1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Matthew J. Matern (CSB #159798) Mikael H. Stahle (CSB #182599) MATERN LAW GROUP, PC 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Telephone: (310) 531-1900 Facsimile: (310) 531-1901 mmatern@maternlawgroup.com mstahle@maternlawgroup.com Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated	
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	IE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	COUNTY OF	LOS ANGELES
11		
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20	MARIA JIMENEZ, individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated Plaintiff, vs. BLUE AND YELLOW TAXI GROUP, INC., a California Corporation; L.A. CHECKER CAB COMPANY, INC., a California Corporation; GLOBAL PARATRANSIT, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, Defendants.	Case No. 19STCV11731 [Assigned for all Purposes to the Honorable Elihu M. Berle, Dept. SS-6] NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT Date: October 9, 2023 Time: 9:00 a.m. Dept.: SS-6 Action Filed: April 5, 2019 Trial Date: None set
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		

1	TO THE COURT AND TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:	
2	COMES NOW Plaintiff Maria Jimenez and submits the Parties' Amended Joint	
3	Stipulation for Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Amended Settlement Agreement"):	
4	The fully executed Amended Settlement Agreement is attached hereto as	
5	Exhibit 1.	
6	A redlined version of the Amended Settlement Agreement is attached	
7	hereto as Exhibit 2, reflecting the revisions the Court ordered at the	
8	hearing on Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval on August 30,	
9	2023.	
10		
11	Date: September 13, 2023 MATERN LAW GROUP, PC	
12	By:	
13	MATTHEW J. MATERN MIKAEL H. STAHLE	
14	Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ, individually, and on behalf	
15	of others similarly situated	
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1 2	MATERN LAW GROUP, PC Matthew J. Matern (SBN 159798) mmatern@maternlawgroup.com Mikael H. Stahle (SBN 182599)		
3	mstahle@maternlawgroup.com 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200		
4 5	Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Telephone: (310) 531-1900 Facsimile: (310) 531-1901		
6 7	Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
9	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES		
10			
11	MARIA JIMENEZ, individually, and on	Case No. 19STCV11731	
12	behalf of others similarly situated,	Honorable Elihu M. Berle	
13	Plaintiff,	Department 6	
	VS.	<u>CLASS ACTION</u>	
14 15	BLUE AND YELLOW TAXI GROUP, INC., a California Corporation; L.A. CHECKER CAB COMPANY, INC., a	AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT	
16	California Corporation; GLOBAL		
17	PARATRANSIT, INC., a California Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	Action filed: April 5, 2019 Trial date: None	
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19	Defendants.		
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This Joint Stipulation for Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Settlement Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Maria Jimenez ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and Global Paratransit, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Global Paratransit") (collectively, Defendant and Plaintiff will be referred to as the "Parties"), and is subject to the terms and conditions below, and to the Court's approval. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing in this Settlement Agreement is an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any reason the Settlement Agreement, including settlement of both the Class and PAGA Claims, is not approved in full, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties will be returned to their respective positions, including status of pleadings, immediately prior to entering into this Settlement Agreement, as if they had never executed this Settlement Agreement, as more fully set forth below.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective:

- 1. "Action" means the case of *Maria Jimenez v. Blue and Yellow Taxi Group, Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCV11731.
- 2. "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc. or any other third-party class action settlement Settlement Administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for the purposes of administering this Settlement. The Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.
- 3. "Claims Administration Expenses" means the costs payable to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to, printing, translating into Spanish, conducting a National Change of Address ("NCOA") search, distributing (including with appropriate postage), and tracking documents for this Settlement in English and Spanish, any searches to locate any Class Members, tax reporting, distributing the Individual Settlement

Payments, Class Representatives Enhancement Payment, Class Counsel Fees and Costs, and providing necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and declarations, establishing and administering a qualified settlement fund account and other responsibilities set forth in this Settlement Agreement and as requested by the Parties. The Claims Administration Expenses are currently estimated to be no more than \$25,000.00.

- 4. "Class Counsel" means Matthew J. Matern and Mikael H. Stahle of Matern Law Group, PC.
- 5. "Class Counsel Fees and Costs" means attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses approved by the Court for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Action, and all costs incurred and to be incurred by Class Counsel in the Action, including, but not limited to, costs associated with documenting the Settlement, providing any notices required as part of the Settlement or Court Order, securing the Court's approval of the Settlement, administering the Settlement, and obtaining entry of the Judgment terminating the Action. Class Counsel will request attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount or One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$116,665.50) and litigation costs and expenses not to exceed Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$37,500.00). Defendant has agreed not to oppose Class Counsel's request for Class Counsel Fees and Costs.
- 6. "Class List" means a complete list of all Employed Class Members and Taxi Class Members for whom Defendant has been able to obtain information that Defendant will diligently and in good faith compile from their records and provide on a confidential basis to the Settlement Administrator within seven (7) calendar days after the Court's entry of an order granting preliminary approval of this Settlement. The Class List will be formatted in Microsoft Office Excel and Defendant will use its best efforts to include, if readily available, each Class Member's full name; most recent mailing address; last known telephone number; dates of employment or number of workweeks worked during the Class Period; PAGA Pay Periods; and Social Security number. The Parties acknowledge that the Class List to be prepared by Defendant may not

include all Taxi Class Members since Defendant does not possess information identifying all Taxi Class Members. Settlement AdministratorSettlement Administrator

- 7. "Class Member(s)" or "Settlement Class" means: 1) All current and former non-exempt hourly employees of Defendant within California at any time during the Class Period ("Employed Class Members"); and 2) such taxicab drivers who were not treated as employees, but rather as independent contractors, by Global Paratransit and who accepted Access trips through Global Paratransit during the Class Period ("Taxi Class Members").
- 8. "Class Period" means the period from December 3, 2017 through September 30, 2022.
- 9. "Class Representative Enhancement Payment" means the amount to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to the named Plaintiff in recognition of her efforts in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members. Plaintiff will request and Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's application to the court for a payment of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,500.00) for the named Plaintiff for her willingness to serve as Class Representative.
- 10. "Court" means the Los Angeles County Superior Court, or any other court taking jurisdiction of the Action.
- 11. "Effective Date" means the date when the Final Approval Order becomes final and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount. For purposes of this Paragraph, the Final Approval Order "becomes final" upon the last to occur of the following: (a) if there are no objections to the Settlement, the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; (b) if there are objections to the Settlement, and if an appeal, review, or writ is not sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the time period to appeal the Settlement has expired, i.e., 60 days from the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; or (c) if there are objections to the Settlement, and an appeal, review, or writ is timely sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the Final Approval Order is affirmed or the appeal, review, or writ is dismissed or denied, and the Final Approval Order is no longer subject to further judicial review.

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agrees to make in connection with the Agreement in the maximum settlement amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) ("Gross Settlement Amount"), which has been and/or will be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of all claims arising from the Action. The Gross Settlement Amount includes all Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members, the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Claims Administration Expenses, Class Counsel Fees and Cost, and PAGA penalties in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$35,000.00) of which 75% or Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$26,250.00) will be paid to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and 25% or Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,750.00) to PAGA Group Members. Defendant will be responsible for the employer's share of payroll taxes, which shall be paid separately by Defendant in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.

"Gross Settlement Amount" means the non-reversionary payment Defendant

- 13. "Individual Employed Class Payment" means the pro rata share of the Net Employed Settlement Amount for a Participating Class Member who is an Employed Class Member calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 14. "Individual Settlement Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 15. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the PAGA Group Member's share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties, which shall be divided evenly among the PAGA Group Members.
- 16. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount less the Class Counsel Fees and Costs, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Claims Administration Expenses, and PAGA Settlement Amount. The Net Settlement Amount is to be divided with a percentage allocated to the "Net Employed Settlement Amount" equal to the percentage of the total number of Employed Class Members compared to the total number of Class Members and a percentage allocated to the "Net Taxi Settlement Amount" equal to the percentage of total Taxi Class Members compared to the total number of Class Members, with the Net Employed

Settlement Amount and the Net Taxi Settlement Amount paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Employed Class Payments or Individual Taxi Class Payments.

- 17. "Notice of Objection" means a Class Member's valid and timely written objection to the Settlement Agreement. For the objection to be valid, it must include: (i) the objector's full name, signature, address, and telephone number; and (ii) a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection. Further, an objector may appear at the Final Approval hearing, either in person or through counsel, at his or her expense, regardless of whether the objector submitted a Notice of Objection. The Parties will be permitted to respond in writing to such objections at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the Final Approval hearing or within the time period set by the Court.
- 18. "Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, along with notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation, as approved by the Court, in order to provide the best notice practicable to those Taxi Class Members for whom no address has been located.
- 19. "PAGA" means the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, which is codified in California Labor Code §2698, et seq.
- 20. "PAGA Group Member(s)" means all current and former hourly non-exempt employees of Defendant within California at any time during the PAGA Period.
 - 21. "PAGA Period" means the period from January 11, 2021 to September 30, 2022.
- 22. "PAGA Settlement Amount" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to the resolution of PAGA Group Members' claims arising under PAGA. The Parties have agreed that the PAGA Settlement Amount is Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$35,000.00) of which 75% or Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$26,250.00) will be paid to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and 25% or Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,750.00) will be paid to the PAGA Group Members.
- 23. "Participating Class Members" means all Class Members who do not submit valid Requests for Exclusion.

24. "Plaintiff" means Maria Jimenez, the named plaintiff in the Action.

25. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement.

- 26. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims to be released by the PAGA Group Member and the State of California for civil penalties under PAGA that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice; those being California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 221, 223, 224, 226, 512, 1174, 1194, 1197, and Wage Order No. 9-2001, as well as all facts, theories, or claims for civil penalties that would be considered administratively exhausted under applicable law by the PAGA Notice Plaintiff sent to the LWDA.
- 27. "Released Class Claims" means any and all claims, liabilities, demands, obligations, penalties, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, damages, action or causes of action of whatever kind or nature, whether known or unknown, contingent or accrued, that are alleged, or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative Complaint, including claims for: (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (d) failure to pay final wages upon separation of employment; (e) failure to provide compliant meal breaks and/or pay meal break premiums; (f) failure to provide compliant rest breaks and/or pay rest break premiums; (g) failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (h) failure to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures incurred in discharge of duties; (i) all claims for unfair business practices under California Business & Professions Code Section 17200 et seq. that could have been premised on the claims, causes of action or legal theories of relief described above in (a)—(h). The Parties agree that the judgment, and Released Claims provided herein, shall have res judicata effect. The Released Claims will cover all Class Members who do not opt out.
- 28. "Released Parties" means Defendant and Defendant's former and present parents, subsidiaries and affiliated companies and entities, franchisors and franchisees, and its current, former, and future owners, officers, shareholders, directors, members, managers, operators, employees, consultants, vendors, partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, shareholders, attorneys,

insurers, payroll providers, joint venturers, and agents, and any successors, assigns, or legal representatives and any individual or entity who or which could be jointly liable with Defendant and all persons or entities acting by, through under or in concert with any of them, including but not limited to Blue and Yellow Taxi Group, Inc., L.A. Checker Cab Company, Inc., and Access Services.

- 29. "Request for Exclusion" means a timely letter submitted by a Class Member indicating a request to be excluded from the Settlement. The Request for Exclusion must: (a) set forth the name, address, telephone number and last four digits of the Social Security Number of the Class Member requesting exclusion; (b) be signed by the Class Member; (c) be returned by mail or fax to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address or fax number indicated in the Notice; (d) clearly state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in the Settlement; and (e) be faxed or postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.
- 30. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must fax or postmark to the Settlement Administrator a valid Request for Exclusion, submit objections to the Settlement or dispute workweeks. The Response Deadline will be forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Notice by the Settlement Administrator for Employed Class Members and Taxi Class Members to whom the Notice by the Settlement Administrator is mailed, and forty-five (45) calendar days from the publication of the Notice for Taxi Class Members. The Response Deadline for Request for Exclusion, objection or dispute workweeks will be extended fifteen (15) calendar days for any Employed Class Member who is re-mailed a Notice by the Settlement Administrator in accordance with the notice procedure described herein. The Response Deadline may also be extended by express agreement between Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Settlement Class, and Defendant agree as follows:

31. <u>Impact of Any Court Determination Not to Enter Final Approval Order</u>. In the event that the Court enters an Order denying final approval and this Settlement Agreement does not become effective, the following will occur:

- a. on the date final approval is denied, the status of the Action will be deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the Parties had never executed this Settlement Agreement, except that the Section herein entitled Tolling of Statute concerning the time within which the Action must be brought to trial pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 583.310 through 583.360 shall remain effective; and
- b. Defendant and Plaintiff shall share equally (50% each) all costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator.
- 32. <u>Settlement Funding</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days of the Effective Date, as explained in paragraph 11, Defendant will cause payment to be made for the Gross Settlement Amount in the amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) to the Settlement Administrator in accordance with directions to be provided by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will deposit the funds into an interest-bearing trust account referred to as the Qualified Settlement Fund account from which the Settlement Administrator will have authority to distribute money in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will assist Defendant to calculate the appropriate amount of the employers' share of the payroll taxes which shall be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 33. <u>Class Counsel Fees and Costs.</u> Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion by Class Counsel for Class Counsel Fees in the amount of up to one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount or One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$116,665.50), plus the reimbursement of the actual costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action, not to exceed Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$37,500.00).
- 34. <u>Class Representative Enhancement Payment</u>. In exchange for named Plaintiff executing a general release, and in recognition of her effort in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members, Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion for a Class Representative Enhancement Payment of up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and

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Zero Cents (\$7,500.00). The Class Representative Enhancement Payment, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, will be in addition to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment paid pursuant to the Settlement. Plaintiff will be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes, penalties and interest on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph and will hold Defendant harmless from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the payment.

- 35. <u>Claims Administration Expenses</u>. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the reasonable fees and costs of administration of the Settlement, which are estimated not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00). These will include, inter alia, fees and costs payable to the Settlement Administrator for printing translating into Spanish (or other first-languages of Class Members, if necessary), distributing (including with appropriate postage), and tracking documents for this Settlement in English and Spanish; any searches to locate any Class Members; calculating estimated amounts per Class Member and PAGA Group Members; tax reporting; distributing the Individual Settlement Payments, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Class Counsel Fees and Costs, and payment to LWDA for PAGA penalties; and providing necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and declarations, establishing and administering a Qualified Settlement Fund account, required tax reporting on the Individual Settlement Payments, the issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS forms, calculating the employers' share of payroll taxes on the wage portion of the Individual Settlement Payments and coordinating related reporting, and other responsibilities as requested by the Parties. The Claims Administration Expenses will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 36. <u>Net Settlement Amount.</u> The Net Settlement Amount will be used to satisfy Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members from the Settlement Class and PAGA Group Members in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
- 37. <u>Individual Settlement Payment Calculations</u>. Defendant will provide the Claims Administrator with: (a) either dates of employment or the total number of workweeks for each Employed Class Member who is a Participating Class Member and PAGA Group Member; and (b) for each Taxi Class Member, total trips taken by each Taxi Class Member for which Defendant

	has a record. For Participating Employed Class Members, the Claims Administrator will divide		
2	the Net Employed Settlement Amount by the total number of workweeks for Participating Class		
3	Members who are Employed Class Members ("Work Week Rate Amount") and then multiply		
۱	this amount by each Participating Employed Class Member's total number of workweeks to yield		
5	that employee's Individual Settlement Payment. In the event an Employed Class Member submits		
5	a timely Request for Exclusion from the settlement, his/her share of the settlement will be added		
,	to the Net Employed Settlement Amount.		
3	NET		
,	EMPLOYED Participating SETTLEMENT X Employed Class		
)	AMOUNT Member's		
L	Total number of Workweeks Workweeks for		

For Participating Taxi Class Members, the Claims Administrator will divide the Net Taxi Settlement Amount by the total trips by all Participating Taxi Class Members for which Defendant has a record (based on Defendant's information) and then multiply this amount by the total for all trips by each Participating Taxi Class Member for which Defendant has a record during the Class Period, to yield that person's Individual Settlement Payment. In the event a Taxi Class Member submits a timely Request for Exclusion from the settlement, his/her share of the settlement will be added to the Net Taxi Settlement Amount.

22 23	NET TAXI SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	X	Total trips by Participating Taxi Class Member
24	Total trips by all	-	During Class Period
25	Participating Taxi Class Members		
26	During Class Period		
27			

all Participating

Employed Class

Members

In addition, each Participating Class Member who is a PAGA Group Member will be paid an equal share of the Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,750.00) allocated for PAGA penalties.

\$8,750 for PAGA Penalties to PAGA Group Members

Total number of PAGA Group Members during PAGA Period

The Individual Class Payment for any Participating Class Member who is also a PAGA Group Member shall include the Participating Class Member's Individual PAGA Payment.

Class Members who are PAGA Group Members will not be permitted to exclude themselves from the PAGA claim portion of the Settlement. Individual PAGA Payments in the appropriate amounts will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator by mail to the PAGA Group Members including to those Class Members who are PAGA Group Members who submitted a request for exclusion.

38. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. All Individual Class Payments shall be deemed to be income to such Class Members solely in the year in which such payments actually are received by the Class Members. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of such Individual Settlement Payments will not entitle any Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any company bonus, paid time off (including vacation and sick leave), 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 Individual Settlement Payments provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendant 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 Individual Settlement Payments (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).

- 39. <u>Claims Administration Process</u>. The Parties agree to cooperate in the administration of the settlement and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the costs and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement.
- 40. <u>Delivery of the Class List</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days of Preliminary Approval, Defendant will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator.
- 41. <u>Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will mail the Notice to all Class Members via regular First-Class U.S. Mail.
- 42. <u>Confirmation of Contact Information in the Class Lists</u>. Upon receipt of the Class List, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. Within fifteen (15) days after receiving the Class List from Defendant as provided herein, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice to all Class Members via regular First Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the most current mailing address for each Class Member. The Parties agree that this procedure for notice provides the best practical notice to Class Members and fully complies with due process.
- 43. <u>Notice</u>. All Class Members will be mailed the Notice. The Notice will provide: (1) information regarding the nature of the Action, (2) a summary of the Settlement's principal terms, (3) the Settlement Class definition, (4) each Class Member's number of workweeks worked during the Class Period, (5) each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Payment; (6) the dates which comprise the Class Period, (7) instructions on how to submit valid Requests for Exclusion, objections or dispute workweeks, (8) the deadlines by which the Class Member must fax or postmark Request for Exclusions, submit objections to the Settlement or

dispute workweeks, and (9) the claims to be released, as set forth in this Settlement Agreement. A Class Notice will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation, as approved by the Court, allowing for submission of a claim to the Settlement Administrator by any individual not already included in the Class List. To be timely, any such claim must be submitted to the Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline.

- 44. On the same date that the Notice Packet is mailed to Class Members, or as soon thereafter as possible, a supplemental English version of the Class Notice (attached hereto as Exhibit A) shall be placed in the *Los Angeles Times*, and a supplemental Spanish version of the Class Notice shall be placed in *La Opinion*, the highest circulating Spanish-language newspaper in Southern California;
 - The published notice shall instruct Class Members who did not receive a Notice Packet to contact the Settlement Administrator, who shall then send a Notice Packet via first class U.S. mail;
 - Class Members shall have 45 days from the date of publication in the Los Angeles Times or La Opinion, whichever is later if the ads run on different days, to submit a Request for Exclusion or an objection to the Settlement, so long as the Class Members were not mailed a Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator in the first mailing;
 - The Response Deadline for Class Members mailed a Notice Packet in the first mailing shall not change and will remain 45 days from the date of mailing;
 - 44(d) If each ad is no more than 400 words and runs one time in each publication, the estimated cost for the notice by publication procedure outlined above, including the cost to prepare and translate the ad, the cost to run the ad, and all other associated costs, shall be included within the estimated maximum \$25,000.00 allocated towards Claims Administration Expenses.

- 45. Request for Exclusion Procedures. Any Class Member wishing to opt out from the Settlement Agreement must sign and fax or postmark a written Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator within the Response Deadline. The date of the fax or postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Parties to this Agreement and their counsel agree that they will not solicit or encourage Class Members to opt-out or object to this Settlement Agreement. If the Court approves the compromise of the PAGA claim, all PAGA Group Members are bound by the Court's resolution of that claim. Class Members who are also PAGA Group Members submitting a request for exclusion will nevertheless receive their Individual PAGA Payment.
- 46. <u>Defective Submissions</u>. The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 47. Settlement Terms Bind All Class Members Who Do Not Opt-Out. Any Class Member who does not affirmatively opt out of the Settlement Agreement by submitting a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be bound by all of its terms, including those pertaining to the Released Claims (other than as it applies to the PAGA claims with respect to the PAGA Group Members), as well as any Judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants final approval to the Settlement. If the Court approves the compromise of the PAGA claim, Class Members who are also PAGA Group Members submitting a request for exclusion will nevertheless be bound by the Court's resolution of that claim and their Individual PAGA Payment. The Parties agree that if the total number of Class Members included in the Class List electing to opt-out of

the class settlement equals more than 1% of the total Class Members, then Defendant in its sole and absolute discretion shall have the right to cancel this settlement in its entirety. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days after the Administrator sends the final class list to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect. In the event that Defendant decides to cancel this settlement due to the number of opt-outs then Defendant shall be 100% responsible for costs of the Settlement Administrator and the Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement shall be of no force and effect and the status of the Action will be deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the Parties had never executed this Settlement Agreement.

- 48. Objection Procedures. To object to the Settlement Agreement, a participating Class Member may not submit a Request for Exclusion and may mail a valid Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline. The Settlement Administrator will notify counsel for the Parties forthwith via email. Class Counsel will lodge the objection with the Court. The Notice of Objection must be signed by the Class Member and contain all information required by this Settlement Agreement. The postmark date of the mailing will be deemed the exclusive means for determining that the Notice of Objection is timely. Class Members who wish to object will have a right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, with or without counsel at his/her own expense, in order to have their objections heard by the Court, regardless of whether they submitted a Notice of Objection. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit written objections to the Settlement Agreement or appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment.
- 49. <u>Certification Reports Regarding Individual Settlement Payment Calculations</u>. The Settlement Administrator will provide Defendant's counsel and Class Counsel a weekly report which certifies: (i) the number of Class Members who have submitted a valid Request for Exclusion; (ii) the number of Class Members who have submitted a valid Notice of Objection; (iii) the number of any deficient Requests for Exclusion or objections; and (iv) the number of any submissions by Unidentified Class Members who submit a claim to the Settlement Administrator after receiving notice via the publication. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will provide

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to counsel for both Parties any updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement Agreement as needed or requested.

- 50. <u>Timing of Distribution of Individual Settlement Payments</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days of Defendant depositing the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will issue payments to (1) Participating Class Members and PAGA Group Members; (2) Plaintiff; (3) Class Counsel; and (4) payment to LWDA. The Settlement Administrator will also issue a payment to itself for Court-approved services performed in connection with the settlement.
- 51. Uncashed or Undeliverable Settlement Checks. Individual settlement checks paid to participating Class Members will be valid for 180 days. Participating Class Members and/or PAGA Group Members will have one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of the mailing of the check to cash their check. For any check not cashed after 180 calendar days, the Settlement Administrator will send the amount represented by the check to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund, with the identity of the Participating Class Member and/or PAGA Group Member to whom the funds belong, to be held for the participating Class Member and/or PAGA Group Member per California Unclaimed Property Law, in the interest of justice. The money paid to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund will remain the Participating Class Member's and/or PAGA Group Members' property. This will allow Participating Class Members and/or PAGA Group Members who did not cash their checks to collect their Individual Settlement Amounts at any time in the future. Therefore, there will be no unpaid residue or unclaimed or abandoned class member funds, and California Code of Civil Procedure section 384 shall not apply. The funds will be held by the State until claimed by the employee and the uncashed check never ceases to be the employee's property.
- 52. <u>Certification of Completion</u>. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to the Court and counsel for all Parties. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a

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signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement.

- 53. Treatment of Individual Settlement Payments. All Individual Settlement Payments will be allocated as follows: 100% of each Individual PAGA Payment shall be allocated as penalties; 20% of each Individual Employed Class Payment will be allocated for the settlement of wage claims; and 80% of each Individual Employed Class Payment will be allocated for the settlement of interest and penalties. The portion allocated to wages in each Individual Employed Class Payment will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portion allocated to interest and penalties will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 by the Settlement Administrator. All Individual Taxi Class Payments will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 by the Settlement Administrator
- 54. Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, PAGA Group Members, Class Counsel, and Defendant any W-2, 1099, or other tax forms as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for forwarding all payroll taxes and other legally required withholdings, and related reporting, to the appropriate government authorities.
- 55. Payment of Employer Taxes: For any portion of the Class Members' Class Settlement Payments that are designated as "wages" for purposes of tax reporting, the employer's taxes, employer contributions of all federal, state, and local taxes (including, but not limited to, FICA, FUTA, and SDI), will be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount, via and with the Settlement Administrator's assistance.
- 56. Circular 230 Disclaimer. EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR SHALL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE

CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN
THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230
(31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED
EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX
COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS
AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE
RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO
ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY
COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY
OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE
ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER
PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY
OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF
WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE
ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY
TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THIS
AGREEMENT

- 57. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their 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 released and discharged in this Settlement Agreement.
- 58. Release of Claims by Class Members. Upon the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, all Class Members who do not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion do and will be deemed to have fully, finally and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, waived, and discharged any and all of the Released Parties of and from any and all Released Claims accruing during the Class Period. In addition, on the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, all Class Members

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who do not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion and all successors in interest will be barred from prosecuting or participating in any and all Released Claims against the Released Parties accruing during the Class Period. Furthermore, upon the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the State of California and PAGA Group Members (regardless of whether PAGA Group Members opt out of the Class Settlement) release the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims.

59. Release by Plaintiff. Upon the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, in addition to the claims being released by all Class Members, Plaintiff will provide the following additional general release ("General Release"): Plaintiff, on her own behalf and on behalf of her heirs, spouses, executors, administrators, attorneys, agents and assigns, fully and finally releases the Released Parties from all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, known or unknown, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, or for violation of any state or federal statute, rule or regulation arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any act or omission by or on the part of any of the Released Parties committed or omitted prior to the execution of this Agreement that occurred during the Class Period. This General Release includes any unknown claims Plaintiffs do not know or suspect to exist in their favor at the time of this General Release, which, if known by them, might have affected their settlement with, and release of, the Released Parties or might have affected their decision not to object to this Settlement or this Release. To the extent the foregoing releases are releases to which Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of other applicable law may apply, Plaintiffs expressly waive any and all rights and benefits conferred upon them by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of applicable law which are as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

The significance of this release and waiver of Civil Code Section 1542 has been explained to Plaintiffs by their respective counsel. Release by Plaintiffs expressly excludes any claims for workers compensation against Defendant.

- 60. <u>Neutral Reference</u>. Defendant agrees that they will only provide a neutral reference for Plaintiff should any prospective employers or anyone contact them regarding Plaintiff's employment. Defendant shall only provide the dates of employment and Plaintiff's last job title held with Defendant.
- 61. <u>Nullification of Settlement Agreement</u>. In the event that: (i) the Court does not finally approve the Settlement both class claims and PAGA as provided in this Settlement Agreement; or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, then this Settlement Agreement and any documents generated to bring it into effect will be null and void and the status of the Action will be deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the Parties never executed the Settlement. Any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will likewise be treated as void from the beginning. In such case, the Settlement shall not be used or be admissible in any subsequent proceedings, either in this Action, this Court, or any other Court or forum.
- 62. Preliminary Approval Hearing. Plaintiff will obtain a hearing before the Court to request the Preliminary Approval of the Settlement Agreement, and the entry of a Preliminary Approval Order for: (i) conditional certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, (ii) preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement Agreement, and (iii) setting a date for a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing. The Preliminary Approval Order will provide for the Notice to be sent to all Class Members as specified in this Settlement Agreement. In conjunction with the Preliminary Approval motion, Plaintiff will submit this Settlement Agreement, which sets forth the terms of this Settlement and will include the proposed Notice.
- 63. <u>Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Judgment</u>. Upon expiration of the deadlines to fax or postmark Request for Exclusion or submit objections to the Settlement Agreement, and with the Court's permission, a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing will be conducted to determine the Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement along with the

amounts properly payable for (i) Individual Settlement Payments; (ii) the Class Counsel Fees and Costs; (iii) the Class Representative Enhancement Payment; (iv) payment to LWDA for PAGA penalties; and (v) all Claims Administration Expenses. Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting all documents necessary to obtain final approval. Class Counsel will also be responsible for drafting the attorneys' fees and costs application to be heard at the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing.

- 64. Tolling of Statute. The Parties stipulate and agree, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330(a), that the time within which the Action must be brought to trial pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 583.310 through 583.360 shall be extended by the period of time from January 27, 2022 through the later of January 27, 2023 or the date of entry of the order on the motion for final approval and that said period of time shall not be included in the computation of the five-year period specified in the Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310.
- 65. <u>Judgment and Continued Jurisdiction</u>. Upon final approval of the Settlement by the Court or after the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing, the Parties will present a proposed Judgment to the Court for its approval. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.771(b), the Settlement Administrator shall post on its website a copy of the Judgment for a period of thirty days from the date the Court signs the Judgment. After entry of the Judgment, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction solely for purposes of addressing: (i) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, (ii) settlement administration matters, and (iii) such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.
- 66. Exhibits Incorporated by Reference. The terms of this Settlement Agreement include the terms set forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth in this Settlement Agreement. Any Exhibits to this Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.
- 67. <u>Entire Agreement.</u> This Settlement Agreement and any attached Exhibits constitute the entirety of the Parties' settlement terms. No other prior or contemporaneous written

or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly recognize California Civil Code Section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary or contradict the terms of this Agreement.

- 68. <u>Amendment or Modification</u>. This Settlement Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.
- 70. <u>Binding on Successors and Assigns</u>. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties to this Settlement Agreement, as previously defined.
- 71. Execution and Counterparts. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the execution of all Parties. However, the Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile and scanned copies of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange among themselves original signed counterparts.
- 72. <u>Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable</u>. The Parties believe this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the Action and have

arrived at this Settlement Agreement after arm's-length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement.

- 73. <u>Invalidity of Any Provision</u>. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.
- 74. <u>Captions.</u> The captions and section numbers in this Agreement are inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe or describe the scope or intent of the provisions of this Agreement.
- 75. <u>Waiver</u>. No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Agreement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.
- 76. <u>Enforcement Actions</u>. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party to enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement Agreement, the successful Party will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.
- 77. <u>Mutual Preparation</u>. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be construed more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Agreement.

- 78. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel.
- 79. <u>All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval</u>. All amounts and procedures described in this Settlement Agreement will be subject to final Court approval.
- 80. <u>Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents</u>. All Parties will cooperate in good faith and execute all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement.
- 81. <u>Binding Agreement</u>. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this Agreement, and further intend that this Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.
- 82. <u>No Admission of Liability</u>. Nothing contained in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Each of the Parties has entered into this Settlement Agreement with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation, and the attendant inconvenience and expense. This Settlement Agreement shall be inadmissible in evidence in any action or proceeding, by any party, except an action or proceeding by one of the Parties to approve, interpret, or enforce the Settlement Agreement's terms.
- 83. <u>Communications.</u> The Parties and their counsel agree that they will not publicize or issue or post any press releases, advertising, or marketing, or initiate any contact with the media about this case or the parties involved, including the fact, amount, or terms of the Settlement. If counsel for either Party receives an inquiry about the Settlement from the media, counsel may only respond that a settlement has been reached. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

84. Disputes. Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Settlement Agreement will be resolved by the Court. Prior to any such resort to the Court, counsel for the Parties will confer in good faith to resolve the dispute. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute themselves, the dispute will be submitted to Lynn Frank, Esq. for mediation before being submitted to the Court, unless the Parties agree otherwise.

- 85. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Stipulation and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to any conflict of law or choice of law principles.
- 86. Declaration in Support of Approval: Defendant shall provide a declaration from an individual with personal knowledge in support of approval of the Settlement. Plaintiff shall file the declaration with the Court in support of the motion for preliminary approval.

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		SIGNATURES
READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING		
	113/2	DI AINTIEC
Dated:		Global Paratransit, Inc.
Dated:	, 2023	APPROVED AS TO FORM THE MATERN LAW GROUP, PC By: Matthew J. Matern Mikael H. Stahle Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated
Dated:	, 2023	DUNN DESANTIS WALT & KENDRICK, LLP
		By: Kevin V. DeSantis James A. McFaul Attorneys for Defendant Global Paratransit, Inc.

1		<u>SIGNATURES</u>
2	DEAL	D CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING
3	KEAL	CAREFOLLI DEFORE SIGNING
4		PLAINTIFF
5	Dated:	
6		Maria Jimenez
7		DEFENDANT
8	Dated:	Cl. L. I Denston and Tree
9		Global Paratransit, Inc.
10		
11		APPROVED AS TO FORM
12	Dated:, 2023	THE MATERN LAW GROUP, PC
13		1-100/12
14		By: Matthew J. Matern
15		Mikael H. Stahle
16		Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ, on behalf of herself and all others
17		similarly situated
18	Dated:, 2023	DUNN DESANTIS WALT & KENDRICK, LLP
19	, 2025	BOTH BESTILLIE WILLIAM TELLERING BET
20		By: Kevin V. DeSantis
21		James A. McFaul
22		Attorneys for Defendant Global Paratransit, Inc.
23		Global Falatiansit, IIIC.
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1	<u>SIGNATURES</u>
2	READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING
3	
4	PLAINTIFF
5	Dated: Maria Jimenez
6	DEFENDANT
7	DocuSigned by:
8	Dated: 9/13/2023 Paratifansit, Inc.
9	
10	
11	APPROVED AS TO FORM
12	Dated:, 2023 THE MATERN LAW GROUP, PC
13	D.,,
14	By: Matthew J. Matern Mikael H. Stahle
15	
16 17	Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated
18	
19	Dated: Sept. 13, 2023 DUNN DESANTIS WALT & KENDRICK, LLP
20	By:
21	Kevin V. DeSantis James A. McFaul
22	Attorneys for Defendant
23	Global Paratransit, Inc.
24	
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	- 27 -

AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

A court authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation by a lawyer. You are not being sued.

IF YOU WERE EMPLOYED BY GLOBAL PARATRANSIT, INC. AS AN HOURLY NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEE IN CALIFORNIA AT ANY TIME DURING THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 3, 2017 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 OR WERE A TAXICAB DRIVER WHO ACCEPTED ACCESS PARATRANSIT DRIVING ASSIGNMENTS DURING THAT SAME PERIOD, THIS PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS.

Why should you read this Notice?

A proposed settlement (the "Settlement") has been reached in the class action and Private Attorney General Act ("PAGA") representative action lawsuit entitled *Maria Jimenez v. Blue and Yellow Taxi Group, Inc. et al.*, Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCV11731 (hereafter referred to as the "Action").

The purpose of this Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Notice") is to briefly describe the Action and to inform you of your rights and options in connection with the Action and the proposed Settlement. The proposed Settlement will resolve all claims in the Action.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT:		
DO NOTHING	If you do nothing, you will be considered part of the Settlement Class and will receive settlement benefits as explained more fully below. You will also give up any rights to pursue a separate legal action against Defendants for the Released Claims asserted in the Action as explained more fully below.	
EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT CLASS	If you exclude yourself from the Settlement (also called "opting out"), you will give up your right to receive your Individual Settlement Payment, although you will still receive your pro-rata share, if any, of the PAGA portion of the Settlement (described below). If you exclude yourself, you retain any right to pursue a separate legal action against Defendants regarding the claims in the Action. If you want to exclude yourself, you must do so by submitting a written Request for Exclusion by the deadline set forth below.	
Овјест	To object to the Settlement, you must mail to the Settlement Administrator an Objection by the deadline set forth below, explaining why you don't like the Settlement. This option is available only if you do <u>not</u> exclude yourself from the Settlement. Do <u>not</u> submit a Request for Exclusion if you wish to object.	

Who is affected by this proposed Settlement?

The Court has certified, for settlement purposes only, the following class (the "Settlement Class"):

(1) All current and former non-exempt hourly employees of Global Paratransit, Inc. ("Defendant") within California at any time during December 3, 2017 through September 30, 2022 ("Class Period"); and (2) such taxicab drivers who were not employed by Defendant but accepted Access driving assignments through Defendant during the Class Period.

According to Defendant's records, you are a member of the Settlement Class (a "Class Member").

What is this case about?

In the Action, Plaintiff Maria Jimenez alleges on behalf of herself and the Settlement Class that Defendant: (1) failed to provide required meal periods; (2) failed to provide required rest periods; (3) failed to pay overtime wages; (4) failed to pay minimum wages; (5) failed to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (6) failed to maintain required records; (7) failed to furnish accurate itemized wage statements; (8) failed to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures incurred in discharge of duties; (9) violated California's Unfair Competition Law [Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.]; and (10) violated Labor Code provisions giving rise to civil penalty liability under PAGA [Lab. Code §§ 2699, et seq.]. Plaintiff seeks unpaid wages, actual damages, statutory penalties, civil penalties under PAGA, restitution, interest, attorneys' fees, and costs.

Defendant denies all liability and is confident it has strong legal and factual defenses to these claims. However, Defendant recognizes the risks, distractions, and costs associated with litigation. Defendant contends that its conduct is and has been lawful at all relevant times and that Plaintiff's claims do not have merit and do not meet the requirements for class certification.

This Settlement is a compromise reached after good faith, arm's-length negotiations between Plaintiff and Defendant (the "Parties"), through their attorneys, and is not an admission of liability on the part of Defendant. Both sides agree that, in light of the risks and expenses associated with continued litigation, this Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable. Plaintiff also believes this Settlement is in the best interests of all Settlement Class Members.

The Court has not ruled on the merits of Plaintiff's claims or Defendant's defenses.

Who are the attorneys representing the Parties?

The Court has granted preliminary approval of the Settlement and has appointed the lawyers bringing the Class Action to serve as "Class Counsel" to represent all Settlement Class Members affected by the Settlement. The attorneys serving as Class Counsel are:

Matthew J. Matern Mikael H. Stahle MATERN LAW GROUP, PC 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Telephone: (310) 531-1900

What are the Settlement terms?

Subject to final Court approval, Defendants will pay \$350,000.00 (the "Settlement Amount") for: (a) Individual Settlement Payments to Settlement Class Members who do not request to be excluded from the Settlement ("Participating Class Members"); (b) the Court-approved Service Awards to each Plaintiff; (c) the Court-approved attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel; (d) Settlement Administration Expenses; and (e) payment to the State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for PAGA penalties.

Net Settlement Payments. After deduction from the Gross Settlement Amount for Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, the Service Award to Plaintiff, the payment to the LWDA for PAGA penalties, and the costs of administering the Settlement, there will be a Net Settlement Amount. From this Net Settlement Amount, Defendant will make Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members.

The Net Settlement Amount will be divided among all Participating Class Members on a pro-rata basis based upon the total number of Workweeks worked by each respective Participating Class Member in California during the Class Period.

You may challenge the computation of your Workweeks by mailing a written dispute to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked no later than [45 days after mailing] 2023. The dispute must contain the amount of Workweeks that you contend to have worked, along with supporting documentation. The dispute shall be determined by the Settlement Administrator, who shall examine all available written records in an attempt to resolve the dispute. Defendant's records shall be presumed accurate and control unless the Settlement Class Member provides satisfactory proof that Defendant's records are incorrect. In any event, the Settlement

Administrator will make every reasonable effort to resolve any such disputes before Final Approval of this Settlement Agreement, and if any disputes cannot be resolved by that time, they will be resolved by the Court at the Final Approval hearing.

Your estimated Net Settlement Payment is [_____].

For tax reporting purposes, the payments to Participating Class Members will be allocated as follows: 20% as wages and 80% as penalties and interest. All legally required payroll withholdings will be withheld from the Net Settlement Payments based on this allocation. Any remaining taxes owed will be the responsibility of each Participating Class Member receiving those payments. The employer's share of any payroll taxes will be separately paid by Defendant.

Defendant will begin paying the Gross Settlement Amount into a qualified settlement account established by the Settlement Administrator beginning after the Effective Date. The Effective Date is defined as the date when the Final Approval Order becomes final and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount. For purposes of this Paragraph, the Final Approval Order "becomes final" upon the last to occur of the following: (a) if there are no objections to the Settlement, the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; (b) if there are objections to the Settlement, and if an appeal, review, or writ is not sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the time period to appeal the Settlement has expired, i.e., 60 days from the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; or (c) if there are objections to the Settlement, and an appeal, review, or writ is timely sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the Final Approval Order is affirmed or the appeal, review, or writ is dismissed or denied, and the Final Approval Order is no longer subject to further judicial review.

Settlement checks will remain valid for 180 days from issuance. If any settlement checks remain uncashed after 180 days, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 384, the Settlement Administrator will void the checks and distribute the funds represented by the uncashed checks to the State of California Controller pursuant to the Unclaimed Property Law [Code Civ. Proc. §§ 1500, et seq.]. In such event, the Participating Class Members who did not cash their checks within that time frame will still remain bound by the terms of the Settlement.

None of the Parties or attorneys make any representations concerning the tax consequences of this Settlement or your participation in it. Settlement Class Members should consult with their own tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the Settlement. Class Counsel is unable to offer advice concerning the state or federal tax consequences of payments to any Settlement Class Member.

Class Counsel Attorneys' Fees and Costs, Class Representative Service Awards, Settlement Administration Expenses, and Payment to the LWDA. Class Counsel will ask the Court to award attorneys' fees up to \$116,665.50 (one-third) of the Gross Settlement Amount and reimbursement of actual litigation costs, incurred in the Action. In addition, Class Counsel will ask the Court to authorize Class Representative Service Awards of up to \$7,500.00 for the named Plaintiff for her efforts in bringing the Action on behalf of the Class. The cost of administering the Settlement will not exceed \$25,000.00. A payment in the amount of \$26,250.00 will also be made to the LWDA for its share of PAGA penalties, which represents 75% of the \$35,000.00 set aside for payment of civil penalties under PAGA; the remaining \$8,750.00 of the \$35,000.00 allocated to PAGA penalties will be distributed pro rata to all Class Members; this pro-rata distribution will be based on the number of pay periods that each Class Member worked during the Class Period and will be mailed to them regardless of whether they choose to exclude themselves from the Settlement.

What claims are being released by the proposed Settlement?

Upon the Effective Date, each Settlement Class Member and Plaintiffs, will release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless the Released Parties, and each of them, of and from any and all Released Class Claims and Released PAGA Claims. "Released Parties" means Defendant and Defendant's former and present parents, subsidiaries and affiliated companies and entities, franchisors and franchisees, and its current, former, and future owners, officers, shareholders, directors, members, managers, operators, employees, consultants, vendors, partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, shareholders, attorneys, insurers, payroll providers, joint venturers, and agents, and any successors, assigns, or legal representatives and any individual or entity who or which could be jointly liable with Defendant and all persons or entities acting by, through under or in concert with any of them.

"Released Class Claims" means any and all claims, liabilities, demands, obligations, penalties, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, damages, action or causes of action of whatever kind or nature, whether known or unknown, contingent or accrued, that are alleged, or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in

the Action, including claims for: (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (d) failure to pay final wages upon separation of employment; (e) failure to provide compliant meal breaks and/or pay meal break premiums; (f) failure to provide compliant rest breaks and/or pay rest break premiums; (g) failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (h) failure to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures incurred in discharge of duties; (i) all claims for unfair business practices under California Business & Professions Code Section 17200 et seq. that could have been premised on the claims, causes of action or legal theories of relief described above in (a)–(h). The Parties agree that the judgment, and Released Claims provided herein, shall have res judicata effect. The Released Claims will cover all Class Members who do not opt out.

"Released PAGA Claims" means the claims to be released by the PAGA Group Member and the State of California for civil penalties under PAGA that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice; those being California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 221, 223, 224, 226, 512, 1174, 1194, 1197, and Wage Order No. 9-2001, as well as all facts, theories, or claims for civil penalties that would be considered administratively exhausted under applicable law by the PAGA Notice Plaintiff sent to the LWDA.

What are my options in this matter?

You have two options under this Settlement, each of which is further discussed below. You may: (A) remain in the Settlement Class and receive a Individual Settlement Payment; or (B) exclude yourself from the Settlement. If you choose option (A), you may still object to the Settlement, as explained below.

OPTION A. Remain in the Settlement Class. If you wish to remain in the Settlement Class and be eligible to receive an Individual Settlement Payment, *you do not need to take any action*. By remaining in the Settlement Class and receiving a Net Settlement Payment, you will be subject to any Judgment that will be entered in the Action, including the release of claims described above. If you remain in the Settlement Class, you will be represented at no cost by Class Counsel. Class Counsel, however, will not represent you for purposes of making objections to the Settlement.

Objecting to the Settlement: If you believe the proposed Settlement is not fair, reasonable, or adequate, you may object to it. To object, you must mail an "Objection" to the Settlement Administrator at the address located at the bottom of this Notice. If you submit an Objection, it must be postmarked no later than ______ [45 days after mailing] 2023 and set forth the following: (1) your full name, address and dates of employment with Defendants; (2) the case name and number of the Action (shown on page 1 of this Notice); (3) the legal and factual basis for your Objection, and (4) the name and address of your counsel if you are represented by counsel for purposes of objecting. The Objection must be signed by you or your authorized representative. Even if you submit an objection, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement, including the release of the claims set forth above, unless the Court does not grant final approval of the Settlement.

OPTION B. Request to Be Excluded from the Settlement and Receive No Money from the Settlement. If you do not want to be part of the Settlement, you must submit a written statement requesting exclusion from the Class. The Request for Exclusion must contain your name, address, and last four digits of your social security number and must be mailed to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked on or before [45 days after mailing] 2023 and signed by the you or your authorized representative. Any Class Member who opts out of the Class will not be entitled to any recovery under the Settlement and will not be bound by the Settlement or have any right to object, appeal, or comment thereon. Class Members who do not submit a valid and timely Request for Exclusion on or before [45 days after mailing], 2023 shall be Participating Class Members and bound by all terms of the Settlement and any Final Judgment entered in this Class Action if the Settlement is approved by the Court.

What is the next step in the approval of the Settlement?

The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing to decide whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate on at the Indian proval Hearing to decide whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate on at the Indian proval Hearing to Present Class member timely submits an Objection, he or she may appear, personally or through an attorney, at his or her own expense, at the Final Approval Hearing to present his or her objection directly to the Court. You need not attend the Final Approval Hearing to receive an Individual Settlement Payment. Please note that the date and/or time for the Final Approval Hearing may be changed at any time without notice. You can confirm the date by contacting the Settlement Administrator.

If the Court grants Final Approval of the Settlement, the Order granting Final Approval and entering Judgment will be posted on a website (listed below) created by the Settlement Administrator for this case for a period of 90 days following the entry of that Order/Judgment, in compliance with California Rules of Court, rule 3.771.

Even if the Court grants Final Approval, there may be appeals. If there are any appeals, resolving them could take some time, so please be patient.

It is your responsibility to maintain your current address with the Settlement Administrator. If you move, you should send a letter updating your address to the Settlement Administrator. Maintaining your current address with the Settlement Administrator is the best way to ensure that you receive your Individual Settlement Payment.

How can I get additional information?

This Notice summarizes the Action and the basic terms of the Settlement. More details are available in the Complaints and the Settlement Agreement, all of which are posted on the Settlement Administrator's website which also lists information regarding the Final Approval Hearing. These documents and all other records relating to the Action are available for inspection and/or copying at the Civil Records Office of the Los Angeles County Superior Court and on the Court's website located at http://www.lacourt.org. You may also request a copy of the Settlement Agreement from Class Counsel whose contact information is listed above.

CPT Group, Inc. will serve as the Settlement Administrator for the Settlement. CPT Group, Inc. may be reached at:

Global Paratransit Wage and Hour Settlement Administrator

c/o

https://www.

phone: (XXX) XCX-XCXC

fax: (XXX) XCX-XCXC

website:www.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS SETTLEMENT

1 2 3 4 5	MATERN LAW GROUP, PC Matthew J. Matern (SBN 159798) mmatern@maternlawgroup.com Mikael H. Stahle (SBN 182599) mstahle@maternlawgroup.com 1230 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 Telephone: (310) 531-1900 Facsimile: (310) 531-1901			
6 7	Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated			
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
9	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
10				
11	MARIA JIMENEZ, individually, and on behalf of others similarly situated,	Case No. 19STCV11731		
12	Plaintiff,	Honorable Elihu M. Berle Department 6		
13	,			
14	VS.	CLASS ACTION		
15 16	BLUE AND YELLOW TAXI GROUP, INC., a California Corporation; L.A. CHECKER CAB COMPANY, INC., a California Corporation; GLOBAL PARATRANSIT, INC., a California	AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT Action filed: April 5, 2019		
17	Corporation; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,	Trial date: None		
18				
19	Defendants.			
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TO THE COURT:

This Joint Stipulation for Class Action and PAGA Settlement ("Settlement Agreement") is made and entered into by and between Maria Jimenez ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and Global Paratransit, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Global Paratransit") (collectively, Defendant and Plaintiff will be referred to as the "Parties"), and is subject to the terms and conditions below, and to the Court's approval. The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Settlement Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of compromising significantly disputed claims and that nothing in this Settlement Agreement is an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendant. If for any reason the Settlement Agreement, including settlement of both the Class and PAGA Claims, is not approved in full, it will be of no force or effect, and the Parties will be returned to their respective positions, including status of pleadings, immediately prior to entering into this Settlement Agreement, as if they had never executed this Settlement Agreement, as more fully set forth below.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are applicable to this Settlement Agreement. Definitions contained elsewhere in this Settlement Agreement will also be effective:

- 1. "Action" means the case of Maria Jimenez v. Blue and Yellow Taxi Group, Inc. et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 19STCV11731.
- 2. "Settlement Administrator" means CPT Group, Inc. or any other third-party class action settlement Settlement Administrator agreed to by the Parties and approved by the Court for the purposes of administering this Settlement. The Parties each represent that they do not have any financial interest in the Settlement Administrator or otherwise have a relationship with the Settlement Administrator that could create a conflict of interest.
- 3. "Claims Administration Expenses" means the costs payable to the Settlement Administrator for administering this Settlement, including, but not limited to, printing, translating into Spanish, conducting a National Change of Address ("NCOA") search, distributing (including with appropriate postage), and tracking documents for this Settlement in English and Spanish, any searches to locate any Class Members, tax reporting, distributing the Individual Settlement

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Payments, Class Representatives Enhancement Payment, Class Counsel Fees and Costs, and providing necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and declarations, establishing and administering a qualified settlement fund account and other responsibilities set forth in this Settlement Agreement and as requested by the Parties. The Claims Administration Expenses are currently estimated to be no more than \$25,000.00.

- 4. "Class Counsel" means Matthew J. Matern and Mikael H. Stahle of Matern Law Group, PC.
- 5. "Class Counsel Fees and Costs" means attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses approved by the Court for Class Counsel's litigation and resolution of the Action, and all costs incurred and to be incurred by Class Counsel in the Action, including, but not limited to, costs associated with documenting the Settlement, providing any notices required as part of the Settlement or Court Order, securing the Court's approval of the Settlement, administering the Settlement, and obtaining entry of the Judgment terminating the Action. Class Counsel will request attorneys' fees not to exceed one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount or One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$116,665.50) and litigation costs and expenses not to exceed Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$37,500.00). Defendant has agreed not to oppose Class Counsel's request for Class Counsel Fees and Costs.
- "Class List" means a complete list of all Employed Class Members and Taxi Class Members for whom Defendant has been able to obtain information that Defendant will diligently and in good faith compile from their records and provide on a confidential basis to the Settlement Administrator within seven (7) calendar days after the Court's entry of an order granting preliminary approval of this Settlement. The Class List will be formatted in Microsoft Office Excel and Defendant will use its best efforts to include, if readily available, each Class Member's full name; most recent mailing address; last known telephone number; dates of employment or number of workweeks worked during the Class Period; PAGA Pay Periods; and Social Security number. The Parties acknowledge that the Class List to be prepared by Defendant may not

include all Taxi Class Members since Defendant does not possess information identifying all Taxi Class Members. Settlement AdministratorSettlement Administrator

- 7. "Class Member(s)" or "Settlement Class" means: 1) All current and former non-exempt hourly employees of Defendant within California at any time during the Class Period ("Employed Class Members"); and 2) such taxicab drivers who were not treated as employees, but rather as independent contractors, by Global Paratransit and who accepted Access trips through Global Paratransit during the Class Period ("Taxi Class Members").
- 8. "Class Period" means the period from December 3, 2017 through September 30, 2022.
- 9. "Class Representative Enhancement Payment" means the amount to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount to the named Plaintiff in recognition of her efforts in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members. Plaintiff will request and Defendant will not oppose Plaintiff's application to the court for a payment of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$7,500.00) for the named Plaintiff for her willingness to serve as Class Representative.
- 10. "Court" means the Los Angeles County Superior Court, or any other court taking jurisdiction of the Action.
- 11. "Effective Date" means the date when the Final Approval Order becomes final and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount. For purposes of this Paragraph, the Final Approval Order "becomes final" upon the last to occur of the following: (a) if there are no objections to the Settlement, the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; (b) if there are objections to the Settlement, and if an appeal, review, or writ is not sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the time period to appeal the Settlement has expired, i.e., 60 days from the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement; or (c) if there are objections to the Settlement, and an appeal, review, or writ is timely sought from the Final Approval Order, the day after the Final Approval Order is affirmed or the appeal, review, or writ is dismissed or denied, and the Final Approval Order is no longer subject to further judicial review.

- 12. "Gross Settlement Amount" means the non-reversionary payment Defendant agrees to make in connection with the Agreement in the maximum settlement amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) ("Gross Settlement Amount"), which has been and/or will be paid by Defendant in full satisfaction of all claims arising from the Action. The Gross Settlement Amount includes all Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members, the Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Claims Administration Expenses, Class Counsel Fees and Cost, and PAGA penalties in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$35,000.00) of which 75% or Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$26,250.00) will be paid to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and 25% or Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,750.00) to PAGA Group Members. Defendant will be responsible for the employer's share of payroll taxes, which shall be paid separately by Defendant in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 13. "Individual Employed Class Payment" means the pro rata share of the Net Employed Settlement Amount for a Participating Class Member who is an Employed Class Member calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 14. "Individual Settlement Payment" means the Participating Class Member's pro rata share of the Net Settlement Amount calculated according to the number of Workweeks worked during the Class Period.
- 15. "Individual PAGA Payment" means the PAGA Group Member's share of 25% of the PAGA Penalties, which shall be divided evenly among the PAGA Group Members.
- 16. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount less the Class Counsel Fees and Costs, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Claims Administration Expenses, and PAGA Settlement Amount. The Net Settlement Amount is to be divided with a percentage allocated to the "Net Employed Settlement Amount" equal to the percentage of the total number of Employed Class Members compared to the total number of Class Members and a percentage allocated to the "Net Taxi Settlement Amount" equal to the percentage of total Taxi Class Members compared to the total number of Class Members, with the Net Employed

Settlement Amount and the Net Taxi Settlement Amount paid to Participating Class Members as Individual Employed Class Payments or Individual Taxi Class Payments.

- 17. "Notice of Objection" means a Class Member's valid and timely written objection to the Settlement Agreement. For the objection to be valid, it must include: (i) the objector's full name, signature, address, and telephone number; and (ii) a written statement of all grounds for the objection accompanied by any legal support for such objection. Further, an objector may appear at the Final Approval hearing, either in person or through counsel, at his or her expense, regardless of whether the objector submitted a Notice of Objection. The Parties will be permitted to respond in writing to such objections at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the Final Approval hearing or within the time period set by the Court.
- 18. "Notice" means the Notice of Class Action Settlement, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, along with notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation, as approved by the Court, in order to provide the best notice practicable to those Taxi Class Members for whom no address has been located.
- 19. "PAGA" means the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, which is codified in California Labor Code §2698, et seq.
- 20. "PAGA Group Member(s)" means all current and former hourly non-exempt employees of Defendant within California at any time during the PAGA Period.
 - 21. "PAGA Period" means the period from January 11, 2021 to September 30, 2022.
- 22. "PAGA Settlement Amount" means the total amount of PAGA civil penalties to be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount allocated to the resolution of PAGA Group Members' claims arising under PAGA. The Parties have agreed that the PAGA Settlement Amount is Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$35,000.00) of which 75% or Twenty-Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$26,250.00) will be paid to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") and 25% or Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,750.00) will be paid to the PAGA Group Members.
- 23. "Participating Class Members" means all Class Members who do not submit valid Requests for Exclusion.

24. "Plaintiff" means Maria Jimenez, the named plaintiff in the Action.

25. "Preliminary Approval" means the Court order granting preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement.

- 26. "Released PAGA Claims" means the claims to be released by the PAGA Group Member and the State of California for civil penalties under PAGA that were alleged, or reasonably could have been alleged, based on the facts stated in the Operative Complaint and the PAGA Notice; those being California Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 221, 223, 224, 226, 512, 1174, 1194, 1197, and Wage Order No. 9-2001, as well as all facts, theories, or claims for civil penalties that would be considered administratively exhausted under applicable law by the PAGA Notice Plaintiff sent to the LWDA.
- 27. "Released Class Claims" means any and all claims, liabilities, demands, obligations, penalties, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, damages, action or causes of action of whatever kind or nature, whether known or unknown, contingent or accrued, that are alleged, or that reasonably could have been alleged based on the facts alleged in the Operative ComplaintAction, including claims for: (a) failure to pay minimum wages; (b) failure to pay overtime wages; (c) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (d) failure to pay final wages upon separation of employment; (e) failure to provide compliant meal breaks and/or pay meal break premiums; (f) failure to provide compliant rest breaks and/or pay rest break premiums; (g) failure to pay all wages due to discharged and quitting employees; (h) failure to indemnify employees for necessary expenditures incurred in discharge of duties; (i) all claims for unfair business practices under California Business & Professions Code Section 17200 et seq. that could have been premised on the claims, causes of action or legal theories of relief described above in (a)—(h). The Parties agree that the judgment, and Released Claims provided herein, shall have res judicata effect. The Released Claims will cover all Class Members who do not opt out.
- 28. "Released Parties" means Defendant and Defendant's former and present parents, subsidiaries and affiliated companies and entities, franchisors and franchisees, and its current, former, and future owners, officers, shareholders, directors, members, managers, operators, employees, consultants, vendors, partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, shareholders, attorneys,

insurers, payroll providers, joint venturers, and agents, and any successors, assigns, or legal representatives and any individual or entity who or which could be jointly liable with Defendant and all persons or entities acting by, through under or in concert with any of them, including but not limited to Blue and Yellow Taxi Group, Inc., L.A. Checker Cab Company, Inc., and Access Services.

- 29. "Request for Exclusion" means a timely letter submitted by a Class Member indicating a request to be excluded from the Settlement. The Request for Exclusion must: (a) set forth the name, address, telephone number and last four digits of the Social Security Number of the Class Member requesting exclusion; (b) be signed by the Class Member; (c) be returned by mail or fax to the Settlement Administrator at the specified address or fax number indicated in the Notice; (d) clearly state that the Class Member does not wish to be included in the Settlement; and (e) be faxed or postmarked on or before the Response Deadline.
- 30. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must fax or postmark to the Settlement Administrator a valid Request for Exclusion, submit objections to the Settlement or dispute workweeks. The Response Deadline will be forty-five (45) calendar days from the initial mailing of the Notice by the Settlement Administrator for Employed Class Members and Taxi Class Members to whom the Notice by the Settlement Administrator is mailed, and forty-five (45) calendar days from the publication of the Notice for Taxi Class Members. The Response Deadline for Request for Exclusion, objection or dispute workweeks will be extended fifteen (15) calendar days for any Employed Class Member who is re-mailed a Notice by the Settlement Administrator in accordance with the notice procedure described herein. The Response Deadline may also be extended by express agreement between Class Counsel and Defendant's counsel.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Settlement Class, and Defendant agree as follows:

31. <u>Impact of Any Court Determination Not to Enter Final Approval Order</u>. In the event that the Court enters an Order denying final approval and this Settlement Agreement does not become effective, the following will occur:

- a. on the date final approval is denied, the status of the Action will be deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the Parties had never executed this Settlement Agreement, except that the Section herein entitled Tolling of Statute concerning the time within which the Action must be brought to trial pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 583.310 through 583.360 shall remain effective; and
- b. Defendant and Plaintiff shall share equally (50% each) all costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator.
- 32. <u>Settlement Funding</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days of the Effective Date, as explained in paragraph 11, Defendant will cause payment to be made for the Gross Settlement Amount in the amount of Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000) to the Settlement Administrator in accordance with directions to be provided by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will deposit the funds into an interest-bearing trust account referred to as the Qualified Settlement Fund account from which the Settlement Administrator will have authority to distribute money in accordance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will assist Defendant to calculate the appropriate amount of the employers' share of the payroll taxes which shall be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 33. <u>Class Counsel Fees and Costs.</u> Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion by Class Counsel for Class Counsel Fees in the amount of up to one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount or One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Five Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$116,665.50), plus the reimbursement of the actual costs and expenses associated with Class Counsel's litigation and settlement of the Action, not to exceed Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$37,500.00).
- 34. <u>Class Representative Enhancement Payment</u>. In exchange for named Plaintiff executing a general release, and in recognition of her effort in prosecuting the Action on behalf of Class Members, Defendant agrees not to oppose or impede any application or motion for a Class Representative Enhancement Payment of up to Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and

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Zero Cents (\$7,500.00). The Class Representative Enhancement Payment, which will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, will be in addition to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment paid pursuant to the Settlement. Plaintiff will be solely and legally responsible to pay any and all applicable taxes, penalties and interest on the payment made pursuant to this paragraph and will hold Defendant harmless from any claim or liability for taxes, penalties, or interest arising as a result of the payment.

- 35. <u>Claims Administration Expenses</u>. The Settlement Administrator will be paid for the reasonable fees and costs of administration of the Settlement, which are estimated not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$25,000.00). These will include, inter alia, fees and costs payable to the Settlement Administrator for printing translating into Spanish (or other first-languages of Class Members, if necessary), distributing (including with appropriate postage), and tracking documents for this Settlement in English and Spanish; any searches to locate any Class Members; calculating estimated amounts per Class Member and PAGA Group Members; tax reporting; distributing the Individual Settlement Payments, Class Representative Enhancement Payment, Class Counsel Fees and Costs, and payment to LWDA for PAGA penalties; and providing necessary certification of completion of notice, reports and declarations, establishing and administering a Qualified Settlement Fund account, required tax reporting on the Individual Settlement Payments, the issuing of 1099 and W-2 IRS forms, calculating the employers' share of payroll taxes on the wage portion of the Individual Settlement Payments and coordinating related reporting, and other responsibilities as requested by the Parties. The Claims Administration Expenses will be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- 36. Net Settlement Amount. The Net Settlement Amount will be used to satisfy Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members from the Settlement Class and PAGA Group Members in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
- 37. Individual Settlement Payment Calculations. Defendant will provide the Claims Administrator with: (a) either dates of employment or the total number of workweeks for each Employed Class Member who is a Participating Class Member and PAGA Group Member; and (b) for each Taxi Class Member, total trips taken by each Taxi Class Member for which Defendant

has a record. For Participating Employed Class Members, the Claims Administrator will divide				
the Net Employed Settlement Amount by the total number of workweeks for Participating Class				
Members who are Employed Class Members ("Work Week Rate Amount") and then multiply				
this amount by each Participating Employed Class Member's total number of workweeks to yield				
that employee's Individual Settlement Payment. In the event an Employed Class Member submits				
a timely Request for Exclusion from the settlement, his/her share of the settlement will be added				
to the Net Employed Settlement Amount.				
NET EMPLOYED	X 7	Participating F. 1.61		
SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	X	Employed Class Member's		
Total number of		Workweeks		

For Participating Taxi Class Members, the Claims Administrator will divide the Net Taxi Settlement Amount by the total trips by all Participating Taxi Class Members for which Defendant has a record (based on Defendant's information) and then multiply this amount by the total for all trips by each Participating Taxi Class Member for which Defendant has a record during the Class Period, to yield that person's Individual Settlement Payment. In the event a Taxi Class Member submits a timely Request for Exclusion from the settlement, his/her share of the settlement will be added to the Net Taxi Settlement Amount.

2223		NET TAXI SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	X	Total trips by Participating Taxi Class Member
24	II	Total trips by all		During Class Period
25		Participating Taxi Class Members		renou
26		During Class Period		
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Total number of

Workweeks for all Participating

Employed Class

Members

In addition, each Participating Class Member who is a PAGA Group Member will be paid an equal share of the Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$8,750.00) allocated for PAGA penalties.

\$8,750 for PAGA Penalties to PAGA Group Members

Total number of PAGA Group Members during PAGA Period

The Individual Class Payment for any Participating Class Member who is also a PAGA Group Member shall include the Participating Class Member's Individual PAGA Payment.

Class Members who are PAGA Group Members will not be permitted to exclude themselves from the PAGA claim portion of the Settlement. Individual PAGA Payments in the appropriate amounts will be distributed by the Settlement Administrator by mail to the PAGA Group Members including to those Class Members who are PAGA Group Members who submitted a request for exclusion.

38. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans. All Individual Class Payments shall be deemed to be income to such Class Members solely in the year in which such payments actually are received by the Class Members. It is expressly understood and agreed that the receipt of such Individual Settlement Payments will not entitle any Class Member to additional compensation or benefits under any company bonus, paid time off (including vacation and sick leave), 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 Individual Settlement Payments provided for in this Agreement are the sole payments to be made by Defendant 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 Individual Settlement Payments (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).

- 39. <u>Claims Administration Process</u>. The Parties agree to cooperate in the administration of the settlement and to make all reasonable efforts to control and minimize the costs and expenses incurred in administration of the Settlement.
- 40. <u>Delivery of the Class List</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days of Preliminary Approval, Defendant will provide the Class List to the Settlement Administrator.
- 41. <u>Notice by First-Class U.S. Mail</u>. Within seven (7) calendar days after receiving the Class List from Defendant, the Settlement Administrator will mail the Notice to all Class Members via regular First-Class U.S. Mail.
- 42. <u>Confirmation of Contact Information in the Class Lists</u>. Upon receipt of the Class List, the Settlement Administrator shall perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database maintained by the United States Postal Service to update and correct any known or identifiable address changes. Within fifteen (15) days after receiving the Class List from Defendant as provided herein, the Settlement Administrator shall mail copies of the Notice to all Class Members via regular First Class U.S. Mail. The Settlement Administrator shall exercise its best judgment to determine the current mailing address for each Class Member. The address identified by the Settlement Administrator as the current mailing address shall be presumed to be the most current mailing address for each Class Member. The Parties agree that this procedure for notice provides the best practical notice to Class Members and fully complies with due process.
- 43. <u>Notice</u>. All Class Members will be mailed the Notice. The Notice will provide: (1) information regarding the nature of the Action, (2) a summary of the Settlement's principal terms, (3) the Settlement Class definition, (4) each Class Member's number of workweeks worked during the Class Period, (5) each Class Member's estimated Individual Settlement Payment; (6) the dates which comprise the Class Period, (7) instructions on how to submit valid Requests for Exclusion, objections or dispute workweeks, (8) the deadlines by which the Class Member must fax or postmark Request for Exclusions, submit objections to the Settlement or

dispute workweeks, and (9) the claims to be released, as set forth in this Settlement Agreement. A Class Notice will also be published in a newspaper of general circulation, as approved by the Court, allowing for submission of a claim to the Settlement Administrator by any individual not already included in the Class List. To be timely, any such claim must be submitted to the On the same date that the Notice Packet is mailed to Class Members, or as soon thereafter as possible, a supplemental English version of the Class Notice (attached hereto as Exhibit A) shall be placed in the Los Angeles Times, and a supplemental Spanish version of the Class Notice shall be placed in *Hoy Fin de SemanaLa Opinion*, the highest circulating Spanish-The published notice shall instruct Class Members who did not receive a Notice Packet to contact the Settlement Administrator, who shall then send a Notice Packet via first class U.S. mail; Class Members shall have 45 days from the date of publication in the Los Angeles Times or Hoy Fin de SemanaLa Opinion, whichever is later if the ads run on different days, to submit a Request for Exclusion or an objection to the Settlement, so long as the Class Members were not mailed a Notice Packet by the Settlement The Response Deadline for Class Members mailed a Notice Packet in the first mailing shall not change and will remain 45 days from the If each ad is no more than 400 words and runs one time in each

Administration Expenses.;

44(e) The parties agree that the additional cost for notice by publication shall be deducted from the Maximum Settlement Amount.

- 45. Request for Exclusion Procedures. Any Class Member wishing to opt out from the Settlement Agreement must sign and fax or postmark a written Request for Exclusion to the Settlement Administrator within the Response Deadline. The date of the fax or postmark on the return mailing envelope will be the exclusive means to determine whether a Request for Exclusion has been timely submitted. The Parties to this Agreement and their counsel agree that they will not solicit or encourage Class Members to opt-out or object to this Settlement Agreement. If the Court approves the compromise of the PAGA claim, all PAGA Group Members are bound by the Court's resolution of that claim. Class Members who are also PAGA Group Members submitting a request for exclusion will nevertheless receive their Individual PAGA Payment.
- 46. <u>Defective Submissions</u>. The Administrator may not reject a Request for Exclusion as invalid because it fails to contain all the information specified in the Class Notice. The Administrator shall accept any Request for Exclusion as valid if the Administrator can reasonably ascertain the identity of the person as a Class Member and the Class Member's desire to be excluded. The Administrator's determination shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge. If the Administrator has reason to question the authenticity of a Request for Exclusion, the Administrator may demand additional proof of the Class Member's identity. The Administrator's determination of authenticity shall be final and not appealable or otherwise susceptible to challenge.
- 47. <u>Settlement Terms Bind All Class Members Who Do Not Opt-Out</u>. Any Class Member who does not affirmatively opt out of the Settlement Agreement by submitting a timely and valid Request for Exclusion will be bound by all of its terms, including those pertaining to the Released Claims (other than as it applies to the PAGA claims with respect to the PAGA Group Members), as well as any Judgment that may be entered by the Court if it grants final approval to the Settlement. If the Court approves the compromise of the PAGA claim, Class Members

who are also PAGA Group Members submitting a request for exclusion will nevertheless be bound by the Court's resolution of that claim and their Individual PAGA Payment. The Parties agree that if the total number of Class Members included in the Class List electing to opt-out of the class settlement equals more than 1% of the total Class Members, then Defendant in its sole and absolute discretion shall have the right to cancel this settlement in its entirety. Defendant must notify Class Counsel and the Court of its election to withdraw not later than seven (7) days after the Administrator sends the final class list to Defense Counsel; late elections will have no effect. In the event that Defendant decides to cancel this settlement due to the number of opt-outs then Defendant shall be 100% responsible for costs of the Settlement Administrator and the Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement shall be of no force and effect and the status of the Action will be deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the Parties had never executed this Settlement Agreement.

- Class Member may not submit a Request for Exclusion and may mail a valid Notice of Objection to the Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline. The Settlement Administrator will notify counsel for the Parties forthwith via email. Class Counsel will lodge the objection with the Court. The Notice of Objection must be signed by the Class Member and contain all information required by this Settlement Agreement. The postmark date of the mailing will be deemed the exclusive means for determining that the Notice of Objection is timely. Class Members who wish to object will have a right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, with or without counsel at his/her own expense, in order to have their objections heard by the Court, regardless of whether they submitted a Notice of Objection. At no time will any of the Parties or their counsel seek to solicit or otherwise encourage Class Members to submit written objections to the Settlement Agreement or appeal from the Final Approval Order and Judgment.
- 49. <u>Certification Reports Regarding Individual Settlement Payment Calculations</u>. The Settlement Administrator will provide Defendant's counsel and Class Counsel a weekly report which certifies: (i) the number of Class Members who have submitted a valid Request for Exclusion; (ii) the number of Class Members who have submitted a valid Notice of Objection;

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(iii) the number of any deficient Requests for Exclusion or objections; and (iv) the number of any submissions by Unidentified Class Members who submit a claim to the Settlement Administrator after receiving notice via the publication. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator will provide to counsel for both Parties any updated reports regarding the administration of the Settlement Agreement as needed or requested.

- 50. Timing of Distribution of Individual Settlement Payments. Within seven (7) calendar days of Defendant depositing the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will issue payments to (1) Participating Class Members and PAGA Group Members; (2) Plaintiff; (3) Class Counsel; and (4) payment to LWDA. The Settlement Administrator will also issue a payment to itself for Court-approved services performed in connection with the settlement.
- 51. Uncashed or Undeliverable Settlement Checks. Individual settlement checks paid to participating Class Members will be valid for 180 days. Participating Class Members and/or PAGA Group Members will have one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of the mailing of the check to cash their check. For any check not cashed after 180 calendar days, the Settlement Administrator will send the amount represented by the check to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund, with the identity of the Participating Class Member and/or PAGA Group Member to whom the funds belong, to be held for the participating Class Member and/or PAGA Group Member per California Unclaimed Property Law, in the interest of justice. The money paid to the California State Controller's Office Unclaimed Property Fund will remain the Participating Class Member's and/or PAGA Group Members' property. This will allow Participating Class Members and/or PAGA Group Members who did not cash their checks to collect their Individual Settlement Amounts at any time in the future. Therefore, there will be no unpaid residue or unclaimed or abandoned class member funds, and California Code of Civil Procedure section 384 shall not apply. The funds will be held by the State until claimed by the employee and the uncashed check never ceases to be the employee's property.

- 52. <u>Certification of Completion</u>. Upon completion of administration of the Settlement, the Settlement Administrator will provide a written declaration under oath to certify such completion to the Court and counsel for all Parties. At least 15 days before any deadline set by the Court, the Administrator will prepare, and submit to Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, a signed declaration suitable for filing in Court attesting to its disbursement of all payments required under this Agreement.
- Payments will be allocated as follows: 100% of each Individual PAGA Payment shall be allocated as penalties; 20% of each Individual Employed Class Payment will be allocated for the settlement of wage claims; and 80% of each Individual Employed Class Payment will be allocated for the settlement of interest and penalties. The portion allocated to wages in each Individual Employed Class Payment will be reported on an IRS Form W-2 and the portion allocated to interest and penalties will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 by the Settlement Administrator. All Individual Taxi Class Payments will be reported on an IRS Form-1099 by the Settlement Administrator
- Administration of Taxes by the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for issuing to Plaintiff, Participating Class Members, PAGA Group Members, Class Counsel, and Defendant any W-2, 1099, or other tax forms as may be required by law for all amounts paid pursuant to this Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Administrator will also be responsible for forwarding all payroll taxes and other legally required withholdings, and related reporting, to the appropriate government authorities.
- 55. <u>Payment of Employer Taxes</u>: For any portion of the Class Members' Class Settlement Payments that are designated as "wages" for purposes of tax reporting, the employer's taxes, employer contributions of all federal, state, and local taxes (including, but not limited to, FICA, FUTA, and SDI), will be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount, via and with the Settlement Administrator's assistance.
- 56. <u>Circular 230 Disclaimer</u>. EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT (FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE "ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY" AND EACH PARTY TO THIS AGREEMENT OTHER THAN THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY, AN "OTHER

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PARTY") ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT (1) NO PROVISION OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND NO WRITTEN COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BETWEEN OR AMONG THE PARTIES OR THEIR ATTORNEYS AND OTHER ADVISERS, IS OR WAS INTENDED TO BE, NOR SHALL ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTE OR BE CONSTRUED OR BE RELIED UPON AS, TAX ADVICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR 230 (31 CFR PART 10, AS AMENDED); (2) THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY (A) HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVELY UPON HIS, HER OR ITS OWN, INDEPENDENT LEGAL AND TAX COUNSEL FOR ADVICE (INCLUDING TAX ADVICE) IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT, (B) HAS NOT ENTERED INTO THIS AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ANY OTHER PARTY OR ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISOR TO ANY OTHER PARTY, AND (C) IS NOT ENTITLED TO RELY UPON ANY COMMUNICATION OR DISCLOSURE BY ANY ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY TO AVOID ANY TAX PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED ON THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY; AND (3) NO ATTORNEY OR ADVISER TO ANY OTHER PARTY HAS IMPOSED ANY LIMITATION THAT PROTECTS THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANY SUCH ATTORNEY'S OR ADVISER'S TAX STRATEGIES (REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH LIMITATION IS LEGALLY BINDING) UPON DISCLOSURE BY THE ACKNOWLEDGING PARTY OF THE TAX TREATMENT OR TAX STRUCTURE OF ANY TRANSACTION, INCLUDING ANY TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED BY AGREEMENT.

- 57. No Prior Assignments. The Parties and their 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 released and discharged in this Settlement Agreement.
- 58. <u>Release of Claims by Class Members</u>. Upon the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, all Class Members who do not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion do and will be deemed

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to have fully, finally and forever released, settled, compromised, relinquished, waived, and discharged any and all of the Released Parties of and from any and all Released Claims accruing during the Class Period. In addition, on the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, all Class Members who do not timely submit a valid Request for Exclusion and all successors in interest will be barred from prosecuting or participating in any and all Released Claims against the Released Parties accruing during the Class Period. Furthermore, upon the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the Settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, the State of California and PAGA Group Members (regardless of whether PAGA Group Members opt out of the Class Settlement) release the Released Parties from the Released PAGA Claims.

59. Release by Plaintiff. Upon the date the Court enters an order granting final approval of the settlement and Defendant fully funds the Gross Settlement Amount, in addition to the claims being released by all Class Members, Plaintiff will provide the following additional general release ("General Release"): Plaintiff, on her own behalf and on behalf of her heirs, spouses, executors, administrators, attorneys, agents and assigns, fully and finally releases the Released Parties from all claims, demands, rights, liabilities and causes of action of every nature and description whatsoever, known or unknown, asserted or that might have been asserted, whether in tort, contract, or for violation of any state or federal statute, rule or regulation arising out of, relating to, or in connection with any act or omission by or on the part of any of the Released Parties committed or omitted prior to the execution of this Agreement that occurred during the Class Period. This General Release includes any unknown claims Plaintiffs do not know or suspect to exist in their favor at the time of this General Release, which, if known by them, might have affected their settlement with, and release of, the Released Parties or might have affected their decision not to object to this Settlement or this Release. To the extent the foregoing releases are releases to which Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of other applicable law may apply, Plaintiffs expressly waive any and all rights and benefits conferred upon them by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code or similar provisions of applicable law which are as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

The significance of this release and waiver of Civil Code Section 1542 has been explained to Plaintiffs by their respective counsel. Release by Plaintiffs expressly excludes any claims for workers compensation against Defendant.

- 60. <u>Neutral Reference</u>. Defendant agrees that they will only provide a neutral reference for Plaintiff should any prospective employers or anyone contact them regarding Plaintiff's employment. Defendant shall only provide the dates of employment and Plaintiff's last job title held with Defendant.
- 61. <u>Nullification of Settlement Agreement</u>. In the event that: (i) the Court does not finally approve the Settlement both class claims and PAGA as provided in this Settlement Agreement; or (ii) the Settlement does not become final for any other reason, then this Settlement Agreement and any documents generated to bring it into effect will be null and void and the status of the Action will be deemed to return to its status at the time immediately prior to and as if the Parties never executed the Settlement. Any order or judgment entered by the Court in furtherance of this Settlement Agreement will likewise be treated as void from the beginning. In such case, the Settlement shall not be used or be admissible in any subsequent proceedings, either in this Action, this Court, or any other Court or forum.
- 62. <u>Preliminary Approval Hearing</u>. Plaintiff will obtain a hearing before the Court to request the Preliminary Approval of the Settlement Agreement, and the entry of a Preliminary Approval Order for: (i) conditional certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, (ii) preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement Agreement, and (iii) setting a date for a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing. The Preliminary Approval Order will provide for the Notice to be sent to all Class Members as specified in this Settlement Agreement. In conjunction with the Preliminary Approval motion, Plaintiff will submit this Settlement Agreement, which sets forth the terms of this Settlement and will include the proposed Notice.

- 63. <u>Final Settlement Approval Hearing and Entry of Judgment</u>. Upon expiration of the deadlines to fax or postmark Request for Exclusion or submit objections to the Settlement Agreement, and with the Court's permission, a Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing will be conducted to determine the Final Approval of the Settlement Agreement along with the amounts properly payable for (i) Individual Settlement Payments; (ii) the Class Counsel Fees and Costs; (iii) the Class Representative Enhancement Payment; (iv) payment to LWDA for PAGA penalties; and (v) all Claims Administration Expenses. Class Counsel will be responsible for drafting all documents necessary to obtain final approval. Class Counsel will also be responsible for drafting the attorneys' fees and costs application to be heard at the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing.
- 64. Tolling of Statute. The Parties stipulate and agree, pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 583.330(a), that the time within which the Action must be brought to trial pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 583.310 through 583.360 shall be extended by the period of time from January 27, 2022 through the later of January 27, 2023 or the date of entry of the order on the motion for final approval and that said period of time shall not be included in the computation of the five-year period specified in the Code of Civil Procedure section 583.310.
- 65. <u>Judgment and Continued Jurisdiction</u>. Upon final approval of the Settlement by the Court or after the Final Approval/Settlement Fairness Hearing, the Parties will present a proposed Judgment to the Court for its approval. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.771(b), the Settlement Administrator shall post on its website a copy of the Judgment for a period of thirty days from the date the Court signs the Judgment. After entry of the Judgment, the Court will have continuing jurisdiction solely for purposes of addressing: (i) the interpretation and enforcement of the terms of the Settlement Agreement, (ii) settlement administration matters, and (iii) such post-Judgment matters as may be appropriate under court rules or as set forth in this Settlement Agreement.
- 66. <u>Exhibits Incorporated by Reference</u>. The terms of this Settlement Agreement include the terms set forth in any attached Exhibits, which are incorporated by this reference as

though fully set forth in this Settlement Agreement. Any Exhibits to this Agreement are an integral part of the Settlement.

- 67. Entire Agreement. This Settlement Agreement and any attached Exhibits constitute the entirety of the Parties' settlement terms. No other prior or contemporaneous written or oral agreements may be deemed binding on the Parties. The Parties expressly recognize California Civil Code Section 1625 and California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856(a), which provide that a written agreement is to be construed according to its terms and may not be varied or contradicted by extrinsic evidence, and the Parties agree that no such extrinsic oral or written representations or terms will modify, vary or contradict the terms of this Agreement.
- 68. <u>Amendment or Modification</u>. This Settlement Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by counsel for all Parties or their successors-in-interest.
- 69. Authorization to Enter Into Settlement Agreement. Counsel for all Parties warrant and represent they are expressly authorized by the Parties whom they represent to negotiate this Settlement Agreement and to take all appropriate action required or permitted to be taken by such Parties pursuant to this Settlement Agreement to effectuate its terms and to execute any other documents required to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement. The Parties and their counsel will cooperate with each other and use their best efforts to effect the implementation of the Settlement. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement Agreement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties may seek the assistance of the Court to resolve such disagreement.
- 70. <u>Binding on Successors and Assigns</u>. This Settlement Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors or assigns of the Parties to this Settlement Agreement, as previously defined.
- 71. <u>Execution and Counterparts</u>. This Settlement Agreement is subject only to the execution of all Parties. However, the Settlement Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. All executed counterparts and each of them, including facsimile and scanned copies

of the signature page, will be deemed to be one and the same instrument provided that counsel for the Parties will exchange among themselves original signed counterparts.

- 72. Acknowledgement that the Settlement is Fair and Reasonable. The Parties believe this Settlement Agreement is a fair, adequate and reasonable settlement of the Action and have arrived at this Settlement Agreement after arm's-length negotiations and in the context of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, present and potential. The Parties further acknowledge that they are each represented by competent counsel and that they have had an opportunity to consult with their counsel regarding the fairness and reasonableness of this Settlement Agreement.
- 73. <u>Invalidity of Any Provision</u>. Before declaring any provision of this Settlement Agreement invalid, the Court will first attempt to construe the provision as valid to the fullest extent possible consistent with applicable precedents so as to define all provisions of this Settlement Agreement valid and enforceable.
- 74. <u>Captions.</u> The captions and section numbers in this Agreement are inserted for the reader's convenience, and in no way define, limit, construe or describe the scope or intent of the provisions of this Agreement.
- 75. <u>Waiver</u>. No waiver of any condition or covenant contained in this Agreement or failure to exercise a right or remedy by any of the Parties hereto will be considered to imply or constitute a further waiver by such party of the same or any other condition, covenant, right or remedy.
- 76. <u>Enforcement Actions</u>. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party to enforce the provisions of this Settlement Agreement or to declare rights and/or obligations under this Settlement Agreement, the successful Party will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.
- 77. <u>Mutual Preparation</u>. The Parties have had a full opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, this Settlement Agreement will not be construed more strictly against one party than another merely by virtue of the fact that it may

have been prepared by counsel for one of the Parties, it being recognized that, because of the arms-length negotiations between the Parties, all Parties have contributed to the preparation of this Agreement.

- 78. Representation By Counsel. The Parties acknowledge that they have been represented by counsel throughout all negotiations that preceded the execution of this Settlement Agreement, and that this Settlement Agreement has been executed with the consent and advice of counsel.
- 79. <u>All Terms Subject to Final Court Approval</u>. All amounts and procedures described in this Settlement Agreement will be subject to final Court approval.
- 80. <u>Cooperation and Execution of Necessary Documents</u>. All Parties will cooperate in good faith and execute all documents to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate the terms of this Settlement Agreement.
- 81. <u>Binding Agreement</u>. The Parties warrant that they understand and have full authority to enter into this Agreement, and further intend that this Agreement will be fully enforceable and binding on all Parties, and agree that it will be admissible and subject to disclosure in any proceeding to enforce its terms, notwithstanding any mediation confidentiality provisions that otherwise might apply under federal or state law.
- 82. No Admission of Liability. Nothing contained in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed or deemed an admission of liability, culpability, negligence, or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant. Each of the Parties has entered into this Settlement Agreement with the intention to avoid further disputes and litigation, and the attendant inconvenience and expense. This Settlement Agreement shall be inadmissible in evidence in any action or proceeding, by any party, except an action or proceeding by one of the Parties to approve, interpret, or enforce the Settlement Agreement's terms.
- 83. <u>Communications.</u> The Parties and their counsel agree that they will not publicize or issue or post any press releases, advertising, or marketing, or initiate any contact with the media about this case or the parties involved, including the fact, amount, or terms of the Settlement. If counsel for either Party receives an inquiry about the Settlement from the media,

counsel may only respond that a settlement has been reached. This paragraph does not restrict Class Counsel's communications with Class Members in accordance with Class Counsel's ethical obligations owed to Class Members.

- 84. Any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Settlement Agreement will be resolved by the Court. Prior to any such resort to the Court, counsel for the Parties will confer in good faith to resolve the dispute. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute themselves, the dispute will be submitted to Lynn Frank, Esq. for mediation before being submitted to the Court, unless the Parties agree otherwise.
- 85. Applicable Law. All terms and conditions of this Stipulation and its exhibits will be governed by and interpreted according to the laws of the State of California, without giving effect to any conflict of law or choice of law principles.
- 86. Declaration in Support of Approval: Defendant shall provide a declaration from an individual with personal knowledge in support of approval of the Settlement. Plaintiff shall file the declaration with the Court in support of the motion for preliminary approval.

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1		CICNATUDEC		
2		<u>SIGNATURES</u>		
3	READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING			
4		PLAINTIFF		
5	Dated:			
6		Maria Jimenez		
7		DEFENDANT		
8	Dated:			
9		Global Paratransit, Inc.		
10				
11		APPROVED AS TO FORM		
12	Dated:, 2023	THE MATERN LAW GROUP, PC		
13				
14		By: Matthew J. Matern Milesel H. Stehle		
15		Mikael H. Stanie		
16 17		Attorneys for Plaintiff MARIA JIMENEZ, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated		
18	Dated:, 2023	DUNN DESANTIS WALT & KENDRICK, LLP		
19				
20		By: Kevin V. DeSantis		
21		James A. McFaul		
22		Attorneys for Defendant Global Paratransit, Inc.		
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AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT

1	PROOF OF SERVICE			
2	I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years, and not a party to this action. My business address is 1230 Rosecrans Avenue,			
3	Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, California 90266.			
4	On September 13, 2023, I served the following document or documents:			
5	NOTICE OF CUDMICCION OF AMENDED JOINT CTIDUL ATION FOD CLACC			
6	NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF AMENDED JOINT STIPULATION FOR CLASS ACTION AND PAGA SETTLEMENT			
7				
8	By e-mail or electronic transmission. I caused the documents to be sent to the person a the e-mail addresses listed below. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the			
9	transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.			
10	Kevin V. DeSantis, Esq. Attorney for Defendants L.A. CHECKER			
11	James A. McFaul, Esq. CAB COMPANY, INC., BLUE AND YELLOW TAXI GROUP, INC., and			
12	DUNN DESANTIS WALT & ACCESS SERVICES			
13	KENDRICK, LLP 750 B Street, Suite 2620			
14	San Diego, CA 92101			
	Telephone: (619) 573-4488 Facsimile: (619) 255-4868			
15	kdesantis@ddwklaw.com			
16	jmcfaul@ddwklaw.com jsolis@ddwklaw.com			
17	jsons@ddwkiaw.com			
18				
19	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.			
20	Executed on September 13, 2023 at Manhattan Beach, California.			
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22	Christian Lopez			
23	Christian Lopez			
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25				
26				
27				