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Attorneys for Plaintiff ALVARO RAMIREZ, as an individual, and on behalf of all employees similarly situated,

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**

**SAN BERNARDINO JUSTICE CENTER**

ALVARO RAMIREZ, as an individual, and  
on behalf of all similarly situated employees,

Plaintiff,

v.

2D RECYCLING LLC dba 1-800-GOT-  
JUNK? , and DOES 1-50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: CIVSB2331370

**CLASS ACTION**

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
DAMAGES**

1. Failure to Pay All Wages, Including Minimum and Overtime Wages (Labor Code §§ 510, 1194);
2. Failure to Provide Rest Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512);
3. Failure to Provide Meal Periods (Labor Code §§ 226.7, 512);
4. Failure to Timely Pay Wages at Separation (Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203);
5. Failure to Keep Accurate Payroll Records (Labor Code § 1174, 226 (A), (E));
6. Failure to Reimburse Employees for Necessary Business Expenditures (Labor Code § 2802(A));
7. Unfair Business Practices (Bus. Prof. Code §§ 17200 et. seq.); and
8. Violation of Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) (Labor Code § 2698 et seq.).

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiff ALVARO RAMIREZ (“Plaintiff”) on behalf of himself and all others similarly  
2 situated, complains and alleges on information and belief, as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. This is a class action brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the class he seeks to  
5 represent (“Plaintiff Class”) pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 382. Plaintiff  
6 Class consists of all non-exempt, hourly-paid employees currently and/or formerly employed by  
7 Defendant 2D RECYCLING LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK? (“Defendant”) in California, during  
8 the Class Period. The term “Class Period” is defined as four (4) years prior to the filing of this  
9 complaint through the date of certification. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this complaint to  
10 reflect a different “Class Period” or “Plaintiff Class” as further discovery is conducted.

11 2. Plaintiff individually and on behalf of the class he seeks to represent, seeks relief  
12 against Defendant for Defendant’s practices of violating the applicable wage orders, the  
13 applicable Code of Regulations, and California Labor Codes, including: (1) failure to pay all  
14 wages, including minimum wages and overtime wages at the correct regular rate; (2) failure to  
15 provide rest periods or payments for missed rest periods at the correct regular rate; (3) failure to  
16 provide meal periods or payment for missed meals at the correct regular rate; (4) failure to timely  
17 pay wages at separation; (5) failure to keep accurate payroll records; (6) failure to reimburse  
18 employees for necessary business expenditures; and (7) unfair business practices as set forth more  
19 fully herein. These violations concern current and past employees of Defendant.

20 3. At all relevant times herein, Defendant has consistently maintained and enforced  
21 against Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class the following unlawful policies and practices: (a) willfully  
22 refusing to pay Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for all hours worked, including minimum wages; (b)  
23 willfully refusing to include non-discretionary bonus payments, and other incentive  
24 compensation, including commissions, in the regular rate calculation for overtime purposes; (c)  
25 willfully refusing to permit Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class from taking meal and/or rest periods; (d)  
26 willfully refusing to compensate Plaintiff and certain members of the Plaintiff Class all wages  
27 due and owing at the time Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class’ employment with Defendant ended; (e)  
28 willfully refusing to furnish to Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class with accurate itemized wage statements

1 upon payment of wages; and (f) willfully refusing to reimburse Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for  
2 necessary business expenditures.

3 4. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit seeking injunctive, restitution, and monetary relief  
4 against Defendant, and each of them, on behalf of Plaintiff, individually, and on behalf of all  
5 aggrieved and similarly-situated employees to recover, among other things, unpaid wages and  
6 benefits, interest, penalties, liquidated damages, attorney's fees, and costs pursuant to California  
7 Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, subdivision (a), 226.3, 226.7,  
8 510, 512, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, California Code of Civil  
9 Procedure 1021.5, and provisions of the applicable IWC Wage Order. Plaintiff reserves the right  
10 to name additional representatives throughout the State of California.

11 5. Plaintiff further seeks civil penalties in connection with Defendants' Labor Code  
12 violations based on Labor Code section 2698 et seq., the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004  
13 ("PAGA").

#### 14 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

15 6. Venue is proper in this judicial district and the County of San Bernardino, pursuant  
16 to Code of Civil Procedure section 395, because Defendant maintains its office location and  
17 transacts business in this county, the obligations and liability arise in this county, and work was  
18 performed by Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class made the subject of this action in the County of San  
19 Bernardino.

20 7. Defendant employed Plaintiff and numerous Class Members within the State of  
21 California and the unlawful acts alleged herein have a direct effect on Plaintiff and the Class  
22 Members.

23 8. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction in the matter because the individual  
24 claims are under the seventy-five thousand dollar (\$75,000.00) individual jurisdictional threshold  
25 and the five million dollar (\$5,000,000.00) aggregate jurisdictional threshold for federal court  
26 and, upon information and belief, Plaintiff and Defendant are residents of and/or domiciled in the  
27 State of California. Further, there is no federal question at issue as the issues herein is based solely  
28 on California Statutes and law including the California Labor Code, Industrial Welfare

Commission Wage Orders, Code of Civil Procedure, Rule of Court, and Business and Professions Code. Thus, the above-entitled court maintains appropriate jurisdiction to hear this matter.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE PREREQUISITE**

9. On December 1, 2023, Plaintiff gave written notice by electronically filing the notice with the Labor Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) (LWDA Case No. LWDA-CM-997311-23), and by certified mail to Defendant of the specified provisions alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations as required by Labor Code section 2699.3. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff’s letter sent to the LWDA and Defendant, dated December 1, 2023, is attached hereto as Exhibit A. As of the filing of this complaint, the LWDA has not responded.

10. Under Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a), a plaintiff may bring a cause of action under PAGA only after giving notice to the Labor Workforce Development Agency (“LWDA”) and the employer of the Labor Code sections alleged to have been violated, and after receiving notice from the LWDA of its intention not to investigate, or after 65 days have passed without notice.

11. The 65-day period for the LWDA to provide notice of its intent to investigate Plaintiff’s claims have been exhausted and the LWDA has failed to provide notice. As such Plaintiff amends his existing complaint pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a)(2)(C): “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a plaintiff may as a matter of right amend an existing complaint to add a cause of action arising under this part at any time within 60 days of the time periods specified in this part.”

### **THE PARTIES**

#### **Plaintiff**

12. Plaintiff was employed by the Defendant from in or around December 2021 through on or around August 15, 2023. At all relevant times herein, Plaintiff was employed by Defendant in a non-exempt hourly position, and was entitled to compensation for all hours worked, including but not limited to minimum wage and overtime wages, as well as the aforementioned penalties from Defendant.

**Defendant**

13. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant operates a trash and junk removal business in the state of California. On information and belief, and based thereon, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant is conducting business in good standing in California, at all times herein mentioned, has regularly conducted business throughout the State of California.

14. On information and belief, Defendant is, and was, the employer for Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class.

15. Plaintiff is ignorant of the true names, capacities, relationships, and extent of participation in the conduct herein alleged, of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, but on information and belief alleges that said Defendants are legally responsible for the payment of wages, and the payment of rest and meal period compensation, to Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class by virtue of their unlawful practices, and therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants when ascertained.

16. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each Defendant acted in all respects pertinent to this action as the agent of the other Defendants, carried out a joint scheme, business plan or policy in all respects pertinent hereto, and the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants. Furthermore, Defendants in all respects acted as the employer and/or joint employer of Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class.

17. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each Defendant acted in all respects as the agent, servant, partner, joint venture, alter-ego, employee, proxy, managing agent, and/or principal of the co-Defendants, and in performing the actions mentioned below was acting, at least in part, within the course and scope of that authority as such agent, proxy, servant, partner, joint venture, employee, alter-ego, managing agent, and/or principal with the permission and consent of the co-Defendants. Plaintiff also alleges the acts of each Defendant are legally attributable to the other Defendants.

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18. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each of the Defendants sued herein was, at all relevant times, the employer, owner, shareholder, principal, joint venture, proxy, agent, employee, supervisor, representative, manager, managing agent, joint employer and/or alter-ego of the remaining Defendants, and was acting, at least in part, within the course and scope of such employment and agency, with the express and implied permission, consent and knowledge, approval and/or ratification of the other Defendants. The above co-Defendants, managing agents, and supervisors aided, abetted, condoned, permitted, approved, authorized, and/or ratified the unlawful acts described herein.

## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

19. Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class are, and at all times relevant herein have been, non-exempt employees within the meaning of the California Labor Code and the implementing rules and regulations of IWC California Wage Orders.

20. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant's policies and practices described herein are common across each of Defendant's job sites within the state of California.

21. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant instituted a policy and practice against its employees wherein minimum wages and overtime wages due were not paid in compliance with California law. Specifically, Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for time spent maintaining Defendant's required work uniform. Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class were required to wear a shirt with Defendant's logo on it each day for work, and were expected to keep said shirts clean. Thus, time spent cleaning Defendant's required work uniform was performed without compensation for their time and in violation of the Labor Code. Defendant instituted a practice of failing to record all hours that Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class worked for maintaining their uniform in an effort to cut costs and gain an unfair advantage over the similar businesses thus harming Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class.

22. In addition, Defendant failed to compensate Plaintiff and certain members of the Plaintiff Class for time spent working during meal breaks in violation of the Labor Code.

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1           23. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that Defendant  
2 instituted a policy and practice against its employees wherein Defendant failed to include all  
3 remuneration paid to all hourly non-exempt employees when calculating Plaintiff's and Plaintiff  
4 Class' regular rate for purposes of overtime rate of pay. Specifically, Defendant paid hourly non-  
5 exempt employee's non-discretionary bonuses and incentive compensation and failed to include  
6 this compensation when calculating Plaintiff's and Plaintiff Class' regular rate for purposes of  
7 overtime rate of pay and meal and rest period premium pay.

8           24. As a matter of policy and/or practice, Defendant's compensation scheme failed to  
9 pay Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class their minimum and overtime wages due to the aforementioned  
10 off-the-clock work and failure to include all remuneration in their regular rate for purposes of  
11 calculating overtime pay and meal and rest period premium pay. The failure to pay Plaintiff Class  
12 minimum and overtime wages for each hour worked violates, among others, Labor Code sections  
13 1194, 1197, IWC Wage Order(s), and the UCL

14           25. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant was  
15 required to provide Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class with a work-free, thirty (30) minute meal period  
16 within the first five (5) hours of a shift for workdays in excess of six (6) hours, and a second thirty  
17 (30) minute meal period within the tenth hour of a shift for workdays in excess of ten (10) hours,  
18 in compliance with Labor Code section 512. Defendant routinely denied Plaintiff and Plaintiff  
19 Class a full, thirty (30) minute off-duty meal period when they worked in excess of six (6) hours  
20 within the first five (5) hours of their shifts. On information and belief, neither Plaintiff nor  
21 Plaintiff Class waived their lawful meal periods or received compensation from Defendant for  
22 their missed meal periods.

23           26. Additionally, Defendant was obligated to provide Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class with  
24 a ten (10) minute rest break for every four (4) hours, or major fraction thereof, worked each day.  
25 Defendant prevented Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class from taking rest breaks throughout their shifts  
26 in order to complete its jobs more quickly.

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1           27. For at least four years prior to the filing of this action and through to the present,  
2 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant consistently maintained and enforced the following unlawful  
3 practices and policies against its employees, in violation of California state wage and hour laws.

4           a. Defendant had a consistent policy of not paying Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class  
5 for all hours worked;

6           b. Defendant had a consistent policy of requiring Plaintiff Class within the State  
7 of California, including Plaintiff, to work at least five (5) hours without a  
8 lawful meal period, and failing to pay such employees one (1) hour of pay at  
9 the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal  
10 period was not provided, all in violation of, among others, Labor Code sections  
11 201, 202, 226.7, 512, and applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage  
12 Orders, in one or more of the following manners;

13               i. employees were required to work through their daily meal period(s), or  
14 work an unlawful "on-duty meal period;" and

15               ii. employees were restricted in their ability to take a meal period prior to  
16 the commencement of their fifth hour of work.

17           c. Defendant had a consistent policy of failing to provide Plaintiff Class within  
18 the State of California, including Plaintiff, rest periods of at least (10) minutes  
19 per four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof and failing to pay such  
20 employees one (1) hour of pay at the employees' regular rate of compensation  
21 for each workday that the rest period is not provided, as required by California  
22 state wage and hour laws, in one or more of the following manners:

23               i. employees were required to work without being provided a minimum  
24 ten-minute rest period for every four hours, or major fraction thereof,  
25 worked and were not compensated with one hour of pay at their regular  
26 rate of pay for each workday that a rest period was not provided; and

27 /-/-/

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1                   ii. employees were neither permitted nor authorized to take lawful rest  
2                   periods or leave the premises for rest periods when allegedly  
3                   authorized

4           d. With respect to the Plaintiff Class who either were discharged, laid off, or  
5           resigned, Defendant failed to pay them in accordance with the requirements of  
6           Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203;

7           e. Defendant failed to institute policies and procedures that ensured accurate  
8           recording of all hours Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class worked during the class  
9           period;

10          f. Defendant instituted policies and procedures that offset the necessary costs of  
11          doing business on its employees. Plaintiff and Plaintiff class were required to  
12          wash and maintain uniforms with Defendant's logo. Defendant failed to  
13          reimburse Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Class for the cost of washing and  
14          maintaining Defendant's required uniform, and cell phone. Defendant required  
15          Plaintiff and Plaintiff class to take on the burden of these expenses without  
16          reimbursement in violation of Labor Code section 2802.

17          28. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant  
18          willfully failed to pay Plaintiff Class all wages earned, including minimum and overtime wage  
19          and compensation for missed meal and rest periods, in a timely manner upon or after termination  
20          of their employment with Defendant.

21          29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Defendant  
22          currently employs, and during the relevant liability period has employed hundreds of employees  
23          in the State of California in non-exempt positions.

24          30. At relevant times herein, Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class were employed by  
25          Defendant in non-exempt hourly positions.

26          31. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant's actions as described  
27          throughout this complaint were willful.

28          /-/-/

32. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant willfully failed to pay the legal wages, including minimum and overtime wage, failed to provide legal rest and meal periods, and willfully failed to pay one hour's wages in lieu of rest and meal periods, when each such employee quit or was discharged.

33. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all other Plaintiff Class, brings this action pursuant to Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 218, 218.5, 218.6, 221, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, and 2802, California Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq., and Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 et seq., seeking unpaid wages, unpaid rest and meal period compensation, penalties, injunctive, and other equitable relief, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

34. Defendant has made it difficult to account with precision for the unlawfully withheld wages for time spent maintaining their uniform and meal and rest period compensation owed to Defendant's non-exempt employees, including Plaintiff, during the liability period, because it did not implement and preserve a sufficient record-keeping method as required for non-exempt employees by California Labor Code sections 226, 1174(d), and section 7 of the California Wage Orders. Defendant has failed to comply with Labor Code section 226, subdivision (a) by itemizing in wage statements all deductions from payment of wages and accurately reporting total hours worked by Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class. Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class are therefore entitled to penalties not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00) for each employee pursuant to Labor Code section 226, subdivision (b).

35. Defendant has failed to comply with section 7 of the California IWC Wage Orders by failing to maintain time records showing when the employee begins and ends each work period, meal periods, wages earned pursuant to Labor Code section 226.7, and total daily hours worked by itemizing in wage statements all deductions from payment of wages and accurately reporting total hours worked by the Plaintiff Class.

36. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and Class Members, pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17200-17208, also seeks injunctive relief and restitution for the unfair, unlawful, or fraudulent practices alleged in this complaint.

1 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

2 37. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated as  
3 a class action pursuant to section 382 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff seeks to  
4 represent Classes composed of and defined as follows:

- 5 a. All persons who are employed or have been employed by Defendant in the  
6 State of California as non-exempt, hourly-paid employees, and who, within the  
7 four years of the filing of this class action complaint to the present, who work,  
8 have worked, and/or have separated their employment from Defendant as non-  
9 exempt employees that were not paid their full and complete wages as a result  
10 of Defendant's failure to pay minimum and overtime wages, and were subject  
11 to Defendant's practice and procedure of requiring them maintaining their  
12 uniform off-the-clock;
- 13 b. All persons who are employed or have been employed by Defendant in the  
14 State of California, and who, within the four years prior to the filing of this  
15 complaint to the present, have worked as a non-exempt employee and were not  
16 paid all wages owed, including, but not limited to, the legally requisite  
17 overtime rate or meal and rest period premiums at the correct regular rate;
- 18 c. All persons who are employed or have been employed by Defendant as non-  
19 exempt, hourly-paid employees who, within the four years prior to the filing  
20 of this Class Action Complaint to the present, have worked as non-exempt  
21 employees and have not been provided a meal period for every five hours or  
22 major fraction thereof worked per day, and were not provided one hour's pay  
23 at the employees' regular rate for each day on which such meal period was not  
24 provided;
- 25 d. All persons who are employed or have been employed by Defendant in the  
26 State of California as non-exempt, hourly-paid employees, and who, within the  
27 four years prior to the filing of this Class Action Complaint to the present, have  
28 worked as non-exempt employees and have not been provided a rest period for

every four hours or major fraction thereof worked per day, and were not provided compensation of one hour's pay at the employees' regular rate for each day on which such rest period was not provided;

- e. All persons who have been employed by Defendant in the State of California as non-exempt, hourly-paid employees who, within the three years prior to the filing of this Class Action Complaint to the present, separated their employment from Defendant and have not been paid wages pursuant to Labor Code section 203 and are owed restitution for waiting time penalties deriving from such wages;
- f. All persons who are employed or have been employed by Defendant in the State of California as non-exempt, hourly-paid employees, and who, within the one year prior to the filing of this class action complaint to the present, have worked as non-exempt employees and were not provided an accurate payroll record as required under Labor Code section 226 and Labor Code section 1174;
- g. All persons who are employed or have been employed by Defendant in the State of California as non-exempt, hourly-paid employees, and who, within the four years of the filing of this Class Action Complaint to the present, have worked and were not reimbursed for necessary business expenditures incurred as a result of performing their work for Defendant pursuant to Labor Code section 2802.

38. Plaintiff reserves the right under rule 3.764 of the California Rules of Court, to amend or modify the class descriptions with greater specificity or further division into subclasses or limitation to particular issues.

39. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action under the provisions of section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed Classes are easily ascertainable.

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1           **A.     Numerosity**

2           40.     The potential members of each Class defined herein are so numerous that joinder  
3 of all the members of the Class is impracticable. While the precise number of Plaintiff Class has  
4 not been determined at this time, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant currently  
5 employs, and during the relevant time period employed, at least 50 employees worked in hourly  
6 positions as Defendant's non-exempt employees in California, who are or have been affected by  
7 Defendant's unlawful practices as alleged herein.

8           41.     Accounting for employee turnover during the relevant periods necessarily  
9 increases this number substantially. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges Defendant's  
10 employment records would provide information as to the number and location of all employees  
11 within the Plaintiff Class. Joinder of all members of the proposed Classes is not practicable.

12           **B.     Commonality**

13           42.     Common questions of law and fact predominate over any questions affecting only  
14 individual Class Members. These common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:

- 15           a.     Whether Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class are entitled to wages from Defendant  
16                 under applicable IWC Wage Orders, regulations and statutes for hours worked  
17                 but not paid;
- 18           b.     Whether Defendant violated Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, section 10 of  
19                 the IWC Wage Orders, and Code of Regulations, Title 8, section 11000 et seq.  
20                 by failing to provide a lawful meal period to non-exempt employees within the  
21                 first five hours of their shifts on days they worked in excess of six (6) hours  
22                 and by failing to compensate said employees one hour's wages in lieu of meal  
23                 periods;
- 24           c.     Whether Defendant violated Labor Code section 226.7, section 11 of the IWC  
25                 Wage Orders, and Cal. Code Regs., Title 8, section 11000 et seq. by failing to  
26                 provide daily rest periods to non-exempt employees for every four hours or  
27                 major fraction thereof worked and by failing to compensate said employees  
28                 one hour's wages in lieu of rest periods;

- 1 d. Whether Defendant violated sections 201, 202, and 203 of the Labor Code by  
2 failing to pay all earned wages and/or premium wages or return unlawfully  
3 deducted wages due and owing at the time that any person in the Plaintiff Class  
4 employment with Defendant terminated, voluntarily or involuntarily;
- 5 e. Whether Defendant failed to keep accurate payroll records and provide  
6 accurate itemized paystubs in violation of Labor Code section 1174, 226 (A),  
7 (E);
- 8 f. Whether Defendant failed to Reimburse Employees for Necessary Business  
9 Expenditures in violation of Labor Code section 2802, subdivision (A);
- 10 g. Whether Defendant violated section 17200 et seq. of the Business and  
11 Professions Code, Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 351, 226.7, 512, 1194,  
12 1199, 1174, and applicable IWC Wage Orders, which violation constitutes a  
13 violation of fundamental public policy; and
- 14 h. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to equitable relief pursuant  
15 to Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.

16 43. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Plaintiff Class. Plaintiff and the  
17 Plaintiff Class sustained injuries and damages arising out of and caused by Defendant's common  
18 course of conduct in violation of California laws, regulations, and statutes as alleged herein.

19 **D. Adequacy of Representation**

20 44. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the  
21 Plaintiff Class. Counsel is competent and experienced in litigating employment class actions.

22 45. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient  
23 adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of all each person in the Plaintiff Class is not  
24 practicable, and questions of law and fact common to each Class predominate over any questions  
25 affecting only individual members of the Class. Each member of the Plaintiff Class has been  
26 damaged and is entitled to recovery by reason of Defendant's unlawful policies and practices  
27 alleged in the complaint.

28 46. Class action treatment will allow those similarly situated persons to litigate their

claims in the manner that is most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Failure to Pay All Wages**

##### **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

47. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.

48. Plaintiff alleges that, Defendant maintained, and has maintained throughout the Class Period, a consistent policy and practice of failing to pay wages, including overtime, and minimum wage due for hours actually worked.

49. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant maintained, and has maintained throughout the Class Period, a consistent policy of failing to pay its employees for all hours worked. Specifically, Defendant maintained a policy of failing to record all hours Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class worked for time spent maintaining Defendant's uniform and working during meal periods.

50. Defendant failed to include all remuneration paid to hourly non-exempt employees for non-discretionary bonuses, and other types of incentive compensation, which are not statutory exclusions, when calculating Plaintiff's and Plaintiff Class' regular rate for purposes of overtime rate of pay as well as meal and rest period premium pay.

51. As a result of Defendant's unlawful acts, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class have been deprived of regular wages, minimum wages, and compensation in amounts to be determined at trial, and are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys' fees, and costs, pursuant to Labor Code sections 1194 and 1199.

52. Defendant willfully violated the Labor Code with respect to meeting the requirements of paying all wages earned, including minimum wage, as alleged herein.

53. Plaintiff seeks to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of the unpaid wages resulting from Defendant's minimum wage violations including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit, penalties, and liquidated damages to the

1 fullest extent permissible including those permitted pursuant to Labor Code sections 1194 and  
2 1194.2 and Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5 and/or any other statute.

3 54. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class request relief as described herein and  
4 below.

5 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 **Failure to Provide Rest Periods**

7 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

8 55. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set  
9 forth herein.

10 56. Labor Code section 226.7 provides that employers authorize and permit all  
11 employees to take rest periods at the rate of ten (10) minutes rest time per four (4) work hours.

12 57. Labor Code section 226.7, subdivision (b) provides that if an employer fails to  
13 provide and employee rest periods in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the  
14 employee one (1) hour of pay at the employees' regular rate of compensation for each workday  
15 that the rest period is not provided.

16 58. Plaintiff alleges that during the class period, Defendant did not permit or authorize  
17 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class to take timely or compliant rest periods. Defendant failed to  
18 adequately staffing employees to allow Plaintiff and Class Members an opportunity to be  
19 provided timely, lawful duty-free rest periods for every four hours of their shift or major fraction  
20 thereof. Further, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class were required to remain on Defendant's premises  
21 and not free to leave Defendant's premises during the rest periods.

22 59. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class worked more than four  
23 (4) hours in a workday, and ten (10) hours in a workday at times.

24 60. Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class did not voluntarily or willfully waive rest periods.

25 61. Defendant further failed to implement a policy to pay Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class  
26 an additional hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for rest periods not authorized or permitted.

27 62. By failing to keep adequate records as required by sections 226 and 1174,  
28 subdivision (d) of the Labor Code, Defendant has injured Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class and made

1 it difficult to calculate the unpaid rest period compensation (including wages, interest, and  
2 penalties thereon) due and owing to Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class.

3 63. By virtue of the Defendant's unlawful failure to provide rest periods to Plaintiff  
4 and Plaintiff Class, they have been deprived of compliant rest periods and/or premium wages in  
5 lieu thereof in amounts to be determined at trial and are entitled to recovery of such amounts, plus  
6 interest and penalties thereon, attorneys fees, costs, to the fullest extent permissible under the  
7 Labor Code 226.7, applicable IWC Wage Orders, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

8 64. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and Class Members request relief as described herein and  
9 below. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set forth  
10 herein.

### 11 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 12 **Failure to Provide Meal Periods**

#### 13 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

14 65. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set  
15 forth herein.

16 66. Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512 provide that no employer shall employ any  
17 person for a work period of more than five (5) hours without providing a meal period of not less  
18 than thirty (30) minutes or employ any person for a work period of more than ten (10) hours  
19 without a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes.

20 67. Labor Code section 226.7 provides that if an employer fails to provide an  
21 employee a meal period in accordance with this section, the employer shall pay the employee one  
22 (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that the meal  
23 period is not provided in accordance with this section.

24 68. Defendant maintains, and has maintained throughout the Class Period, a policy  
25 and practice of failing to provide lawful work-free meal periods to Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class,  
26 for the days on which non-exempt employees work periods in excess of six (6) hours and a second  
27 meal period on days which non-exempt employees work periods in excess of ten (10) hours.  
28 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class were routinely denied the opportunity to be completely relieved of all

1 work duties for a 30-minute meal period as a result of Defendant's failure to provide adequate  
2 staffing. In fact, if Plaintiff and Class members were provided the opportunity to take a meal  
3 period, their meal periods were interrupted because they had to attend to task such as checking  
4 trucks, dumping junk, refueling trucks, calling customers, and loading trucks, amongst other  
5 things. Further, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class were required to remain on Defendant's premises and  
6 not free to leave Defendant's premises during the meal periods. Defendant failed to provide  
7 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class with compensation for their missed meal periods.

8 69. Defendant also routinely refused to make meal periods reasonably available prior  
9 to commencement of the fifth hour of work.

10 70. Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class did not voluntarily or willfully waive meal periods.

11 71. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendant, failed to provide Plaintiff and Plaintiff  
12 Class similarly a compliant duty-free meal period as required by Labor Code sections 226.7 and  
13 512.

14 72. By virtue of the Defendant's unlawful failure to provide meal periods to Plaintiff  
15 and Plaintiff Class, Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class have been deprived of compliant meal periods  
16 and/or premium wages in lieu thereof in amounts to be determined at trial and are entitled to  
17 recovery of such amounts, plus interest and penalties thereon, attorneys fees, costs, to the fullest  
18 extent permissible under the Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, applicable IWC Wage Orders,  
19 Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, and/or any other statute.

20 73. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and Class Members request relief as described herein and  
21 below.

#### 22 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

##### 23 **Failure to Timely Pay Wages at Separation**

##### 24 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

25 74. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set  
26 forth herein.

27 75. During the relevant time period, Plaintiff and formerly employed members of the  
28 Plaintiff Class resigned or were terminated from their positions with Defendant. Defendant,

1 however, willfully did not pay Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class all wages which were due them upon  
2 their separation of employment immediately upon termination or within seventy-two (72) hours  
3 of their resignation as required by Labor Code section 202, subdivision (a). Defendant failed to  
4 pay Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class all minimum wages due which were earned throughout their  
5 employment. Defendant also failed to pay premium wages for times Plaintiff and Class Members  
6 were not provided meal and/or rest breaks.

7 76. Under Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class are  
8 entitled to waiting time penalties for not having been paid all wages due them upon their  
9 separation from employment.

10 77. Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class who terminated employment within four years of the  
11 filing of the original Complaint until the date of entry of judgment, without being paid the proper  
12 payments are entitled to thirty (30) days of pay at their regular rate of pay as waiting time  
13 penalties.

14 78. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class request relief as described herein  
15 and below.

16 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **Failure to Keep Accurate Payroll Records**

18 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

19 79. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and realleges all previous paragraphs of this  
20 complaint as though fully set forth herein.

21 80. Labor Code section 1174, subdivision (d), requires an employer to keep at a central  
22 location in California or at the plant or establishment at which the employee is employed, payroll  
23 records showing the hours worked daily, and the wages paid to, each employee. Labor Code  
24 section 226, subdivision (a) requires an employer to provide employees—either as a detachable  
25 part of the check, draft, or voucher paying the employee's wages, or separately when wages are  
26 paid by personal check or cash—an accurate itemized wage statement in writing.

27 81. Labor Code section 226, subdivision (e) provides that if an employer knowingly  
28 and intentionally fails to provide a statement itemizing, inter alia, the gross and net wages earned,

1 the total hours worked by the employee and the applicable hourly overtime rates, causing the  
2 employee injury, then the employee is entitled to recover the greater of all actual damages or fifty  
3 dollars (\$50.00) for the initial violation and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each subsequent  
4 violation, up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00). Plaintiff is informed and believes that  
5 Defendant willfully failed to make or keep accurate records for Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class.

6 82. IWC Wage Orders require that every employer shall keep accurate information  
7 with respect to each employee, including time records showing when each employee begins and  
8 ends each work periods, the total daily hours worked by each employee and the total hours worked  
9 in each payroll period, and applicable rates of pay. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant willfully and  
10 intentionally failed to make and/or keep records which accurately reflect the hours worked by  
11 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class. Specifically, Plaintiff believes that Defendant's records do not  
12 accurately reflect where Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class worked during their meal and/or rest breaks.  
13 Furthermore, Defendant's records do not reflect all hours worked, specifically the hours Plaintiff  
14 and Plaintiff Class were required to work off the clock for maintaining Defendant's uniform.

15 83. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant's failure to keep accurate payroll  
16 records, as described above, violated Labor Code sections 1174, subdivision (d) and 226,  
17 subdivision (a), and the applicable wage order.

18 84. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant's failure to keep and maintain  
19 accurate records and information, as described above, was willful, and Plaintiff and the Plaintiff  
20 Class are entitled to statutory penalties pursuant to Labor Code sections 226 and 1174.5.

21 85. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class request relief as described herein and  
22 below.

### 23 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 24 **Failure to Reimburse Employees for Necessary Business Expenditures**

#### 25 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

26 86. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs of this  
27 complaint as though fully set forth herein.

28 87. Under California Labor Code section 2802, subdivision (a), an employer is legally

1 to reimburse its employees for necessary business expenditures incurred as a result of performing  
2 their work.

3 88. California Labor Code section 2802 states, "An employer shall indemnify his or  
4 his employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct  
5 consequence of the discharge of his or his duties..."

6 89. Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class has incurred out-of-pocket losses because of  
7 Defendant's failure to reimburse Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class appropriately for all necessary  
8 uniform purchase and cleaning, as well as personal cell phone expenses that Plaintiff and Plaintiff  
9 Class incurred while performing work for Defendant. To date, Defendant has failed to indemnify  
10 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for all these out-of-pocket losses.

11 90. Defendant knowingly, willingly and intentionally attempted to offset the cost of  
12 doing business on the Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class.

13 91. Defendant has and or had a practice and policy of requiring Plaintiff and Plaintiff  
14 Class to shoulder the burden of Defendant's cost of doing business by failing to reimburse  
15 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for necessary business expenditures, specifically the cost to wash and  
16 maintain their work uniforms which contains Defendant's logo at their own expense. Plaintiff and  
17 the class had to wash their uniforms separate from their personal clothing because of their  
18 uniforms were heavily soiled as a result of carrying out their job duties. Defendant failed to  
19 reimburse Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for the cost of washing and maintaining Defendant's  
20 uniform which is required in their employment. Defendant failed to reimbursement Plaintiff and  
21 the class for these expenditures incurred in carrying out their job duties by Plaintiff and the class  
22 under Defendant's policy.

23 92. Further, Defendant has and or had a practice and policy of requiring Plaintiff and  
24 Plaintiff Class to shoulder the burden of Defendant's cost of doing business by failing to  
25 reimburse personal cell phone expenses that Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class incurred while  
26 performing work for Defendant.

27 93. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class are entitled to an award of "necessary  
28 expenditures or losses" shall include all reasonable costs, including, but not limited to, attorney's

1 fees and interest.

2 94. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class request relief as described herein  
3 and below.

4 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **Unfair Business Practices**

6 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

7 95. Plaintiff incorporates all previous paragraphs of this complaint as though fully set  
8 forth herein.

9 96. On information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant engaged in conduct and  
10 maintained policies and practices that constitute false, fraudulent, unlawful, unfair, and deceptive  
11 business practices in violation of Business and Professions Code section 17200 et seq. (hereinafter  
12 the “Unfair Competition Law”). Plaintiff alleges that each of the following policies and practices  
13 of Defendant violate the Unfair Competition Law:

- 14 a. requiring employees to work in excess of six (6) hours per day without being  
15 provided a lawful meal period, and failing to compensate such employees with  
16 one hour of pay at their regular rate of compensation for each workday that a  
17 meal period was not provided;
- 18 b. requiring employees to work in excess of ten (10) hours per day without being  
19 provided a lawful second meal period, and failing to compensate such  
20 employees with one hour of pay at their regular rate of compensation for each  
21 workday that a meal period was not provided;
- 22 c. requiring employees to work without being provided a minimum ten-minute  
23 rest period for every four (4) hours or major fraction thereof worked, and  
24 failing to compensate such employees with one hour of pay at their regular rate  
25 of compensation for each workday that a rest period was not provided;
- 26 d. requiring employees to work without being provided a thirty-minute (30) duty  
27 free lunch period with for every five (5) hours worked;
- 28 e. for failing to institute policies and procedure that ensure accurate timekeeping

- 1 and accurate itemized paystubs to Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class;
- 2 f. failing to pay all earned wages, including minimum and overtime wages, to
- 3 Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class; and
- 4 g. failing to reimburse Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class for necessary business
- 5 expenses.

6 97. The actions of Defendant as alleged within this Complaint constitute false,

7 fraudulent, unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices, within the meaning of Business

8 and Professions Code section 17200 et seq.

9 98. Plaintiff and the Plaintiff Class are entitled to other equitable relief against such

10 unlawful practices in order to prevent future damage, for which there is no adequate remedy at

11 law, and to avoid a multiplicity of lawsuits.

12 99. As a result of its unlawful acts, Defendant has reaped and continue to reap unfair

13 benefits and unlawful profits at the expense of Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class. Defendant should be

14 required to restore to Plaintiff and Class Members the wrongfully withheld wages pursuant to

15 Business and Professions Code section 17203. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon

16 alleges, that Defendant has been unjustly enriched through Defendant's unlawful, unfair, and

17 fraudulent business practices as alleged throughout this Complaint. Plaintiff is informed and

18 believes, and based thereon alleges, that Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class are prejudiced by

19 Defendant's unfair trade practices.

20 100. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unfair business practices, Plaintiff,

21 and Plaintiff Class are entitled to equitable including full restitution of all wages which have been

22 unlawfully withheld from Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class as a result of the business acts and practices

23 described herein.

24 101. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class request relief as described herein and

25 below and as deemed just.

26 /-/-/

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1 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **Violation of the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act**

3 **(Plaintiff and Plaintiff Class Against All Defendants)**

4 102. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs herein  
5 as if fully alleged herein.

6 103. Labor Code sections 2698-2699.5 provide that a civil penalty, assessed and  
7 collected by the Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions,  
8 commissions, boards, agencies or employees ("LWDA") for certain violations of the Labor Code,  
9 may be recovered through a civil action by an aggrieved employee on behalf of herself and  
10 collectively on behalf of all other current or former employees.

11 104. California Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (a), also known as the Private  
12 Attorneys' General Act of 2004 (or PAGA), states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
13 any provision of this code that provides for a civil penalty to be assessed and collected by the  
14 Labor and Workforce Development Agency or any of its departments, divisions, commissions,  
15 boards, agencies, or employees, for a violation of this code, may, as an alternative, be recovered  
16 through a civil action brought by an aggrieved employee on behalf of himself or herself and other  
17 current or former employees pursuant to the procedures specified in section 2699.3."

18 105. Plaintiff and Class Members are "aggrieved employees" as defined by Labor Code  
19 section 2698 et seq. in that they are all current or former employees of Defendant, and one or  
20 more of the alleged violations was committed against them.

21 106. Prior to filing this complaint on December 1, 2023, Plaintiff gave written notice  
22 by certified mail to the LWDA and to Defendant of the specific provisions alleged to have been  
23 violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations as required by Labor  
24 Code section 2699.3, subdivision (a)(1). (See "Exhibit A"), which are hereby incorporated by  
25 reference.

26 107. The LWDA has not provided Plaintiff with any notice that it intends to investigate  
27 the alleged violations. Plaintiff does not anticipate an investigation into hia claims by the LWDA.

28 108. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, notwithstanding any other provision of

law, Plaintiff may, as a matter of right, amend the existing complaint to add a cause of action under Labor Code section 2698.

109. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all aggrieved Class Members, asserts all of the claims in this complaint against Defendant under the capacity of PAGA, and seeks all statutory penalties available under the Labor Code.

110. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2698 et seq., Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all aggrieved Class Members, requests and is entitled to recover from Defendant civil penalties for: unpaid wages, unpaid overtime compensation, rest and meal period premiums, waiting-time penalties, unpaid business reimbursement, failure to keep accurate payroll records, interest, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1194, as well as all statutory penalties, and attorneys' fees against Defendant.

111. In addition thereto, pursuant to Labor Code section 2699, subdivision (i), Plaintiff seeks and is entitled to 75 percent of all penalties obtained under Labor Code section 2698 to be allocated to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency for enforcement of labor laws, including the administration of this part, and for education of employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities under this code, to be continuously appropriated to supplement and not supplant the funding to the agency for those purposes; and 25 percent to the aggrieved employees.

112. Further, Plaintiff is entitled to seek and recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 511, 512, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, and 2802 and any other applicable statute.

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and Class Members pray for judgment as follows:

- 3 1. That the Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action;
- 4 2. That Plaintiff be appointed the representative of each proposed Class, as appropriate;
- 5 3. That the attorneys of record for Plaintiff whose name appears in this complaint be
- 6 appointed class counsel;
- 7 4. For compensatory damages in an amount according to proof with interest thereon;
- 8 5. For economic and/or special damages in an amount according to proof with interest
- 9 thereon;
- 10 6. That Defendant be found to have engaged in unfair competition in violation of
- 11 Business and Professions Code section 17200 *et seq.*;
- 12 7. That Defendant be ordered to make restitution to each Class due to its unfair
- 13 competition, pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17203 and 17204;
- 14 8. For penalties to the extent permitted pursuant to the Labor Code, Orders of the
- 15 Industrial Welfare Commission, including, but not limited to, waiting time penalties
- 16 under Labor Code section 203, and penalties under Labor Code sections 226,
- 17 subdivision (e), 226.3, 210, 226.7, and 1174.5;
- 18 9. For attorneys' fees, interest, and costs of suit under Labor Code sections 218.5, 1194
- 19 and other applicable provisions of law outside the Labor Code; and
- 20 10. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

21

22 Dated: February 5, 2024

**MAHONEY LAW GROUP, APC**

23 

24 \_\_\_\_\_

25 John A. Young, Esq.

26 Raleigh Dixon, Esq.

27 Attorneys for Plaintiff ALVARO RAMIREZ and on

28 behalf of all employees similarly situated

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Dated: February 5, 2024



John A. Young, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff Alvaro Ramirez and on  
behalf of all employees similarly situated

# **EXHIBIT A**



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Raleigh Dixon, Esq.  
562.590.5550 phone  
562.590.8400 facsimile  
[rdixon@mahoney-law.net](mailto:rdixon@mahoney-law.net)

December 1, 2023

**VIA ONLINE SUBMISSION**

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Attn: PAGA Administrator

<https://dir.tfaforms.net/207>

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL #7019 0700 0001 7488 3829**

***Return Receipt Requested***

2d Recycling LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK?

ATTN: Douglas Ecklund—Managing Member of 2d Recycling LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK?

7034 VINNEDGE LN

HIGHLAND, CA 92346

*Re: Alvaro Ramirez v. 2d Recycling LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK?*

**NOTICE OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO  
LABOR CODE SECTION SECTIONS 2698 *et seq.***

To: California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, 2d Recycling LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK?

From: Alvaro Ramirez on behalf of himself and aggrieved employees who were subject to 2d Recycling LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK?'s unlawful wage and hour policies as set forth below.

**Factual Statement**

Please note that this firm, Mahoney Law Group, APC, represents the interests of Mr. Alvaro Ramirez ("Employee" or "Mr. Ramirez") as a representative for all other aggrieved employees, who intends to file a complaint alleging various Labor Code violations and seeking civil penalties under the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code section 2698, *et seq.* ("PAGA").

Please be advised that this letter constitutes written notice required by Labor Code sections 2699.3, subdivision (a)(1) and 2699.3, subdivision (c)(1) and may lead to action against 2d Recycling LLC dba 1-800-GOT-JUNK? ("Employer") in a court of law and/or administrative proceedings, as well as the imposition of substantial penalties and other remedies against Employer, and any and all related, parent, and/or alter ego companies, corporations, partnerships, subsidiaries, and/or business entities, as well as against any and all officers, owners, directors,

managers, managing agents, or entities who are or may be liable under law for any of the violations alleged herein.

### **Theories of Labor Code Violations and Remedies**

Employer operates a junk removal service in San Bernadino, California. Employee worked for Employer as a non-exempt employee within the past year.

Employee alleges that Employer violated various sections of the Labor Code, including sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 210, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, and 2802, by failing to provide Employee and all other aggrieved employees all wages for all hours worked, including minimum and overtime wages, failed to provide meal and rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof, failing to provide accurate wage statements, failing to maintain accurate records of hours worked, failing to pay all compensation due upon separation of employment, and failing to reimburse Employee and all other aggrieved employees for work related expenses. Employee and similarly aggrieved employees consist of identifiable, current, and/or former similarly situated persons who worked for Employer as non-exempt employees during the PAGA Period defined as one year prior to the submission of this letter to the Labor Workforce and Development Agency ("LWDA") and certified mailing to Employer until resolution of these claims.

Employee and other aggrieved employees were regularly not compensated for all hours worked, including minimum wages as well as overtime wages, which is in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1194, 1182.12, 1197 and is actionable under Labor Code section 2699.5. Employers failed to pay Employee and other aggrieved employees the legally mandated wage rates for all hours Employee and other aggrieved employees worked. Employer failed to compensate Employee and other aggrieved employees during time which they were subject to the control of Employer, or suffered or permitted to work for Employer. Specifically, Employer failed to compensate Employee and other aggrieved employees for time spent maintaining Employer's required work uniform. Employee and other aggrieved employees were required to be wear a shirt bearing Employer's logo each day to work. However, due to the nature of Employer's business, the uniforms would be thoroughly soiled each day, and Employee and other aggrieved employees would be forced to wash them at home while off-the-clock. Further, Employer required Employee and other aggrieved employees to work during their lunch breaks off-the-clock. Accordingly, Employee and aggrieved employees' time spent maintaining Employer's uniform and working during lunch breaks were performed without compensation for their time and in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1194, 1182.12, 1197 and is actionable under Labor Code section 2699.5

Employee will further allege that Employer failed to include all remuneration when calculating his and other aggrieved employees' regular rate for purposes of compensating Employee and other aggrieved employees for her overtime under Labor Code Labor Code section 510. Specifically, Employer paid hourly non-exempt employees non-discretionary bonuses and incentive compensation and failed to include this compensation when calculating Employee's and other aggrieved employees' regular rate for purposes of overtime rate of pay. Employee will also allege that Employer violated Labor Code section 201 and 202, et seq.,

due to its uniform policy, practice and procedure of willfully failing to pay the earned and unpaid wages to all such former employees.

Employer also failed to provide Employee and other aggrieved employees with timely uninterrupted meal and rest periods. Employer failed to provide rest periods whatsoever to Employee and aggrieved employees. Employer also had a practice of failing to adequately staff employees to allow Employee and other aggrieved employees to be completely relieved of all of their work responsibilities while on their legally mandated meal break. Further, Employer ordered that Employee and other aggrieved employees to attend to job duties regardless of whether an employee was on their break. Further, Employer failed to provide Employee and other aggrieved employees a second meal period for shifts worked in excess of ten hours. As a result of Employer's policy and practices, Employee and other aggrieved employees did not receive timely uninterrupted meal and rest periods and were not compensated with premium wages for non-compliant meal and/or rest periods. Employer's conduct is in violation of Labor Code sections 226.7 and 512, is also actionable under PAGA.

As a result of Employer's failure to pay all wages owed as described herein, Employer violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, and 210 due to their uniform policy, practice, and procedure of failing to timely pay all of the above-mentioned wages earned during and after Employee and the aggrieved employees' employment with Employer.

Further, Employer required Employee and other aggrieved employees to wash and maintain their work uniforms which contains Employer's logo at their own expense. Employee alleges that he and his coworkers had to wash their uniforms separate from their personal clothing because of their uniforms were heavily soiled as a result of carrying out their job duties. Employer failed to reimburse Employee and other aggrieved employees for the cost of washing and maintaining Employer's uniform which is required as part of their employment. Employer failure to reimburse Employee and other aggrieved employees for the cost of washing and maintaining Employer's uniform is in violation of Labor Code section 2802 and therefore is actionable under PAGA. In addition, Employee and other aggrieved employees were also required to use their personal cellular phones to view their schedules, receive work-related text messages, calls, and/or emails, rely on their phone's GPS system for navigation while driving between Employer's locations for Employer. Employer did not reimburse them for a reasonable percentage of their cellular phone bills, in violation of PAGA.

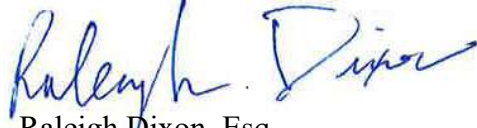
In addition, Employer failed to maintain accurate payroll records and failed to provide Employee and other aggrieved employees with complete and accurate wage statements showing premium wages earned per pay period, among other things. This conduct is in violation of Labor Code sections 226, 226.3, 1174, and 1174.5 and is actionable under PAGA.

December 1, 2023

Page 4 of 4

Employee will bring his lawsuit on behalf of himself and all other aggrieved employees who were employed by Employer. Please advise if the LWDA has any objection to my client including PAGA claims in his complaint. We look forward to your response, and please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raleigh Dixon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raleigh" and last name "Dixon" clearly distinguishable.

Raleigh Dixon, Esq.

**MAHONEY LAW GROUP, APC**

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

Code of Civ. Proc. § 1013a, subd. (3)

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 249 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 814, Long Beach, California, 90802.

On **February 5, 2024**, I served [X] true copies [ ] originals of the following document(s): **FIRST AMENDED CLASS COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**. I served the document(s) on the person(s) below as follows:

|                                                             |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Douglas Ecklund<br>7034 Vinnedge Lane<br>Highland, CA 92346 | Managing Member for Defendant 2D<br>RECYCLING LLC dba 1-800-GOT-<br>JUNK? |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The document(s) were served by the following means:

☒ **By Mail:** I enclosed the document(s) in a sealed envelope or package addressed to the person(s) at the addresses above. I then placed the envelope for collection and mailing, following our ordinary business practices. I am readily familiar with this business's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. On the same day that correspondence is placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the United States Postal Service, in a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid. I am employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The envelope or package was placed in the mail at Long Beach, CA.

☒ **(State):** I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on **February 5, 2024**, at Long Beach, California.

Samantha Marquez