efforts that

1 may become necessary by order of the Court, or otherwise, to effectuate this Settlement and the terms set
2 forth herein. As soon as practicable after execution of this Settlement, Class Counsel shall, with the
3 assistance and cooperation of Defendant and Defendant's Counsel, take all necessary steps to secure the
4 Court's preliminary and final approval of this Settlement.

5 **NO PRIOR ASSIGNMENTS**

6 50. The Parties and their respective counsel represent, covenant, and warrant that they have not
7 directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to
8 any person or entity any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action or rights herein
9 released and discharged except as set forth herein, and that they are not on notice of any liens as to the
10 Gross Settlement Amount or any right to attorneys' fees or costs.

11 **NO ADMISSION OF LIABILITY**

12 51. Nothing contained herein, nor the consummation of this Settlement, is to be construed or
13 deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant.
14 Defendant denies all the claims and contentions alleged by the Plaintiff in this case. The Defendant has
15 entered into this Settlement solely with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation with the
16 attendant inconvenience and expenses.

17 **ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

18 52. In the event that one or more of the Parties to this Settlement institutes any legal action or
19 other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement or to
20 declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement, the successful Party or Parties shall be entitled to
21 recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorney's fees and costs, including expert
22 witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

23 **NOTICES**

24 53. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands or other
25 communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the
26 third business day after mailing by United States registered or certified mail, return receipt requested,
27 addressed as follows:

28 Class Counsel:

Counsel for Defendant:

Kane Moon
 Allen Feghali
 Edwin Kamarzarian
MOON & YANG, APC
 1055 W. Seventh St., Suite 1880
 Los Angeles, California 90017
 Telephone: (213) 232-3128
 Facsimile: (213) 232-3125
 kane.moon@moonyanglaw.com
 allen.feghali@moonyanglaw.com
 edwin.kamarzarian@moonyanglaw.com

Kathleen Carter (SBN 157790)
 Jeff Gillette (SBN 123346)
 MESSNER REEVES, LLP
 650 Town Center Drive, Suite 1700
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626
 Office: 949.335.7895
 kcarter@messner.com
 jgillette@messner.com

CONSTRUCTION

54. The Parties hereto agree that the terms and conditions of this Settlement are the result of lengthy, intensive arms-length negotiations between the Parties, including but not limited to an all day mediation with Steve Rottman, and this Settlement shall not be construed in favor of or against any Party by reason of the extent to which any Party or his, her or its counsel participated in the drafting of this Settlement.

CAPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

55. Paragraph titles or captions contained herein are inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of this Settlement or any provision hereof. Each term of this Settlement is contractual and not merely a recital.

MODIFICATION

56. This Settlement may not be changed, altered, or modified, except in writing and signed by the Parties hereto, and approved by the Court. This Settlement may not be discharged except by performance in accordance with its terms or by a writing signed by the Parties hereto.

INTEGRATION CLAUSE

57. This Settlement contains the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written and whether by a Party or such Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No rights hereunder may be waived except in writing.

WAIVER OF APPEALS

58. The Parties agree to waive appeals and to stipulate to class certification for purposes of

1 implementing this Settlement only, with the exception that Class Counsel retains the right to appeal the
2 amount awarded as attorney's fees in the event that the Court awards less than twenty-five percent of the
3 Gross Settlement Amount as attorney's fees.

4 **BINDING ON ASSIGNS**

5 59. This Settlement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and
6 their respective heirs, trustees, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

7 **CLASS COUNSEL SIGNATORIES**

8 60. It is agreed that because the members of the Class are so numerous, it is impossible or
9 impractical to have each member of the Class execute this Settlement. The Notice will advise all Class
10 Members of the binding nature of the Released Claims and Released PAGA Claims, and the release shall
11 have the same force and effect as if this Settlement were executed by each member of the Class.

12 **COUNTERPARTS**

13 61. This Settlement may be executed in counterparts and by electronic or facsimile signatures,
14 and when each Party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart shall be
15 deemed an original, and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one
16 Settlement, which shall be binding upon and effective as to all Parties.

17 **CONFIDENTIALITY & PUBLIC COMMENT**

18 62. The Class Representative and Class Counsel agree they will not make any disparaging
19 comments about Defendant relating to this Settlement of this class action or disclose the negotiations of
20 the Settlement. The Class Representative and Class Counsel shall only disclose matters of public record
21 other than to Class Members, who may receive information about the Settlement that is not in the public
22 record, after the Court has preliminarily approved the Settlement. Other than as to Class Members or as
23 expressly allowed below, the Parties and attorneys will keep the settlement confidential until the filing of
24 the motion for preliminary approval of the class settlement. Thereafter, the Parties agree to make no
25 comments to the media or otherwise publicize the terms of the Settlement but may continue to make court
26 filings necessary to effectuate the Settlement. To the extent counsel for either Party wish to advertise this
27 Settlement, such advertising will be limited to a statement that a matter was settled between a putative
28 class and a "health care provider." Any communication about the Settlement to Class Members prior to

the Court-approved mailing will be limited to (1) a statement that a settlement has been reached, (2) a statement of any of the details that would necessarily be included in any Court-approved Notice if a Class Member requests details about the proposed Settlement, and (3) a warning that the terms of the proposed Settlement have not yet been approved by the Court. Prior to preliminary approval, the Class Representative is prohibited from discussing the terms or the fact of the Settlement with third parties other than (1) a spouse, (2) accountants or lawyers as necessary for tax purposes, or (3) Class Members. At all times, the Class Representative is prohibited from communicating about the terms or the fact of the Settlement on any form of social media ("Social Media Bar"). In the event of a proven breach of the Social Media Bar, the violating Plaintiff shall forfeit one-half of the Service Payment, as a form of liquidated damages. Class Counsel will take all steps necessary to ensure the Class Representative is aware of, and will adhere to, the restrictions against any public disclosure of the Settlement. Class Counsel will not include or use the Settlement for any marketing or promotional purposes other than as expressly allowed above.

FINAL JUDGMENT

63. The Parties agree that, upon final approval of the Settlement, final judgment of this Action will be made and entered in its entirety. The final judgment may be included in the order granting final approval of the Settlement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement between Plaintiff and Defendant as set forth below:

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

Plaintiff & Class Representative:

Dated: 9/16/2022

By:  _____
Demontae Simpson

Plaintiff's Counsel:

Dated: 9/16/2022

MOON & YANG, APC

By:  _____
Kane Moon
Allen Feghali
Attorneys for Plaintiff

1 **Defendant:**

2 Dated: 9/20/22

BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

3
4 By: Jamie Almanza, MBA

Print Name

5 

6 Signature

7 CEO

8 Title

9
10 **Defendant's Counsel:**

11 Dated: 9-23-22

MESSNER REEVES LLP

12
13 By: 

Kathleen Carter
Jeff Gillette

14
15 Attorneys for Defendant BAY AREA
COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Simpson v. Bay Area Community Services, Inc.
Alameda Superior Court Case No. *RG21096395*

A court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

IF YOU ARE OR WERE EMPLOYED BY BAY AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. (“DEFENDANT”) IN CALIFORNIA AS AN HOURLY-PAID EMPLOYEE AT ANY TIME BETWEEN APRIL 20, 2017 THROUGH <<the earlier of November 30, 2022 or the date the Court grants preliminary approval>> YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER AND PART OF THE CLASS. THIS PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS.

Why should you read this Notice?

A proposed settlement (the “Settlement”) has been reached in a class action lawsuit entitled *Simpson v. Bay Area Community Services, Inc.* Alameda Superior Court (“Court”) Case No. *RG21096395* (the “Action”). The purpose of this Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement (“Notice”) is to briefly describe the Action and to inform you of your rights and options in connection with the Action and the proposed Settlement. The proposed Settlement will resolve all claims in the Action.

A hearing concerning final approval of the proposed Settlement will be held before the Hon. Brad Seligman on <<FA Date and Time>> in Department 23 of the Alameda Superior Court, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612, to determine whether the Settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable. As a Class Member, you are eligible to receive an individual settlement payment under the Settlement and will be bound by the release of claims described in this Notice and the Settlement filed with the Court, unless you timely request to be excluded from the Settlement.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:	
DO NOTHING – GET MONEY	If you do nothing, you will be considered part of the Class and will receive settlement benefits as explained more fully below. You will also give up rights to pursue a separate legal action against Defendant for the released claims asserted in the Action as explained more fully below.
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT CLASS DEADLINE TO EXCLUDE YOURSELF: << RESPONSE DATE>>	You have the option to pursue separate legal action against Defendant about the claims in the Action. If you choose to do so, you must exclude yourself, in writing, from the Settlement by submitting a written request to be excluded. As a result, you will not receive any benefits under the Settlement except for any payment you may receive for the PAGA portion of the settlement as explained more fully below.
OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT DEADLINE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN OBJECTIONS: << RESPONSE DATE>>	To object to the Settlement, you may mail a written explanation of why you don’t like the Settlement to the settlement administrator, appear at the final approval hearing, or hire an attorney at your expense to object for you. This option is available only if you do <u>not</u> exclude yourself from the Settlement. Do <u>not</u> submit a request to be excluded if you wish to object. <i>Written</i> objections must be submitted by <<RESPONSE DATE>>.

Who is affected by this proposed Settlement?

The Court has certified, for settlement purposes only, the following class (the “Class”):

All non-exempt employees of Defendant who worked for Defendant in California during the Class Period (the “Class Period” is April 20, 2017 through <<the earlier of November 30, 2022 or the date the Court grants preliminary approval>>).

According to Defendant’s records, you are a member of the Class (“Class Member”).

What is this case about?

In the Action, Plaintiff Demontae Simpson (“Plaintiff”) alleges on behalf of himself and the Class that Defendant: (1) failed to pay minimum and straight time wages; (2) failed to pay overtime wages; (3) failed to provide meal periods; (4) failed to authorize and permit rest periods; (5) failed to indemnify necessary business expenses; (6) failed to timely pay all wages to terminated employees; (7) failed to furnish accurate itemized wage statements; (8) violated California’s Unfair Competition Law, California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.; and (9) violated provisions of the Labor Code giving rise to civil penalty liability under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 [Lab. Code § 2699, et seq.] (“PAGA”). Plaintiff seeks unpaid wages, actual damages, declaratory relief, statutory penalties, civil penalties under PAGA, restitution, interest, attorneys’ fees, and costs.

Defendant denies all liability and is confident that it has strong legal and factual defenses to these claims, but it recognizes the risks, distractions, and costs associated with litigation. Defendant contends that its conduct is and has been lawful at all times relevant and that Plaintiff’s claims do not have merit and do not meet the requirements for class certification.

This Settlement is a compromise reached after good faith, arm’s length negotiations between Plaintiff and Defendant (the “Parties”), through their attorneys, and is not an admission of liability on the part of Defendant. Both sides agree that this Settlement is fair, adequate and reasonable. Plaintiff also believes this Settlement is in the best interests of all Class Members.

The Court has not ruled on the merits of Plaintiff’s claims or Defendant’s defenses.

Who are the attorneys representing the Parties?

The attorneys representing the Parties in the Action are:

Class Counsel

Kane Moon
Allen Feghali
Edwin Kamarzarian
MOON & YANG, APC
1055 W. Seventh St., Suite 1880
Los Angeles, California 90017
Telephone: (213) 232-3128
Facsimile: (213) 232-3125
kane.moon@moonyanglaw.com
allen.feghali@moonyanglaw.com
edwin.kamarzarian@moonyanglaw.com

Defendant’s Counsel

Kathleen Carter
Jeff Gillette
MESSNER REEVES, LLP
650 Town Center Drive, Suite 1700
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Office: 949.335.7895
kcarter@messner.com
jgillette@messner.com

What are the Settlement terms?

Subject to final Court approval, Defendant will pay \$875,000 (the “Gross Settlement Amount”) for: (a) individual settlement payments to Class Members who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement; (b) the Court-approved class representative service payment to Plaintiff (\$10,000 to be requested); (c) the Court-approved attorneys’ fees and costs to class counsel (up to \$291,666.66 [one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount] in fees and up to \$15,000 in costs to be requested); (d) payment of PAGA penalties in the amount of \$50,000 (\$37,500 to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”); \$12,500 to qualifying Class Members) ; and (e) proposed payment to the Settlement Administrator for settlement administration services (up to an estimated maximum of \$20,000).

Individual Settlement Payments. After deduction from the Gross Settlement Amount for attorneys’ fees and costs, the class representative service payment to Plaintiff, PAGA penalties, and settlement administration costs,

there will be a “Net Settlement Amount”. From this Net Settlement Amount, Defendant will make an individual Settlement Payment to each Class Member who does not request to be excluded from the Settlement (“Settlement Class Members”).

The Net Settlement Amount shall be divided among all Settlement Class Members on a pro rata basis based upon the total number of workweeks worked by each respective Settlement Class Member as a non-exempt hourly employee in the State of California during the Class Period. Your estimated individual Settlement Payment is listed below.

Your estimated minimum settlement payment is <<Estimated Payment>> and your covered Work Weeks worked during the relevant period between April 20, 2017 to <<the earlier of November 30, 2022 or the date the Court grants preliminary approval>> are <<Work Weeks>>. To the extent you dispute the number of Work Weeks, you must make your dispute (“Work Week Dispute”) in writing and send it to the settlement administrator via fax or mail. Your Work Week Dispute must be postmarked or faxed no later than <<+45 days from date of mailing>> (the “Response Deadline”) to:

ILYM Group, Inc., <<mailing address>>

Your Work Week Dispute must be in writing and contain: (a) your full name, signature, address, telephone number, and the last four digits of your Social Security number; (b) the number of Work Weeks you contend is correct; and (c) any evidence supporting your contention. Defendant’s records will be presumed correct unless you prove otherwise by credible evidence. The settlement administrator will resolve and decide all Work Week Disputes, and its decisions will be final and non-appealable. **REMINDER:** If you believe your estimated individual Settlement Amount is incorrect because your work weeks (the number of total weeks you worked within the Class Period only) are wrong, the deadline to dispute the workweeks reported for you is <<RESPONSE DATE>>.

For tax reporting purposes, the payments to Settlement Class Members will be allocated 20% to wages, 40% to penalties, and 40% to interest, excluding the \$12,500 in PAGA Settlement Payments, which will be allocated as 100% penalties. The wage portion of the individual Settlement Payments shall be subject to the withholding of applicable local, state, and federal taxes, and the settlement administrator shall deduct applicable employee-side payroll taxes from the wage portion of the individual Settlement Payments. The portion of the Settlement Payments allocated to penalties and interest shall be classified as other miscellaneous income and reported on IRS Form 1099-MISC. Any taxes owed on that other miscellaneous income will be the responsibility of settlement Class Members receiving those payments. The employer’s share of any payroll taxes will be separately paid by Defendant.

All checks for individual Settlement Payments paid to Settlement Class Members shall advise that the checks will remain valid and negotiable for one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the checks’ issuance and shall thereafter automatically be void if not cashed by a participating Class Member within that time. Any individual Settlement Payment that is not cashed by a Settlement Class Member within one hundred eighty (180) days of issuance shall be transmitted to the California State Controller’s Office for Unclaimed Property in the name of each check recipient who failed to cash their check prior to the void date. The settlement administrator shall void any tax documents issued to Settlement Class Members who did not cash their checks within 180 days of issuance. In such event, the Settlement Class Member shall nevertheless remain bound by the Settlement.

None of the Parties or attorneys make any representations concerning the tax consequences of this Settlement or your participation in it. Settlement Class Members should consult with their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the Settlement. Class Counsel is unable to offer advice concerning the state or federal tax consequences of payments to any Class Member.

Calculation of Individual PAGA Settlement Payments. The PAGA allocation (a total of \$50,000) will be distributed to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and to hourly paid non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant at any time since April 20, 2020 to <<the earlier of November 30, 2022 or the date the Court grants preliminary approval>> (“the PAGA Employees”). In accordance with California law, 75 percent of the PAGA allocation (or \$37,500) will be paid to the LWDA and the remaining 25 percent of the PAGA allocation (or \$12,500) will be paid to the PAGA Employees on a pro-rata basis (the “PAGA Settlement Payments”) based on the number of work weeks each PAGA Employee worked for Defendant in California from April 20, 2020 to <<the earlier of November 30, 2022 or the date the Court grants preliminary

approval>>(the “PAGA Period”). Your estimated individual work weeks during the PAGA Period and estimated PAGA Settlement Payment are listed below:

You worked a total of <<**work weeks in the PAGA Period**>> . Based on your work weeks during the PAGA Period, your estimated PAGA Settlement Payment is approximately \$<<**Est PAGA Settlement Payment**>>.

Each PAGA Settlement Payment will be allocated as 100 percent miscellaneous income and reported to state and federal taxing authorities by the Settlement Administrator using Form 1099-MISC. Any taxes owed on the PAGA Settlement Payment will be the responsibility of the PAGA Employee receiving these payment.

Class Counsel Attorneys’ Fees and Costs, Class Representative Service Award, Settlement Administration Costs and Payment to the LWDA. Class Counsel will ask the Court to award attorneys’ fees up to \$291,666.66 (one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount) and reimbursement of reasonable costs incurred in the Action not to exceed \$15,000. In addition, Class Counsel will ask the Court to authorize a class representative service payment of \$10,000 for Plaintiff for his efforts in bringing the case on behalf of the Class. The Parties estimate the cost of administering the Settlement will not exceed \$20,000.00. A proposed payment in the amount of \$37,500.00 will also be made to the LWDA for PAGA penalties, which represents 75% of the \$50,000 set aside for payment under PAGA, the remaining \$12,500.00 will be distributed to PAGA Employees as detailed above (“Released PAGA Claims”).

What claims are being released by the proposed Settlement?

Upon the final approval by the court of this Settlement, and except as to such rights or claims as may be created by this Settlement, the Plaintiff, the Class and each Class Member who has not submitted a valid and timely request for exclusion as to claims other than the PAGA claim, will release claims as follows:

(a) **Identity of Released Parties.** The released parties are Defendant, and each of its/their former and present direct and/or indirect owners, dba’s, affiliates, parents, subsidiaries, brother and sister corporations, divisions, related companies, successors and predecessors, and current and former employees, attorneys, officers, directors, shareholders, owners, trustees, attorneys, fiduciaries, beneficiaries, subrogees, executors, partners, privies, agents, servants, insurers, representatives, administrators, employee benefit plans, and assigns of said entities (collectively “Releasees”).

(b) **Date Release Becomes Active.** The Released Claims and Released PAGA Claims will be released upon the later of (1) the Settlement’s Effective Date (“Effective Date”: “The terms of settlement embodied in this Settlement shall become effective when all of the following events have occurred: (i) this Joint Stipulation of Settlement has been executed by all Parties and their respective counsel; (ii) the Court has given preliminary approval to the Settlement; (iii) the Notice has been given to the Class, providing them with an opportunity to dispute information contained in the Notice, to opt out of the Settlement, or to object to the Settlement; (iv) the Court has held a final approval hearing and entered a final order and judgment certifying the Class and approving this Settlement; and (v) the later of the following events: (a) the day final approval is granted if there are no objections to the settlement; (b) sixty-five (65) days following notice of entry of the Court’s final order approving the Settlement if there are any objections by any Class Member; (c) or if any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing this Settlement has been filed within sixty-five (65) days following notice of entry of the Court’s final order approving the Settlement, then twenty (20) days after when any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding opposing the Settlement has been resolved finally and conclusively with no right to pursue further remedies or relief”), or (2) the satisfaction of Defendant’s obligation to provide to the settlement administrator a sum in the amount required to satisfy all required payments and distributions pursuant to this Settlement and the order and judgment of final approval. Class Members will not release the Released Claims or Released PAGA Claims until both the Effective Date of the Settlement has occurred, **and** Defendant has paid all amounts owing under the Settlement.

(c) **Claims Released by Settlement Class Members.** Each and every Class Member, on behalf of himself or herself and his or her heirs and assigns, unless he or she has submitted a timely and valid request for exclusion (which will not effectuate an opt-out from the release of Released PAGA Claims), hereby releases Releasees from the following claims for the entire Class Period:

1) any and all claims stated in the Action, or that could have been stated based on the facts alleged in the Action, including but not limited to all state wage and hour claims (including all claims under the California Labor Code) for unpaid wages, minimum wage, overtime, off-the-clock work, meal periods, rest periods, unreimbursed

business expenses, wage statement violations, interest, penalties, and attorneys' fees, waiting time penalties, withholding from wages and the related provisions of the Labor Code including but limited to Labor Code §§ 201-204, 210, 216, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 512.5, 558, 1194, 1194.2, 1198, 2802 derivative claims under California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq., and all claims under the governing Wage Order, and FLSA ("Released Claims");

2) as to any Class Member who cashes their Settlement Payment, the Settlement Administrator shall include language on the Settlement Payments that informs the Class Members that the signing and negotiation of that check shall serve as the Class Member's consent to join the Action for purposes of releasing all claims arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act that are alleged in the Action or related to the claims stated or that could have been stated in the Action, implicitly or explicitly;

d) **Claims Released by the Class, Including PAGA Employees.** All Class Members, including all PAGA Employees, release the Released PAGA Claims, regardless of whether they have requested exclusion from the Settlement as to Class claims.

What are my options in this matter?

You have two options under this Settlement, each of which is further discussed below. You may: (A) remain in the Class and receive an individual Settlement Payment; or (B) exclude yourself from the Settlement. If you choose option (A), you may also object to the Settlement, as explained below.

If you remain in the Class, you will be represented at no cost by Class Counsel. Class Counsel, however, will not represent you for purposes of making objections to the Settlement. If you do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will be subject to any judgment that will be entered in the Action, including the release of the Released Claims as described above.

OPTION A. Remain in the Class. If you wish to remain in the Class and be eligible to receive an individual Settlement Payment under the Settlement, **you do not need to take any action.** By remaining in the Class and receiving settlement monies, you consent to the release of the Released Claims as described above.

Any amount paid to Settlement Class Members will not count or be counted for determination of eligibility for, or calculation of, any employee benefits (for example, vacations, holiday pay, retirement plans, non-qualified deferred compensation plans, etc.), or otherwise modify any eligibility criteria under any employee pension benefit plan or employee welfare plan sponsored by Defendant, unless otherwise required by law.

Objecting to the Settlement: If you believe the proposed Settlement is not fair, reasonable, or adequate in any way, you have several options that you may use to object to it or express any concerns. To object, you may appear in person at the final approval hearing, have an attorney object for you, or submit a written brief or statement of objection ("Written Objection") to the Settlement Administrator at ILYM Group, Inc. <<address>>. If you submit a Written Objection, it should contain sufficient information to confirm the your identity and the basis of the objection, including: (1) your full name; (2) the grounds for the objection; (3) your signature; and (4) be postmarked on or before <<Response Deadline>> and returned to the settlement administrator at the address listed above to ensure that it is received in time to be transmitted to and considered by the Court. You can also hire an attorney at your own expense to represent you in your objection. The Parties shall file responses to any written objections before the final approval hearing. Regardless of whether you object in writing, the Court may, in its sole discretion, permit you to state any objections you may have at the Settlement hearing. **Even if you submit an objection, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement, including the release of Released Claims as set forth above, unless the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court.**

Regardless of the form, an objection alone will not satisfy the requirement that a Settlement Class Member must formally intervene and become a party of record in the action to appeal a judgment entered following an order finally approving this Settlement, as is required under the California Supreme Court decision of *Hernandez v. Restoration Hardware*, 4 Cal. 5th 260 (2018).

OPTION B. Request to Be Excluded from the Settlement and Receive No Money from the Settlement. If you do not want to be part of the Settlement, you must submit a written request to be excluded from the Settlement to the Settlement Administrator at ILYM Group, Inc. <<address>>. In order to be valid, your written request to be excluded from the Settlement must be signed and include your name, address, and telephone number (to confirm your identity and make certain that only persons requesting exclusion are removed from the settlement).

You may also submit your request for exclusions via fax or email by the <<**Response Deadline**>> to <<**administrator email and fax number**>>. along with a statement like the following:

Your written request to be excluded from the Settlement must then be signed and postmarked on or before <<**Response Deadline**>>. If you do not submit a written request to be excluded from the Settlement on time (as evidenced by the postmark, fax confirmation, or received email timestamp), your written request to be excluded from the Settlement will be rejected, you will be deemed a participating Class Member, and you will be bound by the release of Released Claims as described above and all other terms of the Settlement. If you submit a written request to be excluded from the Settlement by the deadline to request exclusion, you will have no further role in the Action. **You will not be entitled to any benefit, including money**, as a result of the Action and Settlement, except to the extent that you recovered to receive a portion of the penalties provided for under PAGA. You will not be able to complain to the Court about any aspect of the Settlement.

What is the next step in the approval of the Settlement?

The Court will hold a final approval hearing regarding the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of the proposed Settlement, the plan of distribution, Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs, the Class Representative Service Payment to Plaintiff, the settlement administration costs, and the payment of PAGA penalties on <<**FA Date and Time**>> in Department 23 of the Alameda County Superior Court, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

The Final Approval Hearing may be continued without further notice to Class Members. You are not required to attend the Final Approval Hearing to receive an individual Settlement Payment.

IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES AT ANYTIME FOLLOWING YOUR RECEIPT OF THIS NOTICE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ADVISE THE ADMINISTRATOR SO THAT YOU TIMELY RECEIVE YOUR SETTLEMENT PAYMENT. YOU CAN CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATOR AT: ILYM Group, Inc., <<mailing address**>>**

How can I get additional information?

This Notice summarizes the Action and the basic terms of the Settlement. More details are in the Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement attached to the Declaration in Support of Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval. The Joint Stipulation of Class Action Settlement and all other records relating to the lawsuit are available for inspection and/or copying at the Civil Records Office of the Alameda County Superior Court. You may also request a copy of the Settlement Agreement from Class Counsel referenced above. You can also obtain further information regarding this action and this settlement at: <<**CASE WEBSITE**>>.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT.