

PAGA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This PAGA Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between plaintiff CARLOS GUILLERMO PEREZ GRAJEDA (“Plaintiff”) and Defendant ROCKET LAB USA, INC. (“Defendant”). The Agreement refers to Plaintiff and Defendant collectively as the “Parties,” or to each individually as “Party.”

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1. “Action” means the Plaintiff’s PAGA lawsuit alleging wage and hour violations against Defendant captioned *Grajeda, Carlos Guillermo Perez v. Rocket Lab USA, Inc.* initiated on May 30, 2023 and pending in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Los Angeles, Case No. 23STCV12065.

1.2. “Administrator” means Apex Legal Solutions, LLC, 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 “will not 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 employed by Defendant in California at any time during the PAGA Period.

1.5. “Aggrieved Employee Data” means Aggrieved Employee identifying information in Defendant’s possession including the Aggrieved Employee’s 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 the Settlement.

1.8. “Court” means the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

1.9. “Defense Counsel” means James M. Peterson and Edwin M. Boniske of Higgs Fletcher & Mack LLP.

1.10. “Effective Date” means the date Defendant receives notice that the Court has entered Judgment on its Approval Order.

1.11. “Gross Settlement Amount” means \$175,000 which is the total amount Defendant agrees to pay under the Settlement except as provided in Paragraph 8 below. The Gross Settlement Amount will be used to pay Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, PAGA

Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administrator's Expenses Payment.

1.12. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the 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 upon the Approval Order.

1.14. "LWDA" means the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the agency entitled, 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: PAGA Counsel Fees Payment, PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, and the Administration Expenses Payment.

1.17. "PAGA Counsel" means Samuel Wong, Kashif, Haque, Jessica Campbell, and Julia M. Toscano of Aegis Law Firm, PC, 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 May 30, 2022 to September 27, 2024.

1.21. "PAGA" means the Private Attorneys General Act (Labor Code §§ 2698. et seq.).

1.22. "PAGA Notices" means Plaintiff's May 30, 2023 letters to Defendant and the LWDA providing notice pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), LWDA-CM-958131-23, Submission Nos. AP-4163056 and AP-4163057.

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 (the Individual PAGA Payments) and the 75% to LWDA (the LWDA PAGA Payment) in settlement of PAGA claims.

1.24. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims being released by the Plaintiff and PAGA Counsel and as described in Paragraph 5 below.

1.25. "Released Parties" means Defendant Rocket Lab USA, Inc., and each of its former and present directors, officers, shareholders, owners, attorneys, insurers, predecessors, successors, assigns, subsidiaries, and affiliated entities.

1.26. “Settlement” means the disposition of the Action effected by this Agreement and the Judgment.

2. RECITALS.

2.1. On May 30, 2023, Plaintiff commenced this Action by filing a Complaint alleging individual and class claims against Defendant for: (1) failure to pay minimum wages; (2) failure to pay overtime wages; (3) failure to provide meal periods; (4) failure to permit rest breaks; (5) failure to reimburse business expenses; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failure to pay wages timely during employment; (8) failure to pay all wages due upon separation of employment; and (9) violation of Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

2.2. On August 11, 2023, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint adding a claim for violation of the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Cal. Lab. Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*) (the “Operative Complaint”).

2.3. In connection with Plaintiff’s employment with Defendant, Plaintiff and Defendant allegedly signed an arbitration agreement that contained, as relevant here, a class action waiver. Plaintiff agreed to dismiss the class allegations in the Action consistent with the terms of the arbitration agreement, leaving only the representative PAGA claim in the Action. On October 31, 2023, the Court entered an Order granting the Parties’ Joint Stipulation to Stay Plaintiff’s PAGA Claim Pending Arbitration of Individual Claims Against Defendant. 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, whether in the Operative Complaint or any prior complaint.

2.4. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subd.(a), Plaintiff gave timely written notice to Defendant and the LWDA by sending the PAGA Notices.

2.5. On June 13, 2024, the Parties participated in an all-day mediation presided over by Ann Kotlarski, Esq., which led to this Agreement to settle the Action.

2.6. Prior to mediation Plaintiff obtained, through informal discovery from Defendant, copies of relevant policies, Plaintiff’s employment records, and a sampling of time records and payroll records for the Aggrieved Employees.

2.7. The Parties have entered into a separate settlement agreement to resolve Plaintiff’s individual claims, and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”) to document the Parties’ agreement to resolve the PAGA claim on October 25, 2024. This long-form Agreement is entered into to document the Parties’ agreement to resolve the representative PAGA claim, and shall supersede and replace the MOU.

2.8. The Parties, PAGA Counsel, and Defense Counsel represent that they are not aware of any other pending matter or action asserting claims that will be extinguished or affected by the Settlement.

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3. MONETARY TERMS.

3.1. Gross Settlement Amount. Except as otherwise provided by Paragraph 8 below, Defendant promises to pay \$175,000.00 and no more as the Gross Settlement Amount. Defendant has no obligation to pay the Gross Settlement Amount prior to the deadline stated in Paragraph 6.1 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 Final Approval:

3.2.1. To PAGA Counsel: A PAGA Counsel Fees Payment of not more than one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount which is currently estimated to be \$58,333.33 and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment of not more than \$25,000. Defendant will not oppose requests for Court approval of these payments provided that they do not exceed these amounts. Plaintiff and/or PAGA Counsel will request approval for the payment of PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Litigation Expenses Payment as part of the settlement approval process. 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 any PAGA Counsel Fee Payment and/or PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment. The Administrator will pay the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel 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 the Administrator: An Administrator Expenses Payment not to exceed \$3,500.00 except for a showing of good cause and as approved by the Court. To the extent the Administration Expenses are less or the Court approves payment less than \$3,500.00, the Administrator will retain the remainder in the Net Settlement Amount.

3.2.3. To the LWDA and Aggrieved Employees: PAGA Penalties in the amount of \$88,166.67 be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, with 75% (\$66,125.00) allocated to the LWDA PAGA Payment and 25% (\$22,041.67) allocated to the Individual PAGA Payments.

3.2.3.1. The Administrator will calculate each Individual PAGA Payment by (a) dividing the amount of the Aggrieved Employees' 25% share of PAGA Penalties (\$22,041.67) by the total number of PAGA Period Pay Periods worked by all Aggrieved Employees during the PAGA Period and (b) multiplying the result by each Aggrieved Employee's PAGA Period Pay Periods. Aggrieved Employees assume full responsibility and liability for any taxes owed on their Individual PAGA Payment.

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3.2.3.2. 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 to date, Defendant estimates there are 220 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total 5,240 of PAGA Pay Periods.

4.2. Aggrieved Employee Data. Within 15 days of court approval of the Settlement, Defendant will deliver the Aggrieved Employee Data to the Administrator in the form of a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. To protect the Aggrieved Employee's 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 it discovers 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 no later than 30 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 all approved Individual PAGA Payments, the LWDA PAGA Payment, the Administration Expenses Payment, and the PAGA Counsel Expenses Payment. Disbursement of 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 (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 Settlement 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 address. Within 7 days of receiving a returned check the Administrator must re-mail checks 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, 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 the California Controller's Unclaimed Property Fund 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, the Aggrieved Employees, and PAGA Counsel will release claims against all Released Parties as follows:

5.1 Release by Plaintiff and the Aggrieved Employees: Plaintiff and all Aggrieved Employees are deemed to release, on behalf of themselves and their respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA penalties arising during the PAGA Period that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notices.

5.2 Release by PAGA Counsel: PAGA Counsel are deemed to release on behalf of themselves and their present and former attorneys, employees, agents, successors and assigns, the Released Parties from all claims for PAGA Fees incurred in connection with the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Period facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice.

6. MOTION OR APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT. The Parties agree to jointly prepare and file an application or motion for approval of this Settlement.

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)).

6.2 Responsibilities of Counsel. PAGA Counsel and Defense Counsel are jointly responsible for expeditiously finalizing and filing the application or motion for approval of this Settlement no later than 30 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 Approval Order 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 Apex Legal Solutions, LLC to serve as the Administrator and verified that, as a condition of appointment, the Administrator 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. The Parties and their 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 calculating payroll tax withholdings and providing reports 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 there are 220 Aggrieved Employees who worked a total of 5,240 Pay Periods during the PAGA Period. If the number of PAGA Pay Periods actually worked by the Aggrieved Employees exceeds 5,240 by more than 10%, the Gross Settlement Amount will increase proportionately based on the amount by which the actual payroll period count exceeds the estimate beyond 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 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. WAIVER OF RIGHT TO APPEAL. Provided the Judgment is consistent with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, specifically including the PAGA Counsel Fees Payment and PAGA Counsel Litigation Expenses Payment, the Parties, and their respective counsel waive all rights to appeal from the Judgment, including all rights to post-judgment and appellate proceedings, the right to file motions to vacate judgment, motions for new trial, extraordinary writs, and appeals. The waiver of appeal does not include any waiver of the right to oppose such motions, writs or appeals. If another party appeals the Judgment, the Parties' obligations to perform under this Agreement will be suspended until such time as the appeal is finally resolved and the Judgment becomes final, except as to matters that do not affect the amount of the Net Settlement Amount.

11. 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 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 the MOU and any and all oral or written 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 the Settlement 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.

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 are 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 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 Use and Return of Aggrieved Employee Data. Information provided to PAGA Counsel pursuant to Cal. Evid. Code §1152, and all copies and summaries of the PAGA Data provided to PAGA Counsel by Defendant in connection with the mediation, other settlement negotiations, or in connection with the Settlement, may be used only with respect to this Settlement, and no other purpose, and may not be used in any way that violates any existing contractual agreement, statute, or rule of court. Not later than 90 days after the Administrator discharges its obligation to pay out of all Settlement funds, Plaintiff shall destroy all paper and electronic versions of Aggrieved Employee Data received from Defendant.

10.14 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.

10.15 Notice. All notices, demands or other communications between the Parties in connection with this Agreement will be in writing and sent electronically by email to the Parties’ counsel of record, and will be deemed to have been duly given as of the third day after the notice is sent by email, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff: AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC

Kashif Haque
Samuel Wong
Jessica L. Campbell
jcampbell@aegislawfirm.com
Julia M. Toscano
jtoscano@aegislawfirm.com
9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100
Irvine, California 92618

To Defendant: HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK LLP

James M. Peterson
peterston@higgslaw.com
Edwin M. Boniske
boniske@higgslaw.com

401 West A Street, Suite 2600
San Diego, California 92101-7910
Telephone: (619) 236-1551
Facsimile: (619) 696-1410

10.16 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.

10.17 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. The Parties further agree that upon the signing of this Agreement that pursuant to CCP section 583.330 to extend the date to bring a case to trial under CCP section 583.310 for the entire period of this settlement process.

Agreed to by the Parties:

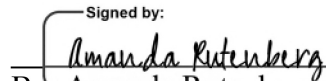
Dated: January 29, 2025

Signed by:

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CARLOS GUILLERMO PEREZ GRAJEDA

Dated: January 9, 2025

ROCKET LAB USA, INC.

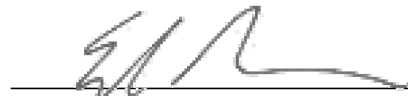
Signed by:

By: Amanda Rutenberg
Its: Deputy General Counsel

Approved as to form:

Dated: January 9, 2025


Samuel Wong
Kashif Haque
Jessica Campbell
Julia M. Toscano
AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: January 9, 2025


James M. Peterson
Edwin M. Boniske
HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK, LLP
Attorneys for Defendant