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14 Attorneys for Plaintiff Zareyah Thompson and Christopher Puga

15 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

16 FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

17 ZAREYAH THOMPSON, as an aggrieved
employee pursuant to the Private Attorneys
18 General Act ("PAGA"), on behalf of the State
of California and other non-party Covered
19 Employees,

20 Plaintiff,

21 vs.

22 BIG 5 CORP., a Delaware corporation; BIG 5
SPORTING GOODS CORPORATION, a
23 Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through
100, inclusive,

24 Defendants.
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27
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Case No. 23CV412334
Related Case: 23CV412953

Assigned to the Hon. Charles F. Adams

**DECLARATION OF ZAREYAH
THOMPSON IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
FOR COURT APPROVAL OF THE PAGA
SETTLEMENT**

Date: July 18, 2024
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: Department 7

Complaint Filed: March 13, 2023
Trial Date: None Set

DECLARATION OF ZAREYAH THOMPSON

I, Zareyah Thompson, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am over eighteen years old and unless the context indicates otherwise, I have personal knowledge of the following facts, and if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to them. I am the named plaintiff in the above-captioned action. I make this declaration in support of the Motion for Court Approval of the Parties' PAGA Settlement.

2. I was employed by Defendants Big 5 Corp. and Big 5 Sporting Goods Corporation ("Defendants") as an hourly paid, non-exempt Cashier at their Pinole, California retail store from approximately April 2021 to October 2021, and again from February 2022 to July 2022. I decided to file this lawsuit because I had a number of grievances against Defendants stemming from their labor policies. These grievances are set forth in detail in the operative Complaint and my letter to California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA").

3. Prior to filing the action, my attorneys and I had multiple conferences about the factual bases for the claims that I wanted to pursue against Defendants.¹ During those conferences, my attorneys provided me with an overview of how those claims would be litigated and generally educated me about the nature of complex/representative litigation and my role as the representative Plaintiff.

4. After retaining my attorneys, I spent considerable time on the phone discussing the facts of my case with my attorneys. I discussed the facts related to my employment with Defendants, including discussing my job duties and responsibilities, my job position, the hours and days I worked, and how I was compensated.

5. When I agreed to represent the LWDA as a deputized private attorney general, I understood it was my duty to be readily available and to participate actively in this case. I knew that I would be required to review documents, search for documents and produce them to my attorneys, answer written questions, potentially answer oral questions and testify truthfully under oath, and be available to appear in court, if necessary.

6. I understood that I needed to maintain awareness of the status and progress of the

¹ Although the preservation of my attorney-client privilege requires that I refrain from revealing the specifics of my communications with my attorneys, I understand that the privilege is not waived by stating generally the matters that I have discussed with my attorneys.

lawsuit.

7. My attorneys provided me with a draft of the Complaint for my review and approval. I closely reviewed the Complaint to ensure accuracy and completeness. Following the filing of the Complaint, I collaborated with my attorneys on the prosecution of my claims, and I regularly contacted my attorneys to stay current on the status of the litigation, and to discuss my attorneys' progress in prosecuting the claims.

8. I have worked to the best of my ability to prosecute this action on behalf of the LWDA, always considering the interests of the LWDA just as I would consider my own interests. I believe PAGA actions are an important tool to assure compliance with the Labor Code.

9. Since initiating this lawsuit until now, I have kept aware of the status of the lawsuit and provided my attorneys with information used by them in the litigation. I have spent large amounts of time and effort pursuing my claims and the claims of the other employees from the time I retained my attorneys to the present date.

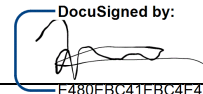
10. I have carefully reviewed the terms of the proposed settlement. My attorneys explained the specifics of how the settlement would work and I accepted the settlement only after I had spent time evaluating the proposed outcome to assure that it was fair. Based on my attorneys' evaluation and recommendation, and my own review, I believe the settlement is fair and reasonable in light of PAGA's policies and purposes.

11. In summary, over the course of this litigation I have spent a significant amount of time conferring and working with my attorneys on the prosecution of my claims and evaluating the settlement and related documents. I estimate that I have spent between 25 and 35 hours assisting my attorneys in the prosecution of this lawsuit.

12. Throughout this case, I have not sought individual benefits from the lawsuit. Rather, I maintained this lawsuit because I wanted to hold Defendants accountable for their unlawful conduct. I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities, and I will continue to fulfill those responsibilities, to the best of my ability, until the conclusion of the case.

13. I am committed to this case and will continue to make myself available as needed in the settlement process.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is
2 true and correct. Executed on [Date] 6/25/2024, at [City] Pinole, California.

3 DocuSigned by:
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Zareyah Thompson