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14	THE BIG COMPANY, INC. dba CAPO FIRESI	
15		E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
16	FOR THE COUNTY O	OF SAN BERNARDINO
17	VICTOR PEREZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,	
18	Plaintiff,	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
19	VS.	ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO: HON. DAVID COHN, DEPT. S26
20	THE BIG COMPANY, INC. DBA CAPO	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND
21	FIRESIDE, a California corporation, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,	STIPULATION TO RESOLVE CLASS ACTION AND PAGA CLAIMS
22	Defendants.	ACTION AND FAGA CLAIMS
23		Date Action Filed: May 29, 2020
24		Trial Date: Not assigned
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1	This Settlement Agreement and Stipulation To Resolve Class Action and PAGA Claims
2	(the "Settlement Agreement," "Agreement," or "Settlement") is entered into to resolve the action
3	entitled Victor Perez v. The BIG Company, Inc. dba CAPO Fireside, et al., San Bernardino County
4	Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2009691.
5	<u>Definitions</u>
6	1. Action. "Action" means Victor Perez v. The BIG Company, Inc. dba CAPO
7	Fireside, et al., San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2009691.
8	2. <u>Agreement or Settlement or Settlement Agreement</u> . "Agreement" or "Settlement"
9	or "Settlement Agreement" means this Settlement Agreement and Stipulation To Resolve Class
10	Action and PAGA Claims, entered into by the Parties to resolve the Action.
11	3. <u>Aggrieved Employees</u> . "Aggrieved Employees" means Class Members who
12	worked during the PAGA Period (as defined in Paragraph 22).
13	4. <u>Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u> . "Attorneys' Fees and Costs" means the amount
14	authorized by the Court for: (i) an award of attorneys' fees to Class Counsel for litigation and
15	resolution of the matter, in the amount that does not exceed one-third or 33.33% percent of the
16	Gross Settlement Amount; and (ii) reimbursement of actual costs incurred by Class Counsel in
17	connection with this Action, in an amount to not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).
18	5. <u>Class Counsel</u> . "Class Counsel" means Wilshire Law Firm.
19	6. <u>Class or Class Members</u> . "Class" or "Class Members" means all current and former
20	employees who worked in a non-exempt or hourly-paid position for The BIG Company, Inc. dba
21	CAPO Fireside within the state of California during the Class Period.
22	7. <u>Class Notice</u> . "Class Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement,
23	attached as <b>Exhibit A</b> to this Agreement, or a substantially similar notice approved by the Court.
24	8. <u>Class Period</u> . "Class Period" means the period from May 29, 2016 to the earlier of:
25	(i) the date the Court enters the Order preliminarily approving the Settlement; or (ii) July 19, 2021.
26	9. <u>Court</u> . "Court" means the San Bernardino County Superior Court, where the
27	Action is currently pending.
28	10. <u>Defendant</u> . "Defendant" means The BIG Company, Inc. dba CAPO Fireside.

1	20. <u>PAGA Claims</u> . "PAGA Claims" means those claims that (a) arise from the facts,
2	matters, transactions or occurrences alleged in the Action or that could have been alleged in the
3	Action based on such facts; or (b) arise from the facts, matters, transactions or occurrences alleged,
4	or that could have been alleged, in the letter sent by Class Counsel to the Labor and Workforce
5	Development Agency ("LWDA") on or about March 23, 2020, asserting that Defendant violated
6	various provisions of the Labor Code. Without limiting the foregoing, and in addition to the
7	foregoing, the PAGA Claims include claims premised on failure to pay the minimum wage; failure
8	to pay regular wages; failure to pay overtime compensation and other premium wages; off-the-
9	clock work; failure to provide and maintain complete and accurate itemized wage statements that
10	included all information required by the California Labor Code; failure to provide meal periods
11	and rest breaks or additional pay in lieu thereof; untimely payment of wages; violations of
12	California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558,
13	1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1191, and 2698 et seq.; and related
14	violations of the applicable California Wage Orders.
15	21. PAGA Amount. "PAGA Amount" means the amount of \$30,000.00, which
16	represents the portion of the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to the settlement of the PAGA
17	Claims. The PAGA Amount is paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, and will be allocated as
18	set forth in Paragraph 43.d. The Parties agree that 75% of the PAGA Amount (\$22,500.00) will
19	be paid to the LWDA as the "LWDA Payment," and the remaining 25% (\$7,500.00) will be
20	allocated to the Aggrieved Employees as the "PAGA Payment."
21	22. <u>PAGA Period</u> . "PAGA Period" means the period from March 26, 2019 to the
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- 22 earlier of: (i) the date the Court enters the Order preliminarily approving the Settlement; or (ii) July 19, 2021.
  - 23. Parties. "Parties" means the Defendant and the Named Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. Each of the Parties may be referred to in the singular as a "Party."
  - 24. Participating Class Member. "Participating Class Member" means each Class Member who has not timely opted out of the Settlement pursuant to Paragraph 48 of the

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Agreement; "Settlement Class" means a class of all Participating Class Members.

- 25. <u>Preliminary Approval Order</u>. "Preliminary Approval Order" means an order from the Court preliminarily approving this Settlement.
- 26. <u>Released Parties</u>. "Released Parties" means and includes The BIG Company, Inc. dba CAPO Fireside and its past, present, and future predecessors, successors, assigns, affiliates, shareholders, members, owners, officers, directors, investors, employees, managers, managing agents, partners, affiliated companies or entities, parents, subsidiaries, holding companies, agents, attorneys, insurers, and representatives.
- 27. Settled Claims or Released Claims. "Settled Claims" or "Released Claims" means any and all claims, known or unknown, contingent or accrued, against Defendant and the other Released Parties that (a) arise from the facts, matters, transactions or occurrences alleged in the Action or that could have been alleged in the Action based on such facts; or (b) arise from the facts, matters, transactions or occurrences alleged, or that could have been alleged, in the letter sent by Class Counsel to LWDA on or about March 23, 2020, asserting that Defendant violated various provisions of the Labor Code. Without limiting the foregoing, and in addition to the foregoing, the Settled Claims include claims for failure to pay the minimum wage; failure to pay regular wages; failure to pay overtime compensation and other premium wages; off-the-clock work; failure to provide and maintain complete and accurate itemized wage statements that included all information required by the California Labor Code; failure to provide meal periods and rest breaks or additional pay in lieu thereof; untimely payment of wages; violations of California Labor Code §§ 201, 202, 203, 204, 210, 218.5, 218.6, 226, 226.3, 226.7, 510, 512, 558, 1174, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1194, 1194.2, 1197, 1197.1, 1198, 1191; related violations of the applicable California Wage Orders; violations of all related or corresponding federal laws; violation of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq.; and claims under California Labor Code Section 2698 et seq.
- 28. <u>Settlement Administration Costs</u>. "Settlement Administration Costs" means the costs of settlement administration, including costs of notice to Class Members, distributing settlement payments, and any other fees and costs incurred or charged by the Settlement

Administrator in connection with the execution of its duties under this Settlement. 1 29. Settlement Administrator. "Settlement Administrator" means Phoenix Settlement 2 Administrators or such other third-party administrator chosen by the Parties and approved by the Court. 4 30. 5 Settlement Hearing. "Settlement Hearing" means the hearing on the Final Hearing Date at which the Court will determine whether to fully and finally approve the fairness and 6 reasonableness of this Agreement. 8 RECITALS 31. 9 On May 29, 2020, Victor Perez filed a putative class action against defendant The 10 BIG Company, Inc. dba CAPO Fireside in a case styled Victor Perez v. The BIG Company, Inc. 11 dba CAPO Fireside, et al., San Bernardino County Superior Court Case No. CIVDS2009691. The 12 Complaint alleges that Defendant violated various wage-and-hour laws, including: (1) failure to pay minimum and regular wages; (2) failure to pay overtime; (3) failure to provide meal periods 13 and pay meal period premiums; (4) failure to authorize and permit rest periods and pay rest period 14 15 premiums; (5) failure to timely pay wages; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; and (7) violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq. On June 16 17 24, 2020, the Named Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint, adding a cause of action for civil penalties under PAGA. 18 32. Defendant denies that it engaged in any misconduct in connection with the wage-19 20 and-hour practices associated with the Class Members (inclusive of the Aggrieved Employees). Defendant further denies that it has any liability of any kind associated with the claims alleged in 21 22 the Action. Defendant contends that it has complied with both federal and state wage-and-hour 23 laws, and all other laws regulating its relationship with the Class Members, including the Named Plaintiff. 24 25 33. On May 20, 2021, the Parties participated in mediation with Steve Serratore, Esq. (the "Mediator"), a respected mediator of complex wage and hour actions, and with the assistance 26 of the Mediator's evaluations, and in response to a proposal made by the Mediator, the Parties 27

reached the settlement that is memorialized in this Agreement.

34. Class Counsel has investigated the facts relating to the Action. Settlement discussions were conducted at arm's-length, a full-day mediation with a neutral third-party took place, and the Settlement is the result of an informed and detailed analysis of Defendant's potential liability and exposure in relation to the costs and risks associated with continued litigation. Based on the documents produced, as well as Class Counsel's own independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel believes that the Settlement documented by this Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interest of the Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay and defenses asserted to the merits of the Action. While Defendant specifically denies any liability in the Action, Defendant has agreed to enter into this Settlement to avoid the costs associated with defending the Action.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the recitals listed above and the promises and warranties set forth below, and intending to be legally bound and acknowledging the sufficiency of the consideration and undertakings set forth below, Named Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California, and Defendant agree that the Action shall be and is finally and fully compromised and settled on the following terms and conditions:

35. Non-Admission Of Liability. The Parties enter into this Agreement to resolve the dispute that has arisen between them and to avoid the burden, expense and risk of continued litigation. In entering into this Agreement, Defendant and the other Released Parties do not admit, and specifically deny, that they have violated any federal, state, or local law; violated any regulations or guidelines promulgated pursuant to any statute or any other applicable laws, regulations or legal requirements; breached any contract; violated or breached any duty; engaged in any misrepresentation or deception; or engaged in any other unlawful conduct with respect to the Class or the Aggrieved Employees. Neither this Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the negotiations connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by Defendant or any of the other Released Parties of any such violations or failures to comply with any applicable law. Except as necessary in a proceeding to enforce the terms of this Agreement,

this Agreement and its terms and provisions shall not be offered or received as evidence in any action or proceeding to establish any liability or admission on the part of Defendant or to establish the existence of any condition constituting a violation of, or a non-compliance with, federal, state, local or other applicable law.

- 36. <u>Conditional Nature Of Settlement</u>. For settlement purposes *only*, the Parties agree that (a) a class may be certified in the Action pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382, and (b) the Action may proceed as a PAGA representative action.
- a. The Parties intend their settlement to be contingent upon the preliminary and final approval of each and every term of this Agreement, without material modification. The Parties and their respective counsel shall use their respective best efforts to obtain Court approval and implement this Agreement in accordance with its terms. If the Court does not so approve this Agreement, the Parties agree to meet and confer to address the Court's concerns. If the Parties are unable to agree upon a resolution, the Parties intend this Agreement to become null and void, and unenforceable, in which event the settlement terms set forth in this Agreement, including any modifications made with the consent of the Parties, and any action taken or to be taken in connection with this Agreement shall be terminated and shall become null and void and have no further force or effect, and the class certified for settlement purposes pursuant to this Agreement will be decertified for all purposes.
- b. In the event the Court does not grant preliminary or final approval of the Parties' settlement, or in the event that this Agreement shall terminate or the settlement embodied in this Agreement does not become effective for any reason, the Agreement and all negotiations, court orders and proceedings relating to the Agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Named Plaintiff, Class Members and Defendant, each of whom shall be restored to their respective positions existing prior to the execution of this Agreement, and evidence relating to the Agreement and all negotiations shall not be discoverable or admissible in the Action or any other litigation. Defendant does not waive, and instead expressly reserves, its rights to challenge the propriety of class certification and/or the Action proceeding on a representative basis for any purpose should the Court not grant preliminary or final approval of the Parties' settlement.

- 37. Participating Class Member Release Of Claims. Upon the funding of the Gross Settlement Amount, the Named Plaintiff and all Participating Class Members hereby do and shall be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished and discharged any and all of the Released Parties from the Released Claims that arose during the Class Period.
  - a. This release by the Named Plaintiff and each Participating Class Member is intended to settle any and all of the Settled Claims, whether known or unknown, that any of them may have against Defendant or any of the Released Parties during the Class Period. Thus, even if the Named Plaintiff or any Participating Class Member may subsequently discover facts in addition to or different from those they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims, they shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all Settled Claims, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or have existed upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future.
  - b. Because it is impossible or impracticable to have each Class Member execute this Agreement, the Class Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release and such notice will have the same force and effect as if the Agreement were executed by each Class Member.
  - 38. Aggrieved Employees Release of PAGA Claim: In exchange for the PAGA Amount recited in this Agreement, the Named Plaintiff, as the representative for the State of California and all Aggrieved Employees, and on behalf of their current, former, and future heirs, executors, administrators, attorneys, agents, and assigns will forever completely release and discharge Defendant and each of the Released Parties from the PAGA Claims that arose during the PAGA Period. The Aggrieved Employees and the State of California will be deemed by operation of the Final Order and Judgment to have agreed not to sue or otherwise make a claim against Defendant and any of the Released Parties for the PAGA Claims that arose during the PAGA Period.

- the Named Plaintiff fully releases and discharges Defendant and the other Released Parties from the Released Claims and any other claims that the Named Plaintiff now has or claims to have, or has ever had or claimed to have, against the Released Parties through the Effective Date. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Named Plaintiff specifically and expressly releases to the maximum extent permitted by law any claims against Defendants and the Released Parties, arising out of or relating to the Named Plaintiff's employment or the termination of his employment with Defendant and any other Released Party. This general release by the Named Plaintiff includes a waiver of Named Plaintiff's rights under Civil Code Section 1542, which provides: "A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party."

  40. No Prior Assignments. The Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel represent and
- 40. <u>No Prior Assignments</u>. The Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel 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 any portion of any liability, claim, demand, action, cause of action, or rights released and discharged by this Agreement.
- 41. <u>Settlement Payments And Calculation Of Claims</u>. Subject to final Court approval and the conditions specified in this Agreement, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth in this Agreement, Defendant agrees to pay the Gross Settlement Amount of \$575,000.00. The Gross Settlement Amount includes, but is not limited to, payments to be made to Participating Class Members, Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Enhancement Award to the Named Plaintiff, the PAGA Amount, and Settlement Administration Fees and Costs. For the avoidance of doubt, subject to the conditions set forth in this Agreement, Defendant shall not be required to pay any amount over \$575,000.00 for this Settlement. The following table summarizes the allocation of the Gross Settlement Amount:

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1 **Gross Settlement Amount of \$575,000.00, Allocated As Follows:** 2 **\$30,000.00** for the PAGA Amount 3 o **\$22,500.00** for the LWDA Payment. o \$7,500.00 for payments to Aggrieved Employees on a *pro rata* basis 4 (the PAGA Payment). 5 Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees not to exceed \$191,666.66 Class Counsel Costs not to exceed \$25,000.00 6 Up to \$7,500.00 for an Enhancement Award for Named Plaintiff 7 Settlement Administration Costs, not to exceed \$7,500 Approximately \$313,333.34 paid to Participating Class Members on a pro rata 8 basis (the Net Class Settlement Amount). 9 42. Settlement Escalator. In preparation for the mediation, Defendant represented that 10 there were approximately 19,711 non-exempt workweeks worked by the Class Members from 11 May 29, 2016 to April 12, 2021. The Parties understood that the workweeks would increase 12 between the date of the mediation and the end of the Class Period and, therefore, considered this 13 during their settlement negotiations. Accordingly, should the actual number of workweeks 14 increase by more than ten percent (10%) through May 20, 2021, the date of the Parties' mediation, 15 (i.e. by more than 1,971 workweeks) Defendant shall increase the Net Class Settlement Amount 16 on a proportional percentage basis equal to the percentage increase in the number of workweeks 17 worked by the Class Members above 10%. For example, if the number of workweeks increases 18 by 11% through May 20, 2021 to 21,879 workweeks, the Net Class Settlement Amount will 19 increase by 1%. 20 43. Apportionment of Gross Settlement Amount. The Parties agree, subject to Court 21 approval and the conditions specified in this Agreement, that the Gross Settlement Amount shall 22 be apportioned as follows: 23 <u>Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u>: At the final approval hearing, 24 Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of Attorneys' Fees of no more than 1/3 25 (33.33%) of the Gross Settlement Amount, which equals \$191,666.66. Class Counsel will also 26 apply to the Court for an award of actual Costs incurred by Class Counsel not to exceed the amount 27 of \$25,000.00. These fees and costs are included in, and shall come from, the Gross Settlement 28

Amount. Class Counsel will be issued an IRS Form 1099 for any fees and costs awarded by the Court pursuant to this Paragraph 43.a. Except as provided in this Paragraph 43.a, each party will bear his, her, or its own attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses incurred in the prosecution, defense, or settlement of the Action. If the Court awards a lower amount of Attorneys' Fees and Costs than the amount requested, any amount not awarded will be part of the distribution to the Participating Class Members as set forth in this Agreement and shall not be a reason to invalidate/terminate this Agreement.

b. Settlement Administrator Costs: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for approval of Settlement Administration costs not to exceed the

- b. <u>Settlement Administrator Costs</u>: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for approval of Settlement Administration costs not to exceed the amount of \$7,500.00. These costs are included in, and shall come from, the Gross Settlement Amount.
- c. Named Plaintiff Enhancement Award: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for an award of up to \$7,500.00 to be paid to the Named Plaintiff as an Enhancement Award for his services and for assuming the risks associated with this litigation, and as consideration for providing a general release. Defendant will not oppose such application. The Enhancement Award is included in, and shall come from, the Gross Settlement Amount. Named Plaintiff will be issued an IRS Form 1099 for the Enhancement Award approved by the Court pursuant to this Paragraph. The Enhancement Award payable to the Named Plaintiff shall be in addition to any payment he may receive pursuant to Paragraph 43.e, below. If the Court awards less than the amount requested, any amount not awarded will be part of the distribution to the Participating Class Members as set forth in this Agreement and shall not be a reason to invalidate/terminate this Agreement.
- d. <u>PAGA Amount</u>: At the final approval hearing, Class Counsel will apply to the Court for approval of the PAGA Amount of \$30,000.00 for claims for civil penalties asserted under PAGA. Class Counsel will submit notice of this Settlement to the LWDA, as required by Labor Code § 2699(*l*)(2). The Parties agree that 75% of the PAGA Amount (\$22,500.00) will be paid to the LWDA as the "LWDA Payment," and the remaining 25% (\$7,500.00) will be allocated to the Aggrieved Employees as the "PAGA Payment." The portion of the PAGA Payment

1	allocated to each of the Aggrieved Employees will be calculated using the same formula as set
2	forth in Paragraph 43.e, but will be limited to weeks worked during the PAGA Period. Any Class
3	Members who worked during the PAGA Period and who opt out of the Settlement will still be
4	considered Aggrieved Employees for purposes of this Paragraph 43.d and, therefore, will
5	(i) receive their portion of the PAGA Payment; and (ii) release all PAGA Claims against the
6	Released Parties.
7	e. <u>Individual Settlement Payments</u> . The Individual Settlement Payments shall
8	consist of: (i) each Participating Class Member's pro rata portion of the Net Class Settlement
9	Amount; and (ii) if applicable, each Aggrieved Employee's pro rata portion of the PAGA
10	Payment.
11	i) <u>Participating Class Member Payments</u> : After deducting the approved
12	amounts specified in Paragraphs 43.a-43.d above, each Participating Class Member will be entitled
13	to a pro rata portion of the remaining amount. Participating Class Member Payments will be
14	calculated from the Net Class Settlement Amount based on the respective number of weeks worked
15	by each Participating Class Member in a non-exempt position during the Class Period, rounded up.
16	Each Participating Class Member's share of the Net Class Settlement Amount will be calculated by
17	dividing the Participating Class Member's weeks worked in a non-exempt position by the total
18	number of weeks worked by all Class Members in a non-exempt position during the Class Period
19	and multiplying this figure by the Net Class Settlement Amount. The Class Notice will include the
20	number of weeks that the Class Member worked during the Class Period and the amount the Class
21	Member is estimated to receive under the terms of the Settlement.
22	Example: Class Member A worked 50 workweeks during the Class Period.
23	All Class Members who worked during the Class Period worked a total of 20,000
24	workweeks. Class Member A's Individual Settlement Payment would be calculated as
25	follows:
26	<ul> <li>50 workweeks worked by Class Member A ÷ 20,000 workweeks for all</li> </ul>
27	Class Members = 0.25%.
28	Class Member A would be estimated to be entitled to a Participating

1	Class Member Payment in the amount of \$783.33 (0.25% x
2	\$313,333.34).
3	ii) <u>PAGA Payment</u> : For each Class Member who is also an Aggrieved
4	Employee, the Individual Settlement Payment to the Class Member will also include the Class
5	Member's <i>pro rata</i> share of the PAGA Payment, as set forth in Paragraph 43.d.
6	f. The Parties acknowledge and agree that the formula used to calculate the
7	Individual Settlement Payments does not mean that all of the elements of damages, restitutionary
8	relief, and penalties alleged in the Action are not being taken into account. The above formula
9	was devised as a practical and logistical method to simplify the participation process.
10	g. Individual Settlement Payments shall be distributed only to Participating
11	Class Members, with the exception that PAGA Payments will be distributed to all Aggrieved
12	Employees. The portion of the Net Class Settlement Amount allocated to Class Members who opt
13	out of the Settlement will be distributed to Participating Class Members on a pro rata basis based
14	on the formula set forth in Paragraph 43.e.
15	h. The Parties agree that, under no circumstances shall Defendant be obligated
16	to pay any amount under this Agreement to any Class Member other than Participating Class
17	Members, with the exception of the PAGA Payments. In addition, the Parties agree that under no
18	circumstances shall Defendant be obligated to pay more than the Gross Settlement Amount in full
19	settlement of the Action.
20	44. <u>No Credit Toward Benefit Plans</u> . The Individual Settlement Payments made to
21	Participating Class Members under this Agreement, including the PAGA Payments made to
22	Aggrieved Employees, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit
23	plans to which any Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employees may be eligible
24	including, but not limited to: profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans,
25	vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties'
26	intention that this Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any
27	Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee may be entitled under any benefit plans.
28	45. <u>Taxation Of Settlement Proceeds</u> . All settlement payments paid to Participating

Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, and the Named Plaintiff, will be paid in a net amount after applicable state and federal tax withholdings, including payroll taxes, have been deducted.

- a. The Participating Class Member Payments shall be reported as follows: (i) 10% of the amount distributed to each Participating Class Member will be considered wages, and will be reported as such to each Participating Class Member on a W-2 Form; (ii) 45% of the amount distributed to each Participating Class Member will be considered interest on the unpaid wages, and will be reported as such to each Participating Class Member on an IRS Form 1099; and (iii) 45% of the amount distributed to each Participating Class Member will be considered statutory penalties, and will be reported as such to each Participating Class Member on an IRS Form 1099. The PAGA Payments distributed to each Aggrieved Employee will be considered penalties and will be reported on an IRS Form 1099.
- b. Prior to mailing the Individual Settlement Payments, the Settlement Administrator will calculate, withhold from the Individual Settlement Payment, and remit to applicable governmental agencies sufficient amounts as may be owed by Participating Class Members or Aggrieved Employees for required withholdings and taxes, including all payroll taxes. The Settlement Administrator will issue appropriate tax forms to each Participating Class Member and Aggrieved Employee consistent with the foregoing breakdown. The Parties understand that the Named Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees who receive an Individual Settlement Payment pursuant to this Agreement shall be solely responsible for any and all tax obligations associated with such receipt.
- c. The Parties stipulate that the Settlement Fund (as defined at Paragraph 50) will qualify as a settlement fund pursuant to the requirements of Section 468(B)(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and Section 1.468B-1 *et seq.* of the federal income tax regulations. Furthermore, the Settlement Administrator is designated as the "Administrator" of the qualified settlement funds for purposes of Section 1.468B-2(k) of the income tax regulations. Accordingly, all taxes imposed on the gross income of the Settlement Fund and any tax-related expenses arising from any income tax return or other reporting document that may be required by the Internal Revenue Service or any state or local taxing body will be paid from the Settlement

Fund.

d. All Parties represent and acknowledge that nothing in this Agreement constitutes tax advice regarding the tax treatment of payments under federal, state, or local law. The Named Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, and Aggrieved Employees will assume any such tax obligations or consequences that may arise from this Agreement and Class Members shall not seek any indemnification from the Parties or any of the Released Parties in this regard. In the event that any taxing body determines that additional taxes are due from any Class Member or Aggrieved Employee, including Named Plaintiff, such Class Member or Aggrieved Employee assumes all responsibility for the payment of such taxes.

- Order, Defendant will provide to the Settlement Administrator a list of Class Members that identifies each Class Member by name, Social Security Number, and last-known address; and specifies the number of weeks worked by each Class Member in a non-exempt position during the Class Period and the PAGA Period (the "Class List"). Defendant will provide the Class List in an Excel file or other format reasonably acceptable to the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will keep the list confidential and use it only for the purposes described in this Agreement.
- a. Upon receipt of the Class List, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based upon the National Change of Address Database to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. Within 14 calendar days after receipt of the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will send the Class Notice to each Class Member via First Class U.S. Mail. Receipt of the Class Notice shall be presumed as to each and every Class Member whose Class Notice is not returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable within 14 calendar days after mailing.
- b. The Settlement Administrator will re-mail any notice packet returned by the United States Postal Service with a forwarding address on or before the expiration of the Notice Period. It shall be conclusively presumed that those Class Members whose re-mailed Class Notice

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- is not returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable within 14 calendar days after remailing, received the Class Notice.
- c. The Settlement Administrator will use the appropriate skip tracing and National Change of Address searches to increase the likelihood of delivery of the Class Notice to Class Members, and to re-mail the notice packets returned by the Postal Service without a forwarding address upon locating new or alternate addresses after a reasonable search.
- d. Class Counsel will provide to the Court, in connection with seeking final approval of the Settlement, a declaration from the Settlement Administrator confirming that the Class Notice was mailed to all Class Members as required by this Agreement, as well as any additional information Class Counsel deems appropriate to provide to the Court.
- 47. <u>Dispute Procedure</u>. The Class Notice will include a procedure by which a Class Member may dispute the number of workweeks allocated to the Class Member by submitting a written dispute sent via U.S. Mail to the Settlement Administrator postmarked no later than the expiration of the Notice Period ("Workweek Dispute"). To be valid, a Workweek Dispute must contain the following: (i) the Class Member's full name, current address, and signature; (ii) the Action name and case number; (iii) the number of workweeks the Class Member maintains is correct; and (iv) documentary evidence sufficient to prove that Defendant's calculation of the workweeks for the Class Member is incorrect. Upon receipt of notice of a Workweek Dispute, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly serve Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel with a copy of the Workweek Dispute and any accompanying papers. No Workweek Dispute shall be effective or considered for any purpose unless it is timely mailed by U.S. mail to and received by the Settlement Administrator as provided above. Defendant shall have the right to respond to the Workweek Dispute by any Class Member. All information and documents relating to any such disputes will be provided to Class Counsel. The Settlement Administrator will resolve the Workweek Dispute and make a final and binding determination without hearing or right of appeal. The Settlement Administrator's determination will be subject to review by the Court at the time of the Final Approval Hearing so long as the Participating Class Member submits an objection to the Settlement Administrator's determination at or before the Final Approval Hearing.

Within 14 calendar days after the close of the Notice Period, the Settlement 1 a. 2 Administrator will provide Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel with a report listing the amount 3 of all Individual Settlement Payments, including the *pro rata* portion of the PAGA Payment, to be made to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees. The report to Class Counsel will 4 not include the names or contact information of Participating Class Members and Aggrieved 5 Employees. 6 48. 7 Opt-Out Procedure. Unless a Class Member opts out of the settlement described in this Agreement, the Class Member will be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, 8 including the release of the Released Claims that arose during the Class Period. A Class Member 10 will not be entitled to opt out of the settlement established by this Agreement unless the Class 11 Member submits a valid opt-out request ("Opt-Out Request"). A valid Opt-Out Request must: 12 (i) contain the Class Member's full name, current address, and signature; (ii) the Action name and case number; (iii) a written request clearly expressing the Class Member's desire to be excluded 13 from (or opt out of) the Settlement; and (iv) be returned so that it is postmarked on or before the 14 15 expiration of the Notice Period. Any Class Members who worked during the PAGA Period and who opt out of the Settlement will still be considered Aggrieved Employees for purposes of this 16 17 Agreement. Upon receipt of any Opt-Out Request within the Notice Period, the 18 Settlement Administrator shall review the Opt-Out Request to confirm that it complies with the 19 opt-out requirements of this Agreement. 20 21 b. Any Class Member who fails to submit a timely, complete, and valid Opt-22 Out Request will be barred from opting out of this Agreement or the settlement, unless otherwise 23 ordered by the Court. If the Settlement Administrator receives a timely Opt-Out Request that is incomplete, it will make reasonable attempts to contact the class member to cure the defect. The 24 25 Settlement Administrator will not consider any Opt-Out Request postmarked after the end of the

Notice Period, but will report its receipt of any such requests to Class Counsel and counsel for

Defendant. It shall be presumed that, if an Opt-Out Request is not postmarked on or before the

end of the Notice Period, the Class Member did not make the request in a timely manner. A

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declaration submitted by any Class Member attesting to the mailing of an Opt-Out Request on or before the expiration of the Notice Period shall be insufficient to overcome the conclusive presumption that the Opt-Out Request was untimely. Under no circumstances shall the Settlement Administrator have the authority to extend the deadline for Class Members to submit a request to opt out of the settlement without Defendant's written consent.

- c. At the close of the Notice Period, the Settlement Administrator shall report the names of all individuals who opted-out of the Agreement to the parties and include this information in a Declaration regarding the distribution of the notice that will be provided in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Final Approval.
- d. If either: (i) 5% or more of the Class Members or (ii) Class Members who account for 5% or more of the total workweeks, timely opt out of the settlement, Defendant will have the sole and absolute discretion to withdraw from this Agreement within 14 calendar days after Defendant receives notice of the number of opt outs. Defendant will provide written notice to Class Counsel if it intends to withdraw from this Agreement. In the event that Defendant elects to so withdraw, the withdrawal shall have the same effect as a termination of this Agreement for failure to satisfy a condition of settlement, and the Agreement shall become null and void and have no further force or effect, and the class certified pursuant to this Agreement will be decertified for all purposes. If Defendant chooses to terminate this Settlement Agreement under this provision, it shall be responsible to pay the Settlement Administrator's fees and costs. If the Settlement Agreement is terminated for any other reason, including the Court's failure to grant final approval of the Parties' settlement, then Class Counsel and Defendant will be jointly responsible for the Settlement Administrator's fees and costs.
- 49. <u>Objections To Settlement</u>. Any Class Member may object to the Settlement. Any written objection must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator (who shall promptly provide a copy to Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant) by the close of the Notice Period. Class Counsel will ensure that any written objections get filed with the Court concurrently with the final approval documents. Class Members who have not objected in writing may still appear and be heard at the Settlement Hearing.

1 Written objections to the Settlement must contain at least the following: a. (i) the objecting Class Member's full name, current address, and signature; (ii) a clear reference to 2 3 the Action; (iii) a statement of the specific reasons why the objector believes the Settlement is unfair or objects to the Settlement; and (iv) a statement whether the objector intends to appear at 4 the final approval hearing, either in person or through counsel and, if through counsel, a statement 5 identifying that counsel by name, bar number, address and telephone number. All objections shall 6 be signed by the objecting Class Member or the Class Member's legally authorized representative. b. Class Counsel or Defendant's counsel may, before the Final Hearing Date, 8 file responses to any written objections submitted to the Court. 10 c. Unless they opt out of the Settlement as specified in Paragraph 48, Class 11 Members who object to the proposed settlement or the Agreement will remain Participating Class 12 Members, and shall be deemed to have voluntarily waived their right to pursue an independent remedy against Defendant and the other Released Parties. To the extent any Participating Class 13 14 Member objects to the proposed settlement or Agreement and such objection is overruled in whole 15 or in part, such individuals will be bound by the Court's Final Approval Order. d. 16 In the event that any person objects to or opposes this proposed settlement 17 or the Agreement, or attempts to intervene in or otherwise enter the Action, the Parties and Class Counsel will use their best efforts to defend the Settlement. 18 50. Funding And Distribution Of Settlement. 19 20 a. Within 14 calendar days of the close of the Notice Period, the Settlement Administrator will provide a draft declaration to Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel setting 21 22 forth: the number of Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; the identity of those 23 individuals who opted-out of the Settlement; the total amount payable to all Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees; and the total PAGA Amount, Attorneys' Fees and Costs, 24 25 Enhancement Award, Settlement Administration Costs, Net Class Settlement Amount, and the appropriate applicable employer's taxes for any portion of the Individual Settlement Payments 26

Within 14 calendar days after the Effective Date, Defendant shall remit to

designated as wages.

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the Settlement Administrator: (i) the Gross Settlement Amount of \$575,000.00 and (ii) the employer's taxes for any portion of the Individual Settlement Payments designated as wages (the "Settlement Fund"). The delivery by Defendant of the Settlement Fund to the Settlement Administrator will constitute the full and complete discharge of the entire obligation of Defendant under this Agreement. No Released Party will have any further obligation or liability to the Named Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, or Class Counsel under this Agreement, regardless of whether the Named Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, or Class Counsel receive the payments from the Settlement Administrator set forth in this Agreement.

- c. The distribution of Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees will occur no later than 21 calendar days after receipt of the Settlement Fund from Defendant ("Settlement Proceeds Distribution Deadline"). The Settlement Administrator shall be deemed to have timely distributed Individual Settlement Payments if it places in the mail Individual Settlement Payments for all Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees by the Settlement Proceeds Distribution Deadline. No person will have any claim against the Settlement Administrator, Defendant, Class Counsel, Defendant's counsel, or any other agent designated by the Named Plaintiff or Class Counsel based upon the distribution of Individual Settlement Payments made substantially in accordance with this Agreement or further orders of the Court.
- d. The distribution of the LWDA Payment, Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and the Enhancement Award shall occur no later than 21 calendar days after the Settlement Administrator receives the Settlement Fund from Defendant.
- e. If a Participating Class Member's or Aggrieved Employee's check is returned to the Settlement Administrator, the Settlement Administrator will make reasonable efforts to re-mail it to the Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee at the correct address. It is expressly understood and agreed that the checks for the Individual Settlement Payments will become void and no longer available if not cashed within 180 days after mailing. The funds from uncashed and voided checks will be transferred to the State of California's

Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Participating Class Member/Aggrieved Employee.

- f. Defendant will not be obligated to make any payments contemplated by this Agreement unless and until the Court enters the Final Order and Judgment, and after the Effective Date of the Agreement.
- g. Within 60 days of the Settlement Proceeds Distribution Deadline, the Settlement Administrator will provide written certification of completion of settlement administration to Class Counsel and to Defendants' Counsel.
- 51. <u>Binding Effect Of Agreement On Class Members</u>. Subject to final Court approval and the occurrence of the Effective Date, and unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all Participating Class Members will be bound by this Agreement.
- 52. <u>Binding Effect Of Agreement On Aggrieved Employees and State of California.</u>
  The Aggrieved Employees and the State of California are deemed by operation of the Final Order and Judgment to have agreed not to sue or otherwise make a claim against Defendant or any of the Released Parties for any of the PAGA Claims.
- 53. Provisional Approval Of Settlement. Named Plaintiff will file a motion in the Action requesting that the Court enter the Preliminary Approval Order within 30 days of the complete execution of this Agreement. Defendant will not oppose Class Counsel's motion for preliminary approval of the settlement so long as the motion and supporting papers are consistent with the terms of this Agreement. Class Counsel will provide Defendant's counsel with a reasonable opportunity to review, and provide comments to, the motion for preliminary approval of the settlement before the motion and supporting papers are filed with the Court. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Defendant may, without opposing the preliminary approval motion, advise the Court if Defendant disagrees with any of the factual statements included by the Named Plaintiff in the motion and supporting papers. Defendant's counsel will meet and confer with Class Counsel regarding any disputed factual statements before notifying the Court of any disputes.
- 54. <u>Non-Interference With Claims Procedure</u>. The Parties and their counsel agree that they will not advise, solicit, or otherwise encourage any Class Members to submit requests for

exclusion or objections to the settlement or to appeal from the Final Order or Final Judgment.

- 55. <u>Final Order and Judgment</u>. The Named Plaintiff will request that the Court enter, after the Settlement Hearing finally approving this Agreement, a Final Order and Judgment. Named Plaintiff will request that the Final Order and Judgment certify the Participating Class; find that this Agreement is fair, just, equitable, reasonable, adequate and in the best interests of the Class and the Aggrieved Employees; list the employees (if any) who opted-out of the settlement; order that the Participating Class Members and Aggrieved Employees, and the State of California, release the Released Parties from the Released Claims and PAGA Claims as set forth in this Agreement; and require the Parties to carry out the provisions of this Agreement.
- 56. Automatic Voiding Of Agreement If Settlement Not Finalized. If for any reason the settlement set forth in this Agreement does not become final, the settlement will be null and void and the orders, judgment, and dismissal to be entered pursuant to this Agreement shall be vacated, and the Parties will be returned to the status quo prior to entering this Agreement with respect to the Action, as if the Parties had never entered into this Agreement, and the class certified pursuant to this Agreement will be decertified for all purposes. In addition, in such event, the Agreement and all negotiations, court orders, and proceedings relating to this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the rights of any and all parties to this Agreement, and evidence relating to the Agreement and all negotiations shall not be admissible or discoverable in the Action or otherwise.
- 57. <u>No Double Recovery.</u> No person who has already released, assigned, or otherwise forfeited the claims asserted in the Action will be considered a Class Member or be entitled to recover under this Agreement.
- 58. <u>No Publicity</u>. The Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel agree that they shall not discuss, answer questions about, promote, or publicize the filing of the Action, the Parties' settlement, this Agreement and its terms, or the negotiations leading to this Agreement with anyone other than the Court or those individuals necessary to effectuate the terms of the Agreement. The prohibition set forth in this Paragraph 58 includes, but is not limited to: (i) publication by Named Plaintiff or Class Counsel on any website (including, without limitation, publishing on any Twitter

documents and perform all acts necessary and proper to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

The execution of such documents must take place prior to the Final Hearing Date. In the event the

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1	Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement
2	the Settlement, or any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms
3	of the Settlement, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of the Court.
4	62. <u>Notices</u> . All notices, requests, demands, and other communications required or
5	permitted to be given pursuant to this Agreement shall be in writing, and shall be delivered
6	personally or by first class mail to the Settlement Administrator approved by the Court and the
7	undersigned persons at their respective addresses as set forth below:
8	<u>Class Counsel</u>
9	WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
10	Justin F. Marquez, Esq. Nicol E. Hajjar, Esq.
11	Rachel J. Vinson, Esq. 3055 Wilshire Blvd., 12 <sup>th</sup> Floor
12	Los Angeles, California 90010
13	Telephone: 213-381-9988
14	Counsel For Defendant
15	RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP
16	Brandon L. Sylvia, Esq. Kimberly A. Nayagam, Esq.
17	18575 Jamboree Road, 9th Floor
18	Irvine, California 92612 Telephone: (714) 641-5100
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20	63. <u>Binding on Successors</u> . This Agreement will be binding upon and will inure to the
21	benefit of the Parties and their respective successors, assigns, executors, administrators, heirs and
22	legal representatives.
23	64. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the full, complete, and entire
24	understanding, agreement, and arrangement between the Named Plaintiff, the Class Members, and
25	the Aggrieved Employees, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other hand, with respect to the
26	settlement of the Action. This Agreement supersedes any and all prior oral or written
27	understandings, agreements and arrangements between the Parties with respect to the settlement
28	of the Action. Except for those set forth expressly in this Agreement, there are no other

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counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Agreement. 70. Representation and Warranties. Class Counsel and the Named Plaintiff represent

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and warrant to Defendant that they are not aware of any attorneys beyond those named as Class Counsel who have claims for fees arising out of the Action or the Settlement contemplated by this

- Authorization to Act. Each Party to this Agreement covenants and warrants that (a) such Party has full power and authority to enter into and consummate all transactions contemplated by this Agreement and have duly authorized the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement and (b) the person executing this Agreement for such Party has the full right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement on behalf of such Party, and the full right, power and authority to execute any and all necessary instruments in connection with the Settlement, and to fully bind such Party to the terms and obligations of this Agreement.
- 72. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that each of them has been represented by their respective counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Agreement, and that this Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of their respective counsel. Further, the Named Plaintiff and Class Counsel warrant and represent that there are no liens on the Settlement Agreement, and that after entry by the Court of the Final Order and Judgment, the Settlement Administrator may distribute funds to Participating Class Members, Aggrieved Employees, Class Counsel, the LWDA, the Settlement Administrator, and the Named Plaintiff as provided by this Agreement.
- 73. <u>Representation By The Named Plaintiff</u>. The Named Plaintiff agrees not to request to be excluded from the Class and not to object to any terms of this Agreement. Any such request by the Named Plaintiff for exclusion or objection shall be void and of no force or effect.
- 74. <u>Additional Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u>. No Participating Class Member, Aggrieved Employee, or Class Counsel, or any other attorney acting for any Participating Class Member or Aggrieved Employee, may recover or seek to recover any amounts for fees, costs, or disbursements arising from the Action or the Gross Settlement Amount from the Released Parties except as expressly provided in this Agreement.
  - 75. <u>No Reliance on Representations</u>. The Parties have made such investigations of the

1	1 facts and the law pertaining to the matters described in this Ag	reement as they deem necessary,
2	2 and have not relied, and do not rely, on any statement, promise	or representation of fact or law,
3	made by any other Party, or any of their agents, employees, a	torneys, or representatives, with
4	4 regard to any of their rights or asserted rights, or with regard t	o the advisability of making and
5	5 executing this Agreement, or with respect to any such matters. 1	No representations, warranties, or
6	6 inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agree	ement.
7	7 76. No Collateral Attack. This Agreement will not	be subject to collateral attack by
8	8 any Class Member or any recipient of the Class Notice after the	Final Order and Dismissal. Such
9	9 prohibited collateral attacks shall include but not be limited to cla	ims that the Class Member failed
10	10 for any reason to receive timely notice of the procedure for disp	uting the calculation of his or her
11	11 Individual Settlement Payment, or for opting out of the Settleme	nt.
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13	13 IT IS SO AGREED:	
14		CTOD DEDEZ
15	PLAINTIFF VI  DocuSigned by	
16	16 Dated: 8/27/2021 By: OBE211908EF5	489
17	Victor Pere Named Pla	· <del></del>
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19 20	DBA CAPO FI	THE BIG COMPANY, INC. RESIDE
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1	facts and the law pertaining to the matters described in this Agreement as they deem necessary,
2	and have not relied, and do not rely, on any statement, promise, or representation of fact or law,
3	made by any other Party, or any of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with
4	regard to any of their rights or asserted rights, or with regard to the advisability of making and
5	executing this Agreement, or with respect to any such matters. No representations, warranties, or
6	inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Agreement.
7	76. No Collateral Attack. This Agreement will not be subject to collateral attack by
8	any Class Member or any recipient of the Class Notice after the Final Order and Dismissal. Such
9	prohibited collateral attacks shall include but not be limited to claims that the Class Member failed
10	for any reason to receive timely notice of the procedure for disputing the calculation of his or her
11	Individual Settlement Payment, or for opting out of the Settlement.
12	VIII IC CO A CIDEND
13	IT IS SO AGREED:
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15	PLAINTIFF VICTOR PEREZ
16	Dated: By:
17	Victor Perez Named Plaintiff
18	
	Dated: 877 W71 DEFENDANT THE BIG COMPANY, INC. DBA CAPO FIRESIDE
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21	By:
22	Title: Ct 7
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	-28- SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION TO RESOLVE:

1	AGREE TO BE BOUND BY PARAGRAPH 58:	
2		
3	Dated: August 27, 2021	WILSHIRE LAW FIRM
4		D. And Mark?
5		By: Attorney for Plaintiff
6	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT:	
7		
8	Dated: <u>August 30, 2021</u>	RUTAN & TUCKER, LLP
9		3/2/
10		By: Attorney for Defendant
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