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10	and on behalf of all others similarly situated.						
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16	Attorneys for Defendants,						
17	ST. GEORGE AUTO SALES, INC. and ST. GEOI	RGE AUTO CENTER, INC.					
18							
19	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
20	FOR THE COUNTY OF ORANGE						
21	VICTOR RAMIREZ,, MOSTAFA GAD, and	Case No. 30-2019-01058127-CU-OE-CXC					
22	CARLOS MARTINEZ BANAGA individuals and on behalf of all others situated,	Assigned for all purposes to:					
23	Plaintiffs,	Judge Lon F. Hurwitz Dept. CX103					
24	,	JOINT STIPULATION OF CLASS AND					
25	VS.	REPRESENTATIVE PAGA ACTION					
26	ST. GEORGE AUTO SALES, INC., a	SETTLEMENT					
27	California corporation; ST. GEORGE AUTO CENTER, INC., a California corporation; and						
28	DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,						
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It is stipulated and agreed by and among the undersigned Parties, subject to the approval of the Court pursuant to the California Rules of Court, that the Settlement of these Actions shall be effectuated upon and subject to the following terms and conditions. Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meanings set forth in Article I or as defined elsewhere in this Joint Stipulation of Settlement ("Agreement" or "Settlement").

This Agreement is made by and between Named Plaintiffs Mostafa Gad and Carlos Martinez Banaga ("Named Plaintiffs") and the Class Members, on the one hand, and Defendants St. George Auto Sales, Inc., and St. George Auto Center, Inc. (collectively, the "Defendants"), on the other hand. Named Plaintiffs, Class Members and Defendants collectively are referred to in this Agreement as "the Parties."

The Parties agree that the Actions shall be, and hereby are, ended, settled, resolved, and concluded by agreement of Defendants to pay the settlement amount of Two Million Two-Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,205,000.00) as provided in Section 3.06(a) below ("Gross Settlement Amount") pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and for the consideration set forth herein, including but not limited to, a release of all claims by Plaintiff Banaga and the Class Members as set forth herein. Plaintiff Gad has entered into a separate and confidential settlement with Defendants regarding his individual claims the ("Gad Individual Settlement.") The Gad Individual Settlement contains Plaintiff Gad's general release and waiver of California Civil Code Section 1542. The Parties intend that this Settlement be a global resolution of Plaintiff Gad's individual and Class Claims, as well as Plaintiff Banaga's claims in his related action entitled *Carlos Martinez Banaga*, et al v. St. Mary Auto Sales, Inc., et al, San Bernardino County Case No.: CIVDS2022333, commenced on October 14, 2020. On August 25, 2023, Plaintiff Banaga filed a Request for Dismissal, without prejudice. As of the time this supplemental brief was filed, the Court has not yet entered the dismissal.

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise defined herein, the following terms used in this Agreement shall have the meanings ascribed to them as set forth below:

"Court" means the California Superior Court for the County of Orange, where the

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- o. "Incentive Award" means a monetary amount of up to Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) for Plaintiff Mostafa Gad, and Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$5,000.00) for Plaintiff Carlos Martinez Banaga subject to Court approval, in recognition of their efforts and work in prosecuting the Actions on behalf of Class Members, and for Plaintiff Banaga's general release of claims. Any portion of the Class Representative Enhancements not awarded to Plaintiffs will not revert to Defendant, but instead shall be returned to the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.
- p. "Individual Settlement Payment(s)" means each Participating Class Member's respective share of the Net Settlement Amount. Individual Settlement Payments will be determined by the calculations provided in this Agreement.
 - q. "LWDA" means The State of California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.
- r. "LWDA Payment" means 75% of the PAGA Settlement Amount which, subject to Court approval, will be paid to the LWDA pursuant to Section 3.06(e) of this Agreement, as provided for below.
- s. "Motion for Final Approval" means Plaintiff's submission of a written motion, including any evidence as may be required for the Court to conduct an inquiry into the fairness of the Settlement as set forth in this Agreement, to conduct a Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, and to enter a Final Order in the Actions.
- t. "Motion for Preliminary Approval" means Plaintiff's submission of a written motion, including any evidence as may be required for the Court to grant preliminary approval of the Settlement as required by Rule 3.769 of the California Rules of Court.
- u. "Named Plaintiffs" shall collectively mean Plaintiff Mostafa Gad, and Plaintiff Carlos Martinez Banaga, in the related matter entitled *Carlos Martinez Banaga, et al v. St. Mary Auto Sales, Inc., et al*, San Bernardino County Case No.: CIVDS2022333, commenced on October 14, 2020.

- v. "Net Settlement Amount" means the Gross Settlement Amount less Court-approved administration costs, Class Counsels' attorney's fees and costs, Incentive Award, and LWDA Payment, pursuant to Section 3.06(a)-(f) below.
- w. "Non-Participating Class Member(s)" means any Class Member(s) who submit to the Settlement Administrator a valid and timely written request to be excluded from the Class pursuant to Section 3.04(b) below.
- x. "Notice Packet" means the Notice of Proposed Class and Representative PAGA Action Settlement in a form substantially similar to the Notice Packet attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, subject to Court approval.
- y. "PAGA" means the California Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, which is codified in California Labor Code §§ 2698 *et seq*.
- z. "PAGA Group Members" means all Class Members employed by Defendants at any time during the PAGA Period.
 - aa. "PAGA Period" means March 19, 2018, through the date of preliminary approval.
- bb. "PAGA Settlement Amount" means the portion of 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 One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00), subject to Court approval. Of the PAGA Settlement Amount, 75% will be considered the LWDA Payment, and the remaining 25% will be added to the Net Settlement Amount and distributed to PAGA Group Members.
- cc. "Participating Class Member(s)" is defined as a Class Member who does not timely exclude himself or herself from the Settlement of the Actions and will therefore receive his or her share of the Net Settlement Amount automatically without the need to return a claim form. Each Participating Class Member will be paid his/her Individual Settlement Payment.
- dd. "Preliminary Approval Date" means the date the Court preliminarily approves the Settlement embodied in this Agreement.

- ee. "Qualified Settlement Fund" or "QSF" means a fund within the meaning of Treasury Regulation § 1.468B-1, 26 CFR § 1.468B-1 *et seq.*, that is established by the Settlement Administrator for the benefit of Participating Class Members.
- ff. "Qualifying Workweeks" means the number of weeks that a Class Member worked for Defendants as a non-exempt employee during the Class Period.
- gg. Qualifying PAGA Pay Periods" means the number of pay periods that a Class Member worked for Defendants as a non-exempt employee during the PAGA Period.
- hh. "Released Parties" means Defendants as well as Defendants' officers, shareholders, directors, agents, clients, employees, attorneys, insurers, predecessors or successors.
- ii. "Response Deadline" means the deadline by which Class Members must postmark or fax to the Settlement Administrator requests for exclusion or written notices of objection. The Response Deadline will be sixty (60) calendar days after the initial mailing of the Notice Packet by the Settlement Administrator, unless the sixtieth (60th) calendar day falls on a Sunday or federal holiday, in which case the Response Deadline will be extended to the next day on which the U.S. Postal Service is open. The Response Deadline will be extended as set forth herein if there is a remailing.
 - jj. "Settlement" means the disposition of the Actions affected by this Agreement.
- kk. "Settlement Administration Costs" means all costs incurred by the Settlement Administrator in administration of the Settlement, including, but not limited to, mailing of notice to the class, calculation of Individual Settlement Payments, generation of Individual Settlement Payment checks and related tax reporting forms, administration of unclaimed checks, and generation of checks to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and costs, to Named Plaintiff for his Incentive Awards, and to the LWDA. The Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount.
- ll. "Settlement Administrator" CPT Group which the Parties have agreed will be responsible for the administration of the Individual Settlement Payments to be made by Defendants from the Gross Settlement Amount and related matters under this Agreement.

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CONTINGENT NATURE OF THE AGREEMENT

Section 2.01: Stipulation of Class Certification for Settlement Purposes

Because the Parties are settling claims under Labor Code section 2699 et. eq. and have stipulated to the certification of the Class with respect to all causes of action alleged in the Class Action for settlement purposes only, this Agreement requires approval by the Court in accordance with Labor Code section 2699(1) and California Rule of Court 3.769. Accordingly, the Parties enter into this Agreement on a conditional basis. This Agreement is contingent upon the approval and certification by the Court. If the Date of Finality does not occur, the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate for the purposes of this Agreement to a Class and agreed to resolution of Plaintiff's claim for PAGA penalties shall have no bearing on, nor be admissible in connection with, the issue of certification of the Class with respect to all causes of action alleged in the Class Action. Defendants do not consent to certification of the Class for any purpose other than to effectuate settlement of the Actions. If the Date of Finality does not occur, or if Disposition of the Actions is not effectuated, any certification of the Class as to Defendants and any approval or award of PAGA penalties will be vacated, and Named Plaintiff, Defendants, and the Class will be returned to their positions with respect to the Actions as if the Agreement had not been entered into. In the event that the Date of Finality does not occur: (a) any Court orders preliminarily or finally approving certification of any class contemplated by this Agreement and/or awarding PAGA penalties shall be null, void, and vacated, and shall not be used or cited thereafter by any person or entity; and (b) the fact of the settlement reflected in this Agreement, the fact that Defendants did not oppose the certification of a Class under this Agreement, or that the Court preliminarily approved the certification of the Class and/or approved an award of PAGA penalties, shall not be used or cited thereafter by any person or entity, including in any manner whatsoever, including without limitation any contested proceeding relating to the certification of any class. If the Date of Finality does not occur, this Agreement shall be deemed null and void, shall be of no force or effect whatsoever, and shall not be referred to or used for any purpose whatsoever. Defendants expressly reserve the right to challenge the propriety of class certification in the Class Action for any purpose, if the Date of Finality does not occur.

The Parties and their respective counsel shall take all steps that may be requested by the Court relating to the approval and implementation of this Agreement and shall otherwise use their respective best efforts to obtain Court approval and implement this Agreement. Plaintiff shall be responsible for submitting the settlement to the LWDA at the same time of filing the Motion for Preliminary Approval. If the Court does not grant the Motion for Preliminary Approval and/or the Motion for Final Approval and/or if the LWDA objects to the PAGA Settlement Amount, the Parties agree to meet and confer to address the Court's and/or LWDA's concerns. If the Parties are unable to agree upon a resolution, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of mediator Hon. Carl J. West (Ret.) to resolve the dispute.

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ARTICLE III

PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

The procedure for obtaining Court approval of and implementing this Agreement shall be as follows:

Section 3.01: Motion for Conditional Class Certification and Preliminary Approval

Named Plaintiff will bring a motion before the Court for an order conditionally certifying the Class to include all claims pled in the Actions based on the preliminary approval of this Agreement. The date that the Court grants preliminary approval of this Agreement will be the "Preliminary Approval Date."

Section 3.02: The Settlement Administrator

The Parties have chosen CPT Group Inc. to administer this Settlement and to act as the Settlement Administrator, including but not limited to distributing and responding to inquiries about the Notice Packet, determining the validity of exclusions/opt-outs, calculating the Net Settlement Amount and the Individual Settlement Payments, issuing the Individual Settlement Payment checks and distributing them to Participating Class Members, establishing and maintaining the QSF, and issuing the payment to Class Counsel for attorneys' fees and costs, the Incentive Award checks to Named Plaintiff, and the employer payroll taxes to the appropriate taxing authorities. The Settlement Administrator shall also post; (1) the final approval order and judgment, (2) the operative Complaint, (3) the Settlement Agreement, (4) the Class Notice, and (5) the Orders for Preliminary Approval on

its website for class members to view. The Settlement Administrator shall expressly agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

All costs of administering the Settlement, including but not limited to all costs and fees associated with preparing, issuing and mailing any and all notices to Class Members and/or Participating Class Members, all costs and fees associated with computing, processing, reviewing, and mailing the Individual Settlement Payments, all costs and fees associated with preparing any tax returns and any other filings required by any governmental taxing authority or agency, all costs and fees associated with preparing any other checks, notices, reports, or filings to be prepared in the course of administering disbursements from the Net Settlement Amount, and any other costs and fees incurred and/or charged by the Settlement Administrator in connection with the execution of its duties under this Agreement ("Settlement Administration Costs"), shall be paid to the Settlement Administrator from the Gross Settlement Amount.

Section 3.03: Notice to Class Members

No later than Ten (10) business days after the Preliminary Approval Date, Defendants will provide the Settlement Administrator with a "Class List" in electronic format based on its business records, identifying the names of the Class Members, their last known home addresses, Social Security numbers or, as applicable, other taxpayer identification number, their dates of employment and weeks worked during the Class Period and PAGA Period (if applicable).

Within ten (10) business days of receiving a Class List from Defendants, the Settlement Administrator will send Class Members, by first-class mail, at their last known address, the Court approved Notice Packet, including notice of this Settlement and of the opportunity to opt out of the Settlement Class. The Notice Packet will include a calculation of the Class Member's approximate share of the Net Settlement Amount. Class Members will have sixty (60) days from the date of mailing in which to postmark objections or requests for exclusion. Prior to the initial mailing, the Settlement Administrator will check all Class Member addresses against the National Change of Address database and shall update any addresses before mailing. The Settlement Administrator will skip trace and re-mail all returned, undelivered mail within five (5) days of receiving notice that a Notice Packet was undeliverable. If a Class Member's notice is re-mailed, the Class Member shall

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have forty-five (45) calendar days from the re-mailing, or sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the initial mailing, whichever is later, in which to postmark objections or requests for exclusion. Class Members shall not be required to submit claim forms in order to receive a proportional share of the Net Settlement Amount.

If the Notice Packet is returned with a forwarding address, the Settlement Administrator shall re-mail the Notice Packet to the forwarding address. With respect to those Class Members whose Notice Packet is returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly attempt to obtain a valid mailing address by performing a skip trace or mass search on LexisNexis or comparable databases based on set criteria and, if another address is identified, shall mail the Notice Packet to the newly identified address. It is the intent of the Parties that reasonable means be used to locate Class Members and that the Settlement Administrator be given discretion to take steps in order to facilitate notice of the Settlement and delivery of the Individual Settlement Payments to all Participating Class Members.

If the Notice Packet is re-mailed, the Settlement Administrator will note for its own records and notify Class Counsel and Defense Counsel of the date of each such re-mailing as part of a weekly status report provided to the Parties.

In the event a Class Member's Notice Packet remains undeliverable sixty (60) calendar days after the Notice Packet was initially mailed, the Settlement Administrator will not mail the Class Member's Individual Settlement Payment. The Settlement Administrator will hold the Class Member's Individual Settlement Payment during the check cashing period on behalf of the Class Member. If at the conclusion of the check cashing period the Class Member's Notice Packet and Individual Settlement Payment remain undeliverable and/or unclaimed and uncashed, the Settlement Administrator will distribute the funds from unclaimed/uncashed checks in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 3.06(g) below.

No later than twenty (20) court days prior to the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall provide Defense Counsel and Class Counsel with a declaration attesting to completion of the notice process, including any attempts to obtain valid mailing addresses for and re-sending of any returned Notice Packets, objections that the Settlement Administrator

received, and the identity of those individuals who submitted valid requests for exclusion from the Settlement.

Section 3.04: Responses to Notice

a. Class Member Disputes

If any Class Member disagrees with Defendants' records as to his or her Qualifying Workweeks during the Class Period and/or Qualifying PAGA Pay Periods in the PAGA Period as reflected in the Notice Packet, the Class Member shall set forth in writing the Qualifying Workweeks he/she claims to have worked during the Class Period and/or Qualifying PAGA Pay Periods in the PAGA Period and submit such writing to the Settlement Administrator by the Response Deadline, along with any supporting documentation. The Notice will also provide a method for the Class Member to challenge the employment data on which his or her Individual Settlement Payment is based. The Settlement Administrator shall contact the Parties regarding the dispute and the Parties will work in good faith to resolve it. If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute, the Settlement Administrator will be the final arbiter of the Qualifying Workweeks for each Class Member during the Class Period and/or Qualifying PAGA Pay Periods in the PAGA Period based on the information provided to it. In the event of a remailing of the class notice, the response deadline shall be extended by 45 days.

b. Requests for Exclusion from Class

In order for any Class Member to validly exclude himself or herself from the Class and this Settlement (*i.e.*, to validly opt out), a written request for exclusion must be signed by the Class Member or his or her authorized representative, and must be sent to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked or faxed no later than the Response Deadline (or forty-five (45) days after the Settlement Administrator re-mails the Notice to the Class Member, whichever is later). The Notice Packet shall contain instructions on how to validly exclude himself or herself from the Class and this Settlement (*i.e.*, opt out), including the language to be used in a request for exclusion. The date of the initial mailing of the Notice Packet, and the date the signed request for exclusion was postmarked or faxed, shall be determined according to the records of the Settlement Administrator. The Court shall retain the ultimate authority to decide the validity and authenticity of requests for exclusion by class

members. Any Class Member who timely and validly requests exclusion from the Class and this Settlement will receive his/her share of PAGA Settlement Amount but will not be entitled to the remaining portion of the Individual Settlement Payment which would have been paid to him/her, will not be bound by the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and will not have any right to object, appeal, or comment thereon.

Any Class Member who fails to timely submit a request for exclusion shall automatically be deemed a Class Member whose rights and claims with respect to the issues raised in the Actions are determined by the Court's Final Order Approving Settlement, and by the other rulings in the Actions. Thus, said Class Member's rights to pursue any claims covered by the Actions and/or released in this Agreement will be extinguished.

c. Objections to Settlement

For any Class Member to object to this Agreement, or any term of it, the person making the objection must not submit a request for exclusion (*i.e.*, must not opt out), and should send to the Settlement Administrator, postmarked or faxed no later than the Response Deadline (or forty-five (45) days after the Settlement Administrator re-mails the Notice to the Class Member, whichever is later), a written statement of the grounds of objection, signed by the objecting Class Member or his or her attorney, along with all supporting papers. The date of the initial mailing of the Notice Packet, and the date the signed objection was postmarked, shall be conclusively determined according to the records of the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator shall send any objections it receives to Defense Counsel and Class Counsel within three (3) business days of receipt. Class Members may also appear at the final approval hearing to object. The Court retains final authority with respect to the consideration and admissibility of any Class Member objections.

d. Encouragement of Class Members

The Parties to this Agreement and the counsel representing such Parties shall not, directly or indirectly, through any person, encourage or solicit any Class Member to exclude him or herself from this Settlement (opt out), or to object to it. However, Class Counsel may respond to inquiries from Class Members.

e. Right of Plaintiff to Adjust Gross Settlement Amount

Defendants represent that there are 63,186 work weeks in the class period through October 26, 2022, and this serves as the basis for Plaintiff accepting the Settlement. If the number of total work weeks exceeds the 65,500 ("Threshold") as of December 31, 2022, the GSA will increase pro rata, at a rate of \$34.89 per additional work week.

f. Right of Defendants to Withdraw Based on Opt-Outs

If prior to the court's order granting Final Approval of the Settlement, 10 percent or more of the Class Members have submitted proper and timely requests to opt-out in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, Defendants, may at their election, within 21 days of Defendants receiving notice of the timely opt-out requests, rescind the Agreement and all actions taken in furtherance will be thereby null and void. Defendants must exercise this right of rescission, in writing to Class Counsel. If the option to rescind is exercised, then any Claims Administrator Costs must be paid by Defendants.

Section 3.05: Final Fairness and Approval Hearing

On the date set forth in the Order for Preliminary Approval and Notice Packet, a Final Fairness and Approval Hearing shall be held before the Court in order to (1) review this Agreement and determine whether the Court should give it final approval, and (2) consider any objections made and all responses by the Parties to such objections. At the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, the Parties shall ask the Court to grant final approval to this Agreement and shall submit to the Court a Proposed Final Order Approving Settlement of Class and Representative PAGA Action.

Section 3.06: Settlement Payment Procedures

a. Settlement Amount

In exchange for the Released Claims set forth in this Agreement, Defendants agree to pay the Gross Settlement Amount in the amount of Two Million Two-Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,205,000.00), subject to a pro rata increase under the condition set forth in Section 3.04(e). The Gross Settlement Amount includes all Individual Settlement Amounts to Participating Class Members, all administration costs, Class Counsel's attorney's fees and costs, PAGA Settlement Amount, and the Incentive Payments.

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transfer the Gross Settlement Amount plus Defendants' share of employer-side payroll taxes, as set forth herein, into a QSF established by the Settlement Administrator either directly or by sending the funds to the Settlement Administer to be deposited and distributed. The Settlement Administrator will use these funds to fund payment of the Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, the Incentive Awards, the LWDA Payment, and the Settlement Administration Costs.

Within thirty (30) calendar days after the Court signs the Final Order, Defendants shall

Within ten (10) court days after receiving Defendants' final payment, funding the Gross Settlement Amount in full, the Settlement Administrator will pay the Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs, LWDA Payment, the Incentive Awards, and employer and employee tax withholdings applicable to the Net Settlement Amount allocated to wages. Prior to this distribution, the Settlement Administrator will perform a search based on the National Change of Address Database to update and correct for any known or identifiable address changes.

b. Payment of Attorneys' Fees and Costs

Class Counsel shall submit an application for an award of attorneys' fees of up to one-third of the Gross Settlement Amount, which, based on the current Gross Settlement Amount, is Seven Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$735,000.00). Class Counsel shall submit an application for an award of costs not to exceed Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00). Such application for attorneys' fees and costs shall be heard by the Court at the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing. Defendants shall not object to or oppose any such application in these amounts. Class Counsel shall serve Defendants with copies of all documents submitted in support of their application for an award of attorneys' fees and costs.

Any attorneys' fees and costs awarded to Class Counsel by the Court shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount and shall not constitute payment to any Class Member(s). The attorneys fees and costs for Class Counsel approved by the Court shall encompass all work performed, costs, and expenses related to the investigation, prosecution, and settlement of the Actions incurred through the Date of Finality. To the extent that the Court approves less than the amount of attorney's fees will be reallocated to the Net Settlement Amount.

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c. Payment of Settlement Administration Costs

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shall not constitute payment to any Participating Class Member(s). The amount shall not exceed

The Settlement Administration Costs shall be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount and

Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars and Zero Cents (\$11,250.00)

d. Payment of Incentive Award to Named Plaintiff

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to the Net Settlement Amount.

Subject to Court approval, the Named Plaintiffs shall each receive an Incentive Award of up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) (\$10,000.00 in total), the request for which Defendants will not object to or oppose. The Incentive Award shall be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount and shall not constitute payment to any Participating Class Member(s) other than Named Plaintiff Mostafa Gad. To the extent that the Court approves less than the amount of incentive award that Class Counsel request, the difference between the requested and awarded amounts will be reallocated

Because it is the intent of the Parties that the Incentive Award represent payment to Named Plaintiff for his service to the Class Members, and not wages, the Settlement Administrator will not withhold any taxes from the Incentive Awards. The Incentive Award will be reported on a Form

1099, which the Settlement Administrator will provide to Named Plaintiff and to the pertinent taxing authorities as required by law. Plaintiff's Incentive Award payment is separate from and in addition

to Plaintiff's Individual Settlement Payment for his individually alleged claims (as described in

further detail in Section 3.04(i)), which shall be paid separately from the Gross Settlement Amount.

e. Payment to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency

In consideration of claims for penalties made under PAGA, Class Counsel will request that the Court approve allocation of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) of the Gross Settlement Amount to be attributed as the PAGA Settlement Amount. Seventy-five percent (75%) of this payment will be allocated as the LWDA Payment, and twenty-five percent (25%) will be paid to the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to PAGA Group Members. Defendants will not oppose this request. The entire PAGA Settlement Amount will be paid out of the Gross Settlement Amount.

The Court's adjustment, if any, of the amount allocated to Named Plaintiff's PAGA claim in the PAGA Action, will not invalidate this Agreement.

f. Payment of Individual Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members

The Parties agree that the Net Settlement Amount shall be used to fund Individual Settlement Payments. The Parties agree that the Net Settlement Amount shall be divided between all Participating Class Members in proportion to the number of individual Qualifying Workweeks for each Class Member during the Class Period and Qualifying PAGA Pay Periods in the PAGA Period. To calculate the minimum amount each Class Member will receive based on their individual Qualifying Workweeks, the Net Settlement Amount will be divided by the total number of Qualifying Workweeks by all Class Members during the Class Period and Qualifying PAGA Pay Periods in the PAGA Period then allocated on a pro rata basis. Qualifying Workweeks will be rounded up to the next whole integer. Each Class Member's approximate Individual Settlement Payment amount will be included in his or her Notice Packet. After final approval by the Court, the Net Settlement Amount will be dispersed to Participating Class Members (those who did not exclude themselves) on a pro rata basis based on the individual Qualifying Workweeks worked during the Class Period by each Participating Class Member. Class Members who were employed during the PAGA Period will receive their share of the PAGA Payment regardless of whether they Opt-out of the settlement.

Each Individual Settlement Payment will represent wages and penalties. Settlement Payments for the Class Period will be allocated using the following formula: 10% allocated to wages; 90% allocated to interest and penalties. Settlement Payments for the PAGA Period will be allocated as 100 percent penalties. The amounts paid as wages shall be subject to all tax withholdings customarily made from an employee's wages and all other authorized and required withholdings and shall be reported by W-2 forms. The employer-side taxes will be paid separate from and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount. The amounts paid as penalties and interest shall be subject to all authorized and required withholdings other than the tax withholdings customarily made from employees' wages and shall be reported by IRS 1099 forms.

No later than ten (10) business days after receiving the Gross Settlement Amount from Defendants, the Settlement Administrator shall prepare and mail the checks for the Individual

Settlement Payments to Participating Class Members. Individual Settlement Payments paid from the Net Settlement Amount allocated to wages will be reduced by applicable employer and employee tax withholdings, and the Settlement Administrator will issue a Form W-2 for the wage portion of the Individual Settlement Payments. The Settlement Administrator will issue a Form 1099 to the extent required by law for the interest and penalty portions of the Individual Settlement Payments. Participating Class Members shall have 180 days from the date their Individual Settlement Payment checks are dated to cash their Settlement checks. Any checks that are not cashed upon the expiration of that 180-day time period will be void, and the uncashed funds shall be paid to the State Controller Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member for whom the funds are designated.

If a check is returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly attempt to obtain a valid mailing address by performing a skip trace or a mass search on LexisNexis or a comparable database based on set criteria and, if another address is identified, the Settlement Administrator shall mail the check to the newly identified address. If the Settlement Administrator is unable to obtain a valid mailing address through this process, the Settlement Administrator will tender the funds from the undeliverable checks to the State Controller Unclaimed Property Fund in the name of the Class Member for whom the funds are designated.

g. Default on Payment.

Defendants' failure to fund the Gross Settlement Amount within thirty (30) calendar days after the date that the Court grants final approval of the Settlement shall be considered a default. In the event Defendants fail to timely fund the Gross Settlement Amount, the Settlement Administrator will provide notice to Class Counsel and Defendants' counsel within three (3) business days of the missed payment. Thereafter, Defendants will have seven (7) days to cure the default and tender payment to the Settlement Administrator. In the event Defendants fail to cure the default within the times set forth herein, Named Plaintiff may elect to enter judgment against Defendants, on an exparte basis, for the balance of the unpaid Gross Settlement Amount to date, and Named Plaintiff will be entitled to recover interest at ten percent (10%) per year from the due date for such payment and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

h. No Credit Toward Benefit Plans.

The Individual Settlement Payments made to Participating Class Members under this Agreement, as well as any other payments made pursuant to this Agreement, will not be utilized to calculate any additional benefits under any benefit plans to which any Class Members may be eligible, including, but not limited to: profit-sharing plans, bonus plans, 401(k) plans, stock purchase plans, vacation plans, sick leave plans, PTO plans, and any other benefit plan. Rather, it is the Parties' intention that this Agreement will not affect any rights, contributions, or amounts to which any Class Members may be entitled under any benefit plans.

i. Plaintiff Gad's Separate Individual Settlement Agreement.

Separate from Plaintiff Gad's agreement to release all Class and PAGA wage and hour claims alleged in the Action, Plaintiff Gad has also entered into a confidential standalone agreement to release his individually alleged claims against Defendant ("Plaintiff Gad's Individual Settlement Agreement."). Plaintiff Gad's Individual Settlement Agreement includes a general release of all known and unknown claims of any type whatsoever Plaintiff Gad may have against Defendants, excluding his Class claims, Incentive Award for the Class Action, and PAGA claims, that he is releasing in this Settlement Agreement. Payment of Plaintiff Gad's Individual Settlement Agreement shall be made by Defendant separate from and in addition to the Gross Settlement Amount paid in resolution of the Class and PAGA claims alleged, and will be due within thirty (30) days of Plaintiff's execution of this Agreement.

j. No Additional Contribution from Defendants

Defendants' monetary obligation under this Agreement is limited to the Gross Settlement Amount and any employer side payroll taxes owed on amounts characterized as wages under this Agreement (with the express exception of any potential pro rata increase to the Gross Settlement Amount, as described in Section 3.04(e), and Plaintiff's separate Individual Settlement Agreement referenced in Section 3.04(i)). All other costs and expenses arising out of or in connection with the performance of this Agreement shall be paid from the Gross Settlement Amount, unless expressly provided otherwise herein. However, in the event this agreement is deemed null and void pursuant to Section 2.01, because the Court, in its independent determination, finds that the Agreement does not meet the standards for settlement approval, then Defendants and Plaintiff shall be equally

responsible for the costs of the Claims Administrator incurred between the date the Agreement was executed and the date of such event.

ARTICLE IV

<u>LIMITATIONS ON USE OF THIS SETTLEMENT</u>

Section 4.01: No Admission

Defendants dispute the allegations in the Actions and disputes that, but for this Settlement, a Class should not have been certified in the Class Action and that any wages or penalties are due or should be awarded. This Agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of settling highly disputed claims. Nothing in this Agreement is intended nor will be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing by Defendants or any of the Released Parties.

Section 4.02: Non-Evidentiary Use

Whether or not the Date of Finality occurs, neither this Agreement, nor any of its terms, nor the Settlement itself, will be: (a) construed as, offered, or admitted in evidence as, received as, or deemed to be evidence for any purpose adverse to Defendants or any other of the Released Parties, including but not limited to, evidence of a presumption, concession, indication, or admission by any of the Released Parties of any liability, fault, wrongdoing, omission, concession, or damage, or (b) disclosed, referred to, or offered in evidence against any of the Released Parties in any further proceeding in the Actions, except for the purposes of effectuating the Settlement pursuant to this Agreement or for Defendants to establish that a Class Member has resolved any of his or her claims released through this Agreement.

Section 4.03: Nullification

The Parties have agreed to the certification of the Class encompassing all claims alleged in the Actions for the sole purpose of effectuating this Agreement. If (a) the Court should for any reason fail to certify this Class for settlement, or (b) the Court should for any reason fail to approve this Settlement, or (c) the Court should for any reason fail to enter the Final Order, or (d) the Final Order is reversed, or declared or rendered void, or (e) the Court should for any reason fail to dispose of the Actions in their entirety, then (i) this Agreement shall be considered null and void; (ii) neither this Agreement nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings shall be of any force or effect; (iii) all

Parties to this Agreement shall stand in the same position, without prejudice, as if the Agreement had been neither entered into nor filed with the Court; and (iv) the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to class certification of all causes of action pled in the Actions as part of the Settlement will have no bearing on, and will not be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether the Class should be certified by the Court in a non-settlement context in the Actions or any other action, and in any of those events, Defendants expressly reserve the right to oppose certification of the Class.

In the event of a timely appeal from the Final Order, the Final Order shall be stayed and the Gross Settlement Amount shall not be distributed pending the completion of the appeal.

ARTICLE V

RELEASES

Section 5.01: Released Claims by Class Members

Upon the date Defendants transfer the Gross Settlement Amount, Named Plaintiff and Participating Class Members who do not opt out of the Settlement, release the Released Parties from any and all claims alleged, or that could have been alleged, in Named Plaintiff's Operative Complaint, based on the facts alleged, which arose during the Class Period, including but not limited to: (1) failure to pay minimum wages under Labor Code §§ 1194, 1194.2, 1197 and Industrial Welfare Commission Wage ("IWC") Order 4, § 3-4; (2) failure to pay overtime wages under Labor Code §§ 510, 1194, 1198 and IWC Order 4, § 3; (3) failure to authorize or provide meal periods under Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and IWC Order 4, § 11; (4) failure to authorize or permit rest periods under Labor Code §§ 226.7 and IWC Order 4, § 12; (5) failure to reimburse necessary business expenses under Labor Code §§2800 and 2802; (6) failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements wage statement violations under Labor Code § 226 and IWC Order 4; (7) failure to pay wages upon separation of employment and within the required time in violation of Labor Code §§ 201-203; (8) Unlawful deduction from wages; and (9) violation of California Business and Professions Code §§17200, et seq., based on the preceding claims ("Released Claims").

Section 5.02: Released Claims by PAGA Group Members

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Upon the date of funding the GSA, the State of California and PAGA Group Members release the Released Parties from all claims for civil penalties under Labor Code § 2698 et seq. exhausted in Plaintiff's notice(s) sent to the LWDA and alleged in the Operative Complaint, which arose during the PAGA Period, regardless of whether PAGA Group Members opt out of the Class Settlement. This settlement is also conditioned on the covenant that PAGA Group members will not participate in or receive recovery or monies in connection with any further proceeding seeking penalties under Section 2699, which arose during the PAGA Period for claims based on the same facts or theories of the Released Claims facts which were or could have been alleged in the Action.

Section 5.03: Carlos Banaga's Release of Known and Unknown Claims

Upon the date of funding the GSA, Carlos Martinez Banaga hereby states that it is his intention in executing this Agreement that the same shall be effective as a bar to each and every claim, demand cause of action, obligation, damage, liability, charge, attorneys' fees and costs hereinabove released, and that he expressly waives, releases, acquits, and forever discharges the Released Parties from any and all claims, actions, charges, complaints, grievances, and causes of action, of any nature arising from Carlos Martinez Banaga's employment with Defendants, and each of them, whether known or unknown, which exist or may exist as of the Parties' execution of this Agreement, and that he expressly waives and relinquishes all rights and benefits, if any, arising under the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code which provides 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."

In addition to the release of Named Plaintiffs' Class Action and PAGA claims, which shall be released upon the Effective Date, as outlined in this Agreement, Plaintiff Gad shall sign a *Civil Code* § 1542 general release in the Parties' separate, confidential individual settlement agreement (as described in Section 3.06(i)).

<u>ARTICLE VI</u>

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 6.01: Amendments or Modification

The terms and provisions of this Agreement may be amended or modified only by an express written agreement that is signed by all the Parties (or their successors-in-interest) and their counsel, and approved by the Court.

Section 6.02: Assignment

None of the rights, commitments, or obligations recognized under this Agreement may be assigned by any Party, Class Member, Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel without the express written consent of each other Party and their respective counsel. The representations, warranties, covenants, and agreements contained in this Agreement are for the sole benefit of the Parties under this Agreement and shall not be construed to confer any right or to avail any remedy to any other person.

Section 6.03: Governing Law

This Agreement shall be governed, construed, and interpreted, and the rights of the Parties shall be determined, in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without regard to conflicts of laws.

Section 6.04: Entire Agreement

This Agreement, including the Exhibits referred to herein, which form an integral part hereof, contains the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter contained herein. In case of any conflict between text contained in Articles I through VI of this Agreement and text contained in the Exhibits to this Agreement, the former (*i.e.*, Articles I through VI) shall be controlling, unless the Exhibits are changed by or in response to a Court order. There are no restrictions, promises, representations, warranties, covenants, or undertakings governing the subject matter of this Agreement other than those expressly set forth or referred to herein. This Agreement supersedes all prior agreements and understandings among the Parties with respect to the settlement of the Actions, including correspondence between Class Counsel and Defense Counsel and drafts of prior agreements or proposals.

Section 6.05: Waiver of Compliance

Any failure of any Party, Defense Counsel, or Class Counsel hereto to comply with any obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition set forth in this Agreement may be expressly waived in writing, to the extent permitted under applicable law, by the Party or Parties and their respective counsel entitled to the benefit of such obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition. A waiver or failure to insist upon strict compliance with any representation, warranty, covenant, agreement, or condition shall not operate as a waiver of, or estoppel with respect to, any subsequent or other failure.

Section 6.06: Counterparts and Fax/PDF Signatures

This Agreement, and any amendments hereto, may be executed in any number of counterparts and any Party and/or their respective counsel may execute any such counterpart, each of which when executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original. All counterparts taken together shall constitute one instrument. A fax or PDF signature on this Agreement shall be as valid as an original signature.

Section 6.07: Meet and Confer Regarding Disputes

Should any dispute arise among the Parties or their respective counsel regarding the implementation or interpretation of this Agreement, a representative of Class Counsel and a representative of Defense Counsel shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve such disputes prior to submitting such disputes to the Court.

Section 6.08: Agreement Binding on Successors

This Agreement will be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors in interest of each of the Parties.

Section 6.09: Cooperation in Drafting

The Parties have cooperated in the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement. This Agreement will not be construed against any Party on the basis that the Party, or the Party's counsel. was the drafter or participated in the drafting of this Agreement.

Section 6.10: Fair and Reasonable Settlement

The Parties believe that this Agreement reflects a fair, reasonable, and adequate settlement of the Actions and have arrived at this Agreement through arm's-length negotiation and in the context

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of adversarial litigation, taking into account all relevant factors, current and potential. The Parties further believe that the Settlement is fair and reasonable, and is consistent with public policy, and fully complies with applicable law. 4 **Section 6.11: Headings** 5 The descriptive heading of any section or paragraph of this Agreement is inserted for convenience of reference only and does not constitute a part of this Agreement and shall not be considered in interpreting this Agreement. 8 Section 6.12: Notice 9 Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Agreement, all notices, demands, and other communications under this Agreement must be in writing and addressed as follows: 11 To Named Plaintiff and the Class: 12 Kashif Haque 13 Samuel A. Wong Jessica L. Campbell 14 Alexander G.L. Davies Daniel E. Ishu 15 **AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC** 9811 Irvine Center Drive, Suite 100 16 Irvine, California 92618 Telephone: (949) 379-6250 17 Facsimile: (949) 379-6251 18 And 19 To Defendants: 20 Elizabeth L. Kolar, Esq. (SBN 168935) 21 Vanessa S. Vittorio, Esq. (SBN 192710) KOLAR & ASSOCIATES, A LAW CORPORATION 22 12241 Newport Avenue Santa Ana, California 92705 23 Tel (714) 544-0041 Fax (714) 544-0051 24 25 Section 6.13: Enforcement of Settlement and Continuing Court Jurisdiction 26 To the extent consistent with class action procedure, this Agreement shall be enforceable by 27 the Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6 and California Rule of Court 28

3.769(h). The Final Order entered by the Court will not adjudicate the merits of the Actions or the liability of the Parties resulting from the allegations of the Actions. Its sole purpose is to adopt the terms of the Settlement and to retain jurisdiction over its enforcement. To that end, the Court shall retain continuing jurisdiction over the Actions and over all Parties and Class Members, to the fullest extent to enforce and effectuate the terms and intent of this Agreement. In the event that one or more of the Parties institutes any legal action or other proceeding against any other Party or Parties to enforce the provisions of this Settlement, the successful Party or Parties will be entitled to recover from the unsuccessful Party or Parties reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, including expert witness fees incurred in connection with any enforcement actions.

Section 6.14: Mutual Full Cooperation

The Parties agree fully to cooperate with each other to accomplish the terms of this Agreement, including but not limited to the execution of such documents, and the taking of such other action, as may reasonably be necessary to implement the terms of this Agreement. The Parties to this Agreement shall use their best efforts, to effectuate and implement this Agreement and its terms. In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement on the form or content of any document needed to implement the Settlement, or on any supplemental provisions that may become necessary to effectuate the terms of the Settlement, the Parties agree to seek the assistance of the Court.

Section 6.15: Authorization to Act

Class Counsel warrants and represents that they are authorized by Named Plaintiff, and Defense Counsel warrants that they are authorized by Defendants, to take all appropriate action required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement, except for signing documents, including but not limited to this Agreement, that are required to be signed by the Parties themselves. Defendants represent and warrant that the individual executing this Agreement on its behalf has the full right, power, and authority to enter into this Agreement and to carry out the transactions contemplated herein.

Section 6.16: No Reliance on Representations

The Parties have made such investigation of the facts and the law pertaining to the matters described herein and to this Agreement as they deem necessary, and have not relied, and do not rely,

1	on any st	atement, promise, or represen	tation of fa	act or law, made by any of the other parties, or any
2	of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to any of their rights or asserted			
3	rights, or with regard to the advisability of entering into and executing this Agreement, or with respect			
4	to any other matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements, except as expressly set forth			
5	herein, have been made to any party concerning this Agreement.			
6	EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL			
7	The Parties and their counsel hereby execute this Agreement.			
8	Dated:		MOS	TAFA GAD
9				
10			By:	Named Plaintiff
11				
12	Dated:		CAR	LOS MARTINEZ BANAGA
13				
14			By:	Named Plaintiff
15				
16				
17	Dated:	September 1, 2023	ST. C	SEORGE AUTO SALES, INC.
18			D	2
19			By:	(Signature)
20				Tony Bacily
21				(Printed Name)
22				Defendant
23				
24	Dated:	September 1, 2023	ST. C	SEORGE AUTO CENTER, INC.
25			By:	2
26			·	(Signature)
27				Tony Bacily (Printed Name)
28			26	of 26

1	on any statement, promise, or rep	resentation of fact or law, made by any of the other parties, or any
2	of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to any of their rights or asserte	
3	rights, or with regard to the advisability of entering into and executing this Agreement, or with respec	
4	to any other matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements, except as expressly set fort	
5	herein, have been made to any par	rty concerning this Agreement.
6	EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL	
7	The Parties and their coun	sel hereby execute this Agreement.
8	Dated: 08/30/2023	MOSTAFA GAD
9		Docusigned by: Mostafa Gad
10		By: Under the Named Plaintiff
11		
12	Dated:	CARLOS MARTINEZ BANAGA
13		
14		By:Named Plaintiff
15		
16		
17	Dated:	ST. GEORGE AUTO SALES, INC.
18		<u> </u>
19		By:(Signature)
20		
21		(Printed Name)
22		Defendant
23		
24	Dated:	ST. GEORGE AUTO CENTER, INC.
25		_
26		By: (Signature)
27		(Drinted Name)
28		(Printed Name)
		26 of 26

1	on any sta	atement, promise, or repres	sentation of fact or law, made by any of the other parties, or any
2	of their agents, employees, attorneys, or representatives, with regard to any of their rights or asserte		
3	rights, or with regard to the advisability of entering into and executing this Agreement, or with respec		
4	to any other matters. No representations, warranties, or inducements, except as expressly set fort		
5	herein, have been made to any party concerning this Agreement.		
6	EXECUTION BY PARTIES AND COUNSEL		
7	The Parties and their counsel hereby execute this Agreement.		
8	Dated:		MOSTAFA GAD
9			D.
10			By: Named Plaintiff
11			
12	Dated:	Aug 30, 2023	CARLOS MARTINEZ BANAGA
13			(h
14			By: Carlos Martinez (Aug 30, 2023 15:28 PDT) Named Plaintiff
15			
16			
17	Dated:		ST. GEORGE AUTO SALES, INC.
18			
19			By:(Signature)
20			
21			(Printed Name)
22			Defendant
23			
24	Dated:		CT CEODGE ALITO CENTED INC
25	Dated.		ST. GEORGE AUTO CENTER, INC.
26			By: (Signature)
27			
28			(Printed Name)
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2			Defendant
			Defendant
3	APPRO	VED AS TO FORM ONLY:	
5	D . 1	4 20 2022	A TO COLO A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A
6	Dated:	August 30, 2023	AEGIS LAW FIRM, PC
7			By: Dorring Danes
8			By: Samuel A. Wong
9			Jessica L. Campbell Alexander G.L. Davies
			Daniel E. Ishu
10			Attorneys for Mostafa Gad
11			Theorneys for Mostara Gaa
12	Dated:		BIBIYAN LAW GROUP, P.C.
13			
14			By:
15			David D. Bibiyan Diego Aviles
16			Sara Ehsani-Nia
17			Attorneys for Carlos Martinez Banaga
18			
19	Dated:		KOLAR & ASSOCIATES, A LAW
20		Sept. 1, 2023	CORPORATION
21			By: Uttoio
22			Elizabeth L. Kolar Vanessa S. Vittorio
23			Attorneys for Defendants St. George Auto Sales, Inc. and St. George Auto Center, Inc.
24			Zanas, met and zan eeerge ratio conter, met
25			
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28			