Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 1 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 45 of 110

ELECTRONICALLY FILED DOCH DATE FILED:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE IANTHUS CAPITAL HOLDINGS, INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION No. 20-cv-03135-LAK No. 20-cv-03513-LAK

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO: Nos. 20-cv-03135 (Securities Class Action), 20-cv-03513 (Cedeno)

[PROPOSED] ORDER APPROVING NOTICE

WHEREAS, in connection with the above-captioned action (the "Action") (a) Lead Plaintiff Jose Antonio Silva ("Lead Plaintiff"), on behalf of himself and the Settlement Class (as defined below), and (b) Defendants iAnthus Capital Holdings, Inc. (""iAnthus""), Gotham Green Partners, LLC ("GGP"), and Hadley C. Ford ("Ford"), Julius John Kalcevich ("Kalcevich"), and Jason Adler ("Adler" and, together with Ford and Kalcevich, the "Individual Defendants"; and the Individual Defendants together with iAnthus and GGP, "Defendants"), have entered into a Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated June 16, 2023 (the "Stipulation"), subject to approval of this Court (the "Settlement");

WHEREAS, Lead Plaintiff has made an application, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, for an order approving of notice of the Settlement in accordance with the Stipulation, as more fully described herein;

WHEREAS, the Court has read and considered: (a) Lead Plaintiff's motion for approval of notice of the Settlement, and the papers filed and arguments made in connection therewith; and (b) the Stipulation and the exhibits attached thereto; and

WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined herein, all capitalized words contained herein shall have the same meanings as they have in the Stipulation;

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 2 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 46 of 110

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Court finds that notice of the Settlement may be submitted to the Settlement Class for consideration, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

2. Settlement Hearing – The Court will hold a settlement hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") on April 1022 at 9:32 m. [a date that is at least 100 days after entry of this Order in Courtroom 21-B of the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007, or by telephonic, video conferencing or other electronic means, as posted on the website of the Claims Administrator, for the following purposes: (a) to determine whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Stipulation is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, and should be approved by the Court; (b) to determine whether, for settlement purposes only, the Settlement Class should be certified, Lead Plaintiff should be certified as Class Representative for the Settlement Class, and Lead Counsel should be appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class; (c) to determine whether a Judgment substantially in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Stipulation should be entered dismissing the Action with prejudice against Defendants; (d) to determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation for the proceeds of the Settlement is fair and reasonable and should be approved; (e) to determine whether the motion by Lead Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, and any application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff, should be approved; and (f) to consider any other matters that may be properly brought before the Court in connection with the Settlement. Notice of the Settlement and the Settlement Hearing shall be given to Settlement Class Members as set forth in paragraph 7 of this Order.

3. The Court may adjourn the Settlement Hearing without further notice to the

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 3 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 47 of 110

Settlement Class, and may approve the proposed Settlement with such modifications as the Parties may agree to, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class.

4. Pursuant to the Stipulation, the Settling Parties have proposed certification of the following Settlement Class pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: all persons and entities who purchased or otherwise acquired iAnthus securities between May 14, 2018 and July 10, 2020, both dates inclusive, pursuant to domestic transactions, and were allegedly damaged thereby. Excluded from the Settlement Class are (i) Defendants, (ii) current and former officers and directors of iAnthus and GGP; (iii) members of the immediate family of each of the Individual Defendants; (iv) all subsidiaries and affiliates of iAnthus and GGP and the directors and officers of iAnthus, GGP, and their respective subsidiaries or affiliates; (v) all persons, firms, trusts, corporations, officers, directors, and any other individual or entity in which any Defendant has a controlling interest; (vi) the legal representatives, agents, affiliates, heirs, successors in-interest or assigns of all such excluded parties; and (vii) any persons or entities who properly exclude themselves by filing a valid and timely request for exclusion.

5. The Court finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to certify the Settlement Class for purposes of the proposed Settlement. Specifically, the Court finds that each element required for certification of the Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure has been met or will likely be met: (a) the members of the Settlement Class are so numerous that their joinder in the Action would be impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class which predominate over any individual questions; (c) the claims of Lead Plaintiff in the Action are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; (d) Lead Plaintiff and

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 4 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 48 of 110

Lead Counsel have and will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Settlement Class; and (e) a class action on behalf of the Settlement Class is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the Action.

6. The Court also finds, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it will likely be able to certify Lead Plaintiff as Class Representative for the Settlement Class and appoint Lead Counsel as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class, pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

7. <u>Retention of Claims Administrator and Manner of Giving Notice</u> – Lead Counsel are hereby authorized to retain A.B. Data, Ltd. to supervise and administer the notice procedure in connection with the proposed Settlement as well as the processing of Claims as more fully set forth below. Notice of the Settlement and the Settlement Hearing shall be given by Lead Counsel as follows:

(a) within ten (10) business days of the date of entry of this Order, iAnthus shall provide or cause to be provided to the Claims Administrator (at no cost to the Settlement Fund, Lead Counsel or the Claims Administrator) its transfer agent's lists of holders and sellers of record during the Settlement Class Period in electronic searchable form, such as Excel, which information the Claims Administrator shall treat and maintain as confidential;

(b) not later than twenty-one (21) business days after the date of entry of this Order (the "Notice Date"), the Claims Administrator shall commence mailing the Postcard Notice, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-4 by first-class mail to potential Settlement Class Members at the addresses set forth in the records which iAnthus caused to be provided, or who otherwise may be identified through further reasonable effort, and shall post the Postcard Notice on its website at www.iAnthusSecuritiesLitigation.com;

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 5 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 49 of 110

(c) contemporaneously with the mailing of the Postcard Notice, the Claims Administrator shall cause copies of the Notice and the Claim Form, substantially in the forms attached hereto as Exhibits A-1 and A-2, respectively, to be posted on the website www.iAnthusSecuritiesLitigation.com, from which copies of the Notice and Claim Form can be downloaded;

(d) not later than twenty-one (21) business days after the Notice Date, the Claims Administrator shall cause the Summary Notice, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A-3, to be published once in *Investor's Business Daily* and to be transmitted once over the *PR Newswire*; and

(e) not later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing, Lead Counsel shall file with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, of such mailing and publication.

8. <u>Approval of Form and Content of Notice</u> – The Court (a) approves, as to form and content, the Notice, the Claim Form, the Summary Notice, and the Postcard Notice attached hereto as Exhibits A-1, A-2, A-3, and A-4, respectively, and (b) finds that the mailing and distribution of the Postcard Notice and the publication of the Summary Notice in the manner and form set forth in paragraph 7 of this Order (i) is the best notice practicable under the circumstances; (ii) constitutes notice that is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Action, of the effect of the proposed Settlement (including the Releases to be provided thereunder), of Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, of an application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff, of the Settlement Class Members' right to object to the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses, or an application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff, of their right to exclude

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 6 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 50 of 110

themselves from the Settlement Class, and of their right to appear at the Settlement Hearing; (iii) constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to receive notice of the proposed Settlement; and (iv) satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, <u>15 U.S.C. § 78u-4</u>, as amended, and all other applicable laws and rules. The date and time of the Settlement Hearing shall be included in the Postcard Notice, Notice and Summary Notice before they are mailed and published, respectively.

9. Nominee Procedures – Brokers and other nominees who purchased or otherwise acquired iAnthus securities during the Settlement Class Period for the benefit of another person or entity shall (a) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Postcard Notice request from the Claims Administrator sufficient copies of the Postcard Notice to forward to all such beneficial owners and within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of those Postcard Notices forward them to all such beneficial owners; or (b) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Postcard Notice, send a list of the names and addresses of all such beneficial owners to the Claims Administrator in which event the Claims Administrator shall promptly mail the Postcard Notice to such beneficial owners. Upon full compliance with this Order, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with this Order up to a maximum of \$0.15 per name and address provided to the Claims Administrator; up to \$0.15 per Notice or Postcard Notice actually mailed, plus postage at a maximum rate of \$0.45 per Notice or Postcard Notice; or up to \$0.05 per link to the Notice or Postcard Notice transmitted by email, by providing the Claims Administrator with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought. Such properly documented expenses incurred by nominees in compliance with the terms of this Order shall be paid from the Settlement Fund,

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 7 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 51 of 110

with any disputes as to the reasonableness or documentation of expenses incurred subject to review by the Court.

10. <u>Participation in the Settlement</u> – Settlement Class Members who wish to participate in the Settlement and to be potentially eligible to receive a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund must complete and submit a Claim Form in accordance with the instructions contained therein. Unless the Court orders otherwise, all Claim Forms must be postmarked no later than seven (7) calendar days after the Settlement Hearing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Lead Counsel may, at their discretion, accept for processing late Claims provided such acceptance does not delay the distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to the Settlement Class. By submitting a Claim, a person or entity shall be deemed to have submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to his, her, or its Claim and the subject matter of the Settlement.

11. Each Claim Form submitted must satisfy the following conditions: (a) it must be properly completed, signed, and submitted in a timely manner in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph; (b) it must be accompanied by adequate supporting documentation for the transactions and holdings reported therein, in the form of broker confirmation slips, broker account statements, an authorized statement from the broker containing the transactional and holding information found in a broker confirmation slip or account statement, or such other documentation as is deemed adequate by Lead Counsel or the Claims Administrator; (c) if the person executing the Claim Form is acting in a representative capacity, a certification of his, her, or its current authority to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Member must be included in the Claim Form to the satisfaction of Lead Counsel or the Claims Administrator; and (d) the Claim Form must be complete, must contain no material deletions or modifications of any of the printed matter contained therein, and must be signed under penalty of perjury.

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 8 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 52 of 110

12. Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not timely and validly submit a Claim Form or whose Claim is not otherwise approved by the Court: (a) shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to share in the Net Settlement Fund; (b) shall be forever barred from participating in any distributions therefrom; (c) shall be bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and the Settlement and all proceedings, determinations, orders and judgments in the Action relating thereto, including, without limitation, the Judgment and the Releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class; and (d) will be barred from commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting any of the Released Lead Plaintiff's Claims against each and all of the Defendants' Releasees, as more fully described in the Stipulation and Notice. Notwithstanding the foregoing, late Claim Forms may be accepted for processing as set forth in paragraph 10 above.

13. **Exclusion From the Settlement Class** – Any member of the Settlement Class who wishes to exclude himself, herself, or itself from the Settlement Class must request exclusion in writing within the time and in the manner set forth in the Notice, which shall provide that: (a) any such request for exclusion from the Settlement Class must be mailed or delivered such that it is received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing, to: iAnthus Securities Litigation, c/o A.B. Data, Ltd, F.O. Box 173041, Milwaukee, WI 53217, and (b) each request for exclusion must (i) state the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity requesting exclusion, and in the case of entities, the name and telephone number of the appropriate contact person; (ii) state that such person or entity "requests exclusion from the Settlement Class in *In re iAnthus Capital Holdings, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Case No.: [:20-cv-03135-LAK"; (iii) state the identity and number of iAnthus securities that the person or entity requesting exclusion purchased/acquired and sold in domestic transactions during the Settlement

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 9 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 53 of 110

Class Period, as well as the dates and prices of each such purchase/acquisition and sale, and the number of securities held at the beginning of the Settlement Class Period; and (iv) be signed by the person or entity requesting exclusion or an authorized representative. A request for exclusion shall not be effective unless it provides all the required information and is received within the time stated above, or is otherwise accepted by the Court.

14. Any person or entity who or which timely and validly requests exclusion in compliance with the terms stated in this Order and is excluded from the Settlement Class shall not be a Settlement Class Member, shall not be bound by the terms of the Settlement or any orders or judgments in the Action, and shall not receive any payment out of the Net Settlement Fund.

15. Any Settlement Class Member who does not timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class in the manner stated in this Order: (a) shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to be excluded from the Settlement Class; (b) shall be forever barred from requesting exclusion from the Settlement Class in this or any other proceeding; (c) shall be bound by the provisions of the Stipulation and Settlement and all proceedings, determinations, orders and judgments in the Action, including, but not limited to, the Judgment and the Releases provided for therein, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class; and (d) will be barred from commencing, maintaining, or prosecuting any of the Released Lead Plaintiff's Claims against any of the Defendants' Releases, as more fully described in the Stipulation and Notice.

16. <u>Appearance and Objections at Settlement Hearing</u> – Any Settlement Class Member who does not request exclusion from the Settlement Class may enter an appearance in the Action, at his, her, or its own expense, individually or through counsel of his, her, or its own

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 10 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 54 of 110

choice, by filing with the Clerk of Court and delivering a notice of appearance to representatives of both Lead Counsel and Defendants' Counsel, at the addresses set forth in paragraph 17 below, such that it is received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing, or as the Court may otherwise direct. Any Settlement Class Member who does not enter an appearance will be represented by Lead Counsel.

17. Any Settlement Class Member who does not request exclusion from the Settlement Class may file a written objection to the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses or any application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff and appear and show cause, if he, she, or it has any cause, why the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses or any application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses or any application for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses or any application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff should not be approved; *provided, however*, that no Settlement Class Member shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, or the motion for attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses or any application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff unless that person or entity has filed a written objection with the Court and served copies of such objection on Lead Counsel and Defendants' Counsel at the addresses set forth below such that they are received no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing.

Lead Counsel

Pomerantz LLP Jeremy A. Lieberman 600 Third Avenue, 20th Floor New York, NY 10016

Defendants' Counsel

Levine Lee LLP Attn: Seth L. Levine 1500 Broadway, Suite 2501 New York, NY 10036

Reed Smith LLP Attn: Ian M. Turetsky

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 11 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 55 of 110

599 Lexington Avenue, 22nd Floor New York, NY 10022

Perkins Coie LLP Attn: Adam R. Mandelsberg 1155 Avenues of the Americas, 22nd Fl New York, NY 10036

18. Any objections, filings and other submissions by the objecting Settlement Class Member: (a) must state the name, address, and telephone number of the person or entity objecting and must be signed by the objector; (b) must contain a statement of the Settlement Class Member's objection or objections, and the specific reasons for each objection, including any legal and evidentiary support the Settlement Class Member wishes to bring to the Court's attention; and (c) must include documents sufficient to prove membership in the Settlement Class Member purchased/acquired and sold in domestic transactions during the Settlement Class Period, as well as the dates and prices of each such purchase/acquisition and sale, and the number of securities held at the beginning of the Settlement Class Period. Objectors who enter an appearance and desire to present evidence at the Settlement Hearing in support of their objection must include in their written objection or notice of appearance the identity of any witnesses they may call to testify and any exhibits they intend to introduce into evidence at the hearing.

19. Any Settlement Class Member who or which does not make his, her, or its objection in the manner provided herein shall be deemed to have waived his, her, or its right to object to any aspect of the proposed Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation, and Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses or any application for an award to the Lead Plaintiff and shall be forever barred and foreclosed from objecting to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation,

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 12 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 56 of 110

or the requested attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, or from otherwise being heard concerning the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, or the requested attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses in this or any other proceeding.

20. <u>Stay</u> – Until otherwise ordered by the Court, the Court stays all proceedings in the Action other than proceedings necessary to carry out or enforce the terms and conditions of the Stipulation. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, the Court bars and enjoins Lead Plaintiff, and all other members of the Settlement Class, from commencing or prosecuting any and all of the Released Lead Plaintiffs' Claims against each and all of the Defendants' Releasees.

21. <u>Settlement Administration Fees and Expenses</u> – All reasonable costs incurred in identifying Settlement Class Members and notifying them of the Settlement as well as in administering the Settlement shall be paid as set forth in the Stipulation and shall not exceed \$175,000 without further approval of the Court.

22. **Payment of the Settlement Fund** – On or before thirty (30) calendar days after the later of: (i) entry of this Order, and (ii) Lead Counsel or the Escrow Agent providing Defendants' Counsel with: (a) a tax identification number for the Escrow Account; (b) a completed wire transfer, ACH transfer, or similar anti-fraud payment request form signed by an authorized representative of the Escrow Account; and (c) all required wire and check funding instructions and information including payee name, telephone and e-mail contact information, and a physical address for the Escrow Agent, Defendants shall cause two million, nine-hundred-thousand United States Dollars (\$2,900,000) in cash to be paid to the Escrow Agent pursuant to ¶ 11 of the Stipulation.

23. The contents of the Settlement Fund held by The Huntington National Bank, for

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 13 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 57 of 110

which The Huntington National Bank will serve as the Escrow Agent, shall be deemed and considered to be *in custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as they shall be distributed pursuant to the Stipulation or further order(s) of the Court.

24. <u>Taxes</u> – Lead Counsel are authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns and any other tax reporting form for or in respect of the Settlement Fund, to pay from the Settlement Fund any Taxes owed with respect to the Settlement Fund, and to otherwise perform all obligations with respect to Taxes and any reporting or filings in respect thereof without further order of the Court in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Stipulation.

25. <u>Termination of Settlement</u> – If the Settlement is terminated as provided in the Stipulation, the Settlement is not approved, or the Effective Date of the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, this Order shall be vacated, rendered null and void, and be of no further force and effect, except as otherwise provided by the Stipulation, and this Order shall be without prejudice to the rights of Lead Plaintiff, the other Settlement Class Members, and Defendants, and the Parties shall revert to their respective positions in the Action as of June 15, 2023, as provided in the Stipulation.

26. <u>Use of this Order</u> – Neither this Order nor the Stipulation (whether or not consummated), including the exhibits thereto and the Plan of Allocation contained therein (or any other plan of allocation that may be approved by the Court), the Supplemental Agreement, and the documents prepared to effectuate the Settlement (including but not limited to the "MOU" the Parties entered into following their mediation), the negotiations leading to the execution of the Stipulation, nor any proceedings taken pursuant to or in connection with the Stipulation, or approval of the Settlement (including any arguments proffered in connection therewith):

Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 133 Filed 12/20/23 Page 14 of 15 Case 1:20-cv-03135-LAK Document 131-1 Filed 06/16/23 Page 58 of 110

(a) shall (i) be offered against any of the Defendants' Releasees as evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Defendants' Releasees with respect to, (aa) the truth of any fact alleged by Lead Plaintiff; (bb) the validity of any claim that was or could have been asserted in the Action or in any other litigation; (cc) the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in this Action or in any other litigation; (dd) any liability, negligence, fault, or other wrongdoing of any kind of any of the Defendants' Releasees or (ee) any class certification or damages issues; or (ii) in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Defendants' Releasees, in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding (including any arbitration), other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Stipulation;

(b) shall be (i) offered against any of the Lead Plaintiff's Releasees, as evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Lead Plaintiff's Releasees (aa) that any of their claims are without merit, that any of the Defendants' Releasees had meritorious defenses, or that damages recoverable under the Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Amount; or (bb) with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind; or (ii) in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Lead Plaintiff's Releasees, in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding (including any arbitration), other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Stipulation; or

(c) shall be construed against any of the Releasees as an admission, concession, or presumption that the consideration to be given under the Settlement represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial; *provided, however*, that if the

Stipulation is approved by the Court, the Parties and the Releasees and their respective counsel may refer to it to effectuate the protections from liability granted thereunder or otherwise to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

27. <u>Supporting Papers</u> – Lead Counsel shall file the opening papers in support of the proposed Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and Lead Counsel's motion for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of Litigation Expenses no later than thirty-five (35) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing; and Lead Plaintiff and Lead Counsel are authorized to file reply papers, which shall be filed no later than seven (7) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing.

28. <u>CAFA Notice</u> – Defendants shall, no later than ten (10) calendar days following the filing of the Stipulation with the Court, serve upon the appropriate state and federal officials a notice of the proposed Settlement in compliance with the requirements of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), <u>28 U.S.C. § 1715</u>. Defendants are solely responsible for the costs of the CAFA notice and administering the CAFA notice. At least fourteen (14) calendar days before the Settlement Hearing, Defendants shall cause to be served on Lead Counsel and filed with the Court proof, by affidavit or declaration, regarding compliance with CAFA § 1715(b).

29. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement. 30. The Clerkshall terminate SO ORDERED this 20th day of December, 2023. DEt 129. U

The Honorable Lewis A. Kaplan

United States District Judge