Steven A. Groode 1 sgroode@littler.com Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 1/28/2025 3:56 PM 2 Jacob R. Lahana, Bar No. 340278 ilahana@littler.com 3 LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C. David W. Slayton, 2049 Century Park East, 5th Floor Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, Los Angeles, California 90067.3107 By D. Jackson Aubry, Deputy Clerk 4 Telephone: 310.553.0308 5 Fax No.: 310.553.5583 6 Attorneys for Defendants HOLDING IP PARKS USA LLC, HOLDING IP PARKS, 7 LLC, KESG HOLDINGS, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE ANAHEIM, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE BAKERSFIELD (CA), LLC, KIDS 8 EMPIRE COVINA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE MONROVIA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE MONTCLAIR, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE 9 NORTHRIDGE, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE ONTARIO, LLC, 10 KIDS EMPIRE OTAY RANCH (CA), LLC, KIDS EMPIRE POMONA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE RIALTO, LLC, KIDS 11 EMPIRE RIVERSIDE, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE SOUTH GATE, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE USA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE 12 WOODLAND HILLS, LLC, HAIM ELBAZ 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 14 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 15 YANIRA ROSAS, a minor, by and through her Case No. 21STCV24645 16 guardian, DIANA TAPIA, individuals, 17 **DECLARATION OF STEVEN A.** Plaintiffs, GROODE RE POTENTIAL CY PRES – 18 NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES v. 19 ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO KIDS EMPIRE ANAHEIM, LLC, KIDS JUDGE STUART M. RICE EMPIRE BAKERSFIELD (CA), LLC, KIDS 20 EMPIRE COVINA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE Trial Date: None assigned MONROVIA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE 21 Complaint Filed: July 6, 2021 MONTCLAIR, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE NORTHRIDGE, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE 22 ONTARIO, LLĆ, KIDS EMPIRE OTAY RANCH (CA), LLC, KIDS EMPIRE 23 POMONA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE RIALTO, LLC, KIIDS EMPIRE RIVERSIDE, LLC, 24 KIDS EMPIRE SOUTH GATE, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE USA, LLC, KIDS EMPIRE 25 WOODLAND HILLS, LLC, KESG HOLDINGS, LLC, HIAM ELBAZ, an 26 individual, and DOES 1-10, 27 Defendants. 28 1.

LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C. 2049 Century Park East Suite 500 Los Angeles, CA 90067 310.553.0308

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DECLARATION OF STEVEN A. GROODE

I, Steven A. Groode, do hereby declare and would testify as follows:

- 1. I am a shareholder with the law firm of Littler Mendelson, P.C. ("Littler Mendelson") and counsel of record for the Kids Empire Defendants and Haim Elbaz (collectively, "Defendants") in the above-captioned matter. I am licensed to practice law in the State of California and appear in the above-captioned matter. Except as otherwise indicated, I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called and sworn as a witness, I could and would competently testify hereto.
- 2. Pursuant to Section 382.4 of the California Code of Civil Procedure, after a diligent search and reasonable inquiry, neither I, nor my law firm, have any connection to or relationship with the Neighborhood Legal Services - the designated cy pres beneficiary for uncashed settlement payments under the terms of the parties' settlement agreement in this matter, that could reasonably create the appearance of impropriety as between the selection of the recipient of the money or thing of value and the interests of the class.
- 3. Neither I, nor my law firm, sit on any board or govern or are involved in any matter in the affairs or business operations of the Neighborhood Legal Services, nor have any financial, pecuniary, or other interest in Neighborhood Legal Services.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on January 20, 2025, at Moraga, California.

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4856-4415-7256.1 / 119042-1000

1 PROOF OF SERVICE 2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 3 I am employed in the county of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 130 North Brand Boulevard, Suite 410, Glendale, 4 California 91203. 5 On January 28, 2025, I served the foregoing document described as: 6 7 DECLARATION OF STEVEN A. GROODE RE POTENTIAL CY PRES – NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES 8 9 on the interested parties set out as follows, by the method indicated below: 10 Steven Groode, Esq. (sgroode@littler.com) 11 Jacob Lahana, Esq. (jlahana@littler.com) 2049 Century Park East, Fifth Floor 12 Los Angeles, CA 90067 Phone: (310) 553-0308 13 14 **XXX** (BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE) Based on a court order or an agreement of the parties 15 to accept electronic service, I caused the documents to be sent to the persons at the 16 electronic service addresses listed above via third-party cloud service CASEANYWHERE. 17 18 (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the XXXabove is true and correct. 19 20 Executed on January 28, 2025, at Glendale, California. 21 22 23 24 25 26 2.7 28