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Attorneys for Plaintiff JAMES F. RACHAL, JR.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

JAMES F. RACHAL, JR., an individual, on  
behalf of himself, and on behalf of all persons  
similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ELG METALS, INC., a Pennsylvania  
Corporation; and DOES 1-50, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 20STCV45861

**DECLARATION OF SEAN HARTRANFT IN  
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS  
ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT**

Date: November 18, 2022

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Judge: Hon. Stuart M. Rice

Dept.: 1

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I, Sean Hartranft, declare as follows:

1. I am a resident of the United States of America and am over the age of 21. I am the Senior Vice President of Sales for ILYM Group, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as “ILYM Group”), a professional class action services provider. I am preparing this declaration at the request of Plaintiff’s Counsel. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein, and, if called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently to such facts.

2. ILYM Group has extensive experience in disseminating class action notices and administering class action settlements, including direct mail services, telephone, and web-based support, database management, opt-out processing, and settlement fund distribution services for class actions ranging in size from 26 to 4.5 million Class Members. Attached hereto, as **Exhibit A**, is a true and correct copy of ILYM Group's current CV, reflecting our primary competencies as they relate to class action administration.

3. If appointed by the Court to disseminate the class notice in this case, ILYM Group's duties will include but are not limited to: (a) conducting address traces to locate class member addresses as necessary; (b) mailing the class notice to the class members; (c) handling inquiries from class members concerning the class notice; and (d) performing other such duties as the parties and/or the Court may direct.

4. Upon appointment, ILYM Group will provide a mailing address and toll-free telephone number to receive correspondence and inquiries from class members. After receiving the class data file from Defendant, which should contain the class members' names, last known addresses, and social security numbers, ILYM Group will upload the data into our database and check for duplicates and other possible discrepancies.

5. As part of the preparation for mailing the class notice, ILYM Group will process class members' names and addresses against the National Change of Address ("NCOA") database, maintained by the United States Postal Service ("USPS"), to update and confirm the mailing addresses of the class members before the mailing of the class notice and opt-out form. To the extent an updated address is found in the NCOA database, ILYM Group will use the updated address for mailing the class

1 notice. If ILYM Group does not locate an updated address in the NCOA database, it will use the  
2 original address provided by Defendant for mailing the class notice.

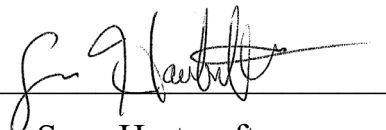
3 6. Should any class notices be returned to ILYM Group's office as undeliverable, ILYM Group  
4 will attempt to locate an updated address using the NCOA database and/or other skip trace efforts and  
5 will promptly remail the class notice.

6 7. Prior to sending out the notice, ILYM Group will fill in the specific date for the deadline so  
7 that all class members will be apprised of exactly when all applicable forms will be due, depending on  
8 the deadlines set by the Court, i.e., 60-day Notice period to opt-out, dispute or file an objection. At the  
9 expiration of the deadline, ILYM Group will inform all parties as to the number and name of those  
10 individuals who filed a timely opt-out, dispute, or objection.

11 8. ILYM Group's Disbursement Process will include but is not limited to; (a) applying for case  
12 EIN; (b) establishing Qualified Settlement Fund ((QSF) Escrow Account), with administering tasks  
13 including but limited to overview and reconciliation of account; (c) calculating the individual settlement  
14 amounts; (d) preparing, administering and distributing settlement award checks to the Participating  
15 Class Members, including necessary tax forms (W2 and/or 1099); (e) calculating and withholding all  
16 applicable state and federal taxes; and (f) performing other such duties as the Parties and/or the Courts  
17 direct. The above services are included in ILYM Group's initial quote. Attached hereto, as **Exhibit B**, is  
18 a true and correct copy of ILYM Group's estimated quote for this matter.

19 9. ILYM Group's fees are charged: hourly, fixed & per person. No additional charges will be  
20 incurred unless the class size increases or additional services are requested. ILYM Group's fees  
21 associated with the administration of this settlement are estimated at a discounted rate of \$5,628.40.

22 I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America and the State  
23 of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022, at Tustin,  
24 California.

25   
26 Sean Hartranft

# **EXHIBIT “A”**

# ILYM | GROUP, Inc.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

## Overview of Our Firm:

ILYM Group, Inc is a class action administration, legal notification and direct media outlets firm. With over 20 years of combined experience, our primary commitments are to client satisfaction, cutting edge technology and data management security, seamless case management and delivery of case expectations. Because, of our adherence to these commitments, ILYM Group, Inc is a one of the fastest growing, Woman Owned Business (NAPW), in the industry and has become the go-to firm for class action administration and legal notification. ILYM Group, Inc works with the top defense and plaintiff firms across the United States.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Wage and Hour
- FLSA
- Insurance and Health Care
- Consumer
- Finance
- Employment and Labor
- TCPA
- Antitrust
- Securities

#### Malta vs. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Inc.

- TCPA Case with a class size of 5,200,000.

#### John Lofton, et al. v. Collecto, Inc.

- TCPA Case with a class size of 207,036.

#### Blaise Picchi et al., vs. World Financial Network Bank, et al.

- TCPA Case with a class size of 856,507. Performed a reverse look-up to obtain Class Member information. We were able to obtain contact information for 93.21% that did not have a valid address associated with the contact record.

#### Jacqueline Jones vs. I.Q. Data International, Inc.

- TCPA Case with a class size of 93,993. Performed a reverse look-up to obtain Class Member information. We were able to obtain contact information for 93.82% of the Class that did not have a name or address.

#### Reza Barani vs. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

- TCPA Case with a class size of 82,874. Performed a reverse look-up to obtain Class Member information. We were able to obtain contact information for 87.84% of the Class that did not have a name or address.

#### Kimberly Roberts, et al. v. T.J. Maxx of CA, LLC, et al.

- Wage & Hour Case with a class size of 82,549.

#### Robert Stone, et al. v. Universal Protection Services, LP, et al.

- Wage & Hour Case with a class size of 75,351.

# ILYM | GROUP, Inc.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

ILYM Group, Inc. is operational 24/7 delivering true client and class member availability. Our call center is open 24/7/365 days a year, even holidays and is full digital, automated and multilingual. ILYM Group Inc.'s mail and media center is a state-of-the-art facility, fully digital and USPS integrated. We can accommodate cases of any size, from ten class members to multi-millions. ILYM Group, Inc. prides itself on its commitment to service, quality, value pricing and availability. We've committed ourselves to being the best Class Action Administration and Notification Company in our industry. Through our years of experience, ILYM Group, Inc. is dedicated to exceeding our client's expectations.

## PRE-SETTLEMENT CONSULTATION

- **Administration Consultation:** Meeting to determine objectives and expectations by both parties. All reporting and responsibilities will be agreed upon as will the seamless process to access data. We will also discuss the opportunities to identify class members with the proposed print and web-based media for optimum reach. Additionally, all expectations and delivery of those results will be planned for and mapped accordingly.

## MAILING AND NOTIFICATION

- **Fulfillment and Correspondence:** All provided settlement information will be published via United States Postal Service (USPS first class standards) to the proposed mailing class. Notifications will include a Claim ID and how to respond, or Opt-Out, based on the stipulations.
- **Reverse Lookup:** A confidential reverse phone or reverse cell lookup will provide; owner's name, location, address history, carrier, phone type (landline or cell phone) and more. Our reverse lookup is powered by an extensive database which includes hundreds of millions of cell phone, landline, residential and unlisted number. Our software collects data from multiple data sources and carriers across the US. Our average "hit ratio" ranges from 93% - 98%.
- **Creating Class Database:** All Data is verified and filtered to eliminate duplication against the United States Postal Service (USPS) National Change of Address (NCOA) database. ILYM Group, Inc. will also certify and validate with the Coding Accuracy Support System (CASS) and Track Your Class (TYC) for zone delivery.
- **Claim Forms:** ILYM Group, Inc. will email all claim forms, whenever possible, to have accurate reporting and tracking of all class requests. Emails will contain full text claim forms.
- **Translations:** When needed, ILYM Group, Inc. will translate notices to any language needed to reach Class members.
- **Remails:** Returned mail will be scanned, re-verified and re-mailed. All returned mail is data warehoused and reported to both parties' counsels in a weekly report.

# ILYM | GROUP, Inc.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

## MEDIA & INTERNET BANNER ADS

### Notice Publication

- **Legal Notices:** ILYM Group, Inc. can provide a Media Proposal to maximize reach based on quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- **Electronic Publication (Banner Ads):** ILYM Group, Inc. will utilize Internet Banner Noticing efforts and web technologies for maximum reach via the World Wide Web.
- **Electronic Mail Notices:** ILYM Group, Inc. can email an estimated number of class members a full text notice. We are compliant with all search engines and Internet Service Providers (ISP) so that our emails are always “White List” accepted with minimal returns.
- **Reach:** Every case has its own proposed reach and exposure percentage. We filter, verify and scrub the data to improve reach results.
- **Services Included:** Analysis, Documentation, Research and Methodologies, Execution and Reporting.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- **Case Notification, Maintenance and Management:** ILYM Group, Inc.’s Senior Project Managers will provide all Account Management, Pre-Consultation to Case Conclusion, Reporting and Claims Processing. Design, negotiation and implementation, upon approval, of all forms and notices, all distribution reporting and filings with the court.
- **Claims Processing:** All claims can be submitted by USPS, Internet, Fax, and Email or Online submission. Claims will be processed and recorded with matching ILYM database ID’s. E-claims will have corresponding records of intake. All deficient claims will be notified via USPS and make provisions for class member to re-submit claims.
- **Call Center:** ILYM Group, Inc. will support class members with a toll-free number to get the most up-to-date case settlement information. Customer service representatives will be available 24/7/365 as will recorded messages. All class members are given the options to best serve their needs and to receive case information.
- **Internet Support:** Class members can log on to a provided website and view, print or submit information and claim forms regarding the settlement. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) will be provided as well. Class members may download the claim form with mailing and fax instructions provided on the form.
- **Objection and Request for Exclusion:** All objections and request for exclusion, opt-out, will be data warehoused, dated and reported. Postmarks will serve for exclusion dating and will be forwarded to both counsels’ no more than 5 days post submission. Objection will be reviewed by ILYM Group, Inc. to determine the timeliness and basis of the objection. All information will be forwarded to both parties counsel, along with any representation information from the class member, within 5 days.

# ILYM | GROUP, Inc.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

## DATA ADMINISTRATION AND NETWORK SECURITY

- **Network Security:** All provided data is encrypted, stored and hosted in a Tier 4, SAS70 certified environment.
- **Database Administration:** To be developed with all electronically provided data. Class members will be assigned ILYM Group, Inc. internal tracking ID's to ensure all collected member data coincides with all received claims.

## DISTRIBUTION AND SETTLEMENT FUNDING

- **Distribution and Management:** Upon receipt of settlement funds, ILYM Group, Inc. will open a QSF Account for proceeds of the Gross Settlement Payment. The deposited funds will then be managed per the Settlement Agreement. All funds will be settled with class members and counsel along with all federal and state income tax reporting.
- **Check Printing and Mailing:** Claims processed, quantified and approved by clients, will be processed for distribution. All checks will be printed and mailed via USPS first class standards. ILYM Group, Inc. will reissue checks in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.
- **Preparation, Filing and Reporting of Taxes:** ILYM Group, Inc. will ensure taxes are filed in accordance to all federal, state and local employment tax returns. All taxes associated with the settlement will be paid on time to tax authorities. All filings and returns (e.g., 1099s, W-2s, etc.) will be done properly and timely with the appropriate authorities. All QSF steps and obligations with federal, state and/or local law will be followed.

## CASE CONCLUSION

- **Data Manager Final Report:** All database and electronic documentation will be sent in reports weekly and at the conclusion of the Administration engagement. Call center activity, e-claims, mailed, and faxed claims will be included in all reporting.
- **Project Manager Final Report:** All case and class related information will be provided on a weekly basis and at the conclusion of the Administration engagement. Mailing and media final analysis, exclusions, objections, and all other claims processing outcomes, status reports and final court documentations will be included.
- **Affidavits:** ILYM Group, Inc. will provide all affidavits in support of analysis and media reach, final approvals and settlement. Expert Testimony and Media Methodologies will be determined.
- **Document Retention:** Unless otherwise directed, ILYM Group, Inc. will destroy all undeliverable notices on the effective date of the settlement or when the case is no longer subject to appeal. ILYM Group, Inc. will correspond for one year after the final distribution or until the case is no longer subject to appeal.

# **EXHIBIT “B”**

# ILYM | GROUP, Inc.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

## Case Name: Rachal v. ELG Metals

Friday, June 17, 2022

|                               |                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Requesting Attorney:          | Eddie Garcia                                                                       |
| Requesting Attorney's E-mail: | EGarcia@jcl-lawfirm.com                                                            |
| ILYM Contact                  | Sean Hartranft                                                                     |
| E-Mail                        | <a href="mailto:Sean@ilymgrouppclassaction.com">Sean@ilymgrouppclassaction.com</a> |
| Contact Number                | 949.690.2564                                                                       |

### ESTIMATE FOR ADMINISTRATION SOLUTIONS

#### Opt-Out

| ASSUMPTIONS                                |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Total Estimated Number of Class Members    | 40  |
| Estimated Percentage of Undeliverable Mail | 20% |
| NCOA                                       | Yes |
| Certified Spanish Translation              | No  |
| Case Duration (Years)                      | 1   |

| Activity                                       | Rate Type | Unit Cost | Volume | Amount   |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|
| CASE STARTUP                                   |           |           |        |          |
| Initial Setup - Import and Formatting of Data* | Hourly    | \$150.00  | 1      | \$150.00 |
| Programming of Class Database                  | Hourly    | \$175.00  | 1      | \$175.00 |

\*ILYM assumes that data will be in a standard format. Client will be notified immediately if not in standard format to correct data or ILYM can convert to standard format @ \$150.00 per hour.

**Subtotal \$325.00**

| PROJECT MANAGEMENT                                           |           |          |   |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|---|----------|
| Project Manager (Case notification and maintenance)          | Hourly    | \$120.00 | 4 | \$480.00 |
| Staff Hours for Processing Opt-Outs, Disputes & Objection(s) | Hourly    | \$70.00  | 1 | \$70.00  |
| Staff Hours for Processing Returned Mail                     | Hourly    | \$70.00  | 0 | \$0.00   |
| Report Processing                                            | Hourly    | \$70.00  | 2 | \$140.00 |
| NCOA                                                         | Per Piece | \$15.00  | 1 | \$15.00  |
| Toll-Free Phone Support                                      | Flat Fee  | \$20.00  | 1 | \$20.00  |
| ILYM Group Static Website, Including Hosting                 | Flat Fee  | \$750.00 | 1 | \$750.00 |
| Status Reports                                               | Flat Fee  | \$750.00 | 1 | Waived   |

**Subtotal \$1,475.00**

# ILYM | GROUP, Inc.

SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION EXPERTS

| Activity | Rate Type | Unit Cost | Volume | Amount |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|

| NOTIFICATION/MAILING                        |           |          |    |          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----|----------|
| Initial Mailing, Fulfillment of Notices     | Per Piece | \$2.50   | 40 | \$100.00 |
| USPS First Class Postage                    | Per Piece | \$0.76   | 40 | \$30.40  |
| Remails (Forward/Skip Trace Undeliverables) | Per Piece | \$3.00   | 8  | \$24.00  |
| Storage, Photocopies, Deliveries            | Flat Fee  | \$300.00 | 1  | \$300.00 |

**Subtotal \$454.40**

| DISTRIBUTION (Includes EIN, Bank Acct * /QSF Setup)               |           |            |    |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|----|------------|
| Distribution Setup & Management                                   | Hourly    | \$150.00   | 2  | \$300.00   |
| Account Reconciliation & Distribution Reporting                   | Hourly    | \$125.00   | 2  | \$250.00   |
| Check, Stub & Release - Print & Mail (including W2 and/or 1099)** | Per Check | \$2.50     | 40 | \$100.00   |
| Check Mailing Postage                                             | Per Piece | \$0.55     | 40 | \$22.00    |
| Reminder Mailing, Includes Postage                                | Per Piece | \$3.00     | 4  | \$12.00    |
| Preparation of Taxes                                              | Hourly    | \$120.00   | 6  | \$720.00   |
| Annual Filing of Tax Return                                       | Per Year  | \$1,500.00 | 1  | \$1,500.00 |

*\*\*Additional Bank fees may apply*

**Subtotal \$2,904.00**

| CASE CONCLUSION                 |        |          |   |          |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------|---|----------|
| Data Manager Final Reporting    | Hourly | \$100.00 | 1 | \$100.00 |
| Project Manager Final Reporting | Hourly | \$120.00 | 1 | \$120.00 |
| Declaration                     | Hourly | \$125.00 | 2 | \$250.00 |

**Subtotal \$470.00**

**Total Case Estimate: \$5,628.40**

## Terms and Conditions

All services to be provided by ILYM Group, Inc. (hereinafter, "ILYM") to Client shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

**Services:** Subject to the terms hereof, ILYM agrees to provide the Client with Administration Services (hereinafter, "services") as specified in the Proposal provided to Client to which these Terms and Conditions are attached. The estimate is in good faith and does not cover any applicable taxes and fees. The estimate does not make provision for any services or class members/size not delineated in the request for proposal or stipulations. Such services do not in any way constitute legal services or advice. ILYM is performing its services as an Independent Contractor and neither it nor its employees shall be deemed to be employees of the Client.

**Mailing and Data Conversion:** ILYM's database administration assumes the Client will provide complete data that includes all information required to send notifications and complete the administration process. Data must be provided in a complete, consistent, standardized electronic format. ILYM's standard format is Microsoft Excel, however, ILYM may accept other formats at its discretion. Further developments or enhancements to non-standardized data will be billed to Client by ILYM on a time and materials basis, according to ILYM's Standard Rates.

**Charges for Services:** Charges to the Client for services shall be on a time and materials basis at our prevailing rates, as the same may change from time to time. Any fee estimates set forth in the proposal are estimates only, based on information provided by Client to ILYM. Actual fees charged by ILYM to Client may be greater or less than such estimate, and Client shall be responsible for the payment of all such charges and expenses in accordance with Section 5 hereof. Charges incurred related to resolving post distribution withholdings and related corrective files due to voids and re-issues of payments and related correspondence with state and federal taxing authorities will not be charged to the Client to the extent that funds are received from the taxing authorities offset these charges. ILYM may derive financial benefits from financial institutions in connection with the deposit and investment of settlement funds with such institutions, including without limitation, discounts on eligible banking services and fees, and loans at favorable rates.

**Indemnification:** Client will indemnify and hold ILYM (and the officers, employees, affiliates and agents harmless against any Losses incurred by ILYM, arising out of, in connection with, or related to (i) any breach of the terms by Client; (ii) the processing and handling of any payment by ILYM in accordance with Client's instructions, including without limitation, the imposition of any stop payment or void payment on any check or the wrongful dishonor of a check by ILYM pursuant to Client's instructions.

**Payment of Charges:** ILYM reserves the right to request payment of postage charges and 50% of the final administration charges at the start of the case. ILYM bills are due upon receipt unless otherwise negotiated and agreed to with the Client. In the event settlement terms provide that ILYM is to be paid out of the Settlement Fund, ILYM will request that Counsel endeavor to make alternate payment arrangements for ILYM charges that are due at the onset of the case. The entire remaining balance is due and payable at the time the Settlement Account is funded by, or no later than the time of disbursement. Decisions of the court and actions of the parties, including disapproval or withdrawal of a settlement, do not affect the Client's liability to ILYM for payment of services. Services are not provided on a contingency fee basis.

**Confidentiality:** ILYM maintain reasonable and appropriate security measures and safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of Client data provided to ILYM by Client in connection herewith. Should ILYM ever be notified of any judicial order or other proceedings in which a third party seeks to obtain access to the confidential data created by or for the Client, ILYM will promptly notify the Client, unless prohibited by applicable law. The Client shall have the option to (1) provide legal representation at the Client's expense to avoid such access or (2) promptly reimburse ILYM for any of its costs, including attorneys' fees, reasonably incurred in avoiding, attempting to avoid or providing such access and not paid by the entity seeking the data. If ILYM is required, pursuant to a court order, to produce documents, disclose data, or otherwise act in contravention of the obligations imposed by this Agreement, or otherwise, with respect to maintaining the confidentiality, proprietary nature and secrecy of the produced documents or disclosed data, ILYM will not be liable for breach of said obligation.

**Data Rights:** ILYM does not convey nor does the Client obtain any right in the programs, system data, or materials utilized or provided by ILYM in the ordinary course of business in the performance of this Agreement.

**Document Retention:** Unless directed otherwise in writing by Client, ILYM will destroy undeliverable mail on the effective date of the settlement or the date that the disposition of the case is no longer subject to appeal or review, whichever is later. ILYM will maintain claim forms and other correspondence for one year after final distribution of funds or benefits, or until the date that the disposition of the case is no longer subject to appeal or review, whichever is later.

**Limitation of damages:** ILYM is not responsible to the Client for any special, consequential or incidental damages incurred by Client. Any liability of ILYM to the Client shall not exceed the total amount billed to the Client for the particular services that give rise to any loss.

**Termination:** The services to be provided under this Agreement may be terminated, at will by the Client upon at least 30 calendar days' prior written notice to ILYM. The Client's obligation to pay for services or projects in progress at the time of notice of withdrawal shall continue throughout that 30 day period. ILYM may terminate this Agreement (i) with 10 calendar days' prior written notice, if the Client is not current in payment of charges or (ii) in any event, upon at least 3 months' prior written notice to the Client.

**Notice:** Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally, or sent by registered mail, postage prepaid, or overnight courier service to the responsible officer or principal of ILYM or the Client, as applicable, and shall be deemed given when so delivered personally, or, if mailed, five days after the date of deposit in United States mail, or, if sent by courier, one business day after delivery to such courier service.

**Force Majeure:** To the extent performance by ILYM of any of its obligations hereunder is substantially prevented by reason of any act of God or by reason of any other matter beyond ILYM's reasonable control, then such performance shall be excused and this Agreement, at ILYM's option, be deemed suspended during the continuation of such condition and for a reasonable time thereafter.

**Waiver of Rights:** No failure or delay on the part of a party in exercising any right hereunder will operate as a waiver of, or impair, any such right. No single or partial exercise of any such right will preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right. No waiver of any such right will be effective unless given in a signed writing.

**Jurisdiction:** The parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court of the applicable case for purposes of any suit, action or proceeding to enforce any provision of, or based on any right arising out of, this Agreement. The parties hereto hereby waive any objection to the laying of venue of any such suit, action or proceeding in the Court.

**Entire Agreement:** These terms and conditions and the proposal embody the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and cancels and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, and agreements related thereto, either written or oral, except to the extent they are expressly incorporated herein. **Attached here to is Exhibit D:** ILYM hereby incorporates the attached Exhibit D into the terms and conditions herein and Exhibit D shall be a part of this agreement. No changes in, additions to, or waivers of, the terms and conditions set forth herein will be binding upon any party, unless approved in writing by such party's authorized representative.