1 2	RICHARD E. QUINTILONE II (SBN 200995) JEFFREY T. GREEN (SBN 330065) KYLE J. GALLEGO (PL 513245)			
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6	E-MAIL: REQ@QUINTLAW.COM; JTG@QUINTLAW.COM; KJG@QUINTLAW.COM Attorney for Plaintiff, EMILEE COMEAU, an individual, individually and on behalf of all			
	employees similarly situated,	•		
7	William DeClercq (SBN 240538)			
8	DECLERCQ LAW GROUP, INC. 445 s. Figueroa St., Suite 3100			
9	Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (404) 640-5924			
10	Facsimile: (415) 851-8868			
11	william@declercqlaw.com			
12	Attorneys for Defendants TMC AT WOLFE'S, INC.			
13				
14	SUPERIOR COURT	Γ OF CALIFORNIA		
15	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT			
16	EMILEE COMEAU, an individual,	Case No.: 20STCV04095		
17	individually and on behalf of all employees similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION		
18	Plaintiffs,	Assigned for All Purposes To: Honorable Stuart M. Rice		
19		Dept.:1		
20		STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT TO SETTLE CLASS ACTION		
21	VS.	SETTLE CLASS ACTION		
22				
23	TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., a California	Complaint filed: January 31, 2020 First Amended Complaint filed: April 1, 2020		
24	corporation; and DOES 1 to 100, Inclusive,	Trial Date: none set		
25	Defendants.			
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It is stipulated and agreed by and among the undersigned Parties, subject to the approval of the Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382, that the settlement of this Litigation 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 elsewhere in this Stipulation and Agreement to Settle Class Action.

This Agreement is made as of the date of the latest dated signature below by Defendants TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., ("Defendant"), and Plaintiff EMILEE COMEAU and the individuals collectively defined below as "Settlement Class Members" who do not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement.

The Parties agree that the Litigation shall be ended, settled, resolved, and concluded by agreement of Defendants to pay the maximum total Settlement Sum of **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars** (\$200,000.00), as provided in Section III(E)(1) below, upon the terms and conditions of this Agreement and for the consideration set forth herein, including but not limited to a release of claims by Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members who do not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement.

This is a common fund Settlement without reversion to Defendants, and all Settlement funds remaining after all Court approved deductions from the Settlement Sum (the "Class Member Settlement Fund") will be paid to the Participating Settlement Class Members.

I. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

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

- A. "Agreement," "Settlement Agreement," "Settlement," or "Stipulation and Agreement" means this Stipulation and Agreement to Settle Class Action, including the attached Exhibits.
- B. "Class Period" shall mean any time between **January 31, 2016**, through February 1, 2022.
 - C. "Class Representative" or "Plaintiff" refers to Plaintiff Emilee Comeau.
 - D. "Covered Job Position" is any California non-exempt serving position, held at any

time from January 31, 2016, through February 1, 2022. E. 2 "Court" means the California Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Stanley Mosk 3 Courthouse, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. F. "Defendant" refers to TMC AT WOLFE'S INC. 4 5 G. "Defense Counsel" or "Counsel for Defendant" is: 6 WILLIAM DECLERCO (SBN 240538) TAYLOR ENGLISH DUMA LLP 7 445 S. FIGUEROA ST., SUITE 3100 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90071 8 TELEPHONE: (404) 640-5924 FACSIMILE: (415) 851-8868 9 WDECLERCO@TAYLORENGLISH.COM 10 11 Η. "Effective Date" is the date on which Defendant fully funds the settlement, or upon 12 entry of the Judgment and Final Order in the Litigation, whichever occurs later. 13 I. "Individual Payment Amount" is the amount of money, inclusive of any employee 14 taxes withheld, that shall be paid to each Settlement Class Member who does not timely request 15 exclusion and opt out of this Settlement ("Participating Settlement Class Members"). Individual 16 Payment Amounts will be determined in accordance with Section III(E)(10) herein and may include 17 other amounts as specified in this Agreement, including penalty amounts set forth in Section 18 III(E)(6). 19 J. "Litigation" means the lawsuit entitled *Emilee Comeau*, on behalf of herself and on 20 behalf of a Class of all other persons similarly situated, v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., et al., Los 21 Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV04095. 22 K. "Parties" are Defendants, Plaintiff, and the Settlement Class Members who do not 23 timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement. 24 L. "PAGA Representatives" means all persons who are employed or have been 25 employed by Defendant in the State of California who, during the period April 5, 2019 to the Present 26 have worked as non-exempt employees and who were subjected to Defendant's alleged unlawful, 27 unfair or fraudulent business acts or practices in the form of Labor Code violations regarding

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overtime, meal periods, rest periods, expense reimbursement, wage statements, or minimum wages and/or waiting time penalties.

- M. "PAGA Payment" means the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), which shall be allocated from the Maximum Settlement Amount to pay all applicable civil penalties under PAGA on behalf of the Class. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the PAGA Payment, i.e. \$3,750.00, will be paid to the LWDA. The remaining twenty-five percent (25%), i.e. \$1,250.00, will remain in the Net Settlement Amount for distribution to Participating Class Members.
- N. "PAGA Release" means claims for penalties that were brought based on the facts alleged in Plaintiff's LWDA letter including: Labor Code §§ 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198; paid employees for less hours then they worked by requiring them to work overtime and/or off the clock in violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 and 1198; failed to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; failed to provide rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> §§ 226.7 and 512; failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226; failed to maintain accurate payroll records in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> § 226; failed to pay split shift premium pay in violation of Wage Order No. 5-2001; failed to pay wages of terminated or resigned employees in violation of <u>Labor</u> Code § 203; engaged in unlawful competition in violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17000, et seq.; and participated in unfair business practices in violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.
- O. "Qualifying Work Week" refers to the number of weeks within the Class Period wherein a Settlement Class Member held a Covered Job Position.
- P. "Recovery" refers to the amount computed by the Settlement Administrator pursuant to Section III(E)(10) to be recovered by Plaintiff and Participating Settlement Class Members who do not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement. Both Parties and their counsel acknowledge that the Recovery cannot be calculated by the Settlement Administrator until after the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks is determined after resolution of any disputes over the number of the Qualifying Work Weeks worked by Settlement Class Members pursuant to Section III(E)(11).

- Q. "Released Claims" means only the claims alleged in the First Amended Complaint, from January 31, 2016, through February 1, 2022: (1) failure to pay overtime under The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) [29 USC §§ 206, 207]; (2) failure to pay split shift premium pay; (3) failure to pay overtime compensation; (4) failure to provide meal periods; (5) failure to provide rest periods; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failure to pay wages for hours worked; (8) failure to pay wages due and payable twice monthly; (9) failure to pay wages upon termination of employment; (10) Unlawful Competition and Unlawful Business Practices Section 17200, *et seq.* and (11) violation of the California Labor Code, California Private Attorneys' General Act ("PAGA") (Lab. Code §2699, *et seq.*)
- R. "Released Parties" means Defendants and their past and present parents, subsidiaries, related entities, affiliates, and the current and prior owners of **TMC AT WOLFE'S INC.**, and any of these entities' respective past and present officers, directors, stockholders, agents, managers, representatives, employees, insurers, co-insurers, reinsurers, attorneys, accountants, auditors, advisors, representatives, consultants, pension and welfare benefit plans, plan fiduciaries, administrators, trustees, partners, predecessors, successors and assigns.
- S. "Service Award" is the amount that shall be paid to Plaintiff and Class Representative Emilee Comeau pursuant to Section III(E)(4) below.
- T. "Settlement Administrator" means **ILYM Group, Inc.**, which the Parties have agreed will be responsible for the administration of the payments to be made by Defendants from the Settlement Sum and related matters under this Agreement.
- U. "Settlement Class" or "Settlement Class Members" means all individuals who are or were previously employed (1) in California; (2) by Defendants; (3) in a non-exempt service position; (4) at any point from **January 31, 2016 through February 1, 2022**; (5) excluding any person who has previously signed a release of wage claims.
- S. "Settlement Sum" means the maximum and all-inclusive Settlement Sum to be paid by the Defendants, and shall be limited to a total of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00). Pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, the entire Settlement Amount will be paid by Defendant and no part of the Settlement Sum will revert to Defendant.

V. "Settlement Class Counsel" is:

Richard E. Quintilone II, Esq.

Jeffrey T. Green, Esq.

Kyle J. Gallego

QUINTILONE & ASSOCIATES 22974 El Toro Road, Suite 100 Lake Forest, CA 92630-4961

Telephone: (949) 458-9675; Facsimile: (949) 458-9679

Email: req@quintlaw.com Email: jtg@quintlaw.com Email: kjg@quintlaw.com Web: www.quintlaw.com

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II. <u>BACKGROUND</u>.

A. On **January 31, 2020**, Emilee Comeau filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court, Los Angeles County on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated individuals who are currently or were employed by Defendants, within the applicable statute of limitations, as nonexempt hourly employees who were allegedly not paid all regular and overtime wages due, not provided legally compliant meal and rest periods, not furnished an accurate wage statement, and not paid all wages due at the time of termination of employment. Plaintiff also alleged violation of the <u>Business and Professions Code</u> § 17200 *et. seq.* On **April 1, 2020**, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Class Action Complaint including a claim that Defendants violated <u>Labor Code</u> § 2698, *et seq.*

- B. On or about **May 22, 2020**, Defendants filed their answer denying all material claims and asserting various affirmative defenses. Thereafter, the Parties engaged in formal discovery including the production of documents by Plaintiff. In preparation for mediation, the Parties also exchanged informal discovery.
- C. After the informal and formal discovery, the Parties attended a mediation on **December 4, 2020,** over Zoom call with mediator **Jill Sperber Esq.** The first day of mediation did not result in a settlement After several settlement exchanges conducted informally over the following months, the Parties reached this Settlement. The mediation and settlement negotiations included discussion and examination of the Parties' respective positions regarding the legal and factual issues pertaining to the claims asserted by Plaintiff.

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- D. Plaintiff and Settlement Class Counsel concluded, after taking into account the sharply disputed factual and legal issues involved in this Litigation, the risks attendant to further prosecution, the formal and informal discovery conducted to date, and the substantial benefits received and to be received pursuant to the compromise and settlement of the Litigation, that settlement on the terms hereinafter set forth was in the best interest of Plaintiff and the Settlement Class.
- E. Plaintiff and Settlement Class Counsel are mindful of the problems of proof they face, many of which were discussed during the mediation session and settlement negotiations. As such, Settlement Class Counsel believes that the Settlement reached is fair to the Settlement Class and confers substantial benefits on the Settlement Class, offering all Settlement Class Members certain and meaningful recoveries in the near term. Based on its evaluation, Settlement Class Counsel determined that the Settlement set forth in this Agreement is in the best interest of Plaintiff and the Settlement Class.
- F. Similarly, Defendants and Defense Counsel concluded that there were benefits associated with settling. Based on the sharply disputed factual and legal issues involved in the Litigation, the risks attendant to further defense, the expense and burden of protracted litigation, and Defendants' desire to put the controversy to rest, Defendants and Defense Counsel believe that settlement on the terms hereinafter set forth is in Defendants' best interest.
- G. This Settlement contemplates the (a) entry of a final order approving settlement of class action; and (b) discharge of all Parties and their respective counsel from liability for any and all of the Released Claims. The Judgment and Final Order will have the same effect for FLSA claim purposes for Settlement Class Members who opt in pursuant to Section III(E)(13).

III. PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SETTLEMENT.

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

A. <u>Preliminary Approval.</u>

Settlement Class Counsel will submit this Agreement to the Court for its preliminary approval. The Court's preliminary approval of this Agreement shall be embodied in an Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement; Certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, appointing Class Counsel for settlement purposes only; Setting Final Fairness and Approval Hearing; and Providing for Notice of Class Action, Proposed Settlement, Proposed Payment of Attorneys' Fees, and Fairness Hearing, in the form attached as **Exhibit A** ("Order for Notice of Class Settlement").

B. Notice to Settlement Class Members.

The Settlement Administrator shall disseminate the Notice of Class Action, Proposed Class Settlement, and Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, which the Parties will ask the Court to approve in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B** ("Notice of Class Settlement"), by giving notice by first-class United States mail as described in Section III(B)(1).

1. Class Notice.

Notice shall be provided to Settlement Class Members in the following manner:

- a. No later than **twenty (20) calendar days** after the Court's Order for Notice of Class Settlement has been received by Defense Counsel, Defendants will provide the Settlement Administrator with a list of all Settlement Class Members ("Class List"). This Class List shall state the social security numbers and the last known home address for each such Settlement Class Member. The Class List shall also state the dates of employment worked by each such Settlement Class Member during the Class Period in a Covered Job Position as indicated in Defendants' records.
- b. Within **seven (7) calendar days** of receipt of the Class List from Defendants, the Settlement Administrator shall mail the Notice of Class Settlement by first-class United States mail, postage prepaid, to the last known address of each Settlement Class Member, or, in the case of Settlement Class Members known to be deceased, to the legal representative of the estate.
- c. The Settlement Administrator shall mail with the Notice of Class Settlement a Statement of Weeks Worked in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. The Statement of Weeks Worked will state the dates that the Settlement Class Member worked during the Class Period in a

Covered Job Position as indicated in Defendants' records, as well as their estimated Individual Payment Amount based on the formula set forth in Section III(E)(10) below.

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calendar days of receiving the returned Notice.

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- d. The Settlement Administrator shall mail all returned Notices within ten (10)
- e. With respect to those Settlement Class Members whose Notice of Class Settlement is returned to the Settlement Administrator as undeliverable, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly attempt to obtain a valid mailing address by use of the Equifax, NCOA ("National Change of Address") database search, and, if necessary, can perform a skip trace using the Settlement Class Member's Social Security Number to locate a valid mailing address. If another address is identified, the Settlement Administrator shall immediately thereafter send the Notice of Class Settlement, Request for Exclusion, and the Statement of Weeks Worked by mail to the new address.
- f. All costs of the Notice of Class Settlement, whether foreseen or not, shall be paid from the Settlement Sum in accordance with Section III(E)(2) below.

2. Declaration of Compliance.

No later than twenty-one (21) court days before the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator shall provide Defense Counsel and Settlement Class Counsel with a declaration attesting to completion of the notice process (except for any ongoing attempt to obtain valid mailing addresses for, and the re-sending of, any returned Notices of Class Settlement), including the steps set forth in Section III(B)(1)(c)-(d) ("Declaration of Compliance"), which shall be filed with the Court by Settlement Class Counsel with the final approval motion.

Compliance with the procedures described in this Section shall constitute due and sufficient notice to Settlement Class Members of this proposed Settlement and the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, shall not be subject to objection or collateral attack by any person or entity, and shall satisfy the requirement of due process. Nothing else shall be required of, or done by, the Parties, Settlement Class Counsel, Defense Counsel, or the Settlement Administrator to provide notice of the proposed Settlement and the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.

C. Responses to Notice.

1. <u>Requests for Exclusion from Class.</u>

Any person who receives a Notice of Class Settlement may request to be excluded from the Settlement Class by submitting a request for exclusion ("Request for Exclusion" or "Opt Out Form") in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. Any such request must be made in accordance with the terms set forth in the Notice of Class Settlement and will be timely only if postmarked no later than **forty-five (45) calendar days** after the mailing of the Notice of Class Settlement by the Settlement Administrator, or if otherwise agreed by the Parties, through Settlement Class Counsel and Defense Counsel, in writing. A **sixty (60)** day period will apply for Class Members whose notice packages were initially returned as undeliverable and are re-mailed by the Administrator to an updated address discovered through skip-tracing. Settlement Class Members cannot opt out of the PAGA settlement.

2. <u>Objections to Settlement.</u>

Any Settlement Class Member wishing to object to the approval of this Settlement ("Objecting Settlement Class Members") may inform the Settlement Administrator in writing, and may do so by mailing, of his or her intent to object by following the procedure set forth in the Notice of Class Settlement at least **ten (10) court days**, before the date of the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing described in Section III(D) below. A Settlement Class member also has the right to appear via audio, video, or in person at the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing and voice any objections or concerns with the Settlement to the Court.

3. Responses to Objections.

Counsel for the Parties shall file any response to the objections submitted by Objecting Settlement Class Members at least **five (5) court days** before the date of the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, or at the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing if the Settlement Class Member objects at the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.

D. Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.

On the date set forth in the Order for Notice of Class Settlement, a Final Fairness and Approval Hearing shall be held before the Court in order (1) to review this Agreement and determine whether the Court should give it final approval; and (2) to consider any timely objections made

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pursuant to Section III(C)(2) above and all responses by the Parties to such objections. At the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing, the Parties shall ask the Court to give final approval to this Agreement. If the Parties' request for final approval is granted, a Judgment and Final Order Approving Settlement of Class Action substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit E** ("Judgment and Final Order") shall be entered in the Litigation. Within **two (2) calendar days** of receipt of the Judgment and Final Order by Settlement Class Counsel, Settlement Class Counsel shall furnish a copy of the Judgment and Final Order to the Settlement Administrator.

E. <u>Settlement Payment Procedures</u>.

1. Settlement Sum.

The maximum and all-inclusive Settlement Sum to be paid by the Defendants shall be limited to a total of **Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00)**. All amounts to be paid by Defendants from the Settlement Sum shall be paid to a qualified settlement fund ("Qualified Settlement Fund"), which shall be administered by the Settlement Administrator. All amounts to be paid to anyone pursuant to this Agreement ("Settlement Amounts") shall be paid out of the Qualified Settlement Fund. Such Settlement Amounts shall include all amounts to be paid to Plaintiff and Settlement Class Members who do not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement, as set forth in Sections III(E)(4)-(6) below; all amounts to be paid to Settlement Class Counsel as Settlement Class Counsel's Attorneys' Fees, as set forth in Section III(E)(3) below; all amounts to be paid to Settlement Class Counsel as Settlement Class Counsel's Litigation Costs, as set forth in Section III(E)(3) below; all amounts to be paid as a Service Award to Plaintiff as set forth in Section III(E)(4); all amounts to be paid as Settlement Administration Costs, as defined in Section III(E)(2) below; all amounts required to be withheld for payment of federal, state and local payroll taxes (including any employee withholdings but not including employer taxes) and any other payroll charges required to be paid or deposited with the pertinent federal, state and local taxing agencies, with respect to the Settlement Class Members' Individual Payment Amounts, and the payment to the Labor Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") for its portion of the amount paid to settle alleged PAGA claims, as set forth in Section III(E)(6) below, and any other Settlement Amounts to be paid under this Agreement. All such Settlement Amounts to be paid under this Agreement shall

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be paid from the Qualified Settlement Fund and Defendants shall have no obligations under this Agreement beyond their obligation to make payments to the Qualified Settlement Fund with the total of all such required payments by Defendants to the Qualified Settlement Fund limited to the Settlement Sum. Defendants' share of payroll taxes shall not be deducted from the Settlement Sum. Defendants will pay their share of payroll taxes in addition to the Settlement Sum.

Consistent with the terms of this Agreement, for the purposes of determining the Class Member Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator shall first deduct the Settlement Administrator Costs as described in Section III(E)(2), deduct the amount of Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs approved by the Court to Settlement Class Counsel as described in Section III(E)(3), deduct the Service Award to Plaintiff as described in Section III(E)(4), and deduct the LWDA for its portion of the amount paid to settle alleged PAGA claims as described in Section III(E)(6). Thereafter, once all disputes over the calculation of the Individual Payment Amounts have been resolved pursuant to Section III(E)(11), the Settlement Administrator shall pay the Individual Payment Amounts to Settlement Class Members who do not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement as described in Section III(E)(5) below, less amounts which must be paid for the Settlement Class Members' share of payroll taxes related to the payment of Settlement Class Members' Individual Payment Amounts. The amount of the Qualified Settlement Fund left after the deduction of Settlement Administrator Costs as described in Section III(E)(2), the amount of Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs approved by the Court to Settlement Class Counsel as described in Section III(E)(3), the Service Award to Plaintiff as described in Section III(E)(4), the amount paid to the LWDA to settle alleged PAGA claims as described in Section III(E)(6), and the Settlement Class Members' share of payroll taxes related to the Settlement Class Members' Individual Payment Amounts, will constitute the "Class Member Settlement Fund" from which to pay Settlement Class Members. If the Court renders Final Approval before the date of the last payment in May 2023, Defendant shall immediately issue all remaining payments left outstanding pursuant to the schedule in Section III(E)(1)-(14). The Settlement Sum shall be paid according to the following schedule:

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Month	Amount
January 2023	\$20,000.00
February 2023	\$20,000.00
March 2023	\$20,000.00
April 2023	\$20,000.00
May 2023	\$20,000.00
June 2023	\$20,000.00
July 2023	\$20,000.00
August 2023	\$20,000.00
September 2023	\$20,000.00
October 2023	\$20,000.00
TOTAL	\$200,000.00

2. Settlement Administration Costs.

All costs of administering the Settlement, including but not limited to all tax obligations, custodial fees, and accounting fees incurred by the Settlement Administrator; all costs and fees associated with preparing, translating, issuing and mailing any and all notices or reminders to Settlement Class Members; all costs and fees associated with computing, processing, reviewing, issuing and paying the Service Award, Settlement Amounts, interest, taxes, and any other payments to be made out of or into the Qualified Settlement Fund; 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 notices, reminders, reports, or filings to be prepared in the course of administering disbursements from the Settlement Sum; 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 not exceed \$5,000.00 shall also be paid from the Settlement Sum.

3. Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

Subject to Court approval, Settlement Class Counsel will be paid up to **Thirty Three and a Third percent (33.3%)** of the Settlement Sum, which equals **\$66,600.00**, for attorneys' fees ("Attorneys' Fees"). Subject to Court approval, Settlement Class Counsel will also be paid reasonable and actual costs in prosecuting this Litigation from the Settlement Sum ("Litigation

Costs") in a sum not to exceed \$10,000.00 The Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs shall be paid out of the Settlement Sum. Settlement Class Counsel shall serve Defendants with copies of all documents submitted in support of their fee allocation before such documents are filed with the Court. Defendants agree not to oppose Settlement Class Counsel's proposed fee allocation. Any amount not approved by the Court will revert to the Class Member Settlement Fund to be split pro rata between the Settlement Class Members. The Court-ordered Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs shall be due and payable no later than **ten (10) calendar days** after the payment of all Settlement Amounts under Sections III(E)(2), (4) and (6), whichever date is later. Defendants shall wire funds to the Settlement Administrator for deposit into the Qualified Settlement Fund in amounts sufficient to fund payment of the Attorneys' Fees and Litigation Costs no later than **five (5) business days** after the Effective Date.

4. <u>Service Award Payable to Plaintiff.</u>

Subject to Court approval, Plaintiff and Class Representative Emilee Comeau shall receive a Service Award of **ten thousand dollars** (\$10,000.00). Plaintiff shall provide a release of claims detailed in Section V that she has against Defendants and any Released Parties. The Service Award shall be paid out of the Settlement Sum. The Service Award shall be payable no later than seven (7) business days after the Effective Date. Defendants shall wire funds to the Settlement Administrator for deposit into the Qualified Settlement Fund in amounts sufficient to fund payment of the Service Award no later than **five** (5) **business days** after the Effective Date. The Settlement Administrator will report the Service Award on a Form 1099, which it will provide to Plaintiff and to the pertinent taxing authorities as required by law.

5. <u>Individual Payment Amounts Payable to Settlement Class Members.</u>

In accordance with the procedures set forth in Sections III(E)(10) and III(E)(12), the Settlement Administrator shall pay each Settlement Class Member his or his Individual Payment Amount.

A portion of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent wages and a portion of which shall represent interest and a portion of which will represent penalties.

Thirty three percent (33.33%) of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount

shall represent wages. Thirty three percent (33.33%) of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent interest. Thirty three percent (33.33%) of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent penalties including the Settlement Class Member's portion of the PAGA penalties. That portion of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount representing wages will be subject to normal employee tax withholdings with the Settlement Administrator remitting all employment tax withholdings directly to the pertinent state and federal taxing authorities.

That portion of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount constituting interest or penalties will be reported on a Form 1099 provided to each Settlement Class Member, with the required copies of the Form 1099's provided to the pertinent taxing authorities.

Any and all employer tax obligations on any amounts paid to Plaintiff and Settlement Class Members under this Settlement (including any employer FICA or FUTA taxes owed by Defendants or by the Qualified Settlement Fund) are to be paid by Defendants separate and apart from the Settlement Sum. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for paying any such taxes owed by Defendants and/or by the Qualified Settlement Fund (including any employer FICA or FUTA taxes) in the manner and within the time prescribed by law.

The Parties are mindful that the total consideration payable hereunder is comprised of a number of separate and distinct claims for damages and penalties by Plaintiff and the Settlement Class Members. Accordingly, having considered the matter in detail, having performed their own separate and independent computations and estimation of the damages and penalties potentially awardable to Plaintiff at trial or arbitration, and having done the foregoing with complete and satisfactory access to, and advice from, accounting and legal advisors, the Parties mutually consent and agree that the Settlement Class Members' Individual Payment Amounts be apportioned among the Settlement Class Members' various wage and non-wage claims in this Litigation as set forth above. Moreover, the Parties mutually consent and agree, and hereby represent to the Court in this judicially supervised settlement transaction, that the apportionment of the Settlement Class Members Individual Payment Amounts as stated above is a reasonable and arm's length determination of the character of the Individual Payment Amounts for all purposes, including for tax purposes.

6. Payment of PAGA Penalties to the LWDA and Settlement Class Members.

The Parties agree to allocate five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to the settlement of the PAGA penalties alleged in the Complaint, which the Parties believe in good faith is a fair and reasonable apportionment. The Settlement Administrator shall pay seventy-five percent (75%), or \$3,750.00, of this amount to the LWDA and twenty-five percent (25%), or \$1,250.00, of this amount to Participating Settlement Class Members. Payment shall be made to the LWDA no later than seven (7) business days after the Effective Date. Defendants shall wire funds to the Settlement Administrator for deposit into the Qualified Settlement Fund in amounts sufficient to make this payment to the LWDA no later than five (5) business days after the Effective Date.

7. Payments to the DIR and No Residual

To the extent there are any payments made to Settlement Class Members that remain uncashed **one hundred and eighty (180) days after mailing**, any uncashed check will be delivered to the **California State Controller's office** in the name of the authorized Settlement Class Member, along with the funds from the uncashed checks.

Additionally, this is a non-reversionary Settlement, and any amounts for the allocations of payments from the Settlement Sum that are not finally approved by the Court will be added to the Class Member Settlement fund to be distributed to Participating Class Members. Accordingly, there will be no unpaid residuals. Therefore, the parties agree and stipulate that California <u>Code of Civil Procedure</u> § 384 is inapplicable.

8. No Additional Contribution by Defendants.

Defendants' monetary obligations under this Agreement are limited to the amount as defined as the Settlement Sum in Section III(E)(1). Defendants may not be called upon or required to contribute additional monies above the Settlement Sum under any circumstances whatsoever. In the event that the total number of Settlement Class Members, estimated to be 265 on March 15, 2021, increases by ten percent (10%) or more before the preliminary approval hearing, Plaintiff shall have the option to terminate this Agreement. All costs and expenses arising out of or in connection with the performance of this Agreement shall be paid from the Settlement Sum paid by Defendants into the Qualified Settlement Fund, unless expressly provided otherwise herein.

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In the event that this Agreement is canceled, rescinded, terminated, voided, or nullified, however that may occur, or the Settlement of the Litigation is barred by operation of law, or invalidated, or ordered not to be carried out by a court of competent jurisdiction, Defendants will cease to have any obligation to pay any portion of the Settlement Sum to the Qualified Settlement Fund, or any other party under the terms of this Agreement and all previous disbursements made from Defendants to the Qualified Settlement Fund will immediately revert back to Defendants, less any Settlement Administration Costs incurred.

9. The Settlement Administrator.

The Parties have chosen **ILYM Group**, **Inc.**, to administer this Settlement and to act as the Settlement Administrator. The Settlement Administrator will administer disbursements from the Settlement Sum paid by Defendants into the Qualified Settlement Fund, including, but not limited to, distributing the Notice of Class Settlement and Statement of Work Weeks, and calculating claims against the Qualified Settlement Fund, calculating interest owed, preparing and issuing all disbursements of the Settlement Amounts required to be paid to the Participating Settlement Class Members who do not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement, Plaintiff, Settlement Class Counsel and the LWDA, and the local state and federal payroll tax authorities, tracking whether Settlement Class Members have cashed issued checks and handling inquiries about the calculation of the Individual Payment Amounts. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for the timely filing of all federal, state and local tax returns of the Qualified Settlement Fund and making the timely payment of any and all withholdings required with such returns. The Settlement Administrator shall provide an address and toll-free telephone number to respond to Settlement Class Members' inquiries about the Notice of Class Settlement and determination of the Individual Payment Amounts. All questions by Settlement Class Members shall be directed to the Settlement Administrator.

All Settlement Administration Costs associated with administering disbursements from the Qualified Settlement Fund including, but not limited to, the fees and costs of the Settlement Administrator and the cost of the Notice of Class Settlement, shall be paid entirely from the Settlement Sum paid by Defendants into the Qualified Settlement Fund and Defendants' monetary

obligations under this Agreement is limited to the Qualified Settlement Fund. The Parties expect that the Settlement Administrator shall conduct all administration of all disbursements of the Settlement Sum.

10. Calculation of Qualifying Work Weeks Worked and Recovery.

The Settlement Administrator shall determine the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all Settlement Class Members by determining for each Settlement Class Member, the number of weeks worked in a Covered Job Position. The Settlement Administrator shall compute the value of a Qualifying Work Week ("Base Value") by dividing the amount of the Class Member Settlement Fund by the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Administrator shall compute each Participating Settlement Class Member's Recovery by multiplying the Base Value by the number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by the Participating Settlement Class Member.

The Settlement Administrator shall also determine the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all PAGA Representatives by determining for each PAGA Representatives, the number of weeks worked in a Covered Job Position. The Settlement Administrator shall compute the value of a Qualifying Work Week ("Base Value") by dividing the amount of the PAGA Representatives Settlement Fund by the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all PAGA Representatives. The Settlement Administrator shall compute each PAGA Representatives' Recovery by multiplying the Base Value by the number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by the PAGA Representatives.

11. Resolution of Disputes

The Statement of Weeks Worked provided to each individual Settlement Class Member shall set forth the dates that the Settlement Class Member worked during the Class Period in a Covered Job Position, according to Defendants' records. Any Settlement Class Member who disputes the information shown on his or her Statement of Weeks Worked regarding the dates that the Settlement Class Member worked during the Class Period in a Covered Job Position may indicate and explain such disagreement on the Statement of Weeks Worked within forty-five (45) days of the mailing of the Statement of Weeks Worked. Any such Settlement Class Member must submit any

documentation relating to his or her dispute along with his or her completed Statement of Weeks Worked. The Settlement Administrator shall notify Defense Counsel and Settlement Class Counsel of any such dispute upon receiving notice of the dispute. The Settlement Administrator shall attempt to resolve the disagreement and may request any information or assistance from Defense Counsel and/or Settlement Class Counsel that the Settlement Administrator, in its sole discretion, believes may assist it in resolving the disagreement. However, the Court shall have final and binding authority to resolve any disputes regarding the number of Qualifying Work Weeks by any Settlement Class Member and dates during the Class Period they were worked by any Settlement Class Member. The Parties and their counsel shall use their best efforts to ensure that any and all such disputes are resolved before the Effective Date.

12. Payment of Individual Payment Amounts.

Within **five (5) calendar days** after the payment of all Settlement Amounts under Sections III(E)(2), (4) and (6) (as to the LWDA only) above, whichever date is later, the Settlement Administrator shall calculate the final Individual Payment Amount to be paid to each Settlement Class Member, prepare a Final Statement of Individual Payment Amounts for each Settlement Class Member, and direct Defendants to wire funds from the Settlement Sum to the Settlement Administrator for deposit into the Qualified Settlement Fund, which are sufficient to fund the payment of these Individual Payment Amounts, inclusive of payroll taxes of the Settlement Class Members and/or the Qualified Settlement Fund. Additionally, the Settlement Administrator shall calculate the funds sufficient to fund the payment of Defendants' payroll tax obligations and shall direct Defendants to wire such funds to the Settlement Administrator. Defendants shall wire such funds within **five (5) calendar days** thereafter; the Settlement Administrator shall issue and mail the settlement checks within **seven (7) calendar days** thereafter. The mailing shall be by first-class United States mail to the last known mailing address of each Settlement Class Member.

13. Opt-In for FLSA Claims

The cashing of the settlement check by the Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to be an opt-in for purposes of the FLSA claims referred to in the Released Claims. The Settlement Administrator shall include a legend on the settlement check stating "By cashing this check, I am from the Court.

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opting into *Comeau v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., et al.*, Case No. 20STCV04095, under FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and releasing the Released Claims described in the Settlement Agreement."

Should the Settlement Administrator need more time than is provided under this Agreement

to complete any of its obligations as set forth in this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator may

request such additional time in writing (including an explanation of the need for additional time)

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14. <u>Extension of Time to Pay and/or Process Claims.</u>

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F. <u>Public Statements.</u>

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Plaintiff and Settlement Class Counsel shall not hold any press conferences, issue any press releases, seek any publicity or publish any announcements on any website with respect to this matter at any time. Until the Parties submit a request for preliminary approval from the Court, Plaintiff and Settlement Class Counsel will keep the terms of this Agreement confidential. Prior to final approval of this Settlement, Plaintiff and Settlement Class Counsel will not discuss this Litigation or Settlement or otherwise disclose the terms of this Agreement with third parties other than Settlement Class Members, except (1) as necessary to effectuate this Agreement and (2) to the Parties' tax advisors. After final approval of this Settlement, Plaintiff, Defendants, and their respective Counsel shall not issue any public statements with respect to the Litigation or Settlement, except as required by law. Upon such final approval, Plaintiff, Defendants and their respective Counsel may issue, if at all, only a mutually agreeable joint press release, although neither party is required to agree to any press release of any kind. Unless otherwise agreed by Plaintiff, Defendants, and their respective Counsel, any oral or written disclosure of information related to the Settlement shall be restricted to the material discussed in this Stipulation and Agreement. Plaintiff, Defendants, and their respective Counsel agree and acknowledge that the phrase "material discussed in this Stipulation and Agreement" shall be narrowly construed. Notwithstanding the specific limitations to public disclosure identified herein, Settlement Class Counsel shall not be precluded from disclosing the Parties to the lawsuit and the fact that the matter settled to a Court or other Tribunal. Furthermore, nothing herein limits Plaintiff's or any Settlement Class Member's ability to communicate with any

government agency or otherwise participate in any investigation or proceeding that may be conducted by any government agency.

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

A. No Admission.

Neither the acceptance nor the performance by Defendants of the terms of this Agreement nor any of the related negotiations or proceedings is or shall be claimed to be, construed as, or deemed to be an admission by Defendants of the truth of any of the allegations in the Complaint, the representative character of the Litigation, the validity of any of the claims that were or could have been asserted by Plaintiff and/or Settlement Class Members in the Litigation, or of any liability or guilt of Defendants in the Litigation.

B. <u>No Disparagement</u>

Both Plaintiff and Settlement Class Counsel agree not to make or cause to be made at any time, any statements that disparage, are inimical to, or damage the reputation of Released Parties. Plaintiff further agrees that he will not encourage or incite other current or former employees of the Released Parties to disparage or assert any complaint, claim or charge, or to initiate any legal proceeding, against the Released Parties. Nothing herein limits Plaintiff's or any Settlement Class Member's ability to communicate with any government agency or otherwise participate in any investigation or proceeding that may be conducted by any government agency.

C. <u>Non-Evidentiary Use.</u>

Neither this Agreement nor any of its terms shall be offered or used as evidence by any of the Parties, Settlement Class Members, or their respective counsel in the Litigation or in any other action or proceeding; provided, however, that nothing contained in this Section IV(C) shall prevent this Agreement from being used, offered, or received in evidence in any proceeding to enforce, construe, or finalize this Agreement.

D. No Collateral Attack.

This Agreement shall not be subject to collateral attack by any Settlement Class Member or any recipient of the Notice of Class Settlement after the Judgment and Final Order described in Section III(D) is entered. Such prohibited collateral attacks shall include but not be limited to claims

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27 28 that the Qualifying Work Weeks attributed to the Settlement Class Member was erroneous or that the Settlement Class Member failed for any reason to receive timely notice of the procedure for disputing the calculation of his or her Individual Payment Amount.

E. Nullification.

- 1. If (a) the Court should for any reason fail to certify a class for settlement; or (b) the Court should for any reason fail to approve this Settlement in the form agreed to by the Parties; or (c) the Court should for any reason fail to enter the Judgment and Final Order; or (d) the Judgment and Final Order is reversed, modified, or declared or rendered void, 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) Settlement Class Counsel shall make repayment of any disbursements it received from the Settlement Sum.
- 2. Invalidation of any material term of this Agreement shall invalidate this Agreement in its entirety unless the Parties shall subsequently agree in writing that the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. The material terms are all terms set forth Sections III(E), IV(E)(2) and Article V herein.
- 3. In the event that for any reason final distribution of the Settlement Sum does not occur (for example, because this Agreement and/or the Judgment and Final Order is modified or reversed on appeal), the entire Settlement Sum shall remain the sole property of Defendants and any sums previously paid or distributed shall be returned to Defendants (minus any administrative expense and fees incurred by the Settlement Administrator).
- 4. In the event of a timely appeal from the Judgment and Final Order, the Judgment and Final Order shall be stayed and the Settlement Sum shall not be distributed to Settlement Class Members pending the completion of the appeal.

V. RELEASE.

It is the desire of the Parties to fully, finally, and forever settle, compromise, and discharge disputes and claims alleged in the Litigation. Except for Settlement Class Members who submit a

timely request for exclusion from the Class in accordance with Section III(C)(1), upon entry of the Judgment and Final Order in the Litigation, Plaintiff and each and every Settlement Class Member shall be bound by this Agreement and shall have recourse exclusively to the benefits, rights, and remedies provided hereunder. Plaintiff and each and every Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment and Final Order shall have fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged each and all of the Released Parties from the Released Claims. With respect to any FLSA claims, by cashing the settlement check referred to in Section III(E)(13), a Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to have opted-in and to have, and by operation of the Judgment and Final Order shall have fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged each and all of the Released Parties from any and all FLSA claims.

Plaintiff, the Settlement Class, and each and every Settlement Class Member who does not submit a timely request for exclusion from the Class in accordance with Section III(C)(1) shall be deemed to have acknowledged and agreed that: (1) their claims for missed meal and rest breaks, overtime compensation, minimum wages, wages for all hours worked, statutory and civil penalties, and any other payments and/or penalties in the Litigation are disputed; and (2) the payments set forth in Section III(E)(5) above constitute full payment of any amounts allegedly due to them. In light of the payment by Defendants of all amounts due to them, Plaintiff, the Settlement Class, and each and every Settlement Class Member who does not submit a timely request for exclusion from the Class in accordance with Section III(C)(1) shall be deemed to have acknowledged and agreed that California Labor Code § 206.5 is not applicable to the Parties hereto. That section provides in pertinent part as follows:

An employer shall not require the execution of any release of a release of a claim or right on account of wages due, or to become due, or made as an advance on wages to be earned, unless payment of those wages has been made.

Each Settlement Class Member who does not submit a timely request for exclusion from the Class in accordance with Section III(C)(1) shall be deemed to have made the foregoing Release as if by manually signing it.

In addition to the release provided above with respect to all Settlement Class Members who do not submit a timely request for exclusion from the Class in accordance with Section III(C)(1),

and for a valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged and except as specifically provided below, Plaintiff on behalf of herself, and each of his heirs, executors, administrators, attorneys, devisees, successors, and assigns, upon final approval of this Settlement and payment of the agreed upon consideration, does hereby release and forever discharge the Released Parties of the Released Claims and PAGA Release.

The Released Claims of Plaintiff herein include only the claims alleged in the Complaint, from January 31, 2016, through February 1, 2022, including: (1) failure to pay overtime under The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) [29 USC §§ 206, 207]; (2) failure to pay split shift premium pay; (3) failure to pay overtime compensation; (4) failure to provide meal periods; (5) failure to provide rest periods; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failure to pay wages for hours worked; (8) failure to pay wages due and payable twice monthly; (9) failure to pay wages upon termination of employment; (10) Unlawful Competition and Unlawful Business Practices Section 17200, et seq.; and (11) violation of the California Labor Code, California Private Attorneys' General Act ("PAGA") (Lab. Code §2699, et seq.).

The released claims further included, all claims for penalties that were brought based on the facts alleged in Plaintiff's LWDA letter including: Labor Code §§ 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198; paid employees for less hours then they worked by requiring them to work overtime and/or off the clock in violation of Labor Code §§ 510, 1194 and 1198; failed to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; failed to provide rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512; failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of Labor Code § 226; failed to maintain accurate payroll records in violation of Labor Code § 226; failed to pay split shift premium pay in violation of Wage Order No. 5-2001; failed to pay wages of terminated or resigned employees in violation of Labor Code § 203; engaged in unlawful competition in violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17000, et seq.; and participated in unfair business practices in violation of Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.

This Agreement does not release claims that cannot be released as a matter of law, including but not limited to claims for indemnity under California <u>Labor Code</u> § 2802, workers' compensation

benefits, or any right to file an application for award for original information submitted pursuant to Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

A. <u>Amendments</u>.

The terms and provisions of this Agreement may be amended only by a written agreement that is both (a) signed by the Plaintiff, Settlement Class Counsel, and Defense Counsel who executed this Agreement and (b) approved by the Court.

B. <u>Assignment.</u>

None of the rights, commitments, or obligations recognized under this Agreement may be assigned by any Party, Settlement Class Member, Settlement Class Counsel, or Defense Counsel without the express written consent of each Party and their respective counsel hereto. 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.

C. 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, irrespective of the State of California's choice of law principles.

D. <u>Entire Agreement.</u>

This Agreement, including the Exhibits referred to herein, which form an integral part hereof, contains the entire understanding of the Parties hereto 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 Exhibits to this Agreement, the former shall be controlling. 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 hereto with respect to the settlement of the Litigation.

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E. <u>Waiver of Compliance.</u>

Any failure of any Party, Defense Counsel, and/or Settlement Class Counsel hereto to comply with any obligation, covenant, agreement, or condition herein may be expressly waived in writing, to the extent permitted under applicable law, by the Party or Parties and their respective counsel hereto 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.

F. <u>Counterparts.</u>

This Agreement, and any amendments hereto, may be executed in any number of counterparts and any Party and/or their respective counsel hereto may execute any such counterpart, each of which when executed and delivered shall be deemed to be an original and all of which counterparts taken together shall constitute but one and the same instrument. It shall not be necessary in making proof of this Agreement or any counterpart hereof to produce or account for any of the other counterparts.

G. <u>Attorneys' Fees and Costs.</u>

Neither Settlement Class Counsel nor any other attorneys acting for, or purporting to act for the Settlement Class, Settlement Class Members, or Plaintiff may recover or seek to recover any amounts for fees, costs, or disbursements from the Released Parties or the Settlement Sum except as expressly provided herein.

H. 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 from Settlement Class Counsel and a representative from both Defense Counsel firms shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve such disputes prior to submitting such disputes to the Court.

I. Jurisdiction of the Court.

The Parties agree that this Settlement Agreement shall be enforceable by the Court pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6. The Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to the interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement and all orders and

1	judgments entered in connection therewith, and the Parties and their counsel submit to the	
2	jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of interpreting, implementing, and enforcing the settlemer	
3	embodied in this Agreement and all orders and judgments entered in connection therewith.	
4	IT IS SO STIPULATED.	
5		
6	Dated: December 22, 2022 QUINTILONE & ASSOCIATES	
7	By: Richard E. Quintilone 11	
8	RICHARD E. QUINTILONE II. JEFFREY T. GREEN.	
9	KYLE J. GALLEGO.	
10	Attorneys for Plaintiff EMILEE COMEAU. individually, and on behalf of all other	
11	employees similarly situated	
12	Dated: December 22, 2022 DeClercq Law, P.C.	
13	By: William B. Dellower	
14	WILLIAM B. DECLERCQ	
15	Attorneys for Defendant TMC at WOLFE'S. INC.	
16		
17	Dated: December 22, 2022 EMILEE COMEAU. on behalf of herself and on behalf of a Class of all other persons	
18	similarly situated —Docusigned by:	
19	Docusigned by:	
20	EMILEE COMEAU	
21		
22	Dated: Dec 22, 2022 TMC AT WOLFE'S INC.	
23	الحماد Anthony Villegas	
24	Authorized Agent for TMC AT WOLFE'S INC.	
25	INC.	
26		
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1	RICHARD E. QUINTILONE II (200995) QUINTILONE & ASSOCIATES			
2	22974 EL TORO ROAD, SUITE 100 LAKE FOREST, CA 92630			
3	TEL: (949) 458-9675 FAX: (949) 458-9679			
4	REQ@QUINTLAW.COM			
5	Attorney for Plaintiff, EMILEE COMEAU, an individual, individually and on behalf of all employees similarly situated,			
6	employees similarly situated,			
7				
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA			
9	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	S – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE		
10				
11	EMILEE COMEAU, an individual, individually and on behalf of all	Case No.: 20STCV04095		
12	employees similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION		
13	Plaintiffs,	Assigned for All Purposes To: Honorable Stuart M. Rice		
14		Dept.: 1		
15	VS.	[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S SUPPLEMENTAL MOTION		
16	TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., a California	FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT		
17	corporation; and DOES 1 to 100,	Date: September 29, 2023		
18	Inclusive,	Time: 10:30 a.m. Dept: 1		
19	Defendants.			
20		Complaint filed: January 31, 2020 First Amended Complaint filed: April 1, 2020		
21		Trial Date: none set		
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		Case No 20STCV04095		

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

Plaintiff's Notice of Motion and Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement was submitted, and the Court has considered the Stipulation and Agreement to Settle Class Action, the proposed Notice of Class Settlement, the proposed Opt Out Form, the submissions of counsel, and all other papers filed in this Litigation. The matter having been submitted and good cause appearing therefor, the Court finds as follows:

- 1. All defined terms contained herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Stipulation and Agreement to Settle Class Action executed by the Parties and filed with this Court (the "Settlement Agreement");
- 2. Plaintiff EMILEE COMEAU ("Plaintiff" or "Class Representative") and Defendant TMC AT WOLFE'S INC. ("Defendant") through their counsel of record in the Litigation, have reached an agreement to settle all claims in the Litigation.
- 3. The Parties have agreed that this Litigation may be maintained as a class action for Settlement purposes only.
- 4. The Settlement is within the range of reasonableness and meets the requirements for preliminary approval.
- 5. The moving papers presented for the Court's review set forth a plan to provide notice to the proposed Settlement Class of the terms of the Settlement and the options facing the Settlement Class including, *inter alia*: to be excluded from the Litigation; to be represented by counsel of their choosing; to object to the terms of the Settlement, or to do nothing and be bound by the terms of the Settlement without receiving a portion of the Class Member Settlement Fund. Plaintiff has submitted to the Court a Notice of Class Settlement. The Notice of Class Settlement will be mailed to all Settlement Class Members, at their last known addresses. For returned envelopes, the Claims Administrator will use reasonable diligence to obtain a current address for the Settlement Class Member and re-mail the Notice of Class Settlement. This notice plan provides the best notice practical under the circumstances.

Good cause appearing therefor, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. The Court grants preliminary approval of the Parties' Settlement Agreement;
- 2. The Settlement Class is provisionally certified for Settlement purposes only,

pursuant to Section 382 of the Code of Civil Procedure;

- 3. Plaintiff Emilee Comeau is appointed as the Settlement Class Representative, and Plaintiff's Counsel, Quintilone & Associates, is appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class; For Settlement purposes only, the litigation may be maintained on behalf of a Class defined as follows: any California non-exempt serving position, held at any time from **January 31**, **2016**, **through February 1**, **2022**.
 - 4. The Court hereby approves the form of Notice of Class Settlement;
- 5. The notice of the proposed Settlement, and the rights of Settlement Class Members to opt out of the Settlement or to dispute the number of Qualifying Work Weeks, shall be given by mailing of the Notice of Class Settlement by first class, postage prepaid, to all Settlement Class Members pursuant to the applicable provisions in the Settlement Agreement. Defendants shall provide the Claims Administrator with the information necessary to conduct this mailing as set forth in the Settlement Agreement;
- 6. A hearing shall be held before this Court on ______, 2023 at _____a/p.m. to consider whether the Settlement should be given final approval by the Court;
- a. Written objections by Settlement Class Members to the proposed Settlement will be considered if received by the Court and the Settlement Administrator in writing no later than **forty-five** (45) days after the mailing of the Notice of Class Settlement;
- b. At the final approval hearing, Settlement Class Members may be heard orally in support of the Settlement, or in opposition to the Settlement, provided they submit a timely written objection to the Settlement;
- c. Class Counsel and Defense Counsel should be prepared at the hearing to respond to objections filed by Settlement Class Members and to provide other information as appropriate, bearing on whether or not the Settlement should be approved; and
- 7. In the event the Effective Date occurs, all Class Members who do not timely submit a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement will be deemed to have forever released and discharged the Settlement Class Members' Released Claims as set forth in the Settlement

Agreement. In the event the Effective Date does not occur for any reason whatsoever, the Settlement Agreement shall be deemed null and void and shall have no effect whatsoever.

8. The Court orders the following implementation schedule for further proceedings:

	,
Preliminary approval order	TBD by Court
Deadline for Defendants to provide the	Twenty (20) days after Defense Counsel
Class List to the Settlement Administrator.	receives this Order.
Mail notices to Settlement Class Members.	Ten (10) days after Claims Administrator
	receives the Class List from Defendants.
Deadline for Settlement Administrator to	Ten (10) days after notices returned.
re-mail notices that were returned.	
Deadline for postmark by registered mail	Forty-five (45) days after Settlement
of any Request for Exclusion.	Administrator first mails Notice of Class
	Settlement to Settlement Class Members.
Deadline for responses to objections.	At least five (5) court days before the date
	the Final Fairness and Approval Hearing.
Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion	TBD by Court.
for Final Approval of Settlement.	
Deadline for Class Counsel to file Motion	TBD by Court.
for Attorneys' Fees.	
Final Fairness and Final Approval Hearing.	TBD by Court. Approximately seventy-
	five (75) days after first mailing of Notice
	of Class Settlement.

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated:	, 2023	
		Hon, Stuart M. Rice

Judge, Los Angeles County Superior Court

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO MONEY FROM A CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

EMILEE COMEAU, an individual, individually and on behalf of all employees similarly situated,

Plaintiffs.

VS.

TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 to 100, Inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 20STCV04095

CLASS ACTION

Assigned for All Purposes To: Honorable Stuart M. Rice Dept.: 1

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND HEARING DATE FOR COURT APPROVAL

ATTENTION ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OR WERE PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED (1) IN CALIFORNIA; (2) BY DEFENDANT TMC AT WOLFE'S INC.; (3) IN A NON-EXEMPT POSITION; (4) AT ANY POINT FROM JANUARY 31, 2016, TO FEBRUARY 1, 2022:

THIS NOTICE EXPLAINS YOUR POTENTIAL RIGHT TO RECOVER MONEY AS THE RESULT OF A SETTLEMENT OF A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT ("SETTLEMENT") AGAINST DEFENDANTS TMC AT WOLFE'S INC. ("DEFENDANTS").

ACCORDING TO DEFENDANT'S RECORDS, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT. IF YOU WISH TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE SETTLEMENT, YOU MUST SUBMIT THE ATTACHED OPT OUT FORM AND RETURN THE OPT OUT FORM SO THAT IT IS POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN _________, 2022. IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR OPT OUT FORM BY THIS DEADLINE, YOU WILL BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE ADMINISTRATOR TO RE-MAIL NOTICES THAT WERE RETURNED IS TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS.

I. WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

The purpose of this Notice is to inform you that your rights may be affected by the proceedings in a class action lawsuit pending before Judge Stuart M. Rice of the Superior Court of California for

4850-5293-5900.1 Page 1

the County of Los Angeles (the "Court") entitled *Emilee Comeau*, on behalf of herself and on behalf of a Class of all other persons similarly situated v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., et al., Case No: 20STCV04095 ("Litigation"). This Notice is given by Order of the Court.

There is a class action lawsuit now pending before the Court. This lawsuit was originally filed on January 31, 2020, and was brought by Emilee Comeau ("Class Representative" or "Comeau") on behalf of all non-exempt former and current employees who worked for Defendant in California from January 31, 2016 to February 1, 2022. ("Settlement Class Members"). The period from January 31, 2016, through February 1, 2022, is therefore known as the Class Period.

In the Complaint in this lawsuit, Comeau alleges that Defendants (1) Failed to pay overtime under FLSA [29 USC §§ 206, 207]; (2) Failure to Pay Split Shift Premium Pay; (3) Failure to pay overtime compensation; (4) Failure to provide meal periods; (5) Failure to provide rest periods; (6) Failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) Failure to pay wages for hours worked; (8) Failure to pay wages due and payable twice monthly; (9) Failed to pay wages upon termination of employment; and (10) engaged in Unlawful competition and unlawful business practices.

Plaintiff Comeau filed a First Amended Complaint on April 1, 2020, adding a cause of action for Violating the California Labor Code Private Attorney's General Act ("PAGA").

The "Covered Job Positions" in this case is any California non-exempt position, held at any time from January 31, 2016, to February 1, 2022.

II. WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF THE SETTLEMENT?

Defendants deny engaging in any unlawful conduct as alleged in this lawsuit and deny the claims and charges of wrongdoing and liability. Defendants deny that they owe money to Plaintiff or the Settlement Class Members as a result of any of Plaintiff's allegations, as listed above. Defendants are settling the matter as a compromise. Defendants reserve the right to object to any claim if for any reason the Settlement fails.

The Settlement Agreement applies to all Settlement Class Members who do not timely submit a correctly completed Opt Out Form.

The determination of how much a Participating Settlement Class Member will receive as part of this Settlement depends on when and for how long the Participating Settlement Class Member held a Covered Job Position.

The parties reached a Settlement in which Defendants' total maximum liability, inclusive of all payments to Participating Settlement Class Members, the Class Representative's Service Award, Settlement Administration Costs, employer's share of tax liabilities and attorneys' fees and costs, will not exceed \$200,000.00 ("Settlement Sum"). If eligible, Settlement Class Members may participate in the Settlement. Settlement Class Members will not pay any out-of-pocket costs.

There was a hearing on ______, 2023 in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles. The Court conditionally granted preliminary approval of the class action settlement against Defendants and directed that you receive this Notice.

A. Additional Payments from the Maximum Settlement Amount

The Parties will ask the Court to pay the following amounts from the Settlement Sum.

1. Fee and Cost Award for Class Counsel

Class Counsel is:

Richard E. Quintilone II, Esq. req@quintlaw.com
QUINTILONE & ASSOCIATES
22974 El Toro Road, Suite 100
Lake Forest, CA 92630-4961
Telephone:(949) 458-9675

Class Counsel filed the Litigation on behalf of Plaintiff and all other similarly situated individuals. Class Counsel served formal discovery and conducted informal discovery and negotiated the settlement of this matter. Class Counsel will request attorneys' fees in the amount of up to \$66,600.00, which represents 33% of the Settlement Sum. Class Counsel will also request reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses in the amount of up to \$10,000.00. The Court will not determine the amount of fees and costs until the Final Approval Hearing. If any portion of the amounts requested for attorneys' fees and costs are not awarded by the Court, they will be reinstated into a qualified settlement fund ("Qualified Settlement Fund"), which shall be administered by the Settlement Administrator and distributed to Participating Settlement Class Members. These attorneys' fees and costs shall compensate Class Counsel for the work they have performed and the expenses they have incurred in this Action. Settlement Class Members are not personally responsible for any of Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and costs.

2. Service Award to the Class Representative

Class Counsel will also seek an enhanced recovery of no more than \$10,000.00 ("Service Award") for Emilee Comeau for acting as representative plaintiff on behalf of the Settlement Class. This will be in addition to whatever payment he is otherwise entitled to as a Participating Settlement Class Member. If approved by the Court, this amount will be paid from the Qualified Settlement Fund for his risk and service on behalf of the Settlement Class which included, among other things, reviewing documents, participating in meetings with Class Counsel, attending mediation, and performing other services of that nature, as well as his general release of all claims against Defendants.

3. Settlement Administration Costs

Settlement Administration Costs, which will not exceed \$5,000.00, will be paid to the Settlement Administrator, ILYM, for its services, including but not limited to distributing Class Notices and Opt Out Forms to Settlement Class Members, processing Opt Out Forms, calculating Settlement payments, and distributing such Settlement payments to the Participating Settlement Class Members.

4. Employer and Employee Tax Obligations

Once the amount of payment for each Participating Settlement Class Member is determined, the Settlement Administrator will calculate the total amount of the employer withholding taxes and the total amount of employee withholding taxes for the portion of the Settlement payment designated as wages as required by law. This total amount will be deducted from the Qualified Settlement Fund.

5. PAGA Penalties

Defendants shall pay \$5,000.00 for settlement of claims brought under the Private Attorneys' General Act ("PAGA"). The PAGA payment shall be allocated as follows: \$3,750.00 (75%) to the California Labor & Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA"), and \$1,250.00 (25%) to the Participating Settlement Class Members.

The difference between the Qualified Settlement Fund and the above payments will be the Class Member Settlement Fund, which is the portion of the Settlement Sum eligible for distribution to Participating Settlement Class Members. All of the foregoing payments are subject to final approval from the Court.

The Claims Administrator will calculate your PAGA payment to be **XXX**.

B. Release of Claims

The Released Claims include, any and all claims alleged in the First Amended Complaint, from January 31, 2016, through February 1, 2022, including: (1) failure to pay overtime under The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) [29 USC §§ 206, 207]; (2) failure to pay split shift premium pay; (3) failure to pay overtime compensation; (4) failure to provide meal periods; (5) failure to provide rest periods; (6) failure to provide accurate itemized wage statements; (7) failure to pay wages for hours worked; (8) failure to pay wages due and payable twice monthly; (9) failure to pay wages upon termination of employment; (10) Unlawful Competition and Unlawful Business Practices Section 17200, et seq. and (11) violation of the California Labor Code, California Private Attorneys' General Act ("PAGA") (Lab. Code §2699, et seq.).

The released claims further included, all claims for penalties that were brought based on the facts alleged in Plaintiff's LWDA letter including: <u>Labor Code</u> §§ 558, 1194, 1197, 1197.1 and 1198; paid employees for less hours then they worked by requiring them to work overtime and/or off the clock in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> §§ 510, 1194 and 1198; failed to provide meal periods or compensation in lieu thereof in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> §§ 226.7 and 512; failed to provide rest periods or compensation in lieu thereof in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> §§ 226.7 and 512; failed to provide accurate itemized wage statements in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> § 226; failed to maintain accurate payroll records in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> § 226; failed to pay split shift premium pay in violation of Wage Order No. 5-2001; failed to pay wages of terminated or resigned employees in violation of <u>Labor Code</u> § 203; engaged in unlawful competition in violation of Cal. <u>Business & Professions Code</u> §§ 17000, et seq.; and participated in unfair business practices in violation of Cal. <u>Business & Professions Code</u> §§ 17200, et seq.

III. <u>IF I CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE, HOW IS MY SHARE OF THE SETTLEMENT CALCULATED?</u>

The Participating Settlement Class Members shall receive the following amounts based on when and for how long, they held a Covered Job Position. The Settlement Administrator shall determine the total number of weeks within the Class Period wherein a Settlement Class Member held a Covered Job Position ("Qualifying Work Weeks"). The Settlement Administrator shall then determine the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Administrator shall compute the value of a Qualifying Work Week ("Base Value") by dividing the amount of the Class Member Settlement Fund by the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Administrator shall compute each Participating Settlement Class Member's Recovery by multiplying the Base Value by the number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by the Participating Settlement Class Member

Your Individual Settlement Class Member payment is indicated on Attachment A.

TAXABLE PORTION OF SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS

For purposes of tax payment obligations, A portion of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent wages and a portion of which shall represent interest and a portion of which will represent penalties. Thirty three percent (33.33%) of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent wages. Thirty three percent (33.33%) of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent interest. Thirty three percent (33.33%) of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount shall represent penalties including the Settlement Class Member's portion of the PAGA penalties. That portion of each Settlement Class Member's Individual Payment Amount representing wages will be subject to normal employee tax withholdings with the Settlement Administrator remitting all employment tax withholdings directly to the pertinent state and federal taxing authorities. An IRS Tax Form W-2 will be issued to each Participating Settlement Class Member with regard to the portion of the Settlement payments attributable to wages and an IRS Tax Form 1099 will be issued to each Participating Settlement Class Members should consult with their tax advisors concerning the tax consequences of the payments that they receive under the Settlement.

CALCULATION OF INDIVIDUAL SETTLEMENT PAYMENTS.

The Settlement Administrator shall determine the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all Settlement Class Members by determining for each Settlement Class Member, the number of weeks worked in a Covered Job Position. The Settlement Administrator shall compute the value of a Qualifying Work Week ("Base Value") by dividing the amount of the Class Member Settlement Fund by the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all Settlement Class Members. The Settlement Administrator shall compute each Participating Settlement Class Member's Recovery by multiplying the Base Value by the number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by the Participating Settlement Class Member.

CALCULATION OF PAGA REPRESENATATIVE PAYMENTS.

The Settlement Administrator shall determine the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all PAGA Representatives by determining for each PAGA Representatives, the number of weeks worked in a Covered Job Position. The Settlement Administrator shall compute the value of a Qualifying Work Week ("Base Value") by dividing the amount of the PAGA Representatives Settlement Fund by the total number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by all PAGA Representatives. The Settlement Administrator shall compute each PAGA Representatives' Recovery by multiplying the Base Value by the number of Qualifying Work Weeks worked by the PAGA Representatives.

IV. WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS AND OPTIONS AS A CLASS MEMBER?

You have four options under this Settlement, each of which is discussed below: (A) opt out from the Settlement, (B) object to the Settlement, or (C) do nothing.

A. If You Want To Opt Out of the Settlement

If you do not wish to participate in the Settlement, you must submit an Opt Out Form bearing a postmark no later than [insert date]. The Opt Out Form must: (1) legibly state your name, last four digits of your Social Security number, address and telephone number, (2) state that you wish to opt out of the Settlement, (3) be dated, and (4) be signed by you under penalty of perjury. Opt Out

Forms must be made individually and cannot be made on behalf of a group of employees or on behalf of other Settlement Class Members. If you choose to opt out of the Settlement, you will not receive money from the Settlement. Opt Out Forms must be returned to the Settlement Administrator postmarked no later than [DATE]. Any such person, at his/her own expense, may pursue any claims he/she may have against Defendants. However, there are deadlines to pursuing such claims known as statutes of limitation. Please consult an attorney of your choice to ensure you are not forever barred from pursuing any individual claims you might have if you decide to opt out of the Settlement.

The judgment will bind all Settlement Class Members who do not properly submit and complete an Opt Out Form. <u>Settlement Class Members cannot opt out of the PAGA settlement.</u> Please see the attached Opt Out Form for more detail.

B. <u>If You Want To Object To The Settlement</u>

You may object, personally or through an attorney at your own expense, to the proposed Settlement by submitting in writing your objection to the Court and the Parties no later than [DATE]. You may appear, but are not required to appear, at Final Fairness and Approval Hearing where your objection will be heard and considered by the Court.

Settlement Class Members are hereby notified that even if they object, they will still be deemed Settlement Class Members and the judgment will bind them.

Settlement Class Members are hereby notified that they may object to the settlement at the final approval hearing regardless of whether they submitted a written objection.

C. If You Choose To Do Nothing

If you fail to submit an Opt Out Form, you will be deemed a Settlement Class Member, you will be bound by the terms of the Settlement, your rights to pursue any claims covered by the Litigation will be extinguished, and you will not be permitted to recover from the Settlement Sum.

V. WHEN AND WHERE IS THE FINAL APPROVAL HEARING?

Effective Monday, April 4, 2022, face masks are strongly recommended inside all Los Angeles County courthouses in alignment with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidance. (See 2022-GEN-005-00).

VI. WHAT IF I NEED MORE INFORMATION?

The foregoing is only a summary of the Litigation and the proposed Settlement and does not purport to be comprehensive. For a more detailed statement of the matters involved in the Litigation and the proposed Settlement, you may refer to the pleadings, the Settlement Agreement, and other papers filed in the Litigation, which may be inspected at the Office of the Clerk of the

Los Angeles County Superior Court, during regular business hours of each Court day, or by obtaining such court filings from the Court's website at https://www.lacourt.org/paonlineservices/pacommerce/login.aspx?appId=IMG&casetype=CIV. Further, see the Class Settlement Site at https://ilymgroup.com/TheMeatCellar. Notice of Final Judgment will be posted on the Class Settlement Site.

In addition, if you have any questions, please call the Settlement Administrator at 1-800-XXX-XXXX, toll free. You may also contact Class Counsel – Richard E. Quintilone II, at (949) 458-9675 – to ask about the Class Action Settlement.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT OR THE JUDGE WITH INQUIRIES ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT

ATTACHMENT A – NOTICE OF WORK WEEKS

STATEMENT OF WEEKS WORKED

Emilee Comeau, on behalf of herself and on behalf of a Class of all other persons similarly situated v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., et al.,

Los Angles Superior Court Case No: 20STCV04095

<u>Calculation of Individual Class Settlement Payments:</u> Each Settlement Class Member will receive a share of the Net Settlement Amount based on the number of workweeks that he or she worked for << DEFENDANT>> as a non-exempt employee in California, at any time during the Class Period (January 31, 2016 to February 22, 2022). Individual Class Settlement Payments will be calculated as follows:

Defendant will provide the Settlement Administrator with Settlement Employee Data reflecting each Settlement Class Member's workweeks. The Settlement Administrator will calculate the total number of workweeks worked by all Participating Class Members ("Total Workweeks"). The Settlement Administrator will then divide each Settlement Class Member's Workweeks by the Workweeks Periods, resulting in a percentage share ("Percentage Share") for each Settlement Class Member. The Settlement Administrator will then multiply each Settlement Class Member's Percentage Share by the Net Settlement Amount to obtain the estimated amount of each Class Member's Class Settlement Payment.

Your Workweeks and **Estimated Class Settlement Payment:**

According to Defendant's records, you worked << Workweeks >> workweeks during the Class Period.

Based on your number of workweeks, **your estimated Class Settlement Payment is \$<<ESA>>.** Please note that this is only an estimate; your actual payment may be greater or smaller than the amount reported above.

Based on your number of PAGA workweeks (January 30, 2021 to February 22, 2022), your estimated PAGA Settlement Payment is \$<<EPAGAA>>. Please note that this is only an estimate; your actual payment may be greater or smaller than the amount reported above.

Procedure for Disputing Information: If you wish to dispute the number of workweeks attributed to you, as listed above, you must submit a dispute in writing to the Settlement Administrator, which dispute must: (a) state your name, address, telephone number, and the last four digits of your Social Security number; (b) be signed by you; (c) state the information you are challenging; (d) state your belief as to your correct date(s) of employment and number of workweeks worked as a customer experience consultant for Defendant \in California; (e) explain why you believe Defendant's records are mistaken and attach any documents or evidence in support of your contentions; and (f) be postmarked, faxed, or e-mailed to the Settlement Administrator no later than <<DATE>>:

Comeau v. The Meat Cellar ("TMC")
Settlement Administrator
c/o ILYM Group, Inc.
P. O. Box 2031; Tustin, CA 92781
Telephone: (888)250-6810
Fax: (888)845-6185

Email: claims@ILYMgroup.com

Defendant's records regarding the correct number of workweeks will be presumed correct, unless you provide documentation or other information to the Settlement Administrator that establishes otherwise. The Settlement Administrator will evaluate the evidence submitted by you and will make the final decision as to the number of workweeks that should be applied and/or the Class Settlement Payment to which you may be entitled. The Settlement Administrator's determination will be final and binding with no opportunity for further appeal.

OPT OUT FORM

Emilee Comeau, on behalf of herself and on behalf of a Class of all other persons similarly situated, v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV04095

<u>Instructions:</u> If you want to receive a portion of the Settlement amount, You DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING. This Opt Out Form ("Form") should be filled out <u>only if you DO NOT want to participate in this Settlement.</u> If you want to receive a portion of the Settlement amount, DO NOT sign this Form. If you choose to return this Opt Out Form, the deadline for mailing the form is [DATE].

I. <u>PERSONAL INFORMATION</u>

Please <u>legibly</u> print the following information:	
Name (first, middle, and last):	
Residential Street Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Home Telephone Number: ()	
Last Four Digits of Your Social Security Number:	

PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE USED ONLY FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES.

II. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SETTLEMENT

By signing and returning this Form, I certify that I have read the Notice of Class Action Settlement ("Notice") in this action and wish to be excluded. I understand that this means that I will not receive any money or other benefits under the Settlement.

If you have any questions about this Form or your rights under the Settlement, you may contact Class Counsel at the address or telephone number listed below:

Richard E. Quintilone II, Esq.

req@quintlaw.com

Jeffrey T. Green, Esq.

jtg@quintlaw.com

Kyle J. Gallego, Esq.

kjg@quintlaw.com

QUINTILONE & ASSOCIATES

22974 El Toro Road, Suite 100

Lake Forest, CA 92630-4961

Telephone:(949) 458-9675

III. <u>INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIONS</u>

I WISH TO OPT OUT OF THE SETTLEMENT in *Comeau v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC.*, et al., Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 20STCV04095.

- By opting out of this Settlement, I understand that I have the right to pursue my own claims against Defendants, if any.
- I also understand that by opting out of this Settlement, I will not receive a Settlement payment as described in the Notice.
- I have had the opportunity to seek the advice of counsel with respect to the legal implications of opting out of the Settlement.
- I understand that prior to signing this Form, I have had the opportunity to direct any questions to the Class Counsel (as set forth herein in Section II) or the Settlement Administrator (as set forth herein in section IV).
- I understand that if I do not affirmatively opt out of this Settlement and mail this Form by [Date], I will automatically be considered a Settlement Class Member and I will be bound by the terms of the Settlement, including the release of all Released Claims as described in the Notice.

IV. MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

If you choose to return this Form, you must mail it, postage paid, to the Settlement Administrator on or before [DATE] at the address listed below. Please do not email or fax the Form.

Comeau v. TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., et al.

Settlement Administrator

ILYM

[INSERT ADDRESS]

[INSERT PHONE NUMBER]

V. <u>DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY</u>

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1 1 1 1	ler the laws of the State of California that all of t m is true and correct, and that I signed this Opt Out Fo	
on		(city and state).	
Dated:			
		(Signature)	
		(Print Name)	

1	RICHARD E. QUINTILONE II (200995) QUINTILONE & ASSOCIATES			
2	22974 EL TORO ROAD, SUITE 100 LAKE FOREST, CA 92630			
3	TEL: (949) 458-9675 FAX: (949) 458-9679			
4	EMAIL REQ@QUINTLAW.COM			
5	Attorney for Plaintiff, EMILEE COMEAU, an indivisimilarly situated,	vidual, individually and on behalf of all employees		
6				
7				
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
9	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE			
10				
11	EMILEE COMEAU, an individual, individually and on behalf of all employees similarly situated,	Case No.: 20STCV04095		
12		<u>CLASS ACTION</u>		
13	Plaintiffs,	Assigned for All Purposes To: Honorable Stuart M. Rice		
14		Dept.: 1		
15	VS.			
16		[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR		
17	TMC AT WOLFE'S DIC a California comparation.	FINAL APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND JUDGMENT		
18	TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., a California corporation; and DOES 1 to 100, Inclusive,			
19		Date:		
20	Defendants.	Time: 10:30 a.m. Dept: 1		
21		Complaint filed: January 31, 2020		
22		First Amended Complaint filed: April 1, 2020		
23		Trial Date: none set		
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ORDER

WHEREAS, Named Plaintiff EMILEE COMEAU ("Plaintiff" or "Class Representative"), on his own own behalf and on behalf of all members of the Settlement Class, as defined below, on the one hand, and Defendant, TMC AT WOLFE'S INC., a California corporation; ("Defendant") on the other hand (with Plaintiff, "the parties") having made application for an Order approving the settlement of this action, in accordance with the parties' Stipulation and Agreement to Settle Class Action executed by the Parties and filed with this Court (the "Settlement Agreement"), attached as Exhibit A to the Declaration of Richard E. Quintilone II, Esq., which, together with the exhibits annexed thereto comprising the Notice Packet (at Exhibit A to the Settlement Administrator's Declaration), sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed settlement of this action and for entry of judgment in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Agreement; and the Court having read and considered the Settlement Agreement and the proposed Notice of Class Settlement, the proposed Statement of Weeks Worked, the submissions of counsel, and all other papers filed in this Litigation;

WHEREAS, all capitalized terms contained herein shall have the same meanings as are set forth in the Settlement Agreement;

WHEREAS, following completion of Settlement administration, the Court has received and reviewed the Plaintiff's motion for final approval and parties' class action Settlement Agreement, which has been entered into with Defendants by Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and a "

WHEREAS, the Parties having made application, pursuant to California Rules of Court Rule 3.769, for an order preliminarily approving the settlement of this litigation, in accordance with the Settlement which, together with the exhibits attached thereto, sets forth the terms and conditions for a proposed settlement of the litigation upon the terms and conditions set forth therein and the Court granted preliminary approval to the Settlement od "all individuals who are or were previously employed (1) in California; (2) by Defendants; (3) in a non-exempt service position; (4) at any point from January 30, 2016 and February 22, 2022; (5) excluding any person who has previously signed a release of wage claims, on **MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL DATE**; and

WHEREAS, this matter came before the Court for hearing on MFA DATE, on the unopposed application of Plaintiff for final approval of the Settlement Agreement. Due and adequate notice having been given to the Settlement Class, and the fact there are no objections no requests for exclusion and the Court having considered all papers filed and proceedings had herein, and with good cause appearing therefore,

THE COURT ORDERS THAT:

Final approval the Settlement Agreement and the settlement set forth therein is granted as being fair, adequate and reasonable.

Solely for purposes of the Settlement and this Final Approval Order and the Judgment to be entered, a Settlement Class is hereby certified pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 382 consisting of: "All individuals who are or were previously employed (1) in California; (2) by Defendants; (3) in a non-exempt service position; (4) at any point from January 30, 2016 to February 22, 2022; (5) excluding any person who has previously signed a release of wage claims.."

- 1. This Order incorporates by reference the definitions in the Settlement Agreement, and all terms used herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.
- 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action and jurisdiction over all Parties to the Action, including all Members of the Settlement Class.
- 3. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769, this Court hereby approves the Settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement and finds that such Settlement is fair, just, reasonable and adequate as to all of the Parties, and that the Settlement Agreement, and the Settlement contained therein, is hereby finally approved in all respects, and the Parties are hereby directed to perform its terms to the extent such terms have not performed as of the date of this Order and entry of Judgment. The Settlement Agreement shall be deemed incorporated herein as if explicitly set forth and shall have the full force of an Order of this Court.
- 4. The cashing of the settlement check by a Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to be an opt-in for purposes of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") claims referred to in the Released Claims definition contained in the Settlement Agreement. Specifically the Released Claims include:

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"Released Claims" means any and all claims, demands, rights, liabilities, and/or causes of action of any nature and description whatsoever, known or unknown, in law or in equity, whether or not concealed or hidden, asserted or which could have been asserted at any time in the Litigation based on the subject matter alleged in the Litigation in the First Amended Complaint by Plaintiff or any Settlement Class Member who does not timely request exclusion and opt out of this Settlement relating to any compensation allegedly due or earned as a result of their employment with Defendants or hours worked by Settlement Class Members, including claims for violations of any state or federal statutes, rules or regulations; or claims which were asserted or could have been asserted at any time in the Litigation based on the subject matter alleged in the Litigation by any Settlement Class Member that, during the Class Period, Defendants (1) engaged in conduct subjecting it to any statutory or civil penalties under any statute, ordinance, or otherwise arising from any alleged violation of the California Labor Code, California Wage Orders or any federal or state statute, including under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), regarding compensation, hours, and workplace conditions, including without limitation, California Labor Code § 2698, et seq. ("The Private Attorneys General Act of 2004" or "PAGA") and Labor Code §§ 203 and 226; (2) failed to pay overtime compensation; (3) failed to provide meal periods; (4) failed to provide rest periods; (5) failed to furnish timely wage statements or failed to maintain adequate payroll records; (6) failed to pay wages for hours worked; (7) failed to pay wages due and payable twice monthly; (8) failed to pay split shift premiums; (9) failed to timely pay wages or pay all wages due upon termination of employment; (10) engaged in any unfair business practices alleged in the Litigation; and (11) any state or federal claims based on any facts, transactions, events, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements, omissions, or failures to act which were asserted or could have been asserted at any time in the Litigation based on the subject matter of the Litigation and is more fully set forth below in Article V (of the Settlement Agreement)

5. Upon the date of entry of this Order and the Judgment, the Plaintiff and each Settlement Class Member who did not submit a timely and valid request for exclusion will be bound by this Final Approval and shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, fully, finally and

forever released, relinquished and discharged all Released Claims against Defendants and the Released Parties, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The concurrently entered Judgment shall have a *res judicata* effect and bar each Plaintiff and each Settlement Class Member who has not been excluded from the Settlement Class from bringing any action asserting "Released Claims" as that term is defined in the Settlement Agreement. The Judgment will also have the same effect for FLSA claim purposes for Settlement Class Members if they opt-in by cashing their settlement check.

- 6. The Court finds that the notice given to the Class Members who could be identified through reasonable effort, in the form of the previously-approved "Notice of Class Action Settlement and Hearing Date for Court Approval" (the "Class Notice"), provided the best notice practicable to all persons entitled to such notice under the circumstances of these proceedings and of the matters set forth in the Class Notice, including procedures for objecting to and requesting exclusion from the Settlement and notice of the proposed Settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement and notice of the final approval hearing thereon. Such notice fully satisfied the requirements of California Rules of Court, Rule 3.769, and the requirements of due process.
- 7. Should for whatever reason the Settlement not become final, the fact that the Parties were willing to stipulate to class certification as part of the Settlement shall have no bearing on, nor be admissible in connection with, the issue of whether a class should be certified in a non-settlement context. This Settlement is not a concession or admission and shall not be used or construed against Defendants or any of the Released Parties defined in the Settlement Agreement as an admission or indication with respect to any claim of any fault or omission by Defendant or any of the Released Parties. In the event the Settlement does not become effective in accordance with the terms of the Settlement or the Settlement is not finally approved, or is terminated, cancelled, or fails to become effective for any reason, this Order shall be rendered null and void and shall be vacated, and the Parties shall revert to their respective positions as of before entering into the Settlement.
- 8. In connection with this final certification, the Court finds, solely for purposes of approving the settlement and for no other purpose and with no other effect on the Litigation, that the proposed Settlement Class meets the requirements for certification under of California Code of Civil Procedure § 382, including that: (a) the proposed class is ascertainable and so numerous that joinder

of all members of the class is impracticable; (b) there are, for purposes of the settlement, predominant questions of law or fact common to the proposed class and a sufficient community of interest among the members of the proposed class with respect to the subject matter of the Litigation; (c) the claims of the Named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the members of the proposed class, (d) Named Plaintiff has fairly and adequately protected the interests of the members of the proposed class with respect to the proposed settlement, (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for efficient adjudication of and settlement of the claims asserted in this controversy, and (f) Class Counsel are qualified to act as counsel for the Named Plaintiff and for all other members of the proposed class.

- 9. Without affecting the finality of the concurrently entered Judgment in any way, this Court hereby retains continuing jurisdiction over (a) implementation and enforcement of the Settlement, including but not limited to the payment of any claim; and (b) all parties hereto, including Settlement Class Members, for the purpose of construing, enforcing and administering the Settlement. Except as provided to the contrary herein, any disputes or controversies arising with respect to interpretation, enforcement or implementation of the Settlement Agreement shall be presented by motion to the Court for resolution
- 10. The following factors also support the decision granting final approval: the risk, expense, complexity and likely duration of further litigation; the risk of attaining and maintaining class action status throughout the proceedings; and the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings.
- 11. The amounts agreed to be paid by Defendants, including the Settlement Payments to be paid to the Settlement Class Members as provided for by the Settlement, are fair and reasonable under the facts of this case.
- 12. The reaction of the Class Members to the proposed Settlement further supports the Court's decision granting final approval. No Class members objected to the Settlement. No Class Members have opted out of the Settlement, as detailed in the Declaration of the Settlement Administrator in support of the Motion for Final Approval.
- 13. Payment to Class Members pursuant to the Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate and appropriate. Payment to Class Members from the Class Member Settlement Fund shall be made in accordance with the Settlement, and Participating Settlement Class Members (i.e., all Class Members who

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did not submit valid Requests for Exclusion) will be bound by the Settlement and this Order and the Judgment entered by the Court.

- 14. Payment to the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency of \$3,750.00 as its share of the settlement of civil penalties in this case is fair, reasonable, adequate and appropriate. Payment of that amount shall be paid from the Settlement Sum in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, and there shall be no further recourse for the civil penalties released under the terms of the Settlement.
- 15. The fees, expenses, and any other costs of ILYM Group, Inc. in administering the Settlement, in the amount of \$5,000.00, are fair and reasonable. Payment of that amount shall be paid out of the Settlement Sum in accordance with the Settlement Agreement, which shall fully, finally and completely compensate ILYM Group for all fees, expenses and any other costs in administering the Settlement.
- 16. Based upon application by Class Counsel and Plaintiff, the Court approves the payment of a Class Representative Enhancement in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be awarded to the Representative Plaintiff (in addition to any recovery that they may receive as a Class Members under the Settlement) in recognition for their efforts and the risks they undertook on behalf of the Class Members.
- 17. Based upon application by Class Counsel, and the Declarations from counsel detailing the fees and hours incurred by Quintilone & Associates, the Court approves the payment of attorneys' fees to Class Counsel in the amount of 33.33% of the Settlement Sum, i.e. \$66,600, to be paid in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement upon entry of this Order.
- 18. Based upon application by Class Counsel, and the Declarations from counsel detailing the reasonable and necessary litigation costs incurred by Quintilone & Associates, the Court approves the payment of attorneys' costs to Class Counsel in the amount of \$10,000.00 be paid in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement upon entry of this Order. The difference between actual costs incurred and the preliminarily approved costs of \$15,000.00 is \$586.23 and this amount will be included in the Net Settlement Amount to be distributed to the Participating Settlement Class Members on a pro rata basis as detailed in the Settlement Agreement.
- 19. Each side is to bear its own costs and fees (including attorneys' fees) except as provided by the Settlement Agreement, and Defendants shall not be required to pay any amounts other than as set forth

1	in the Settlement Agreement and this Order, and in no event any amount above the maximum Settlement		
2	Sum.		
3	20. A final accounting hearing shall be held before the Court on DATE AND TIME to address		
4	the disbursement of the Settlement funds as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order and to		
5	address the disposition and disbursement of any unpaid residual funds from the Settlement. At least five		
6	court days before the hearing, Class Counsel and the Settlement Administrator shall submit a summary		
7	accounting of the Class Member Settlement Fund identifying distributions made as ordered herein, the		
8	number and value of any uncashed checks, amounts remitted to the California State Controller's Office,		
9	the status of any unresolved issues, and any other matters appropriate to bring to the Court's attention.		
10	IT IS SO ORDERED.		
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12	Dated: Hon. Stuart M. Rice		
13	Judge of the Superior Court		
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