

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff Mario Alfaro (“Plaintiff”) and defendant AAA Restaurant Fire Control, Inc., a California corporation (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as “Parties” or individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

- 1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s individual and representative PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Alfaro v. AAA Restaurant Fire Control, Inc.*, initiated on or about November 5, 2021, Case No. 21CV002015, and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda, including any and all amendments thereafter.
- 1.2. “Administrator” means ILYM Group, Inc., the neutral entity the Parties have agreed to appoint to administer the Settlement.
- 1.3. “Administration Expenses Payment” means the amount the Administrator will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to reimburse its reasonable fees and expenses in accordance with the Administrator’s “not to exceed” bid submitted to the Court in connection with approval of this Settlement.
- 1.4. “Aggrieved Employee” means all current and former non-exempt employees who worked for Defendant in California during the PAGA Period.
- 1.5. “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant’s possession, including the Aggrieved Employees’ name, last-known mailing address, Social Security number, and number of PAGA Pay Periods.
- 1.6. “Aggrieved Employee Address Search” means the Administrator’s investigation and search for current Aggrieved Employee mailing addresses using all reasonably available sources, methods, and means including, but not limited to, the National Change of Address database, skip traces, and direct contact by the Administrator with Aggrieved Employees.
- 1.7. “Approval Order” means the proposed Court Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement.
- 1.8. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.
- 1.9. “Defense Counsel” means Alden Parker, Esq., and William Okamoto, Esq. of Fisher & Phillips LLP.
- 1.10. “Effective Date” means the date by which both of the following have occurred: either (a) the Court enters a Judgment on its Order Approving the PAGA Settlement, and (b) the later of: (i) the date sixty (60) days after the entry of the Final Order and Judgment, if no motions for reconsideration and no appeals or other efforts to obtain review have been filed; or (b) in the event that a motion for reconsideration, an appeal or other effort to obtain review of

the Final Order and Judgment, the date sixty (60) days after such reconsideration, appeal or review has been finally concluded.

- 1.11. "Gross Settlement Amount" means One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars and no cents (\$185,000.00), which is the maximum total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of all claims arising in the Action, including but not limited to amounts used to pay Plaintiff's Service Awards, the Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administrator's Expenses Payment.
- 1.12. "Individual PAGA Payment" means an Aggrieved Employee's pro rata share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties calculated according to the number of Pay Periods the Aggrieved Employee worked during the PAGA Period.
- 1.13. "Judgment" means the judgment entered by the Court based upon the Approval Order.
- 1.14. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled to 75% of the PAGA Penalties recovered by Aggrieved Employees under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.15. "LWDA PAGA Payment" means the 75% of the PAGA Penalties paid to the LWDA under Labor Code section 2699, subd. (i).
- 1.16. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount, less the following payments in the amounts approved by the Court: Plaintiff's Service Award, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment. The remainder is to be paid to Aggrieved Employees as Individual PAGA Payments.
- 1.17. "PAGA Counsel" means Mehrdad Bokhour, Esq. of Bokhour Law Group, P.C. and Sam Rezvani, Esq. of Venture Law, P.C., the attorneys representing the Plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.18. "PAGA Counsel Fees Payment" and "PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment" mean the amounts allocated to PAGA Counsel for reimbursement of reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, respectively, incurred to prosecute the Action.
- 1.19. "PAGA Pay Period" means any Pay Period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked for Defendant for at least one day during the PAGA Period.
- 1.20. "PAGA Period" means the period from November 9, 2020, to June 19, 2024.
- 1.21. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq.*).
- 1.22. "PAGA Notice" means Plaintiff's November 9, 2021, letter to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a).
- 1.23. "PAGA Penalties" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the

Gross Settlement Amount, allocated 25% to the Aggrieved Employees and 75% to LWDA in settlement of PAGA claims.

- 1.24. “Pay Period” means any pay period during which an Aggrieved Employee worked at least one day of the pay period and was not on vacation or a leave of absence for the entire workweek.
- 1.25. “Plaintiff” means Mario Alfaro, the named plaintiff in the Action.
- 1.26. “Plaintiff’s Service Award” means the service award paid to Plaintiff for serving as the named Plaintiff in this matter, subject to the approval of the Court.
- 1.27. “Released PAGA Claims” means the claims being released by the Plaintiff and Aggrieved Employees as described in Paragraph 5 below.
- 1.28. “Released Parties” means Defendant and any of its past, present, and future parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, employees, partners, members, shareholders and agents, attorneys, and any other successors, assigns, or legal representatives.
- 1.29. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.
- 1.30. “Defendant” means AAA Restaurant Fire Control, Inc., a California corporation, the named defendant in the Action.

2. RECITALS.

- 2.1. On November 5, 2021, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Class Action Complaint alleging wage and hour violations. On or about April 25, 2022, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Representative Action Complaint alleging a single cause of action against the named defendant for civil penalties under the PAGA. Defendant denies the allegations in the Operative Complaint, denies any failure to comply with the laws identified in the Operative Complaint, and denies any and all liability for the causes of action alleged.
- 2.2. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notice.
- 2.3. On June 19, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Daniel Turner, Esq., a well-respected and experienced wage and hour mediator, which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.
- 2.4. Before mediation, Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery, time and payroll records, data, and policies, among other documents and information, to aid in the preparation of Plaintiff’s evaluation of the claims and formulation of a damages model.

3. MONETARY TERMS.

- 3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay \$185,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount before the deadline stated in Paragraph 4 of this Agreement. The Administrator will disburse the entire Gross Settlement Amount without asking or requiring Aggrieved Employees to submit any claim as a condition of payment. None of the Gross Settlement Amount will revert to Defendant.
- 3.2. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. The Administrator will make and deduct the following payments from the Gross Settlement Amount in the amounts specified by the Court in the Approval Order:
 - 3.2.1. To PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than 33.33% which is currently estimated to be \$61,666.67, and a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$15,000.00. Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of these payments provided they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will file an application or motion for PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. If the Court approves a PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or a PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment less than the amounts requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. Released Parties shall have no liability to PAGA Counsel or any other Plaintiff's counsel arising from any claim to any portion of any PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment using one or more IRS 1099 Forms. PAGA Counsel assumes full responsibility and liability for taxes owed on the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment and holds Defendant harmless, and indemnifies Defendant, from any dispute or controversy regarding any division or sharing of any of these payments.
 - 3.2.2. To Plaintiff: From the Gross Settlement amount Plaintiff will receive a Service Award in the amount of \$7,500.00 for serving as the Plaintiff in this matter, and in exchange for the release of their individual claims, subject to the approval of the Court. Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of this payment.
 - 3.2.3. To the Administrator: An Administration Expenses Payment not to exceed \$5,000.00, except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the expenses incurred by the Administrator in connection with this Settlement are less, or the Court approves an Administration Expenses Payment of less than \$5,000.00, the Administrator will allocate the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.
 - 3.2.4. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties to be paid from the remaining Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% of the remaining Gross Settlement Amount (~\$71,875.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (~\$23,958.33) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.4.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties by the total number of PAGA Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

3.2.4.2. If the Court approves PAGA Penalties of less than the amount requested, the Administrator will allocate the remainder to the Net Settlement Amount. The Administrator will report the Individual PAGA Payments on IRS 1099 Forms.

4. SETTLEMENT FUNDING AND PAYMENTS.

4.1. Aggrieved Employee Pay Periods. Based on a review of its records as of the June 19, 2024, mediation date, Defendant estimates the Aggrieved Employees worked a total of 5,680 PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2. Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 21 days of the latest execution date of this Agreement below, Defendant will deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect Aggrieved Employees' privacy rights, the Administrator must maintain the Aggrieved Employee Data in confidence, use the Aggrieved Employee Data only for purposes of this Settlement and for no other purpose, and restrict access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to Administrator employees who need access to the Aggrieved Employee Data to effect and perform under this Agreement. Defendant has a continuing duty to immediately notify PAGA Counsel if they discover that the Aggrieved Employee Data omitted employee identifying information and to provide corrected or updated Aggrieved Employee Data as soon as reasonably feasible. Without any extension of the deadline by which Defendant must send the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator, the Parties and their counsel will expeditiously use best efforts, in good faith, to reconstruct or otherwise resolve any issues related to missing or omitted Aggrieved Employee Data.

4.3. Funding of Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant shall fully fund the Gross Settlement Amount by transmitting the funds to the Administrator within 21 days after the Effective Date.

4.4. Payments from the Gross Settlement Amount. Within 14 days after Defendant funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the Administrator will mail checks for Plaintiff's Service Award, all Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. Disbursement of the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and the PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment shall not precede disbursement of Individual PAGA Payments.

4.4.1. The Administrator will issue checks for the Individual PAGA Payments and send them to the Aggrieved Employees via First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid. The face of each check shall prominently state the date (not less than 180 days after the date of

mailing) when the check will be voided. The Administrator will cancel all checks not cashed by the void date. Before mailing any checks, the Administrator must update the recipients' mailing addresses using the National Change of Address Database.

4.4.2. The Administrator must conduct an Aggrieved Employee Address Search for all Aggrieved Employees whose checks are returned undelivered without USPS forwarding addresses. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail the check to the USPS forwarding address provided or to an address ascertained through the Aggrieved Employee Address Search. The Administrator need not take further steps to deliver checks to Aggrieved Employees whose re-mailed checks are returned as undelivered. The Administrator shall promptly send a replacement check to any Aggrieved Employee whose original check was lost or misplaced, if requested by the Aggrieved Employee prior to the void date.

4.4.3. For any Aggrieved Employee whose Individual PAGA Payment check is uncashed and cancelled after the void date, the Administrator shall transmit the funds represented by such checks to Crime Survivors in the name of the Aggrieved Employee.

4.4.4. The payment of Individual PAGA Payments shall not obligate Defendant to confer any additional benefits or make any additional payments to the Aggrieved Employees (such as 401(k) contributions or bonuses) beyond those specified in this Agreement.

5. RELEASES OF CLAIMS. Effective on the date when Defendant fully funds the entire Gross Settlement Amount, Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Plaintiff's Release. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Plaintiff expressly releases all claims or rights against Released Parties arising out of or relating to alleged violations of any contracts, express or implied (including but not limited to any contract of employment); any contract or covenant of good faith and fair dealing (express or implied); any tort, including any claim for improper or unauthorized wage deductions, failure to pay the applicable wage, unpaid wages, unpaid vacation benefits, penalties, liquidated damages, other damages, overtime, and alleged "off the clock" work under federal and state law, including California Labor Code Sections 204 and 558, waiting time penalties pursuant to California Labor Section 203, damages or penalties pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226, meal period and rest break payments pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 226.7 and 512, failure to provide itemized wage statements pursuant to California Labor Code Section 226, statutory or civil penalties pursuant to California Labor Code Sections 210, failure to reimburse for necessary business-related expenses and costs pursuant to California Labor Code Section 2802, unfair competition and unfair business practices pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq., interest and costs pursuant to California Civil Code Section 3287 and California Labor Code Section 218.6, statutory or common law rights to attorneys' fees and costs, including those pursuant to California Labor Code Section 1194, et seq.; claims under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code section 2699, et seq., and the alleged violation or breach of any other state or federal statute, rule and or regulation; including all applicable Industrial Welfare Commission

Wage Orders, and all similar causes of action, including but not limited to, any claim for restitution, equitable relief, interest, penalties, costs or attorneys' fees in connection with any of the foregoing, negligent infliction of emotional distress, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and defamation; any "wrongful discharge," "constructive discharge," and "retaliation" claims; any claims relating to any breach of public policy; any legal restrictions on Defendant's right to discharge employees; and any federal, state, or other governmental statute, regulation, or ordinance, including, without limitation: (1) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, religion, sex, and national origin discrimination or harassment, including retaliation for reporting discrimination or harassment); (2) 42 U.S.C. § 1981 (discrimination); (3) Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. § 209(d) (1) (equal pay); (4) Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12100, et seq. (disability discrimination); (5) Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2601, et seq. (family/medical leave); (6) California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Cal. Government Code § 12900, et seq. (discrimination or harassment in employment and/or housing, including discrimination or harassment based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sex (including pregnancy), or age, including retaliation for reporting discrimination or harassment); (7) California Family Rights Act, Cal. Government Code § 12945.1, et seq. (family/medical leave); (8) California Labor Code, including Section 1720, et seq., or any Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Order; (9) Executive Order 11246 (race, color, religion, sex, and national origin discrimination or harassment); (10) Executive Order 11141 (age discrimination); (11) Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap discrimination); (12) the Fair Labor Standards Act; and (13) Employee Retirement Income Security Act, 29 U.S.C. § 1000, et seq. employee benefits). Plaintiff's Release does not extend to any claims or actions to enforce this Agreement, or to any claims for vested benefits, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, social security benefits, or workers' compensation benefits that arose at any time, or based on occurrences outside the PAGA Period. Plaintiff acknowledges that Plaintiff may discover facts or law different from, or in addition to, the facts or law that Plaintiff now knows or believes to be true but agree, nonetheless, that Plaintiff's Release shall be and remain effective in all respects, notwithstanding such different or additional facts or Plaintiff's discovery of them.

- 5.1.1 Plaintiff's Waiver of Rights Under California Civil Code Section 1542. For purposes of Plaintiff's Release, Plaintiff expressly waives and relinquishes the provisions, rights, and benefits, if any, of section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads:

"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."

- 5.2 Release by the LWDA, State of California, and Aggrieved Employees: The LWDA, State of California, and all Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for

PAGA Penalties that were alleged, reasonably related to, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

6. MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. The Parties agree that Plaintiff's asserted class claims have already been dismissed. The Parties agree that PAGA Counsel will subsequently draft and file an application or motion for approval of this Settlement that includes the notice to be provided to the Aggrieved Employees and file it after review by Defense Counsel. The Parties will jointly seek to immediately vacate or stay all dates in the Action, pending approval by the Court of the Settlement, and will seek a date for the hearing on the motion for approval of this Settlement as soon as possible.

6.1 Plaintiff's Responsibilities. Plaintiff will prepare and deliver to Defense Counsel all documents necessary for obtaining approval of this Settlement under Labor Code Section 2699, subd. (f)(2) including (i) a draft proposed Order Granting Approval of PAGA Settlement; (ii) a signed declaration from the Administrator attaching its "not to exceed" bid for administering the Settlement and attesting to its willingness to serve; competency; operative procedures for protecting the security of Aggrieved Employee Data; amounts of insurance coverage for any data breach, defalcation of funds or other misfeasance; all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflicts of interest with Aggrieved Employees or the LWDA; and the nature and extent of any financial relationship with Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel or Defense Counsel; (iii) a signed declaration from PAGA Counsel attesting to its timely transmission to the LWDA of all necessary PAGA documents (initial notice of violations (Labor Code section 2699.3, subd. (a)), Operative Complaint (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(1)), this Agreement (Labor Code section 2699, subd. (l)(2)); and (iv) all facts relevant to any actual or potential conflict of interest with Aggrieved Employees and/or the Administrator.

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. PAGA Counsel are responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the application or motion for approval of this Settlement no later than 60 days after the full execution of this Agreement and, if necessary, obtaining a prompt hearing date for the motion and appearing in Court to advocate in favor of the motion. PAGA Counsel is responsible for delivering the Court's Preliminary Approval to the Administrator.

6.3 Duty to Cooperate. If the Parties disagree on any aspect of the proposed application or motion for approval of this Settlement and/or the supporting declarations and documents, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to resolve the disagreement. If the Court does not grant the motion for approval of this Settlement or conditions its approval on any material change to this Agreement, PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel will expeditiously work together on behalf of the Parties by meeting in person or by telephone, and in good faith, to modify the Agreement and otherwise satisfy the Court's concerns.

7. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- 7.1 Selection of Administrator. The Parties have jointly selected ILYM Group, Inc. to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, ILYM Group, Inc. agrees to be bound by this Agreement and to perform, as a fiduciary, all duties specified in this Agreement in exchange for payment of Administration Expenses Payment. The Parties, PAGA Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they have no interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, with the Administrator other than a professional relationship arising out of prior experiences administering settlements.
- 7.2 Employer Identification Number. The Administrator shall have and use its own Employer Identification Number for purposes of providing reports to state and federal tax authorities.
- 7.3 Qualified Settlement Fund. The Administrator shall establish a settlement fund that meets the requirements of a Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”) under US Treasury Regulation section 468B-1.
- 7.4 Administrator Duties. The Administrator has a duty to perform or observe all tasks to be performed or observed by the Administrator contained in this Agreement or otherwise.

8. **AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEE SIZE ESTIMATES AND ESCALATOR CLAUSE.** Based on its records, Defendant estimates that, as of the date of the mediation (*i.e.*, June 19, 2024), the Aggrieved Employees have worked approximately 5,680 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If the final accounting of the total PAGA Pay Periods increases by more than 10%, then Defendant shall notify Plaintiff that it will, at Defendant’s sole discretion, either (i) increase the Gross Settlement Amount by a proportional amount (*e.g.*, if there was a 15% increase in the number of PAGA Pay Periods, Defendant will increase the maximum settlement amount by 5%); or (ii) Defendant can elect to have the PAGA Period be deemed to end on the date that the total number of PAGA Pay Periods in the PAGA Period exceeds 5,680 by 10%.

9. **CONTINUING JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.** The Parties agree that, after entry of Judgment, the Court will retain jurisdiction over the Parties, Action, and the Settlement pursuant to CCP section 664.6 solely for purposes of (i) enforcing this Agreement and/or Judgment, (ii) addressing Settlement administration matters, and (iii) addressing such post-Judgment matters as are permitted by law.

10. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

- 10.1 No Admission of Liability or Representative Manageability for Other Purposes. This Agreement represents a compromise and settlement of highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended or should be construed as an admission by Defendant that any of the allegations in the Operative Complaint have merit or that Defendant has any liability for any claims asserted; nor should it be intended or construed as an admission by Plaintiff that Defendant’s defenses in the Action have merit. The Parties agree that representative treatment is for purposes of this Settlement only. If, for any reason the Court does not approve this Settlement, Defendant reserves all available defenses to the

claims in the Action, and Plaintiff reserves the right to contest Defendant's defenses. The Settlement, this Agreement, and the Parties' willingness to settle the Action will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, any litigation (except for proceedings to enforce or effectuate the Settlement and this Agreement).

- 10.2 Integrated Agreement. Upon execution by all Parties and their counsel, this Agreement together with its attached exhibits shall constitute the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the Settlement, superseding any and all oral representations, warranties, covenants, or inducements made to or by any Party.
- 10.3 Attorney Authorization. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel separately warrant and represent that they are authorized by Plaintiff and Defendant, respectively, to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Agreement to effectuate its terms, and to execute any other documents reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement including any amendments to this Agreement.
- 10.4 Cooperation. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts, in good faith, to implement the Settlement by, among other things, modifying this Agreement, submitting supplemental evidence and supplementing points and authorities as requested by the Court. In the event the Parties are unable to agree upon the form or content of any document necessary to implement the Settlement, or on any modification of the Agreement that may become necessary to implement the Settlement, the Parties will seek the assistance of a mediator and/or the Court for resolution. A reduction in the amount of PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment is not a basis to void the Settlement. In the event that the Court refuses to approve any term related to the scope of the release, the Parties agree to return to mediation in order to attempt to address the concerns of the Court, and upon reaching an agreement, submit a revised agreement to the Court.
- 10.5 No Prior Assignments. The Parties separately represent and warrant that they have not directly or indirectly assigned, transferred, encumbered, or purported to assign, transfer, or encumber to any person or entity and portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or right released and discharged by the Party in this Settlement.
- 10.6 No Tax Advice. Neither Plaintiff, PAGA Counsel, Defendant nor Defense Counsel is providing any advice regarding taxes or taxability, nor shall anything in this Settlement be relied upon as such within the meaning of United States Treasury Department Circular 230 (31 CFR Part 10, as amended) or otherwise.
- 10.7 Modification of Agreement. This Agreement, and all parts of it, may be amended, modified, changed, or waived only by an express written instrument signed by all Parties or their representatives, and approved by the Court.
- 10.8 Agreement Binding on Successors. This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors of each of the Parties.

- 10.9 Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Agreement and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the internal laws of the state of California, without regard to conflict of law principles.
- 10.10 Cooperation in Drafting. The Parties have cooperated in the drafting and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party was the drafter or participated in the drafting.
- 10.11 Confidentiality. To the extent permitted by law, all agreements made, and orders entered during the Action and in this Agreement relating to the confidentiality of information shall survive the execution of this Agreement.
- 10.12 Headings. The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement.
- 10.13 Calendar Days. Unless otherwise noted, all reference to “days” in this Agreement shall be to calendar days. In the event any date or deadline set forth in this Agreement falls on a weekend or federal legal holiday, such date or deadline shall be on the first business day thereafter.
- 10.14 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and deemed to have been duly given as of the third business day after mailing by United States mail, or the day sent by email or messenger, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff:

Mehrdad Bokhour
mehrdad@bokhourlaw.com
Bokhour Law Group, P.C.
1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 450
Los Angeles, California 90067
310-975-1493

Sam Rezvani
srezvani@venturelawpc.com
Venture Law, PC
1901 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 450
Los Angeles, California 90067
310-893-3402

To Defendant:

Alden J. Parker
E-Mail: *aparker@fisherphillips.com*
William T. Okamoto
E-Mail: *wokamoto@fisherphillips.com*
FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1400
Sacramento, California 95814
Telephone: (916) 210-0400
Facsimile: (916) 210-0401

- 10.15 Execution in Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts by facsimile, electronically (i.e., DocuSign), or email, which for purposes of this Agreement shall

be accepted as an original. All executed counterparts and each of them will be deemed to be one and the same instrument if counsel for the Parties will exchange between themselves signed counterparts. Any executed counterpart will be admissible in evidence to prove the existence and contents of this Agreement.

- 10.16 Stay of Litigation. The Parties agree that upon the execution of this Agreement the litigation shall be stayed, except to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.
- 10.17 No Public Comment. The Parties and their counsel agree not to issue any press releases, initiate any contact with the press, respond to any press inquiry or make any public communication about the fact, amount or terms of the settlement, except however that this does not prohibit disclosures required by law and/or between Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel and their expert, or between Defendant and Defendant's counsel and their expert, and those within Defendant's organization or financial advisors/accountants with a need to know in order to approve or execute the terms of this Settlement Agreement. In response to any inquiries Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel will state that "the case was resolved with Court approval." PAGA Counsel shall not report the settlement or its content in any medium or in any publication, shall not post or report anything regarding the claims of Plaintiff or the Aggrieved Employees on their website, and shall not contact any reporters or media regarding the settlement, the Action, or their content. However, PAGA Counsel is authorized to make disclosure to the Court and the LWDA for the purposes of obtaining the approval of the settlement, concluding any superior court or appellate court proceedings in the Action, and complying with any California Rules of Court or ethical requirements. This disclosure is limited to court filings, electronic submission of settlement documents to the LWDA, and verbal statements made at hearings or conferences with a judicial officer. Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel, or their representatives, are not permitted to disseminate or publish, distribute or discuss the information provided to the Court in those filings outside the filings themselves and any hearing held on those filings, unless ordered otherwise by the Court. Nothing in this provision is intended to prohibit: (i) Plaintiff from discussing this settlement with his spouse, attorneys, tax advisors, or taxing authorities; (ii) PAGA Counsel from citing the settlement in this case as evidence supporting their competence as counsel in wage/hour and/or class action matters in public court filings; or (iii) PAGA Counsel from communicating with the settlement administrator, Plaintiff in this case, the LWDA, or with the court in which this action is pending; (iv) PAGA Counsel to report on the settlement in other courts as may be required by the California Rules of Court or when responding to any inquiry from another court; (v) PAGA Counsel from discussing the settlement with the Aggrieved Employees if contacted with questions about the settlement or the distribution of settlement proceeds.

[SIGNATURES BEGIN ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

PLAINTIFF:

8/1/2024

Dated: August __, 2024

DocuSigned by:
Mario Alfaro
2526EEA38CF54BE...

Mario Alfaro

DEFENDANT:

AAA Restaurant Fire Control, Inc., a California corporation

Dated: August 12, 2024

Brent Patterson (Aug 12, 2024 20:05 GMT+1)

By: Brent Patterson

Title: President

AGREED AS TO FORM:

VENTURE LAW, P.C.

8/1/2024

Dated: August __, 2024

DocuSigned by:
Sam Rezvani
EF807FEB26524AE

Sam Rezvani, Esq.

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees

BOKHOUR LAW GROUP, P.C.

8/1/2024

Dated: August __, 2024

DocuSigned by:
Mehrdad Bokhour
D8D3643F271940F...

Mehrdad Bokhour, Esq.

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees

FISHER & PHILLIPS LLP

Dated: August 12, 2024



Alden Parker, Esq.

William Okamoto, Esq.

Counsel for Defendant AAA Restaurant Fire Control, Inc.