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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARIAH MARTIN, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

DED OPS NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER also d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER CANNABIS HOUSE; H & H MANAGEMENT LLC; DOES 1 through 50; inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-22-863216-C

Dept. No.: 1

HEARING REQUESTED

JOINT MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Electronically Filed 11/8/2023 11:03 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COUR

Hearing Date: Hearing Time:

GABROY | MESSER 170 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012 (702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704

JOINT MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Plaintiff Mariah Martin ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and Defendant DED Ops NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower also d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower Cannabis House ("Wallflower") and Defendant H & H Management LLC ("H&H") (together "Defendants") (collectively Plaintiff and Defendants may be referred to throughout this Motion as the "Parties") hereby submit this Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. Pursuant to Rule 23(f) of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure ("NRCP"), the Parties ask the Court to give preliminary approval of the Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release (the "Settlement"), a copy of which is submitted for this Court's review concurrently herewith as Exhibit "1".

Dated: November 8, 2023

GABROY	Messer	Sutton	HAGUE
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¹ Defendants join in this Motion only to the extent expressly noted herein and to the extent the Settlement analyzed herein is ultimately approved by this Court and actually becomes effective.

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

Plaintiff sent Defendants her pre-suit NRS § 608.140 demand with enclosed confidential draft complaint on December 23, 2022. Plaintiff then filed her complaint against Defendants in the Eighth Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada in and for the County of Clark on December 29, 2022. Plaintiff alleged various causes of action for unpaid wages on behalf of herself and all similarly situated individuals under the Nevada Revised Statutes. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to: (1) pay all overtime in violation of NRS §§ 608.140 and 608.018 and (2) timely pay all wages due and owing in violation of NRS §§ 608.140 and 608.020-050. Plaintiff also sought injunctive relief. Plaintiff's legal claims stem from her allegation that Defendants maintained an unlawful practice of not paying all daily overtime to Plaintiff and all other similarly situated nonexempt employees who earned less than one and one-half times the applicable minimum wage. Defendants dispute Plaintiff's factual and legal allegations.

Following the filing of the Complaint, the Parties met and conferred and agreed it would serve their mutual interests and the interest of judicial economy to commence settlement negotiations before engaging in costly, protracted litigation. The Parties engaged in extensive, months-long settlement negotiations which included the disclosure of voluminous and detailed class-wide data. Following the exchange of informal discovery, the parties engaged in a formal mediation session before Hon. Gene T. Porter (Ret.).

Following such extensive discussions regarding the strengths of their respective positions and with the assistance of the mediator, the Parties reached a proposed class action settlement through arm's-length negotiations. See Exhibit I.

II. SUMMARY OF THE SETTLEMENT'S KEY PROVISIONS.

The Parties' Settlement provides for significant monetary recovery on behalf of the Class in exchange for a release of wage-and-hour claims, as well as setting forth

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the legally appropriate mechanism for providing notice to the Class of the terms and conditions of the Settlement. See Exhibit 1, ¶¶14-17.

Α. The Recovery.

The Settlement provides for a maximum settlement amount of \$230,000.00. See Settlement at ¶ 10(c). Out of that amount, the following approximate breakdown applies:

- \$113.333.33² in estimated settlement funds to the Class:
- Up to \$15,000.00 in actual settlement administration costs (the "Claims Administration Award");
- \$15,000.00 in enhancement to named Plaintiff for her participation in the lawsuit (the "Enhancement Award");
- \$76,666.67 in attorneys' fees (1/3 of the maximum settlement amount); and,
- Up to \$10,000.00 in actual costs (and together with the foregoing attorneys' fees, the "Class Counsel Award").

Id. at \P 10(c); \P 10(d); \P 10(g); \P 11, and \P 12. The amount of the maximum settlement amount remaining after deducting the Claims Administration Award, the Enhancement Award, and the Class Counsel Award ("Net Settlement Amount") will be paid to the Class Members who participate in the settlement (i.e., file a claim) based on the formula established in Paragraph 10(d) of the Settlement. *Id.* at ¶¶ 10(c)-(d), (i). Settlement Awards for each Class Member will be allocated from the Net Settlement Amount and paid as follows: one-quarter (1/4) will be allocated to alleged unpaid wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will issue and three-quarters (3/4) will be allocated to alleged unpaid penalties and interest for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will issue. Id. at ¶¶ 10(e). Each Class Member who receives a Settlement Award shall pay his/her share of payroll taxes from the one-quarter (1/4) of the Settlement Award allocated to

² The Net Settlement Amount (defined herein) is subject to change and may increase depending on the actual costs awarded to Class Counsel and to the Claims Administrator.

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alleged unpaid wages. Id. Accordingly, each Settlement Award will be reduced by applicable payroll tax withholdings and deductions. Id. Defendant shall pay the normal employer's portion of payroll taxes separately, as calculated by the Claims Administrator. Id. Any unclaimed or undistributed amounts from the Settlement Awards shall revert back to Defendant.

The Settlement represents a significant recovery on behalf of the Class given the risks associated with this case. See Exhibit I at ¶ 7. Plaintiff alleged that she and fellow employees frequently worked over eight (8) hours in a workday and on many occasions. See Complaint at ¶ 19. Plaintiff alleged that this resulted in her having worked over eight hours in a 24-hour period that were not paid at one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for the overtime hours worked. *Id.* at ¶ 23. Defendants dispute and deny Plaintiff's claims, assert that they properly paid Plaintiff and class members' daily overtime, and expressly deny that they acted willfully or maintained any policy to deny employees' daily overtime. The Settlement represents a compromise, but is not intended to, nor should it, be construed as an admission of liability as to the merits of Plaintiff's claims or whether class certification is maintainable. See Settlement at ¶¶ 4, 25. Defendants expressly deny liability on the merits and deny that class certification is appropriate or would be maintained. Nevertheless, because the Settlement provides for a per-hours-worked payout, each participating class member will be entitled to a proportionate share of the Settlement based on their hours worked. Id. at ¶ 10(d). In sum, the recovery of up to \$113,333.33 for all class members represents a significant recovery given the Parties' positions and uncertain legal requirements at issue and with regard to class certification. See Exhibit I at ¶ 7.

В. The Release.

Defendants deny liability under any of Plaintiff's claims. See Settlement at ¶¶ 4, 25. The Settlement provides that, in consideration for the Settlement, Settlement Class Members³ who do not file valid requests for exclusion will release all wage and hour

³ "Settlement Class" means the following class or classes: all hourly paid non-overtime exempt persons Page 5

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pursuant to the terms of the Settlement.⁴ *Id.* at ¶¶ 16,18. C.

The Settlement Mechanism.

The Settlement is a claims-made settlement. The Parties have agreed to use a third-party Claims Administrator to administer the claims process. *Id.* at 10(d). The Settlement provides for the Claims Administrator to send out notice explaining the terms and conditions of the Settlement to the approximately 196 employees and former employees of Defendant. (A copy of the Notice to be approved by the Court and sent to putative class members is attached as Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement.) Following mailing of the Notice, putative class members then have thirty (30) days to complete and submit a Claim Form or request to be excluded from the Settlement or object to the Settlement. See Settlement at ¶ 14(a). (A copy of the Claim Form to be approved by the Court and sent to class members is attached as Exhibit B to the Settlement Agreement.)

claims relating or arising out of the facts of Plaintiff's complaint against Defendant

The Settlement further provides that following the notice period the Court will hold a final "fairness" hearing to provide final review and approval of the Settlement. Id. at ¶ 19. (Attached as Exhibit C to the Settlement Agreement is a proposed Order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement. Attached as Exhibit D to the Settlement is a proposed Order granting final approval of the Settlement.) The Notice advises putative class members about the fairness hearing and their opportunity to attend the hearing and make their views known. Id. at ¶ 1(q). At the final fairness hearing, the parties will address any issues raised by putative class members or the notice process itself, and the Court will have a second opportunity to review the Settlement in full.

employed by Defendants in the state of Nevada who earned less than 1 ½ times the applicable minimum wage and who worked over eight (8) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period and were not paid overtime properly in accordance with Nevada law at any time from December 29, 2019 until the date the Court grants preliminary approval.

⁴ "Released Claims" has the meaning ascribed to it in \P 1(v) of the Settlement.

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III. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK WEIGHS IN FAVOR OF GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT

NRCP 23(f) provides that settlement of the claims of a certified class is subject to court approval.⁵ In general, settlement of class actions is favored as a matter of "strong judicial policy." *Alberto v. GMRI, Inc.,* 252 F.R.D. 652, 658 (E.D. Cal. 2008) (citing Class Plaintiffs v. City of Seattle, 955 F.2d 1268, 1276 (9th Cir. 1992)).

Procedurally, the reviewing court's evaluation is conducted in two stages. Alberto, 252 F.R.D. at 658. At the first stage the court conditionally certifies a class for settlement purposes, preliminarily approves the settlement pending the "fairness hearing," and authorizes notice of the proposed class settlement to be given to the class. Id. (citations omitted); see also Manual for Complex Litigation (Fourth) § 21.632 (2004) ("Manual for Complex Litigation") (summarizing "preliminary fairness review"). Stage two is the fairness hearing, set for a time after notice has been provided to the class and class members have had an opportunity to submit claims or objections to the proposed settlement or to opt out of it, where the court reaches a final determination about whether the proposed settlement should be approved as a fair, adequate, and reasonable resolution of the dispute. *Id.* at 659 (citations omitted).

Because this is the first stage of the Court's evaluation of the Settlement, Plaintiff submits that (A) the Class should be conditionally certified, (B) the Settlement should be preliminary deemed fair, reasonable, and adequate, and (C) notice should be sent out as set forth in the Settlement.

The Settlement Class Should Be Certified. Α.

To facilitate the proposed settlement, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court conditionally certify the following settlement class pursuant to NRCP 23: all hourly-paid, non-exempt persons employed by Defendant in the state of Nevada who

 $^{^{5}}$ Nevada's rules of civil procedure track, for the most part, their federal counterpart. Therefore, given the lack of state law authority relating to class action settlement mechanisms, federal authority should be consulted and followed.

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earned less than 1 ½ times the applicable minimum wage and who worked over eight (8) hours in a workday at any time from December 29, 2019, until the date the Court grants preliminary approval (the "Settlement Class"). Settlement at ¶ 1(f) and (aa). The Parties agree that, for purposes of settlement only, the criteria for certifying the Class under NRCP 23(a) and NRCP 23(c)(3) may be satisfied in this case, and the proposed Settlement Class should be conditionally certified for purposes of settlement.

1. All four criteria of NRCP 23(a) are met.

NRCP 23(a)(1): The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. "As a general rule, classes numbering greater than forty individuals satisfy the numerosity requirement." Quintero v. Mulberry Thai Silks, Inc., No. 08-2294, 28 I.E.R. Cas. (BNA) 607, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 84976, at *7 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 22, 2008) (citation omitted). Here, the number of current and former employees of Defendant who could comprise the Settlement Class consists of approximately 196 individuals. Plaintiff submits that the numerosity criterion is satisfied. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, Defendants do not oppose Plaintiff's assertion that sufficient numerosity exists.

NRCP 23(a)(2): There are questions of law or fact common to the Class.

The commonality requirement is construed liberally. Alberto v. GMRI, Inc., 252 F.R.D. at 660 (citation omitted); see also Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp., 150 F.3d 1011, 1019 (9th Cir. 1998) (Rule 23(a)(2) construed "permissively"). The class members' claims must share some substantial issues of law or fact, but need not be identical. Quintero, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 84976, at *8. Either "shared legal issues with divergent factual predicates" or "a common core of salient facts coupled with disparate legal remedies within the class" satisfies this criterion. Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1019.

Here, the Class Members consist of the Settlement Class. Under Nevada law, all non-exempt employees are entitled to be compensated for all overtime for all hours worked over eight (8) hours in a workday, provided that they make less than 1 ½ times the minimum wage rate. See NRS § 608.018. Further, all non-exempt employees who

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leave their employment are also entitled to be paid all their wages due and owing at the time their employment ends. See NRS §§ 608.020-.050; D'Amore v. Caesars Enter. Servs., LLC, No. 218CV1990JCMVCF, 2019 WL 8128166, at *7 (D. Nev. Dec. 16, 2019). Thus, Plaintiff asserts that Plaintiff and Class Members assert common factual and legal questions, which include, whether Class Members were compensated for all hours they worked at the appropriate legal rate pursuant to Nevada law, whether Class Members who are former employees were paid all their wages due and owing at the time of their termination, and whether any wage penalties under NRS §§ 608.040 and/or 608.050 are payable and, if so, how they should be calculated. See, e.g., In re Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Overtime Pay Litig., 527 F. Supp.2d 1053, 1062-63 (N.D. Cal. 2007); Wang v. Chinese Daily News, Inc., 231 F.R.D. 602,607 (C.D. Cal. 2005). Based on these common issues, Plaintiff submits that this criterion is met. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, Defendants do not oppose Plaintiff's assertion that sufficient commonality exists.

NRCP 23(a)(3): The claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class. Like commonality, the typicality standard is applied "permissive[ly]." See Staton, 327 F.3d at 957 (quoting Hanlon, 150 F.3d at 1020). It is satisfied if the representatives' claims are "reasonably coextensive with those of absent class members; they need not be substantially identical." Id. Here, named Plaintiff is a former employee who worked as a non-exempt, hourly paid employee making a wage less than one and a half times the minimum wage. See Complaint at ¶¶ 16-18. She further alleges Defendants did not pay her and similarly situated employees one and one-half times her hourly rate of pay for hours worked over eight (8) in a 24-hour period. *Id.* at ¶¶ 19-25. Defendants expressly deny Plaintiff's allegations. Plaintiff asserts the same wage and hour violations as all other members of the class. *Id.* at ¶¶ 26-30. Thus, Plaintiff submits that her claims are typical to those of the Class. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, Defendants do not oppose Plaintiff's assertion that sufficient typicality exists.

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NRCP 23(a)(4): The representative parties will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class. Courts have interpreted this requirement as posing two questions: (1) whether either the named plaintiff or his counsel has any conflicts of interest with other class members, and (2) whether the named plaintiff and his counsel will vigorously prosecute the action on behalf of the class. See id. (citing Hanlon and other cases). Here, neither the named Plaintiff nor her counsel have interests antagonistic to those of other Class Members. The named Plaintiff shares with absent Class Members an interest in recovering compensation that Defendant allegedly denied them. In addition, Plaintiff's counsel has extensive experience in wage and hour class actions, as well as class action litigation more generally, and the proposed settlement was reached only after arm's-length direct settlement discussions. See Exhibit I at ¶¶ 3, 7; see also a true and correct copy of the Declaration of Christian Gabroy, Esq. attached hereto as Exhibit II at ¶¶ 5, 7. Thus, Plaintiff submits that the named Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel are adequate representatives of the Class. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, Defendants do not oppose such assertion.

2. The criteria of NRCP 23(c) are met.

To certify a class under NRCP 23(c)(3), a court must find that common questions of fact or law predominate over questions affecting only individual members of the proposed class, and that a class action is the superior method for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy. NRCP 23(c)(3). Plaintiff submits that both criteria are met here. For purposes of approving this Settlement only, Defendants do not oppose such assertion.

The predominance requirement is met. The predominance inquiry "focuses on the relationship between the common and individual issues. When common questions present a significant aspect of the case and they can be resolved for all members of the class in a single adjudication, there is clear justification for handling the dispute on a representative rather than on an individual basis." Local Joint Executive Bd. of Culinary/Bartender Trust Fund v. Las Vegas Sands, Inc., 244 F.3d 1152, 1162

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(9th Cir), cert. denied, 534 U.S. 973,122 S. Ct. 395 (2001) ("Local Joint Executive Bd.") (quoting *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1022).

Plaintiff argues that common issues of law and fact predominate, and Defendants do not oppose this argument for purposes of settlement approval only.

The superiority requirement is met. Determining whether a class action is the superior method of adjudicating a controversy involves "comparing alternative mechanisms of dispute resolution" as applied to the facts and claims. Wang v. Chinese Daily News, Inc., 231 F.R.D. at 614. Plaintiff alleges that the situation here is comparable to that of the Las Vegas Sands' former casino employees who sought damages for failure to provide a statutorily required 60-day notice before closure:

> This case involves multiple claims, some for relatively small individual sums. Counsel for the would-be class estimated that, under the most optimistic scenario, each class members would recover about \$1,330. If plaintiffs cannot proceed as a class, some - perhaps most - will be unable to proceed as individuals because of the disparity between their litigation costs and what they hope to achieve.

Local Joint Executive Bd., 244 F.3d at 1163 ("Class actions ... may permit the plaintiffs to pool claims which would be uneconomical to litigate individually.") (citing Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts, 472 U.S. 797, 809, (1985). In such a situation, the superiority requirement is "easily satisfied." Id. Plaintiff avers that the same holds true here. Defendants do not oppose such a finding for purposes of settlement approval only.

B. The Proposed Settlement Is Fair, Reasonable, and Adequate.

The Manual for Complex Litigation § 21.62 identifies several factors that courts may weigh in determining whether a settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2)), summarizing the inquiry as follows: Fairness calls for a comparative analysis of the treatment of class members vis-a-vis each other and vis-avis similar individuals with similar claims who are not in the class. Reasonableness depends on an analysis of the class allegations and claims and the responsiveness of the settlement to those claims. Adequacy of the settlement involves a comparison of

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the relief granted relative to what class members might have obtained without using the class action process. Id., § 21.62 at 315.

At the preliminary approval stage, courts do not make a final determination of fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy. Instead, the key question at this point is only whether the settlement is "potentially fair, as the Court will make a final determination of [the settlement's] adequacy at the hearing on Final Approval, after such time as any party has had a chance to object and/or opt out." Acosta v. Equifax Info. Servs. LLC, 243 F.R.D. 377,386 (C.D. Cal. 2007). Thus, the inquiry should focus on whether the proposed settlement falls within the "range of possible approval" and appears to be sufficiently fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant distributing notice to class members informing them about the proposed settlement and their options for responding and participating. Molski v. Gleich, 318 F.3d 937,944 (9th Cir. 2003); see also Manual for Complex Litigation § 21.632. "Once the judge is satisfied as to the ... results of the initial inquiry into the [1] fairness, [2] reasonableness and [3] adequacy of the settlement," the court should direct notice to issue and schedule a final approval hearing. Id., § 21.633 at 321. Plaintiff avers that all three are preliminarily met as follows:

1. The Settlement Is Fair.

Fairness of distribution among class members. The proposed settlement is fair in that Class Members' benefits are determined by the number of hours they worked during the class period. See Settlement at ¶ 10(d). Furthermore, the proposed settlement would release only participating Class Members' wage and hour claims, not all potential employment claims, in exchange for the financial benefits they receive. Id. at ¶ 18.

Fairness of proposed attorneys' fees. The allocation of total settlement funds between Class Members and the attorneys is also fair, in that the settlement agreement provides for Plaintiff's counsel to seek no more than one-third of the maximum settlement amount in fees. The requested fees are fair compensation for

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undertaking complex, risky, expensive, and time-consuming litigation solely on a contingency basis. Further, the requests are in line with other attorneys' fees awards for wage and hour class actions, particularly where a significant portion of the class members will be receiving substantial claim payment amounts of several hundred dollars. Indeed, courts have recognized that an appropriate method for awarding attorneys' fees in class action is to award a percentage of the "common fund" created as a result of the settlement. Vincent v. Hughes Air West, Inc., 557 F.2d 759, 769 (9th Cir. 1977). The purpose of the common fund/percentage approach is to "spread litigation costs proportionally among all the beneficiaries so that the active beneficiary does not bear the entire burden alone." Id.

Moreover, several courts have expressed frustration with the alternative "lodestar" approach for deciding fee awards, which usually involves wading through voluminous and often indecipherable time records. Commenting on the loadstar approach, Chief Judge Marilyn Hall Patel wrote in In re Activision Securities Litigation, 723 F.Supp. 1373, 1375 (N.D. Cal. 1989):

> This court is compelled to ask, "Is this process necessary?" Under a cost-benefit analysis, the answer would be a resounding, "No!" Not only does the Lindy Kerr-Johnson analysis consume an undue amount of court time with little resulting advantage to anyone, but in fact, it may be in the detriment of the class members. They are forced to wait until the court has done a thorough, conscientious analysis of the attorneys' fees petition. Or, class members may suffer a further diminution of their fund when a special master is retained and paid from the fund. Most important, however, is the effect the process has on the litigation and the timing of settlement. Where attorneys must depend on a lodestar approach, there is little incentive to arrive at an early settlement.

Indeed, the percentage approach is preferable to the lodestar because: (1) it aligns the interests of class counsel and absent class members; (2) it encourages efficient resolution of the litigation by providing an incentive for early, yet reasonable, settlement; and (3) it reduces the demands on judicial resources. In re Activision Securities Litigation, 723 F. Supp. at 1378-79. Courts now routinely use the percentage

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of the common fund approach to determine the award of attorneys' fees. (See, e.g., In re Pacific Enterprises Securities Litigation, 47 F.3d 373, 378-79 (9th Cir. 1994) (approving request for attorneys' fees of thirty-three and one-third percent of the total settlement fund).

Class counsels' application for one-third of the Settlement Funds is within the range of reasonableness. Historically, courts have awarded percentage fees in the range of 20% to 50% of the common fund, depending on the circumstances of the case. Newberg on Class Action § 14:6 (4th ed. 2008); see also In re Activision Securities Litigation, 723 F.Supp. 1373, 1378 (N.D. Cal. 1989). According to Newberg: "No general rule can be articulated on what is a reasonable percentage of a common fund. Usually, 50% of the fund is the upper limit on a reasonable fee award from a common fund in order to assure that the fees do not consume a disproportionate part of the recovery obtained for the class, although somewhat larger percentages are not unprecedented." Newberg, § 14:6. Accordingly, the attorneys' fees sought in this case are fair and reasonable.

Fairness of proposed "enhancement" award for the named Plaintiff. The principle of fairness is also well served by the \$15,000.00 enhancement payment proposed for the named Plaintiff. Plaintiff provided invaluable assistance to Plaintiff's counsel in explaining Defendant's alleged compensation policies and procedures and in providing information to assist in the settlement negotiations. Further, Plaintiff incurred significant personal risk in bringing this lawsuit on behalf of the other persons in the class. See, e.g., Koehl v. Verio, 142 Cal. App. 4th 1313, 1328 (2006) (in wage and hour action where defendant prevailed at trial, named plaintiffs were held liable, jointly and severally, for defendant's attorneys' fees). She could have been held liable for Defendant's costs if she were ultimately unsuccessful in resolving the case, and her potential employment opportunities could (and can still be) impacted because of her public participation in this lawsuit. Such service payments are recognized as serving an important function in promoting class action settlements. In League of Martin v. City of

Milwaukee, 588 F. Supp. 1004 (E.D. Wis. 1984), the court held that the proposed settlement properly granted the named plaintiff additional relief, explaining that it is "not uncommon for class ... members to receive special treatment in settlement" when they have been instrumental in prosecuting the lawsuit. *Id.* at 1024. Accordingly, the enhancement is fair.

2. The Settlement Is Reasonable.

At \$230,000.00 overall, the proposed Settlement is reasonable. This is not a settlement where the aggregate figure is large simply because the size of the class is in the tens or hundreds of thousands. Instead, here the class size is relatively small in comparison, but Class Members are eligible for financial benefit. These considerations indicate that the proposed Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness, warranting preliminary approval.

This conclusion is reinforced by considering such factors as the risk that a class might not be certified or might be significantly smaller than proposed, the uncertainty surrounding various unsettled legal issues, and the time, expense, and complexity of the litigation, including the possibility of appellate proceedings. Counsel for Plaintiff and Defendants are in agreement the \$230,000.00 settlement represents a reasonable recovery based on the alleged violations. See Exhibit I at ¶ 7.

Furthermore, while Class Counsel believe that Plaintiff's claims are meritorious, Defendants have raised significant legal challenges on a number of issues affecting the ultimate recovery by Plaintiff and the Settlement Class, if any recovery is ultimately awarded at trial. Class Counsel are experienced class action litigators, and they understand that the outcome of class certification, trial, and any attendant appeals were inherently uncertain, as well as likely to consume many more months, even years. See Exhibit II at ¶ 14. Having reviewed relevant compensation data and employment information, counsel for the Parties—all experienced class action litigators well versed in wage and hour law—arrived at a reasonable resolution through a protracted and

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arms'-length direct negotiation process, which continued into all details of the settlement agreement and ancillary documents. See Exhibit II at ¶¶ 5-7.

Another factor considered in approving a settlement is the complexity, expense, and likely duration of the litigation. Offices for Justice, 688 F.2d at 625. The Court must weigh the benefits of the proposed settlement against the expense and delay involved in achieving an equivalent or more favorable result at trial. See, e.g., Young v. Katz, 447 F .2d 431,433-34 (5th Cir. 1971). The policy that favors settlement of class actions and other complex cases applies with particular force here. Employment cases, and specifically wage and hour cases, are expensive and time-consuming. That this is a class action further amplifies the economies of time, effort, and expense achieved by the Settlement. Inevitably, the certification process alone would add time and expense to the litigation process. The Settlement, on the other hand, provides class members substantial, prompt, and efficient relief. The Settlement in this case is therefore consistent with the "overriding public interest in settling and quieting litigation" that is "particularly true in class action suits." See Van Bronkhorst v. Safeco Corp., 529 F.2d 943, 950 (9th Cir. 1976) (footnote omitted); see also 4 Newberg on Class Actions § 11.41 (citing cases).

In sum, the resulting Settlement is, in light of all applicable factors, reasonable, and warrants notification of its terms to members of the potential class for their consideration and response.

3. The Settlement Is Adequate.

As previously mentioned, in a somewhat similar class action the court aptly observed that it would have been irrational for most, and probably all, class members to pursue their claims on an individual basis "because of the disparity between their litigation costs and what they hope to recover." Local Joint Executive Bd., 244 F.3d at 1163.

The recovery provided through the Settlement is reasonable, especially as its adequacy must be judged as "a yielding of absolutes and an abandoning of highest

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hopes.... Naturally, the agreement reached normally embodies a compromise; in exchange for the saving of cost and elimination of risk, the parties each give up something they might have won had they proceeded with litigation.... " Officers for Justice, 688 F.2d at 634 (citation omitted). Accordingly, the Settlement is not to be judged against a speculative measure of what might have been achieved. Linney v. Cellular Alaska P'ship, 151 F.3d 1234, 1242 (9th Cir. 1998). An additional consideration is that the Settlement provides for payment to the class now, rather than a payment many years down the road, if ever. See City of Detroit v. Grinnell Corp., 495 F .2d 448, 463 (2d Cir. 1974).

Thus, considering the present value of the settlement sum, the probability of lengthy litigation in the absence of a settlement, and the risks that the class might not have prevailed at trial, it is no exaggeration to predict that without using the class action process, the relief that members of the class were likely to achieve ranged from negligible to zero. Consequently, the \$230,000.00 settlement satisfies the criterion of adequacy. See Manual for Complex Litigation § 21.62 ("Adequacy of the settlement involves a comparison of the relief granted relative to what class members might have obtained without using the class action process.").

C. The Notice Adequately Informs Class Members Of The Settlement.

The Notice explains the process; how to request to be excluded or object; and the consequences of the action the Class Member takes (submitting a claim, doing nothing, opting out, or objecting), in terms of both financial benefit and release of state claims. See Exhibit A to the Settlement, generally. The Notice advises class members about the final approval hearing, their rights with respect to that hearing, and how to get more information. *Id.* The 30-day time frame to claim, opt out, or object is reasonable, allowing class members to digest the information in the notice and obtain answers to questions before deciding on the action they want to take. Id. Accordingly, in addition to approving the Settlement agreement as a whole, the Parties respectfully ask that the

EXHIBIT I

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GABROY | MESSER

1	Christian Gabroy Nev. Bar No. 8805		
2	Kaine Messer		
3	Nev. Bar No. 14240 GABROY MESSER The District of Croop Valley Banch		
4	The District at Green Valley Ranch 170 South Green Valley Parkway		
5	Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012		
6	Tel: (702) 259-7777 Fax: (702) 259-7704		
7	christian@gabroy.com kmesser@gabroy.com		
8	Mark R. Thierman		
9	Nev. Bar No. 8285 Joshua D. Buck		
10	Nev. Bar No. 12187 Leah L. Jones		
11	Nev. Bar No. 13161 Joshua R. Hendrickson		
12	Nev. Bar No. 12225 Thierman Buck LLP		
13	7287 Lakeside Drive Reno, Nevada 89511		
14	Tel: (775) 284-1500 Fax: (775) 703-5027		
15	mark@thiermanbuck.com josh@thiermanbuck.com		
16	leah@thiermanbuck.com joshh@thiermanbuck.com		
17	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
18	DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		
19 20	MARIAH MARTIN, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,	Case No.: A-22-863216-C Dept. No.: 1	
21	Plaintiff,		
22	ŕ	JOINT STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND RELE	
22	VS.		

N OF **SETTLEMENT AND RELEASE**

Defendants.

DED OPS NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER also d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER CANNABIS HOUSE; H

& H MANAGEMENT LLC; DOES 1

through 50; inclusive,

This Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release ("Settlement") is made and entered into by and between plaintiff Mariah Martin ("Plaintiff") on behalf of herself and

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all others similarly situated, and DED Ops NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower also d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower Cannabis House and H & H Management LLC, (together "Defendants"). Plaintiff and Defendants are collectively referred to herein as the "Parties."

THE PARTIES STIPULATE AND AGREE as follows:

- 1. The following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them below:
- "Action" means the lawsuit captioned as Mariah Martin v. DED Ops a. NV LLC et al., filed in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada, Clark County, Case No. A-22-863216-C and all other lawsuits, previously filed, alleging the same or substantially the same facts and theories identified in the "Released Claims" (defined below).
- b. "Claims Administration Award" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 11 below.
- C. "Claims Administrator" means Phoenix Class Action Administration Solutions, or such other claims administrator as may be mutually agreeable to the Parties.
- d. "Class Counsel" means Christian Gabroy, Esq., and Kaine Messer, Esq., of Gabroy | Messer of Henderson, Nevada and Mark Thierman, Esq., Joshua Buck, Esq., Leah Jones, Esq., and Joshua R. Hendrickson, Esq., of Thierman Buck LLP of Reno, Nevada.
- e. "Class Counsel Award" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 12 below.
- f. "Class Members" means those individuals that are within the "Settlement Class" (defined below), each of whom is a "Class Member."
- "Class Period" means December 29, 2019 until the date of g. preliminary approval.
 - h. "Class Representative" means Plaintiff Mariah Martin.

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	i.	"Court" means the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada, Clark
County.		

- Court's "Preliminary Approval Order" means the preliminary order j. approving the Settlement, as more fully described in Paragraph 19 below, and in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit C, and as approved by the Court.
- Court's "Final Approval Order" means the Final Order Approving k. Class Action Settlement and Judgment, as more fully described in Paragraph 21 below in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit D, and as approved by the Court.
- Ι. "Defendants" means DED Ops NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower also d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower Cannabis House and H & H Management LLC.
- m. "Effective Date" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Paragraph 10(b) below.
- n. "Enhancement Award" means, subject to approval by the Court, a maximum payment of \$15,000.00 to the Class Representative from the Maximum Settlement Amount, which is in addition to the Class Representative's individual Settlement Award pursuant to this Settlement.
- "Maximum Settlement Amount" shall be as defined in Paragraph 0. 10(c) below.
- p. "Net Settlement Amount" shall be as defined in Paragraph 10(c) below.
- q. "Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and as approved by the Court.
- r. "Objection Deadline" means the date that is thirty (30) calendar days following date of the initial mailing of the Notice by the Claims Administrator to Class Members.
- S. "Participating Class Members" means the Class Members who submit timely and valid Claim Forms, pursuant to paragraph 15, in order to receive a Settlement Award.

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- "Parties" means collectively the Plaintiff and Defendants, each of t. whom is a "Party."
- "Plaintiff" means plaintiff Mariah Martin, on behalf of herself and all u. others similarly situated.
- "Released Claims" means the claims to be released by the ٧. Settlement Class as fully set forth in Paragraph 18 of this Agreement.
- w. "Released Parties" collectively means: (i) Defendants (ii) Defendants' respective past, present and future parents, subsidiaries, joint ventures, divisions, and affiliates; (iii) the past, present and future shareholders, directors, owners, officers, members, managers, agents, employees, attorneys, agents, accountants, investigators, partners, administrators, assigns, insurers, predecessors, successors, licensors, licensees, subsidiaries, and assigns of any of the foregoing; and (iv) any individual or entity which could be jointly liable with any of the foregoing.
- Χ. "Settlement" or "Stipulation of Settlement" or "Agreement" means this Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release between Plaintiff and Defendants.
- "Settlement Account" shall be as defined in Paragraph 10(h) у. below.
- Z. "Settlement Awards" means Settlement amounts by paid Defendant H & H Management LLC (on behalf of the Released Parties) to eligible Class Members who return a valid claim consistent with Paragraph 15 according to a specified formula submitted as further described herein.
- "Settlement Class" means all hourly paid non-overtime exempt aa. persons employed by Defendants in the state of Nevada who earned less than 1 ½ times the applicable minimum wage and who worked over eight (8) hours in a twentyfour (24) hour period and were not paid overtime properly in accordance with Nevada law at any time from December 29, 2019 until the date the Court grants preliminary approval.

2. Plaintiff filed a complaint against Defendants in the Eighth Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada in and for the County of Clark on December 29, 2022 (the "Complaint"). Plaintiff alleges various causes of action for unpaid wages on behalf of herself and all similarly situated individuals under the Nevada Revised Statutes. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to: (1) pay all overtime in violation of NRS §§ 608.140 and 608.018 and (2) timely pay all wages due and owing in violation of NRS §§ 608.140 and 608.020-050. Plaintiff also seeks injunctive relief.

Following the filing of the Complaint, the Parties met and conferred and agreed it

Following the filing of the Complaint, the Parties met and conferred and agreed it would serve their mutual interests and the interest of judicial economy to commence settlement negotiations before engaging in costly, protracted litigation. The Parties engaged in extensive, months-long settlement negotiations which included the disclosure of voluminous and detailed class-wide data. The parties also attended a mediation session presided over by Hon. Gene T. Porter (Ret.). Following these extensive discussions, the Parties reached the proposed class action settlement through arm's-length negotiations and with the assistance of the mediator.

- 3. The Parties now enter into this Stipulation of Settlement for preliminary and final Court approval of the Settlement. Solely for the purpose of settling this case, the Parties stipulate and agree to the certification of the Settlement Class. The Parties agree that, if for any reason the Settlement is not preliminarily and finally approved, the certification of the Settlement Class will be of no force or effect, does not constitute an admission by Defendants that class certification is proper, and will not be deemed admissible in this or any other proceeding, and that the Parties will litigate the issue of class certification.
- 4. This Settlement is not an admission of any liability or wrongdoing by Defendants or any Released Party. Defendants, on their own behalf and on behalf of the Released Parties, specifically deny any liability or wrongdoing of any kind whatsoever for the claims alleged in the Action, and further deny that, for any purpose other than settling the Action, the Action is appropriate for class or representative

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treatment. With respect to Plaintiff's claims, Defendants contend, among other things, that they have complied with all applicable state, federal, and local laws affecting Plaintiff and the other Class Members regarding wages, overtime, and any associated penalties.

- 5. It is the desire of the Parties to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise, and discharge all Released Claims. To achieve a full and complete release of all Released Claims, each Class Member acknowledges that this Stipulation of Settlement is intended to include in its effect all claims reasonably arising out of the allegations made in the Action and all Released Claims against Defendants as of the date of the Court's Final Approval Order.
- 6. It is the intention of the Parties that this Stipulation of Settlement shall constitute a full, final, and complete settlement and release of all Released Parties with respect to all Released Claims.
- 7. Class Counsel have conducted a thorough investigation into the facts of the Action, including an extensive review of relevant documents and data, and have diligently pursued an investigation of Class Members' claims against Defendants and the other Released Parties. Based on their independent investigation and evaluation, Class Counsel are of the opinion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and is in the best interest of the Settlement Class in light of all known facts and circumstances, including the risk of significant delay, the potential that class certification may not be granted, the defenses asserted by Defendants, and numerous potential appellate issues. For purposes of facilitating this Settlement only, Defendants and Defendants' counsel also agree that the Settlement is fair and in the best interest of the Settlement Class.
- 8. The Parties agree to cooperate and take all steps necessary and appropriate to consummate this Settlement after all Settlement sums have been paid out in accordance with this Stipulation of Settlement.

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9. This Stipulation of Settlement provides for a claims process requiring Defendant H & H Management LLC on behalf of the Released Parties to pay Settlement Awards according to a specified formula, as defined below. Settlement Awards will be allocated from the "Net Settlement Amount" (defined below in Paragraph 10(c)). Defendant H & H Management LLC's aggregate maximum total payment under the Settlement, inclusive of all amounts for all claims, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, the Enhancement Award, claims administration costs, and any and all other payments provided by this Settlement (with the exception of the normal employer's portion of payroll taxes) will not exceed two hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$230,000.00) as set forth in Paragraph 10(c) below ("Maximum Settlement Amount"). It is further understood and agreed by the Parties that the following amounts shall be paid from the Maximum Settlement Amount: (a) Settlement Awards for the valid claims filed by the Participating Class Members; (b) the Enhancement Award approved by the Court; (c) the Claims Administration Award for reasonable fees and expenses of the Claims Administrator approved by the Court; and (d) the Class Counsel Award for Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs approved by the Court. It is further understood and agreed by the Parties that the normal employer's portion of payroll taxes, as applicable, shall be paid apart from the Net Settlement Amount, as described below in Paragraph 10(e). By virtue of the Settlement and in connection with the Action, Defendants and the Released Parties shall have no obligation to pay any person or entity any amounts beyond the Maximum Settlement Amount, other than the normal employer's portion of payroll taxes, as described herein.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

- 10. NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises, and agreements set forth herein, the Parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, as follows:
- Settlement All-Inclusive: It is agreed, by and among Plaintiff and a. Defendants, that the Action and all Released Claims, damages, or causes of action of

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any kind arising out of the disputes that reasonably arise or could have arisen out of the facts alleged in the Action, be settled and compromised as between the Settlement Class (including Plaintiff) on the one hand and Defendants and the Released Parties on the other hand, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Stipulation of Settlement and the approval of the Court. This Settlement shall bind the Class Members, Defendants, and their counsel, subject to the terms and conditions hereof and the Court's approval.

b. Effective Date: The Settlement embodied in this Stipulation of Settlement shall become effective when all of the following events have occurred ("Effective Date"): (i) this Stipulation of Settlement has been executed by all Parties, Class Counsel, and Defendants' Counsel; (ii) the Court has given preliminary approval to the Settlement; (iii) the Notice has been mailed to the Settlement Class, providing the Class Members with an opportunity to make a claim for a Settlement Award from of the Net Settlement, to submit a form to opt out of the Settlement, or to object to the Settlement; (iv) the Court has held a formal fairness hearing and entered the Court's Final Approval Order; and (v) in the event there are no written objections filed prior to or at the formal fairness hearing, the 30-day period set forth in NRAP 4 has accrued; or (vi) in the event there are written objections filed prior to the formal fairness hearing that are not later withdrawn, the latest of the following events: (A) when the period for filing any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding opposing the Settlement has elapsed without any appeal, writ or other appellate proceeding having been filed; (B) when any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding opposing the Settlement has been dismissed finally and conclusively with no right to pursue further remedies or relief; or (C) when any appeal, writ, or other appellate proceeding has upheld the Court's Final Approval Order with no right to pursue further remedies or relief. It is further agreed by the Parties that this Settlement shall not become effective if Defendants, contrary to Paragraph 10(c) below, are required to pay to any person or entity any amounts beyond the Maximum Settlement Amount. The occurrence of the

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Maximum Settlement Amount and Net Settlement Amount: To C. implement the terms of this Settlement, Defendant H & H Management LLC agrees to pay a maximum amount of two hundred thirty thousand dollars (\$230,000.00) (the "Maximum Settlement Amount"), which includes all Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members, the Enhancement Award to the Class Representative, the Class Counsel Award, and the Claims Administration Award. All Settlement Awards disbursed to all Participating Class Members, the Enhancement Award to the Class Representative, the Class Counsel Award to Class Counsel, and Claims Administration Award to the Claims Administrator shall be paid out of the Maximum Settlement Amount. The "Net Settlement Amount" will be calculated by deducting from the Maximum Settlement Amount the following: (a) the Enhancement Award to the Class Representative approved by the Court; (b) the Class Counsel Award (for Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and actual costs) approved by the Court; and (c) the Claims Administrator Award (for the Claims Administrator's reasonable fees and expenses) approved by the Court ("Net Settlement Amount"). Settlement Awards to the Participating Class Members, and the Participating Class Members' on those Awards will be calculated by the Claims Administrator and paid from above the Net Settlement Amount, as set forth below. Defendants' normal payroll taxes shall not be paid from the Net Settlement Amount.

d. <u>Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members</u>: Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the Claims Administrator will distribute a payment from the Net Settlement Amount to each Participating Class Member, according to the following calculation of Settlement Awards. Probable Settlement Awards to Class Members will be determined by the Claims Administrator based upon the number of hours worked by each Class Member during the Class Period. The number of hours worked by Class Members during the Class Period will be determined

70 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012 (702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704 1

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by reference to Defendants' records, which will be presumed to be correct unless credible written evidence to the contrary is timely submitted to the Claims Administrator. Defendants will provide the Claims Administrator and no one else with an excel spreadsheet calculation of the total hours worked of each Class Member during the Class Period. The Claims Administrator shall assign to each Class Member a "Settlement Ratio," which shall be calculated by taking the total number of hours worked by each individual Class Member within the Class Period divided by the total number of hours worked by all Class Members within the Class Period. The Claims Administrator shall then assign to each Class Member a probable "Settlement Award" which shall be calculated by multiplying that Class Member's Settlement Ratio by the Net Settlement Amount. The Claims Administrator will distribute a payment of a Settlement Award to each Class Member who returns a valid claim consistent with Paragraph 15 ("Participating Class Member"). Each check to a Participating Class Member shall be valid for 90 days after issuance. If any check mailed to a Participating Class Member is not cashed or deposited within 90 days after issuance, the check will be cancelled, and the amount of that check will be reverted to Defendant H & H Management LLC.

Taxes, Withholdings, and Allocation: Settlement Awards for each e. Participating Class Member will be allocated from the Net Settlement Amount and paid as follows: one-quarter (1/4) will be allocated to alleged unpaid wages for which IRS Forms W-2 will issue and three-quarters (3/4) will be allocated to alleged unpaid penalties and interest for which IRS Forms 1099-MISC will issue. The Claims Administrator will handle all applicable tax reporting and tax payments on behalf of Defendants for the Settlement, including distributing all applicable IRS Forms W-2 and 1099-MISC to each Class Member who receives a Settlement Award along with the Settlement Award. Participating Class Members will be solely responsible for characterizing the portions of their Settlement Awards allocated to unpaid penalties and interest for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on such amounts received. Each)-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704

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Participating Class Member who receives a Settlement Award shall be responsible for his/her share of payroll taxes from the one-quarter (1/4) of the Settlement Award allocated to alleged unpaid wages. Accordingly, each Settlement Award will be reduced by applicable payroll tax withholdings and deductions, and such withheld amounts will be paid to the IRS on behalf of the Participating Class Members by the Claims Administrator. The normal employer's portion of payroll taxes, as calculated by the Claims Administrator on the one-quarter (1/4) of the Settlement Award allocated to unpaid wages, shall be separate and apart from the Net Settlement Amount. Claims Administrator will pay such amounts to the IRS on behalf of Defendants and complete all applicable tax reporting for such payments in connection with the Settlement.

f. Settlement Awards Do Not Trigger Additional Benefits: Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members shall be deemed to be income to such Class Members solely in the year in which such awards actually are received. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of such Settlement Awards will not entitle any Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any bonus, contest or other compensation or benefit plan or agreement in place during the period covered by the Settlement, nor will it entitle any Class Member to any increased retirement, 401(k) benefits or matching benefits, or deferred compensation benefits. It is the intent of this Settlement that the Settlement Awards provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendants to the Class Members in connection with this Settlement, and that the Class Members are not entitled to any new or additional compensation or benefits as a result of having received the Settlement Awards (notwithstanding any contrary language or agreement in any benefit or compensation plan document that might have been in effect during the period covered by this Settlement).

g. <u>Class Representative</u>: Subject to Court approval, Defendant H & H Management LLC agrees to pay the Class Representative, on behalf of Defendants and the Released Parties, an Enhancement Award of \$15,000.00 for her service as

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Class Representative. The Enhancement Award shall be part of the Maximum Settlement Amount. Defendants will not object to Class Counsel's application for Court approval of the Enhancement Award to Plaintiff. It is understood the Enhancement Award is in addition to any individual Settlement Award to which Plaintiff is entitled as a Class Member. The Claims Administrator will issue to the Class Representative an IRS Form 1099-MISC for the Enhancement Award, and the Class Representative will be solely responsible for correctly characterizing the Enhancement Award for tax purposes and for paying any taxes on the amounts received. Class Representative agrees to a general release of all claims in exchange for the Enhancement Payment in addition to the release described in Paragraph 18. Class Representative will not be required to submit a claim form in order to receive her Enhancement Payment and/or her individual Settlement Award under the Settlement. The Enhancement Payment approved by the Court shall be distributed to the Class Representative by the Claims Administrator within five (5) business days of the Effective Date.

- h. Establishment of Settlement Account: The Claims Administrator shall establish a settlement account for the purpose of receiving from Defendant H & H Management LLC and distributing Settlement Awards and other payments identified in this Agreement (the "Settlement Account").
- i. Funding of Settlement Account: Defendant H & H Management LLC shall fund the appropriate amounts into the Settlement Account 14 business days after the later of the notice of entry of the Final Approval Order and receipt by Defendants of the calculation of the Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members ("Funding"). The Claims Administrator will advise the Parties and their counsel regarding the final amount Defendant H & H Management LLC is required to fund into the Settlement Account, which will include (1) the aggregate amount of the Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members who submitted timely valid claim forms, which will include the aggregate amount of the normal employer payroll taxes (if any), (2) the Court-approved Enhancement Award to the Class Representative, (3) the Court-

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70 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012 (702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704 approved Class Counsel Award, and (4) the Court-approved Claims Administration Award.

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION

11. The Claims Administrator will send the Notice to the Class Members by first class United States mail as more specifically detailed in Paragraph 14. The Claims Administrator will review the Class Members' data based on Defendants' records and will calculate the probable Settlement Award to each Class Member in accordance with this Stipulation of Settlement. The Claims Administrator shall report in writing the substance of its findings to the Parties. The Claims Administrator shall be granted reasonable access to Defendants' records to perform its duties. At the request of the Parties and after receipt of funds from Defendant H & H Management LLC, the Claims Administrator shall issue and mail the Settlement Award checks to the Participating Class Members within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date. Tax treatment of the Settlement Awards will be as set forth herein, and in accordance with state and federal tax laws; provided, however, that Plaintiff and other Class Members herein acknowledge that Defendants and their counsel have not provided any tax advice. All disputes relating to the Claims Administrator's performance of its duties shall be referred to the Court, if necessary, which will have continuing jurisdiction over the terms and conditions of this Stipulation of Settlement until all payments and obligations contemplated by this Stipulation of Settlement have been fully carried out. Defendant H & H Management LLC will pay up to \$15,000.00 for the Claims Administration Award for costs incurred by the Claims Administrator for such administrator services. "Claims Administration Award" means, subject to approval by the Court, a maximum payment of \$15,000.00 for costs incurred by the Claims Administrator for such administrator services from the Maximum Settlement Amount. Should the actual amount of the Claims Administration Award be less than \$15,000.00, the difference between the lesser amount and the maximum amount set forth above shall be included within the Net Settlement Amount as detailed in Paragraph 10(c). The Claims Administration

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Award approved by the Court shall be distributed to the Claims Administrator within five (5) business days following the Effective Date of the Settlement.

<u>ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS</u>

- 12. In consideration for settling this matter and in exchange for the release of claims by the Settlement Class, and subject to final approval or modification by the Court, Defendants agree not to object to an award of up to a maximum of one-third of the Maximum Settlement Amount, which equals \$76,666.67, for all current and future attorneys' fees of Class Counsel, and up to \$10,000.00 in actual costs and expenses, Class Counsel incurred in the Action. "Class Counsel Award" means a maximum payment of the foregoing amounts from the Maximum Settlement Amount. Defendants will not object to Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and costs up to the maximum amounts set forth above. The amounts set forth above will cover all work performed and all fees and costs incurred to date, and all work to be performed and all fees and costs to be incurred in connection with the approval by the Court of this Stipulation of Settlement, obtaining judgment in the Action, and any challenges, writs, or appeals of the Settlement. Should Class Counsel request a lesser amount, or the Court approve a lesser amount for the Class Counsel Award, the difference between the lesser amount and the maximum amount set forth above shall be included within the Net Settlement Amount as detailed in Paragraph 10(c).
- 13. The Class Counsel Award approved by the Court shall be distributed to Class Counsel by the Claims Administrator within five (5) business days following the Effective Date of the Settlement. An IRS Form 1099 will be issued to Class Counsel for the Amount of the Class Counsel Award.

NOTICE TO THE SETTLEMENT CLASS

- 14. Notice of this Settlement shall be sent to Class Members via U.S. Mail.
- a. U.S. Mail. The Notice shall be sent by the Claims Administrator to the Class Members by first class United States mail based on the following procedure. Any returned envelopes from this mailing with forwarding addresses will be used by the

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Claims Administrator to forward the Notice to such Class Members at such forwarding addresses.

i. Within ten (10) business days of notice of entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Defendants shall provide to the Claims Administrator a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, which will list for each Class Member the Class Member's name, last-known address, social security number, and total hours worked during the Class Period. The Parties agree that each Class Member's name, last-known address, social security number, total hours worked, and any other Settlement Class data, will be used only by the Claims Administrator for the sole purpose of effectuating the Settlement, and will not be provided to Class Counsel. The spreadsheet shall be based on Defendants' payroll and/or personnel records, and in a format reasonably acceptable to the Claims Administrator. Defendants agree to consult with the Claims Administrator prior to the production date to ensure that the format will be acceptable to the Claims Administrator.

ii. The Claims Administrator will run a check of the Class Members' last-known addresses against those on file with the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address List. Within fourteen (14) business days of receipt of Defendant's Class Member data, the Claims Administrator will mail the Notice to the Class Members. The Class Members will have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the Claims Administrator's initial mailing of the Notice within which to return claim forms or requests for exclusion, which must be received or postmarked no later than the 30th day after the date of initial mailing, or to file with the Court and serve on Class Counsel and defense counsel objections to the Stipulation of Settlement.

iii. Notices returned to the Claims Administrator as nondelivered shall be resent to the forwarding address, if any, on the returned envelope. If there is no forwarding address, the Claims Administrator will do a computer search (commonly known as a skip-trace) for a new address using the Class Member's social security number. Said search will be performed by the Claims Administrator one time

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for each Notice returned without a forwarding address per Class Member. Upon completion of these steps by the Claims Administrator, Defendants and the Claims Administrator shall be deemed to have satisfied their obligations to provide the Notice to the affected Class Member, and, regardless of whether the affected Class Member actually receives the Notice, the affected Class Member shall remain a member of the Settlement Class and shall be bound by all the terms of the Settlement and the Court's Final Approval Order.

i۷. Class Counsel shall provide to the Court, at least seven (7) calendar days before the final fairness hearing, a declaration by the Claims Administrator of due diligence and proof of mailing of the Notice.

CLAIMS PROCESS

15. Each Class Member who wishes to receive a Settlement Award must complete and return a Claim Form, as provided for in the Notice, also known as a claims-made basis process. Class Members will have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of initial mailing of the Claim Forms within which to return by mail their Claim Forms to the Claims Administrator, which must be received or postmarked no later than the 30th calendar day after the date of initial mailing, or to return their Claim Forms electronically via facsimile. Class Members are responsible for maintaining a photocopy of the fully completed Claim Form and record of proof of mailing. Claim Forms must be signed, dated, and completed in full to be valid. If a Claim Form is timely received, but not completed in full, the Claims Administrator will send one deficiency notice to the Class Member advising the Class Member to cure the deficiency. The deficiency notice will provide the Class Member a maximum of fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of mailing of the deficiency notice to cure the deficiency; the completed Claim Form must be received by the Claims Administrator or postmarked no later than the fifteenth (15th) calendar day after the date of mailing of the deficiency notice, or it must be rejected as untimely by the Claims Administrator unless otherwise mutually agreed upon in writing by the Parties. The Parties agree to

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meet and confer on late and deficient Claim Forms, and may mutually agree in writing to accept late or deficient Claim Forms provided good cause is shown. All Class Members who have submitted timely and valid Claim Forms are referenced herein as Participating Class Members. The Parties further agree that the Class Representative (Plaintiff Mariah Martin) shall have no obligation to complete and return a Claim Form in order to receive her individual Settlement Award or her Enhancement Award, though she may nevertheless do so at the request of the Claims Administrator for recordkeeping purposes, out of an abundance of caution, or for similar reasons.

EXCLUSION PROCESS

16. A Class Member may request to be excluded from the effect of this Agreement, and any payment of amounts under this Agreement, by submitting a request for exclusion to the Claims Administrator stating that the Class Member wants to be excluded from this Action. Class Members will have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of initial mailing of the Notice within which to return by mail or fax a request for exclusion to the Claims Administrator, which request must be received or postmarked by the 30th calendar day after the date of initial mailing. The Claims Administrator will not send any reminder notices to Class Members about the exclusion process. No request for exclusion will be honored if received after the thirty (30) calendar-day period, unless such request is received within a reasonable time thereafter and is postmarked no later than the 30th calendar day after the date of initial mailing. Class Members are responsible for maintaining a photocopy of the request for exclusion and record of proof of mailing. Unless a timely and valid request for exclusion is received consistent with the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement, the Class Member shall be bound by this Stipulation of Settlement and the Settlement Class release. If a Class Member submits both a request for exclusion and a Claim Form, the request for exclusion will be rejected and the Claim Form will be accepted. The Parties agree to meet and confer if the intent of a particular request for exclusion is ambiguous and may 70 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012 (702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704 1

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mutually agree to accept such request for exclusion for good cause shown; ambiguous does not mean untimely requests for exclusion.

OBJECTION PROCESS

17. A Class Member may object to this Settlement. For a Class Member to object to the Settlement, a Class Member must file with the Court no later than the Objection Deadline a notice of objection, signed by the Class Member or his or her counsel, stating the Class Member's: (i) name; (ii) current address; (iii) telephone number; (iv) dates of employment with Employer; (v) last 4-digits of his or her social security number; and (vi) basis of the objection. The Class Member objecting to the settlement must also serve a copy of his or her notice of objection on counsel for the Parties and the Claims Administrator by the Objection Deadline. The postmark date of the filing and service shall be deemed the exclusive means for determining whether the notice of objection is timely. The Claims Administrator will not send any reminder notices to Class Members about the objection process. Class Members who fail to make objections in the manner specified above shall be deemed to have waived any objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (whether by appeal or otherwise) to the Settlement. Class Members who file and serve timely notices of objection will have a right to appear at the final fairness hearing before the Court in order to have their objections heard by the Court. At no time shall any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit written objections to the Settlement or appeal from the Court's Final Approval Order. Class Counsel shall not represent any Class Members with respect to any such objections to this Settlement. If the Court rejects the Class Member's objection, that Class Member will still be bound by the terms of this Agreement.

RELEASE OF CLAIMS

18. Upon final approval by the Court of this Stipulation of Settlement, and except as to such rights or claims as may be created by this Stipulation of Settlement, the Parties agree to the following:

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b. There may exist facts and/or damages pertaining to any or all of the Released Claims in this Paragraph 18 of which Plaintiff and/or Class Members have no knowledge, reason to know, or suspicion at the time the Parties, Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel sign this the Agreement, and that Plaintiff and/or Class Members may later discover facts different from or in addition to those he or she now knows or believes to be true. The Release in this Paragraph 18 shall apply to all such unknown and unanticipated damages and claims, as well as to those now known or disclosed, based on the facts alleged in Complaint or the Action, and, further, that the Release remains in full force and effect in all respects notwithstanding any such different or additional facts. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Agreement releases any claims that cannot be released as a matter of law.

c. Plaintiff and each Class Member who has not submitted a timely and valid request for exclusion further agree to forever refrain and forbear from commencing, instituting, or prosecuting any lawsuit, action, motion, or other proceeding, in law, equity, or otherwise, against the Released Parties relating to, or arising from, the matters released in this Paragraph 18, provided, however, that nothing

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contained in this Agreement shall affect the ability of a Party to commence any proceeding or take any action to enforce the terms of this Agreement.

DUTIES OF THE PARTIES PRIOR TO COURT APPROVAL

- 19. Within fourteen (14) calendar days from execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, Class Counsel shall file a Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, submit this Stipulation of Settlement, and request a determination by the Court as to the Settlement's fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness. In so doing, Class Counsel shall apply to the Court for the entry of the Preliminary Approval Order attached hereto as Exhibit C and in substantially the following form:
- a. Scheduling a final fairness hearing and briefing deadline(s) on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, including payment of up to the Net Settlement Amount to claims-making Class Members, attorneys' fees and costs, costs of administration, and the Enhancement Award should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the members of the Settlement Class;
- b. Certifying the Settlement Class, Plaintiff as Class Representative, and Christian Gabroy, Esq., and Kaine Messer, Esq., of Gabroy | Messer and Mark Thierman, Esq., Joshua Buck, Esq., Leah Jones, Esq., and Joshua R. Hendrickson, Esq., of Thierman Buck LLP as Class Counsel;
- Approving as to form and content (1) the proposed Notice attached C. hereto as Exhibit A, and (2) the Claim Form attached hereto as Exhibit B;
- d. Approving the manner and method for Class Members to request exclusion from the Settlement as contained herein and within the Notice:
- Directing the mailing of the Notice by first class mail to the Class e. Members;
- f. Preliminarily approving the Settlement subject only to the objections of Class Members and final review by the Court; and,
- Enjoining Plaintiff and all Class Members from filing or prosecuting g. any other cases, claims, suits, or administrative proceedings (including filing claims

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with the Nevada Office of the Labor Commissioner) regarding claims released by the Settlement unless and until such Class Members have filed valid Requests for Exclusion with the Claims Administrator and the time for filing claims with the Claims Administrator has elapsed.

20. To effectuate the Settlement, the Parties agree all formal and informal discovery shall be stayed pending Court approval of the Settlement. The Parties also agree that all Court deadlines be continued pending preliminary approval of the Settlement.

DUTIES OF THE PARTIES FOLLOWING FINAL COURT APPROVAL

- 21. Following notification of final approval by the Court of the Settlement provided for in this Stipulation of Settlement, Class Counsel will submit a proposed Court's Final Approval Order in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit D:
- a. Approving the Settlement, adjudging the terms thereof to be fair, reasonable, and adequate, and directing consummation of its terms and provisions;
- b. Approving Class Counsel's application for the Class Counsel Award of attorneys' fees and actual costs not to exceed the maximum amount set forth herein:
- Approving the Enhancement Award to the Class Representative C. not to exceed the maximum amount set forth herein;
- d. claims Approving the Claims Administration Award for administration actual costs not to exceed the maximum amount set forth herein;
- e. Directing Defendants to fund the Settlement Account with the appropriate amount no later than fourteen (14) business days following the later of the notice of entry of the Final Approval Order and the receipt by Defendants of the calculation of the Settlement Awards and payroll taxes from the Claims Administrator pursuant to Paragraph 10(e); and,
- f. Entering judgment dismissing this Action on the merits, and permanently barring and enjoining all members of the Settlement Class from

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prosecuting against Defendants or any Released Party any individual or class or collective claims released herein pursuant to Paragraph 18 above.

PARTIES' AUTHORITY

22. The signatories hereto hereby represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Stipulation of Settlement and bind the Parties hereto to the terms and conditions thereof.

MUTUAL FULL COOPERATION

23. The Parties agree to fully cooperate with each other to accomplish the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement, including but not limited to, execution of such documents and taking such other action as reasonably may be necessary to implement the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement. The Parties to this Stipulation of Settlement shall use their reasonable best efforts, including all efforts contemplated by this Stipulation of Settlement and any other efforts that may become necessary by order of the Court, or otherwise, to effectuate this Stipulation of Settlement and the terms set forth herein. As soon as practicable after execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, Class Counsel shall, with the assistance and cooperation of Defendants and their counsel, take all necessary steps to secure the Court's final approval of this Stipulation of Settlement.

NO PRIOR ASSIGNMENTS

24. The Parties and their respective counsel represent, covenant, 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 right herein released and discharged.

NO ADMISSION

25. Nothing contained herein, nor the consummation of this Stipulation of Settlement, is to be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendants or Plaintiff. Each of the Parties

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hereto has entered into this Stipulation of Settlement solely with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation with the attendant inconvenience and expenses.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

26. In the event one or more of the Parties to this Stipulation of Settlement institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Stipulation of Settlement or to declare rights or obligations under this Stipulation of Settlement, the successful party or Parties shall be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful party or Parties' reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

NOTICES

27. Unless otherwise specifically provided herein, all notices, demands, or other communications given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given as of the first business day after mailing by overnight courier with confirmed delivery, addressed as follows:

To Plaintiff and the Settlement Class:

Christian Gabroy Kaine Messer GABROY | MESSER 170 South Green Valley Parkway Suite 280 Henderson, NV 89012

To Defendants:

Jared Hague SUTTON | HAGUE 6671 South Las Vegas Blvd. Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89119

Steve Guinn Laxalt Law Group LTD 9790 Gateway Drive Suite 200 Reno, NV 89521

CONSTRUCTION

28. The Parties agree that the terms and conditions of this Stipulation of Settlement are the result of lengthy, intensive arm's-length negotiations between the Page 23

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Parties, and this Stipulation of Settlement shall not be construed in favor of or against any Party by reason of the extent to which any Party or his, her, or its counsel participated in the drafting of this Stipulation of Settlement.

<u>CAPTIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS</u>

29. Paragraph titles or captions contained herein are inserted as a matter of convenience and for reference, and in no way define, limit, extend, or describe the scope of this Stipulation of Settlement or any provision of it. Each term of this Stipulation of Settlement is contractual and not merely a recital.

MODIFICATION

30. This Stipulation of Settlement may not be changed, altered, or modified, except in writing and signed by the Parties hereto and approved by the Court. This Stipulation of Settlement may not be discharged except by performance in accordance with its terms or by a writing signed by the Parties.

INTEGRATION CLAUSE

31. This Stipulation of Settlement contains the entire agreement between the Parties relating to the settlement and transaction contemplated hereby, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements, whether oral or written and whether by a Party or such Party's legal counsel, are merged herein. No rights hereunder may be waived except in writing.

BINDING ON ASSIGNS

32. This Stipulation of Settlement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, trustees, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns; provided, however, that a Party's rights and obligations hereunder may not be assigned or delegated without the express prior written consent of the other Parties.

CLASS MEMBER SIGNATORIES

33. It is agreed that because the Class Members are so numerous, it is impossible or impractical to have each Class Member execute this Stipulation of (702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704

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Settlement. The Notice will advise all Class Members of the binding nature of the release, and the release shall have the same force and effect as if this Stipulation of Settlement were executed by each Class Member.

COUNTERPARTS

34. This Stipulation of Settlement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile and digital signatures, and when each party has signed and delivered at least one such counterpart, each counterpart, including email and PDF versions, shall be deemed an original and, when taken together with other signed counterparts, shall constitute one Stipulation of Settlement binding upon and effective as to all Parties.

NO ADVERSE OR RETALIATORY ACTION

35. Defendants and the Released Parties will not take any adverse or retaliatory action against the Class Representative nor any Class Member.

///

GABROY | MESSER

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto knowingly and voluntarily executed this Stipulation of Settlement as of the date(s) set forth below:

Plaintiff/Class Representative

DATED: 10 / 23 / 2023 PLAINTIFF MARIAH MARTIN

By: Mariah Martin

Defendants

DATED: 10-23-2023 DED Ops NV LLC

By: 10-23-2023

DATED: 10.06.2023 H&H MANAGEMENT LLC

Its Manager

EXHIBIT A

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARIAH MARTIN, on behalf of)	A-22-863216-C
herself and all others similarly)	Department 1
situated,)	
)	NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION
V.)	SETTLEMENT
)	
DED OPS NV LLC d/b/a and)	
a/k/a WALLFLOWER also d/b/a)	
and a/k/a WALLFLOWER)	
CANNABIS HOUSE; H & H)	
MANAGEMENT LLC.)	
)	
	•	

TO: All hourly paid non-overtime exempt persons employed by Defendants in the state of Nevada who earned less than 1½ times the applicable minimum wage and who worked over eight (8) hours a twenty-four (24) hour period and were not paid overtime properly in accordance with Nevada law at any time from December 29, 2019 until [DATE THE COURT GRANTS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL].

THIS NOTICE AFFECTS YOUR RIGHTS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

1. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a proposed settlement ("Settlement") of the above-caption
class action Lawsuit ("Lawsuit") pending in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada (t
"Court"), has been reached by the Parties and granted preliminary approval by the Court supervising t
Lawsuit.

2. The purpose of this Notice is to describe the Lawsuit, to inform you of the terms of the propose
Settlement, and to inform you of your rights and options in connection with the proposed Settlement. Th
proposed Settlement will resolve all claims in this Lawsuit. A final fairness hearing will be held on
20_ at in Department 1 to determine whether the Settlement should be granted final approval

3.	Because	your rights	may be	affected,	it is e	xtremely	important	that you	read	this Notice
careful	l ly. To par	ticipate in th	e Settleme	nt and rece	eive a n	nonetary S	ettlement A	ward, you	must c	complete and
return a	a Claim Fo	rm by		Unless yo	ou choo	ose to excl	ude yourself	("opt out") of th	e Settlement,
you wil	ll be boun	d by the Set	tlement if	it is appro	ved by	the Cour	t and by any	y order en	tered 1	by the Court
subject	to the con	nditions in th	e Parties'	Joint Stipu	lation c	of Settleme	ent and Rele	ase.		-

SUMMARY OF THE LAWSUIT

- 4. On December 29, 2022, Plaintiff Mariah Martin, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, filed a Lawsuit against Defendants in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, Case No. A-22-863216-C. In the Complaint, Plaintiff alleged that Defendants failed to pay full overtime in violation of NRS § 608.018 and failed to pay all wages due and owing in violation of NRS § 608.020 through NRS 608.050 and NRS § 608.140. Defendants deny all allegations asserted in the Lawsuit and further deny that they have violated the law in any respect.
- 5. After extensive exchange of relevant information and negotiations, the Parties reached a Settlement in good faith that is memorialized in the Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release ("Agreement"). The terms of the Settlement and the Agreement are generally summarized in this Notice.

6. You have received this Notice because Defendants' records show you may be a Class Member (as defined in Paragraph 14 herein) whose rights may be affected by this Settlement.

POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

- 7. Defendants deny liability for all claims that were or could have been brought in the Lawsuit. Defendants have denied that they have violated any wage and hour, overtime, or other law under any federal or state constitution, statute or regulation. Defendants contend that all their employees have been compensated in compliance with the law, the Nevada Constitution, and the Nevada Revised Statutes. Defendants have asserted and continue to assert defenses to the claims in the Lawsuit and have expressly denied and continue to deny any wrongdoing or legal liability arising out of any of the facts or conduct alleged in the Lawsuit. Defendants' entry into this Settlement and the consummation of this Settlement is not an admission of any liability or wrongdoing by Defendants or any person. Defendants specifically deny any liability, wrongdoing, or culpability of any kind whatsoever for the claims alleged and released in the Lawsuit, and further deny that, for any purpose other than settling, the Lawsuit is appropriate for class treatment.
- 8. Counsel for the Plaintiff's Counsel" or "Class Counsel") has extensively investigated and researched the facts and circumstances underlying the issues raised in the Lawsuit, and the law applicable thereto.
- 9. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel recognize the expense and length of continued proceedings necessary to continue the Lawsuit against Defendants through trial and through any possible appeals. Plaintiff's Counsel has also taken into account the uncertainty of the outcome of further litigation, including the risk that the class might not be finally certified under the court rules as well as the difficulties and delays generally inherent in such lawsuits.
- 10. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Counsel are also aware of the burdens of proof necessary to establish liability for the claims, of Defendants' defenses thereto, and of the difficulties in establishing damages for the Class Members (as defined in Paragraph 14 herein). Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff's Counsel believes the proposed Settlement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Class Members.
- 11. Although Defendants believe they have meritorious defenses to the Lawsuit, Defendants have concluded that the continued litigation of Plaintiff's claims and defense of this Lawsuit would be lengthy and expensive for all Parties. This Settlement is not an admission of any liability or wrongdoing by any Defendant, Released Parties (as defined in Paragraph 27 herein), or person, which have agreed to settle this Lawsuit and settle this case solely to avoid the uncertainties and costs of litigation and so they can buy their peace.
- 12. The Court has made no ruling on the merits of the claims and has determined only that certification of the Class for settlement purposes is appropriate under Nevada law.

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT

13.	Class Counsel. On	, the Court appointed the following attorneys as Plaintiff's
Couns	el to represent the Class in th	is Lawsuit: Gabroy Messer, 170 South Green Valley Parkway, Suite 280,
Hende	rson, Nevada 89012 and Thi	erman Buck LLP, 7287 Lakeside Drive, Reno Nevada, 89511.
14.	Class Definition. On	, for purposes of the proposed Settlement, the Eighth
Judicia	l District Court, Clark Count	y, Nevada, preliminarily certified a Class consisting of all hourly paid non-
exemp	t persons employed by Defen	ndants in the state of Nevada who earned less than 1 ½ times the applicable
minim	um wage and who worked ov	ver eight (8) hours in a workday at any time from December 29, 2019 until
[DATI	E COURT GRANTS PREI	LIMINARY APPROVAL] (the "Settlement Class," and each individual
within	the Settlement Class, a "Class	s Member'').

- 15. The *Class Period* is December 29, 2019 through [DATE COURT GRANTS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL].
 16. *Claims Administrator*. The Court has appointed ________, as Claims Administrator to notify the Class and coordinate the claims process.
 17. If you are a member of the Class, you will be bound by the proposed Settlement described below if it
 - SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT TERMS

is approved, unless you make a written request for exclusion (to "opt out") in the manner described below.

The following is a summary of the proposed Settlement between the Plaintiff, the Class, and Defendants. The specific and complete terms are described in the Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release (the "Settlement"), a copy of which is available for your review as set forth at the end of this Notice.

- 18. **Conditions of the Settlement**. This Settlement is conditioned upon the Court entering an order at or following the final fairness hearing approving the Settlement, as agreed by Plaintiff and Defendants, as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class with such order not being subject to any appeal or modification as provided for in the Settlement.
- 19. *Final Fairness Hearing*. A final fairness hearing will be held in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County Nevada, on _____ at ____ in the Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 5C, 200 Lewis Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89101, before the Hon. Bita Yeagar, District Judge. At this hearing, the Court will determine whether the proposed Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable, whether it should be approved by the Court, and whether the Lawsuit should be dismissed on the merits with prejudice as a result of the Settlement. The hearing may be adjourned, continued, and/or rescheduled by the Court from time to time as the Court may direct without further notice. You do not need to attend that hearing to participate in the proposed Settlement.
- 20. **Settlement Fund.** The Settlement Agreement provides that Defendant H & H Management LLC will pay a total not to exceed \$230,000.00 (the "Settlement Fund") to fully resolve all issues in the Lawsuit. After the Court finally approves the Settlement and after deduction of the court-approved deductions from the Settlement Fund, as referenced immediately below, monetary Settlement Awards will be distributed to each member of the Class who: (a) does not opt out; and (b) fully completes and timely mails a valid Claim Form ("Participating Class Members").
- 21. *Deductions from the Settlement Fund*. The following deductions will be made from the Settlement Fund:
- a. Attorneys' Fees and Expense Award. As part of the Settlement approval process, Class Counsel (Plaintiff's Counsel) will seek approval from the Court of an award of attorneys' fees of \$76,666.67 for all current and future attorneys' fees and up to \$10,000.00 in costs and expenses incurred in the Lawsuit as the "Class Counsel Award." Class Counsel will not be permitted to petition the Court for any additional payments for fees, costs, or interest. You will not be required to pay Plaintiff's Counsel separately for their representation of the Class in the Lawsuit.
- b. *Enhancement Award*. Class Counsel will also seek approval from the Court for the payment of an Enhancement Award to Class Representative Mariah Martin (named Plaintiff) in this Lawsuit, for a total of \$15,000.00, for her prosecution of this case on behalf of the Class. Mariah Martin, as the Class Representative, is the only Class Member eligible for this \$15,000.00 award.
- c. Net Settlement Amount to Be Distributed to Participating Class Members. The sum expected to remain following the above-referenced deductions and the deduction for the costs of claims administration (up to \$15,000.00) is \$113,333.33, also referenced as "Net Settlement Amount." The Net

Settlement Amount will be distributed among those Class Members who do not opt out and who timely mail a valid, fully-completed Claim Form, known as "Participating Class Members."

22. Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members: The Claims Administrator will calculate the Settlement Award for each Participating Class Member by utilizing the following formula: the Net Settlement Amount shall be allocated based on the number of hours worked by each Class Member during the Class Period. Any amounts of the Net Settlement Amount allocated to Class Members who do not become Participating Class Members will be reverted to Defendant H & H Management LLC. Within 30 days after the Effective Date of the Settlement, the Claims Administrator will mail Settlement Award checks to Participating Class Members.

23. Tax Matters.

- a. Under the terms of the Settlement, twenty-five percent (25%) of the Settlement Award to each Participating Class Member will be paid as alleged unpaid wages, from which federal withholding taxes will be deducted and for which employer tax payments will be made, and seventy-five percent (75%) of the Settlement Award to each Participating Class Member will be paid as alleged unpaid penalties and interest, from which federal withholding taxes will not be deducted. IRS Forms W-2 and 1099-MISC, respectively, will issue for the Settlement Award as appropriate.
- b. Participating Class Members should consult with their tax advisors concerning any tax consequences of the payments that they receive under the Settlement. Neither the Parties, the Claims Administrator, nor the attorneys for the Parties are providing tax advice.
- 24. *Uncashed Checks*. As approved by the Court, checks issued to Participating Class Members will be valid for 90 days following issuance. If any check mailed to a Participating Class Member is not cashed or deposited within 90 days after issuance, the check will be cancelled, and the amount of that check will be reverted to Defendant H & H Management LLC.

RELEASE OF PARTIES AND CLAIMS

- 25. All payments under this Settlement will be paid specifically in exchange for the release of the Released Parties (as defined in Paragraph 27 herein) from the Class Members' Released Claims and the Class Representative's Released Claims respectively and for the covenant not to sue concerning all Released Claims.
- 26. If the Settlement is approved and if the final fairness hearing dismissing the Lawsuit is entered and the Judgment becomes final, those Class Members who have not validly requested exclusion from the Settlement will be bound by the terms of the proposed Settlement, including releases of parties and the claims set forth at paragraphs 27 and 28 below.
- 27. **Released Parties.** "Released Parties" collectively means (i) Defendants (ii) Defendants' respective past, present, and future parents, subsidiaries, joint ventures, and affiliates; (iii) the past, present, and future shareholders, directors, owners, officers, members, managers, agents, employees, attorneys, accountants, investigators, partners, administrators, assigns, insurers, predecessors, successors, licensors, licensees, subsidiaries, and assigns of any of the foregoing; and (iv) any individual or entity which could be jointly liable with any of the foregoing.

28. Releases of Claims.

a. "Class Members' Released Claims" means the claims to be released by Class Members who do not timely file a valid request for exclusion, for any and all applicable local, state, and federal law wage-and-hour claims (including, but not necessarily limited to, contractual or common law claims, waiting time penalty claims, claims arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act, claims arising under the Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 608, Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 608, and the Nevada Constitution Art. 15 § 16)

and all wage-and-hour claims asserted in or that could have been asserted in this dispute, whether known or unknown, arising during the Class Period or during any time that could reasonably be considered to be equitably tolled thereto, and which arose out of or could have arisen out of the facts alleged in this action.

b. There may exist facts and/or damages pertaining to any or all of the Class Members' Released Claims in paragraph 28.a., above, of which Plaintiff and Class Members have no knowledge, reason to know, or suspicion at the time the Parties sign the Agreement, and that a Class Member may later discover facts different from or in addition to those he or she now knows or believes to be true. The Release at paragraph 28.a. shall apply to all such unknown and unanticipated damages and claims, as well as to those now known or disclosed, based on the facts alleged in Complaint, and, further, that the Release remains in full force and effect in all respects notwithstanding any such different or additional facts.

PROCEDURE FOR MONETARY RECOVERY

29.	Deadline to	Submit	Claim F	Form. If yo	ou want to	participate	in the	Settlement	and	receive	money
under	the Settlemen	t, you mu	st fully co	mplete, si	gn, and ma	ail the Claim	Form	no later th	an _		, as
set for	th in detail be	low at par	agraphs 3	30-31.							

- 30. **Completing a Claim Form:** A Claim Form is attached. You must complete and sign the Claim Form and mail it to the Claims Administrator at the above address. The completed, signed Claim Form must be postmarked and mailed on or before ______. Class Members are responsible to maintain a photocopy of the fully completed Claim Form and proof of mailing.
- 31. A Claim Form is timely and valid only if it is fully completed, signed, and postmarked on or before the deadline specified in paragraphs 29 and 30.
- 32. If you are a Class Member and you do not choose to exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will be bound by all the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, including a full release of claims that will prevent you from separately suing the Released Parties for the Class Members' Released Claims settled in this case.
- 33. ANY CLASS MEMBER WHO DOES NOT SUBMIT A TIMELY, VALID, AND FULLY-COMPLETED CLAIM FORM WILL NOT RECEIVE A SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT FUND. IF YOU DO NOTHING THAT IS, IF YOU DO NOT MAIL A TIMELY VALID, AND FULLY-COMPLETED CLAIM FORM, YOU WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO A SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT FUND. HOWEVER, YOU WILL BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE RELEASE REFERENCED AT PARAGRAPHS 27 AND 28 ABOVE, EVEN THOUGH YOU DID NOT RECEIVE ANY MONEY, UNLESS YOU EXCLUDE YOURSELF IN WRITING FROM THE SETTLEMENT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS 34 AND 35 BELOW.

PROCEDURE FOR EXCLUSION FROM THE SETTLEMENT

34. Request for Exclusion. Any Class Member who does NOT wish to participate in the Settlement may
exclude himself or herself (i.e., "opt-out") by sending a request for exclusion to the Claims Administrator
stating that the Class Member wants to be excluded from this Settlement. The request for exclusion must be
signed, dated and mailed to:

- 35. **Deadline for Request for Exclusion.** The request for exclusion must be **postmarked no later than**______. If you submit request for exclusion **postmarked after** ______, it will be rejected, and you will be bound by the Release and all other Settlement Terms. If you submit a request for exclusion and a Claim Form, your request for exclusion will be rejected and your Claim Form will be accepted.
- 36. Consequences of Submitting Request for Exclusion. Any person who sends a timely request for exclusion shall, upon receipt by the Claims Administrator, no longer be a member of the Settlement Class,

shall be barred from participating in any portion of the Settlement, and shall receive no benefits from the Settlement. Any such person, at their own expense, may pursue individually any claims he/she may have against Defendants. If you wish to exclude yourself and wish to pursue individual action, you should be aware there are time limits on your right to file any such individual action.

PROCEDURE FOR OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

37. <i>Objections to the Settlement</i> . Any Class Member who wishes to object to the Settlement must file
with the Court and serve on counsel for both Parties and the Claims Administrator a written statement
objecting to the Settlement. Such written statement must be filed with the Court and served on counsel for
the Parties no later than No Class Member who submits a request for exclusion can object
to the Settlement. No other Class Member shall be entitled to be heard at the final fairness hearing (whether
individually or through separate counsel) to object to the Settlement, and no written objections or briefs
submitted by any Class Member shall be received or considered by the Court at the final fairness hearing,
unless copies of any written objections or briefs, shall have been timely filed with the Court and served on the
Claims Administrator and counsel for all Parties. Any written objections and briefs must be served via mail
on the Claims Administrator and counsel for the Parties at the following addresses:
To Plaintiff and the Settlement Class (Class Counsel):
Christian Gabroy
Kaine Messer
Gabroy Messer
170 South Green Valley Parkway
Suite 280
Henderson, NV 89012
To Defendants:
Jared Hague
SUTTON HAGUE
6671 South Las Vegas Blvd.
Suite 210Las Vegas, NV 89119
Steve Guinn
LAXALT LAW GROUP LTD
9790 Gateway Drive
Suite 200
Reno, NV 89521
To Claims Administrator:

- Objections Must be Submitted Timely and In Writing. Any Class Member who does not timely file with the Court and serve on counsel his or her written objections in the manner provided above shall be deemed to have waived such objections and shall be foreclosed from making any objections (by appeal or otherwise) to the proposed Settlement.
- 39. Any Class Member who is satisfied with the proposed Settlement can but need not appear at the final fairness hearing.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

40. If you move after receiving this Notice, if it was misaddressed, or if for any reason you want your payment or future correspondence concerning this Lawsuit and the Settlement to be sent to a different address, you should supply your current preferred address to the Claims Administrator at the address listed in paragraph 37 above.

EXAMINATION OF THE PAPERS AND ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES

- 41. The foregoing is only a summary of the Lawsuit and the proposed Settlement and does not purport to be comprehensive. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the Lawsuit and the proposed Settlement, you may refer to the pleadings, the Settlement Agreement, and other papers filed in the Lawsuit, which may be inspected at the Clerk's Office of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Regional Justice Center, 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, during regular business hours of each court day.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT, THE JUDGE, OR DEFENDANT WITH INQUIRIES.

EXHIBIT B

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK MARIAH MARTIN v. DED OPS NV LLC, et al. CASE NO. A-22-863216-C

List ID: [ID]

CLAIM FORM

[Barcode]

[Class Member Name] [Address 1] [Address 2] [City], [State] [ZIP]	If your name and address is different from what is printed to the left, please provide updated information:				
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	sign and return this Claim Form postmarked no later than [30 ITIAL MAILING OF THE NOTICE]. The Claim Form must be elow address.				
Wallflower adv. Martin [Claims Administrator] [Address/Phone/Fax]	Claims Administrator				
	WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT AND E OF THE SETTLEMENT FUNDS				
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL] for DED Ops NV LLC d/b/a	f hours worked between December 29, 2019 and [DATE COURT GRANTS a and a/k/a Wallflower also d/b/a and a/k/a Wallflower Cannabis House a non-exempt employee. Defendants' records show that, within that period,				
Based on this information, the current estimated value of your s	settlement benefit is \$				
documentation (such as pay stubs or written informat	number of applicable hours you worked, you must provide any ion) to support your claim and submit it with this form. If there i, and the dispute cannot be resolved informally, the dispute will in the Notice that accompanies this claim form.				
I believe that the Defendants' estimate of the number class period. (If you agree with the Defendants' estimate of the number class period.)	of hours is incorrect and that I worked hours during the ate, leave blank.)				
Claim Form. By signing below, I am making my claim f	ettlement and Release as described in the Notice enclosed with this for a share of the Settlement and I agree to the information above. tate of Nevada that the foregoing information supplied is true:				
Signature	Date Signed				
Printed Name	() Daytime Phone Number				
Social Security Number (for taxing reporting)					

Questions? Call Claims Administrator toll-free at 1-_____

EXHIBIT C

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ey Pkw Nevada AX: (7	15
. Green Valley Pkwy., Suit Henderson, Nevada 89012 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259	16
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GABROY | MESSER

1	ORDR
2	Christian Gabroy Nev. Bar No. 8805
3	Kaine Messer Nev. Bar No. 14240
4	GABROY MESSER The District at Green Valley Ranch
5	170 South Green Valley Parkway Suite 280
6	Henderson, Nevada 89012 Tel: (702) 259-7777
١	Fax: (702) 259-7774
7	christian@gabroy.com
8	kmesser@gabroy.com
9	Mark R. Thierman Nev. Bar No. 8285
10	Joshua D. Buck Nev. Bar No. 12187
11	Leah L. Jones Nev. Bar No. 13161
' '	Joshua R. Hendrickson
12	Nev. Bar No. 12225
13	THIERMAN BUCK LLP 7287 Lakeside Drive
14	Reno, Nevada 89511 Tel: (775) 284-1500
15	Fax: (775) 703-5027 mark@thiermanbuck.com
	josh@thiermanbuck.com
16	leah@thiermanbuck.com
17	joshh@thiermanbuck.com
	Attorneys for Plaintiff

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARIAH MARTIN, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

DED OPS NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER also d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER CANNABIS HOUSE; H & H MANAGEMENT LLC; DOES 1 through 50; inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-22-863216-C Dept. No.: 1

ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

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TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNSEL OF RECORD:

The Joint Motion For Preliminary Approval Of Class Action Settlement came before this Court, the Honorable Bita Yeager presiding, on _____, 2023. This Court, having considered the papers submitted in support of the application of the parties, HEREBY ORDERS THE FOLLOWING:

- This Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement and the 1. Settlement Class based upon the terms set forth in the Joint Stipulation of Settlement ("Settlement" or "Agreement") filed herewith. The Settlement appears to be fair, adequate and reasonable to the Class.
- 2. The Settlement falls within the range of reasonableness and appears to be presumptively valid, subject only to any objections that may be raised at the final fairness hearing.
- 3. A final fairness hearing on the question of whether the proposed Settlement, attorneys' fees to Class Counsel, and the Class Representative Enhancement Award should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to the members of the Class is scheduled in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below.
- 4. This Court approves, as to form and content, the Notice of Class Action Settlement (the "Notice"), in substantially the form attached to the Settlement as Exhibit A, and the Claim Form (the "claim Form"), in substantially the form attached to the Settlement as Exhibit B. This Court approves the procedure for Class Members to participate in, to exclude themselves (opt out of), and to object to the Settlement as set forth in the Notice.
- 5. This Court directs the mailing of the Notice and the Claim Form by first class mail to the Class Members in accordance with the Implementation Schedule set forth below and the procedures in the Settlement. This Court finds the dates selected for the mailing and distribution of the Notice, as set forth in the Implementation Schedule, meet the requirements of due process and provide the best notice

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practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto.

- 6. It is ordered that the Settlement Class is preliminarily certified for settlement purposes only.
- 7. This Court confirms Plaintiff Mariah Martin as Class Representative and Christian Gabroy, Esq., and Kaine Messer, Esq., of Gabroy | Messer and Mark Thierman, Esq., Joshua Buck, Esq., Leah Jones, Esq., and Joshua R. Hendrickson, Esq., of Thierman Buck LLP as Class Counsel.
 - 8. This Court confirms _____ as the Claims Administrator.
- 9. To facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, this Court hereby enjoins Plaintiff and all Class Members from filing or prosecuting any claims, suits or administrative proceedings (including filing claims with the Nevada Office of the Labor Commissioner) regarding claims released by the Settlement unless and until such Class Members have filed timely valid requests for exclusion with the Claims Administrator and the time for filing claims with the Claims Administrator has elapsed.
- 10. To further facilitate administration of the Settlement pending final approval, this Court hereby stays all discovery pending final approval of the Settlement. All resulting discovery and trial deadlines are hereby vacated.
- 11. This Court orders the following Implementation Schedule for further proceedings:

(Rest of page intentionally left blank)

GABROY | MESSER
170 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280
Henderson, Nevada 89012
(702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704

a.	Deadline for Defendants to Submit Class Member Information to Claims Administrator	10 business days after notice of entry of this Order Granting Approval of Class Action Settlement
C.	Deadline for Claims Administrator to Mail the Notice and Claim Form to Class Members	14 business days after receipt of Defendants' Class Member Information
d.	Deadline for Class Members to postmark and mail Claim Forms or requests for exclusion	30 calendar days after the date of initial mailing of the Notice to Class Members
e.	Deadline for Receipt by Court and Counsel of any Objections to Settlement	30 calendar days after the date of initial mailing of the Notice to Class Members
f.	Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion for Final Approval of Settlement, Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Enhancement Award	, 20 [7 calendar days before Final Fairness Hearing]
g.	Deadline for Class Counsel to File Declaration from Claims Administrator of Due Diligence and Proof of Mailing	, 20 [7 calendar days before Final Fairness Hearing]
h.	Final Fairness Hearing in Department 1	, 20
i.	Deadline for Claims Administrator to provide	5 business days after notice of entry of Final

	Defendants with total amount to fund the Settlement Account maintained by Claims Administrator	Approval Order
j.	Deadline for Defendant H & H Management LLC to fund the Settlement Account maintained by Claims Administrator	14 business days after the later of the notice of entry of the Final Approval Order and receipt by Defendants of the calculation of payroll tax from the Claims Administrator
k.	Deadline for Claims Administrator to wire transfer the Class Counsel Award for attorneys' fees and actual costs to Class Counsel (if Settlement is Effective)	5 business days after the Effective Date of the Agreement, as defined in that Agreement
I.	Deadline for Claims Administrator to mail the Settlement Awards to Participating Class Members and the Enhancement Award to Class Representative (if Settlement is Effective)	30 days after the Effective Date of the Agreement, as defined in that Agreement
m.	Deadline for Claims Administrator to distribute to itself the Claims Administration Award for claims administration actual	5 business days after the Effective Date of the Agreement, as defined in that Agreement

GABROY MESSER 170 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280 Henderson, Neada 89012 (702) 259-7777 FAX: (702) 259-7704	
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	costs (if Settlement is Effective)	
n.	Claims Administrator to File	90 calendar days after
	Proof of Payment of	notice of entry of the Final
	Settlement Awards,	Approval Order
	Enhancement Award,	
	Attorneys' Fees and Costs	
	(if Settlement is Effective)	

IT IS SO ORDERED.

	Respectfully submitted by:		Approved as to form and content:
	GABROY MESSER		SUTTON HAGUE
By:	Christian Gabroy Nev. Bar No. 8805 Kaine Messer Nev. Bar No. 14240 170 South Green Valley Parkway Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012 Mark R. Thierman Nev. Bar No. 8285 Joshua D. Buck Nev. Bar No. 12187 Leah L. Jones Nev. Bar No. 13161 Joshua R. Hendrickson Nev. Bar No. 12225 THIERMAN BUCK LLP 7287 Lakeside Drive Reno, Nevada 89511	By:	Jared Hague Nev. Bar No. 12761 6671 South Las Vegas Blvd. Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89119 Attorney for Defendant H & H Management LLC LAXALT LAW GROUP LTD Steve Guinn Nev. Bar No. 5341 9790 Gateway Drive Suite 200 Las Vegas, NV 89521 Attorney for Defendant
	Attorneys for Plaintiff		DED Ops NV LLC

EXHIBIT D

170 S. Green Valley Pkwy., Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012

GABROY | MESSER

Approval	of	Class	Action	Settlement	("Motion")	at	hearing.
			, appea	ared at the hea	ring on behalf	of Pla	intiffs, and
, appeared on behalf of Defendants. Having fully							
considered the Motion, comments of counsel, the papers and pleadings on file, and all							
supporting legal authorities, the Court orders as follows:							

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Court adopts the defined terms in the Joint Stipulation of Settlement and Release on file herein (referenced below as the "Settlement" or the "Agreement").
- This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation and personal jurisdiction over the named-Plaintiff, all settlement class members, and Defendants.
- 3. The Court confirms as final the following settlement class pursuant to Nev. R. Civ. P. 23: "all hourly paid non-overtime exempt persons employed by Defendants in the state of Nevada who earned less than 1 ½ times the applicable minimum wage and who worked over eight (8) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period and were not paid overtime properly in accordance with Nevada law at any time from December 29, 2019 until [DATE THE COURT GRANTS PRELIMINARY APPROVAL]."
- 4. The Court confirms the appointment of Mariah Martin as the Class Representative and the enhancement payment of \$15,000.00 to Mariah martin, as set forth in the Settlement.
- 5. The Court confirms the appointment of Christian Gabroy, Esq., and Kaine Messer, Esq., of Gabroy | Messer as class counsel for the settlement class and approves their requests for attorneys' fees of \$76,666.67 and actual litigation costs of \$______, respectively.
- 6. The class notice was distributed to class members, pursuant to this Court's orders, and fully satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure and any other applicable law.
 - 7. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court

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grants final approval to this Settlement and finds that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate in all respects, including the attorneys' fees, costs, and enhancement award provisions. The Court specifically finds that the settlement confers a substantial benefit to settlement class members, considering the relative strength of plaintiff's claims and defendants' defenses and the risk, expense, complexity, and duration of further litigation. The response of the class supports settlement approval. ____ class members objected to the settlement and only ____ requested exclusion from the settlement. The Court further finds that the settlement is the result of arms'-length negotiations between experienced counsel representing the interests of both sides, which supports approval of the settlement in accordance with the standards set forth in the joint motion for final approval of settlement.

- 8. The Court finds that, as of the date of this Order, each and every class member has waived and released claims as set forth in the Settlement and Notice of Class Action Settlement (the "Notice").
- 9. The Court finds that the Claims Administrator _____ is entitled to \$_____ for administrative fees.
- 10. The Court directs the parties to effectuate the settlement terms as set forth in the Agreement and the Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement entered herein on _____ ("Preliminary Approval Order"). Consistent with the Agreement and Preliminary Approval Order, Defendant H & H Management LLC shall fund the settlement account opened and maintained by the Claims Administrator with the appropriate amount due under the Agreement no later than fourteen (14) business days following the later of the notice of entry of this order and the receipt by Defendants of the calculation of the aggregate amount of the payments due under the Agreement, and the Claims Administrator shall calculate and pay the claims of the Participating Class Members in accordance with the terms set forth in the Agreement and Preliminary Approval Order.
 - 11. The Complaint is dismissed with prejudice.

12. This Court hereby permanently enjoins Plaintiff and all Class Members
who have not timely requested exclusion from the Settlement in accordance with the
Agreement's terms from filing or prosecuting any claims, suits, or administrative
proceedings (including filing claims with the Nevada Office of the Labor Commissioner
regarding claims released by the Settlement. Class Members must withdraw any
claims with prejudice.

13. The Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the terms of the settlement, including the payment of the settlement fund.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Respectfully submitted by:		Approved as to form and content:	
	GABROY MESSER	Sutton Hague	
By:	Christian Gabroy Nev. Bar No. 8805 Kaine Messer Nev. Bar No. 14240 170 South Green Valley Parkway Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012 Mark R. Thierman Nev. Bar No. 8285 Joshua D. Buck Nev. Bar No. 12187 Leah L. Jones Nev. Bar No. 13161 Joshua R. Hendrickson Nev. Bar No. 12225 THIERMAN BUCK LLP 7287 Lakeside Drive Reno, Nevada 89511 Attorneys for Plaintiff	By:	

EXHIBIT II

1	DECL					
2	Christian Gabroy Nev. Bar No. 8805					
3	Kaine Messer Nev. Bar No. 14240					
4	GABROY MESSER 170 South Green Valley Parkway					
5	Suite 280 Henderson, Nevada 89012					
	Tel. (702) 259-7777					
6	Fax. (702) 259-7704 christian@gabroy.com					
7	kmesser@gabroy.com					
8	Mark R. Thierman Nev. Bar No. 8285					
9	Joshua D. Buck Nev. Bar No. 12187					
10	Leah L. Jones Nev. Bar No. 13161					
11	Joshua R. Hendrickson Nev. Bar No. 12225					
12	THIERMAN BUCK LLP 7287 Lakeside Drive					
13	Reno, Nevada 89511					
14	Tel: (775) 284-1500 Fax: (775) 703-5027					
15	mark@thiermanbuck.com josh@thiermanbuck.com					
16	leah@thiermanbuck.com joshh@thiermanbuck.com					
17	Attorneys for Plaintiff					
18		T COURT				
19		NTY, NEVADA				
20	MARIAH MARTIN, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,	Case No.: A-22-863216-C Dept. No.: 1				
21	Plaintiff,	DECLARATION OF CHRISTIAN				
22	VS.	GABROY IN SUPPORT OF JOINT MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY				
23	DED OPS NV LLC d/b/a and a/k/a	APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT				
24	WALLFLOWER also d/b/a and a/k/a WALLFLOWER CANNABIS HOUSE; H &					
25	H MANAGEMENT LLC; DOES 1 through 50; inclusive,					
26	Defendants.					
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DECLARATION OF CHRISTIAN GABROY IN SUPPORT OF JOINT MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

- I, Christian Gabroy, do hereby declare and state as follows:
- The following declaration is based upon my own personal observation and knowledge, and if called upon to testify to the things contained herein, I could competently so testify.
- 2. I am an attorney and founder of Gabroy | Messer and am admitted to practice law in the states of Illinois and Nevada and the United States District Court District of Nevada, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.
- 3. I am the attorney of record for Plaintiff Mariah Martin along with my partner Kaine Messer, Esq. and co-counsel at Thierman Buck LLP.
- 4. Attached to the Joint Motion For Preliminary Approval Of Class Action Settlement as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the Parties' Settlement Agreement.
- 5. I have extensive litigation practice in the wage-and-hour practice since opening my firm here in Nevada in 2008. I have been certified as class counsel in, inter alia, our federal court in Gaspar, et al. v. Supershuttle Las Vegas, LLC, Case No. 2:15-cv-02149-APG-VCF; Garibay v. Wyndham Vacation Ownership Inc., Case No. 2:21-cv-00439-JAD-NJK; and Walden, et al., v. State of NV, Case No. 3:14-cv-00320-MMD-CSD as well as in Nevada state court in Zeleke v. Ike Gaming, Inc. d/b/a and a/k/a El Cortez Hotel and Casino, Case No. A-18-769220-C, Baltimore v. LTF Club Management Company, LLC, Case No. A-18-782512-C, DiMuzio, et al. v. Blazin Wings, Inc. d/b/a and a/k/a Buffalo Wild Wings, Case No. A-18-771424-C, Greene-Lewis v. Hussong's Las Vegas, LLC, Case No. A-18-771094-C, Aaron v. Wendy's of Las Vegas, Inc. et al, Case No. A-18-774902-C, Boschini v. White House Black Market, Inc., et al., Case No. A-19-803613-C, Barnett v. WBF McDonald's Management LLC, Case No. A-18-777786-C, Russum v. Lucky Lucy D LLC, et al., Case No. A-19-795009-C; Ramirez v. PR Restaurant Management, LLC, et al., Case

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No. A-19-801650-C; Valencia v. P & M Holdings, LLC, Case No. A-21-830175-C; Barth v. Henderson NJ TE LLC, Case No. A-20-810439-C; Smith v. Ascenda USA Inc., Case No. A-20-811554-C; Hof v. Swing Hard, Inc., Maestas v. Lisa/Carrison LTD., Case No. A-19-797084-C; Noquez v. Towne Park, LLC, Case No. A-20-813315-C; Kennedy v. Port of Subs, Inc., Case No. A-19-800823-C, Loyal v. Lazy Dog Restaurants, LLC, Case No. A-21-834299-C, Mizhiritsky v. Casino Job Center, Inc., et al., Case No. A-19-800466-C; Dadd v. Sports Clip, Inc., Case No. A-21-836630-C; and Jurasovic v. Archer West Security & Consulting Group, LLC, Case No. A-22-862686-C.

Case-Specific Information

- 6. In my opinion, the settlement achieved in this case represents a good result on behalf of the Class. Notwithstanding each Parties' various legal arguments as to the appropriateness of class-wide relief in this action, and the liability and amount owed to class members, the basis for recovery is based upon the total amount of unpaid overtime premium hours worked during the class period. Furthermore, the proposed settlement would release only participating class members' wage and hour claims, not all potential employment claims, in exchange for the financial benefits they receive.
- 7. The Parties have reviewed relevant compensation data and employment and have arrived at a reasonable resolution through a protracted arm's-length negotiation process which included attending private mediation with Hon. Gene T. Porter (Ret.). The negotiations continued into all details of the settlement agreement and ancillary documents.
- 8. As outlined in the Joint Motion for Preliminary Approval, in addition to requesting that the class be conditionally certified, the Parties are also requesting that this Court approve the proposed class notice and claim form, which are attached to the Settlement as Exhibits A and B, respectfully.
- 9. The Settlement provides for a gross settlement amount of \$230,000.00 Subject to the Court's approval, Plaintiff's counsel estimates that the gross settlement

amount will break down as follows: \$113,333.33 in estimated settlement funds to the Class; up to \$15,000.00 in settlement administration costs; \$15,000.00 in enhancements to the named-Plaintiff for her participation in the lawsuit; \$76,666.67 in attorneys' fees; and up to \$10,000.00 in actual costs.

- 10. The Settlement represents a significant recovery on behalf of the Class given the risks associated with this case. Plaintiff alleged various causes of action against Defendant for unpaid wages on behalf of herself and all similarly situated individuals under the Nevada Revised Statutes. Specifically, Plaintiff asserted the following claims: (1) Failure to Pay Overtime in Violation of NRS 608.140 and 608.018; (2) Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Due and Owing in Violation of NRS 608.140 and 608.020-050, and (3) Injunctive Relief. Plaintiff's legal claims stem from her allegation that she was not paid her full daily overtime when she and others similarly situated worked over 24 hours in a workday, as defined by NRS 608.0126.
- 11. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Parties agreed it would serve their mutual interests and the interest of judicial economy to commence settlement negotiations before engaging in costly, protracted litigation. The Parties then engaged in extensive, months-long settlement negotiations which included the disclosure of extensive class wide data. The Parties' correspondence also included extensive written and telephonic correspondence concerning their respective legal arguments, factual contentions, and data analyses.
- 12. After subtracting out costs, third party administrator fees, enhancements, and attorneys' fees, the net class fund of approximately \$113,333.33 represents over 450% of the actual amount overtime wages allegedly owed.
- 13. The enhancement payment of \$15,000 to the named Plaintiff is fair and reasonable. Plaintiff provided significant assistance to counsel through this process and took the risk of bringing this action on behalf of others who were similarly affected.
- 14. Given that the settlement provides to the class for over 450% recovery of the overtime wages potentially owed, and the benefit of a quick and certain payout (compared to the potential of further litigation including the outcome of class

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certification, dispositive motions, trial, and any attendant appellate proceedings, all of which are inherently uncertain and likely to consume many more months or years of litigation if the case should continue) to Plaintiff and all members of the class who decide to make a claim, it is the opinion of Plaintiff's Counsel-myself, my partner Kaine Messer, Esq., and my co-counsel at Thierman Buck LLP as we are all experienced wage and hour class action attorneys—, that the proposed settlement is fair and reasonable and represents a better alternative than continued litigation under all the circumstances.

- 15. The settlement also provides for all the necessary notice and disclosures to the Class Members so that they can make an informed decision about whether to participate, opt-out, or object to the Settlement. The named-Plaintiff's enhancement and attorneys' fees and cost award are prominently displayed on the Notice. The claim form is simple and straightforward.
- 16. In sum, it is my opinion that the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate; therefore, I respectfully request that the Settlement be preliminarily approved.

I declare under the penalties of NRS § 53.045 under the laws of the United States of America and the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on November 8, 2023, in Henderson, Nevada.

<u>′s/ Christian </u>Gabrov Christian Gabroy, Ésq.