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 9

10 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
 11 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

13 In re:
 14 Front Sight Management LLC,
 15
 16 Debtor.

Case No. 22-11824-abl
 Chapter 11

Confirmation Hearing: November 18, 2022
Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.

18 **DEBTOR’S OMNIBUS REPLY TO OBJECTIONS TO SECOND AMENDED CHAPTER 11**
 19 **PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND RELATED MOTION FOR CONFIRMATION OF**
 20 **DEBTOR’S SECOND AMENDED CHAPTER 11 PLAN OF REORGANIZATION**

21 Front Sight Management LLC, the chapter 11 debtor in possession and plan proponent herein
 (the “Debtor”), hereby submits its reply (“Reply”) to the objections (collectively, the “Objections”)
 22 filed to the Debtor’s (i) *Second Amended Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization* [ECF No. 405] (the
 23 “Plan”); and (ii) *Motion for Confirmation of Debtor’s Second Amended Chapter 11 Plan of*
 24 *Reorganization* [ECF No. 439] (the “Confirmation Motion”).¹

25 The following Objections were filed to the Plan and/or Confirmation Motion:

- 26 1. The objection and reservation of rights to the Plan [ECF No. 475] (the “UST
 27

28 ¹ Any capitalized term not defined herein has the same meaning ascribed to it in the Plan.

1 Objection”) filed by the United States Trustee (“US Trustee”);

2 2. The opposition to the Confirmation Motion [ECF No. 484] (the “Meacher
3 Objection”) filed by Michael Meacher (“Meacher”) *dba* Bankgroup Financial Services; and

4 3. The objection to the Plan [ECF No. 495] (the “Committee Objection”) filed by the
5 Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the “Committee”) appointed in this case.

6 In support of the Reply, the Debtor respectfully represents as follows:

7 **INTRODUCTION**

8 As set forth in the *Certification of Acceptance and Rejection of Chapter 11 Plan* [ECF No.
9 518] (the “Ballot Summary”) filed in support of the Plan, four of the five classes entitled to vote on
10 the Plan voted to accept the Plan as follows: (i) Class 1 Secured Claim of Las Vegas Development
11 Fund LLC (“LVDF”); (ii) Class 3 Secured Claim of M2 EPC; (iii) Class 4 Secured Claim of Top
12 Rank Builders / Morales Construction (“Morales”); and (iv) Class 6 – General Unsecured Claims.
13 Only one voting class rejected the Plan, the Class 2 Secured Claim, even though the Plan provides
14 for Meacher to receive a first priority lien against a \$3.3 million reserve, an amount equal to the full
15 amount of Meacher’s filed claim.

16 Notwithstanding the acceptance of the Plan by 3 of the 5 Committee members, and the
17 overall acceptance of the Plan by the Committee’s constituency, Class 6 general unsecured creditors,
18 the Committee still contests confirmation of the Plan and continues to rack up unnecessary legal fees
19 for all parties in this case. The Committee Objection is based mainly on outdated and unsupported
20 supposition that is wholly irrelevant to the Court’s inquiry into whether the Plan meets the
21 requirements for confirmation under Section 1129. It is far easier to criticize a restructuring effort,
22 then to bring a meaningful alternative to the table. The Debtor’s Plan, based upon an agreement
23 with Nevada PF, LLC (“Nevada PF”), is far better than all alternatives for the Debtor, its estate,
24 creditors and employees under the time restrictions in this case (DIP financing expires on November
25 29, 2022), and given that there is no viable, feasible alternative to support the Debtor’s post-
26 confirmation business operations or to otherwise fund an alternative plan. As set forth in the
27 Debtor’s omnibus reply [ECF No. 387] to the objections to the Debtor’s disclosure statement, the
28 Debtor intended in this bankruptcy case to propose new membership terms with built in daily fees

1 and annual fees, which, if accepted by enough of its members, would have allowed the Debtor to
2 propose a Debtor/member-based plan of reorganization that retained memberships and member
3 benefits. However, after conducting a survey of all members, the Debtor did not have sufficient
4 support from its members to make that type of plan of reorganization feasible.

5 The Plan is the best possible result (a) for the Debtor (in that it will remain a going concern
6 and approximately one hundred employees will keep their jobs), (b) for members (in that they will
7 receive a base membership in the reorganized debtor for free for 2023 and 2024 and discounts to
8 other memberships), (c) for the community of Pahrump (in that there will not be 100 people
9 immediately laid off), and (d) for general unsecured creditors (in that there will be approximately \$3
10 million set aside to distribute to what is now estimated to be between \$11 million and \$15 million in
11 claims). The alternative to Plan confirmation is conversion and an asset sale as the Debtor's DIP
12 financing expires on November 29, 2022. If the Plan is not confirmed on November 18, 2022, then
13 this case will revert to a Section 363 sale pursuant to the DIP financing order and accompanying
14 asset purchase agreement [ECF No. 150], with a sale price of \$19 million (which is considerably less
15 than the approximately \$25 million provided by Nevada PF to acquire the shares of the Debtor
16 through the Plan). An asset sale and/or conversion is not in the best interests of the Debtor or its
17 creditors, the majority of whom voted to accept the Plan.

18 The Debtor notes that it was disappointed by the accusations and innuendo in the Committee
19 Objection bereft of any facts, and that the Committee has appeared to be working against the
20 Debtor's efforts to reorganize while simultaneously failing to provide any alternative source of
21 financing or alternative purchaser or equity investor. The Debtor and its insiders have no connection
22 to Nevada PF, and the Debtor's insiders' first choice was to stay in control of the Debtor and
23 propose a member based plan. However, the Debtor does not have the necessary member support
24 and the best viable alternative was to structure the Plan with Nevada PF whereby the Debtor's
25 current equity holders lose 100% of their interest in the Debtor. The Committee Objection "makes
26 much ado about nothing" in that it (a) grossly misrepresents the amount of unsecured claims in this
27 case, (b) grossly misrepresents the Debtor's alleged claims against its insiders (i.e., (i) five to ten
28 years ago when the Debtor was profitable and significant taxes were paid on those profits and other

1 taxes were offset by personal losses, the Debtor’s insiders took distributions at a time when the
2 Debtor was not insolvent and (ii) fails to account for how the claims could be prosecuted under the
3 Plan as Nevada PF is acquiring them all), (c) grossly misrepresents that the Plan violates the absolute
4 priority rule (when it does not), and (d) makes false accusations that the Debtor artificially impaired
5 classes. The Committee also initially scheduled a deposition of Ignatius Piazza on November 11,
6 2022 – the date that this Reply is due – without meeting and conferring with the Debtor or Dr. Piazza
7 in advance – a deposition that should have taken place months ago and not at a time when it takes
8 the Debtor’s professionals’ time away from Plan confirmation to defend an unnecessary deposition
9 scheduled after the Committee Objection was due. When Committee Counsel was first employed,
10 counsel for the Debtor provided a copy of the transcript from the first day hearings in this case –
11 which transcript is full of salacious accusations against Dr. Piazza. In Committee Counsel’s first
12 interim fee application, 25.2 hours were billed under “Insider Investigation” (i.e., from June through
13 August 31, 2022, counsel for the Committee performed almost no insider investigation). The
14 deadline for DIP financing has always been November 29, 2022. It is outrageous that Committee
15 counsel first served a deposition notice of Dr. Piazza on October 31, 2022 – or four and a half
16 months after they were employed, with a deposition date of November 11, 2022 (or 7 days before
17 the confirmation hearing). Furthermore, three of the five Committee members voted to accept the
18 Plan, and yet Committee counsel filed the Committee Objection, scheduled a deposition of Dr.
19 Piazza (now scheduled for November 14, 2022), and served informal information requests to
20 Debtor’s counsel Friday evening October 14, 2022 requesting a large amount of documents and
21 correspondence. Committee counsel’s actions in the last month have caused the Debtor’s
22 professionals to incur significantly more fees in this case – and the Debtor can only imagine the
23 additional fees incurred by Committee counsel. Committee counsel’s actions have already resulted
24 in \$500,000 that was originally intended to be allocated to unsecured creditors to be allocated to
25 administrative expenses (i.e., Committee counsel’s fees are expected to be at least half a million
26 more than the originally estimated \$500,000 allocated to them in the DIP financing budget).

27 What has happened over the last month with respect to the Committee is atrocious and
28 should not be countenanced by the Court or the US Trustee. It is gamesmanship at its finest – with a

1 massive potential cost to the Debtor, its employees, its members, and its creditors. Committee
2 counsel seems to be intent on attempting to coerce Nevada PF and/or Dr. Piazza into (a) giving
3 control of distributions and claim objections to Committee counsel, and (b) making a larger
4 contribution to general unsecured creditors. However, Nevada PF has already agreed to contribute at
5 least \$1.875 million more towards Plan confirmation that was contained in the original deal (i.e., (i)
6 the \$500,000 allocated to professional fees – necessary only because of Committee counsel fees, (ii)
7 \$500,000 added to the original \$2.5 million contribution to Class 6, (iii) \$750,000 added to the
8 LVDF reserve, and (iv) approximately \$125,000 added to Stretto’s budget for serving all 80,000
9 active members with mail notice of the Plan.) There are no additional funds available to fund this
10 Plan. Instead of searching for an alternative equity investor under the Plan or finding other
11 alternatives for this Debtor (as the Debtor’s professionals have encouraged them to do repeatedly
12 throughout this case), Committee counsel has inundated the Debtor with last minute discovery
13 relating to topics that it was aware of since its retention in June 2022.

14 As set forth in the Confirmation Motion and below, the Plan meets the requirements for
15 confirmation under Section 1129. The Objections do not change that analysis.

16 **I. THE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY RULE DOES NOT APPLY BECAUSE CLASS 6**
17 **VOTED TO ACCEPT THE PLAN**

18 In their Objections, the Committee and Meacher allege that Dr. Piazza stands to retain
19 substantial value under the Plan, and therefore, the Plan violates the absolute priority rule. Meacher
20 cites to *In re DBSD N. Am., Inc.*, 634 F.3d 79 (2d Cir. 2011), which is inapposite to the facts here.
21 In *DBSD*, under the proposed chapter 11 plan, the existing shareholder would receive shares and
22 warrants in the reorganized entity. *Id.* at 86. Here, as set forth in the Disclosure Statement and Plan,
23 Dr. Piazza and the Debtor’s other insiders (a) are not retaining any equity in the Reorganized Debtor,
24 and (b) waive their claims of \$2.364 million against the Debtor (and are therefore not receiving any
25 value thereon). Thus, Dr. Piazza and the Debtor’s other insiders are not receiving or retaining
26 property under the Plan on account of their “old equity” interests.

27 With regard to the provision in the Consulting Agreement regarding a payment from the
28 Reorganized Debtor to Dr. Piazza of the difference between LVDF and Meacher’s asserted claims

1 and the amount of their allowed claims after deduction for attorneys' fees incurred by the
2 Reorganized Debtor, at this point, the prospect of Dr. Piazza gaining anything is speculative and
3 hypothetical at best. Furthermore, Dr. Piazza is the only party capable of overseeing the litigation
4 with LVDF and Meacher and to the extent the Reorganized Debtor seeks to share any reduction in
5 the claim with Dr. Piazza for overseeing the litigation, that compensation is not on account of "old
6 equity" interests.

7 In addition, under the Consulting Agreement, Dr. Piazza will not hold a management position
8 with the Reorganized Debtor but will, among other things, assist with marketing, prosecuting
9 objections to claims and certain Causes of Action. Furthermore, Nevada PF is requiring Dr. Piazza
10 to enter into a complicated tax reorganization (at his expenses) for the benefit of Nevada PF, and a
11 very broad 10 year cooperation agreement, and nationwide non-competition, non-interference and
12 non-disparagement agreement. Dr. Piazza is entitled to receive compensation for providing these
13 services and restrictive covenants to the Reorganized Debtor. Such compensation is not on account
14 of his old equity interests.

15 Even assuming *arguendo* that Dr. Piazza was receiving or retaining property under the Plan,
16 the absolute priority rule does not apply in this case. The absolute priority rule, codified in Section
17 1129(b)(2)(B), prohibits junior stakeholders from receiving or retaining property under a
18 reorganization plan unless senior stakeholders either are paid in full or consent to the distribution to
19 the junior class of claimants. *See Czyzewski v. Jevic Holding Corp.*, 580 U.S. 451, 137 S. Ct. 973,
20 984, 197 L. Ed. 2d 398 (2017); *Norwest Bank Worthington v. Ahlers*, 485 U.S. 197, 202, 108 S. Ct.
21 963, 966, 99 L. Ed. 2d 169 (1988). As set forth in the concurrently filed Ballot Summary, Class 6
22 voted to accept the Plan. Accordingly, even if Dr. Piazza was receiving or retaining property under
23 the Plan (which he is not), Class 6 has consented to such distribution. Thus, the absolute priority
24 rule does not apply, and the objections based thereon are moot. *See In re New Midland Plaza*
25 *Assocs.*, 247 B.R. 877, 895 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 2000) ("Here, all impaired unsecured creditors' classes
26 with standing to assert the rule have voted to accept the Plan; therefore, the absolute priority rule
27 under 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii) and cases decided under the rule, including *LaSalle*, do not
28

1 apply.”); *In re United Marine, Inc.*, 197 B.R. 942 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. 1996) (finding that a
2 dissenting unsecured creditor in an accepting class cannot assert the absolute priority rule).

3 Accordingly, the Plan does not violate Section 1129(b)(2)(B)(ii) and it should be confirmed.

4 **II. THE DEBTOR DID NOT IMPROPERLY CLASSIFY CLASS 3 AND CLASS 4 AS**
5 **IMPAIRED AND THE PLAN HAS BEEN PROPOSED IN GOOD FAITH**

6 In their Objections, the Committee and Meacher allege that the Debtor inappropriately
7 classified Classes 3 and 4 as impaired. Section 1122(a) “requires that all claims within a class be
8 substantially similar. It does not require all substantially similar claims to be placed in the same
9 class.” *In re Islet Scis., Inc.*, 640 B.R. 425, 458 (Bankr. D. Nev. 2022). The Debtor classified
10 Classes 3 and 4 as impaired because each of the Claimants’ legal, equitable or contractual rights are
11 changed under the Plan. *In re L & J Anaheim Assocs.*, 995 F.2d 940, 942, n.2 (9th Cir. 1993)
12 (explaining the definition of impairment). Classes 3 and 4 will be paid over time and without
13 interest. Accordingly, Classes 3 and 4 are properly identified as impaired under the Plan, and such
14 treatment is allowed pursuant to Section 1122(a). In addition, even under the case law cited in the
15 Objections, advantageous and/or beneficial treatment of claims under a chapter 11 plan of
16 reorganization is not prohibited. *See In re L & J Anaheim Assocs.*, 995 F.2d 940 (9th Cir. 1993).

17 The Committee and Meacher argue without any supporting evidence that the Reorganized
18 Debtor has sufficient cash to pay the holders of Classes 3 and 4 in full on the Effective date, and the
19 treatment provided is solely to artificially satisfy the requirement of Section 1120(a)(10). Section
20 1129(a)(10) provides that if a plan proponent chooses to impair classes of claims in its proposed
21 plan, then at least one impaired class of claims must accept plan treatment. 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(10).
22 Here, in addition to Classes 3 and 4, impaired Classes 1 and 6 have voted to accept the Plan. Thus,
23 the requirement under Section 1129(a)(10) has been met even if Classes 3 and 4 were not impaired.

24 As set forth in the Confirmation Motion, the Debtor has not structured the proposed
25 treatment of Classes 3 and 4 in bad faith. Rather, the Debtor has acted in good faith in an attempt to
26 negotiate upfront payments for most of its creditors, but the Debtor was unable to do so with respect
27 to every creditor. The Reorganized Debtor needs sufficient working capital to continue the Debtor’s
28 operations post-confirmation. Class 3 and Class 4 claims total \$125,000, which is not an

1 insignificant amount considering that the Reorganized Debtor anticipates that it will need
2 approximately \$700,000 in working capital to meet the Debtor's operating needs. Under these
3 circumstances, it is reasonable and appropriate to pay Classes 3 and 4 over time rather than in full on
4 the Effective Date.

5 Thus, the Plan meets the requirement of Section 1129(a)(10), and the Plan was not proposed
6 in bad faith.

7 **III. THE INSIDER RELEASE IS PERMISSIBLE AND IS A VALID EXERCISE OF THE**
8 **REORGANIZED DEBTOR'S BUSINESS JUDGMENT**

9 In their Objections, the Committee and Meacher argue that the Plan impermissibly provides
10 releases to non-debtor, third parties. The Plan provides that the Reorganized Debtor will retain all
11 claims against the Debtor's insiders, including its current equity holders, and such claims shall revest
12 in the Reorganized Debtor upon the Effective Date. As set forth more fully in FS DIP's omnibus
13 reply [ECF No. 388] to the objections to the Debtor's First Amended Disclosure Statement, the
14 Reorganized Debtor is purchasing the avoidance actions and litigations claims for purposes of
15 ensuring that the Reorganized Debtor will be able to emerge from bankruptcy on solid footing and
16 without the burden and the stigma of the prepetition litigation. The Reorganized Debtor does not
17 want the Debtor's extremely troubled and contentious litigation past to interfere with its business
18 operations and its customers' confidence going forward. The Reorganized Debtor's purchase of the
19 litigation claims and avoidance action claims as part of an integrated transaction is designed to
20 achieve a business objective, not to effectuate an impermissible release.

21 Through the Consulting Agreement to be entered into by the Reorganized Debtor and Dr.
22 Piazza, the Reorganized Debtor (through its acquisition of such claims under the Plan) has agreed to
23 release avoidance claims against the Debtor's insiders and claims for turnover of property of the
24 Debtor's estate. Although the Debtor does not believe that this constitutes a settlement between the
25 Debtor and its insiders (as the Reorganized Debtor will be owned 100% by Nevada PF, is purchasing
26 the claims, and can do whatever it wants with them), even if it were, it could be approved. As the
27 Committee correctly notes, a debtor's release of claims against a third party is not *per se*
28 impermissible. Such releases can be approved if it represents a valid exercise of the debtor's

1 business judgment and satisfies the fair, reasonable, and adequate standard set forth in *In re A & C*
2 *Properties*, 784 F.2d 1377, 1381 (9th Cir. 1986). The factors courts consider in determining whether
3 that standard has been met include:

- 4 (a) The probability of success in the litigation;
- 5 (b) The difficulties, if any, to be encountered in the matter of collection;
- 6 (c) The complexity of the litigation involved, and the expense, inconvenience
7 and delay necessarily attending it; and
- 8 (d) The paramount interest of the creditors and a proper deference to their
9 reasonable views in the premises.

10 *Id.*

11 Here, each of the factors are met. First, if the Reorganized Debtor (or any other party) were
12 to bring an avoidance action against the Debtor's insiders it is unlikely that the litigation would be
13 successful. Although the Committee notes that the Debtor's insiders may have received distributions
14 from the Debtor in the approximate amount of \$25 million from 2012 through 2020 (which
15 distributions the Debtor was entitled to make), the Committee disingenuously fails to take into
16 account contributions by Dr. Piazza to the Debtor. In the four-year period from before the Petition
17 Date (i.e., 5/24/2018 through 5/24/2022), the Debtor's insiders contributed over \$2 million more to
18 the Debtor than the amount that was distributed to them. While the Debtor's records reflect that
19 insider transfers occurred in the three years before that (i.e., 5/24/2015 through 5/23/2018), the
20 Debtor's records also reflect that the Debtor was solvent at the time and that significant income taxes
21 were paid on the Debtor's profits from those distributions (i.e., \$1.3 million for the period from
22 5/24/2015 through 5/23/2016, \$4.9 million for the period 5/24/2016 through 5/23/2017 and \$2.5
23 million for the period from 5/24/2017 through 5/23/2018). IRS tax transcripts (which were provided
24 to Committee counsel) reflect that tax return examinations were completed for the periods from
25 2014 through 2019, and no discrepancies were found.

26 In order to prevail in an avoidance action, a party would need to prove that the distributions
27 to the Debtor's insiders were actually fraudulent or constructively fraudulent. It is extremely
28 unlikely that a party would be able to prove that the distributions were constructively fraudulent
because the Debtor was solvent, profitable, and paying its debts as they came due. Until Fall 2021,

1 the Debtor was even current on its obligation to LVDF. The Committee has not even alleged that
2 the Debtor was insolvent, nor could it because the Debtor has provided extensive financial
3 information to the Committee demonstrating that it was solvent. Similarly, it is extremely unlikely
4 that a party could prove that the Debtor made the distributions with the actual intent to hinder, delay,
5 or defraud its creditors at a time when the Debtor was solvent, profitable, and paying its debts. What
6 creditor was the Debtor trying to defraud?

7 In the Committee Objection, the Committee does not even attempt to provide the Court with
8 any evidence as to why it believes there are “colorable” avoidance claims. Rather, the Committee
9 has attempted to hide the fact that apparently despite the extreme due diligence conducted by the
10 Committee’s financial advisors they found *no* demonstrative evidence of wrongdoing by the Debtor
11 or its principal. Despite a thorough review of the Debtor’s financials, tax returns and transactional
12 activity, along with appraisals conducted during the periods where there were net distributions, the
13 Committee does not identify with specificity any claims that exist against the Debtor’s insiders. At
14 best, they point to LVDF’s allegations, but do not suggest that those allegations have any validity.²
15 Rather, the Committee suggests that the Debtor would have been better served to reinvest that
16 money into the planned development rather than entering into an agreement with LVDF or making
17 legally permissible distributions. Even if this hindsight driven argument were true, it does not state a
18 cognizable claim against the Debtor’s insiders. Whatever the reach-back period, the Committee
19 does not aver that any fraudulent transfer claims exist. Simply put, the Committee has failed to
20 present any controverting evidence or to establish any basis that the distributions are avoidable.

21 Second, whether any judgment would be collectible is speculative and highly dependent on
22 the amount of the judgment.

23 Third, the Debtor ascribed no value to these claims in its Liquidation Analysis because the
24 cost of litigation would far outweigh any recovery. Indeed, LVDF has been litigating alleged
25

26 ² Highlighting the Committee’s lack of any facts that would support avoidance claims, the
27 Committee cites to a lawsuit against the Debtor and Dr. Piazza filed in 2005 and settled in 2008.
28 But, the Committee does not credibly connect the dots as to that historical fact and any wrongdoing
by Dr. Piazza today. It is merely cited by the Committee as a distraction from the fact that there is
no evidence to support avoidance claims.

1 fraudulent transfer claims against the Debtor’s insiders for over four years pre-petition with nothing
2 to show for it but alleged millions of dollars in attorneys’ fees.

3 Fourth, each class of creditors accepted the Plan, except for Meacher. The release of the
4 avoidance claims was disclosed to the Debtor’s creditors and the majority of creditors still voted to
5 accept the Plan. As set forth above, the releases are integral to the Plan because the Reorganized
6 Debtor wants a fresh start and does not want to be faced with further litigation concerning the pre-
7 petition conduct of the Debtor’s prior management. This is an important term within the broader PF
8 Nevada integrated transaction. Confirmation of the Plan is in the best interests of creditors because
9 it provides meaningful distributions to each Class, including to general unsecured creditors, which
10 distributions would be significantly less, if at all, in a Chapter 7 liquidation, and it provides a free
11 two year base membership to the Debtor’s members.

12 Accordingly, each of the *A&C Properties* factors are met. The releases are a valid exercise
13 of the Reorganized Debtor’s business judgment and approval of the Plan is in the best interests of the
14 Debtor’s creditors.

15 **IV. THE MEACHER OBJECTION**

16 In the Meacher Objection, Meacher objects to the Plan because the Plan does not provide for
17 post-confirmation interest. Meacher cites to Section 1129(b)(2)(A)(i)(II) in support of his argument.
18 However, Section 1129(b)(2)(A)(i)(II) is not applicable under the Plan. The Plan does not provide
19 that Meacher is to retain his asserted lien in the Debtor’s firearms. Rather, the Plan provides
20 Meacher with the indubitable equivalent of his asserted lien by providing substitute collateral.
21 Specifically, the Plan provides that Meacher will have a first priority lien to the same extent and
22 validity of his existing asserted lien against a \$3.3 million reserve account.

23 With respect to secured claims, Section 1129(b)(2)(A) sets forth three different ways for a
24 chapter 11 plan to be fair and equitable. To be fair and equitable, the chapter 11 plan must satisfy
25 the requirements of only one of the provisions in Section 1129(b)(2)(A)(i)–(iii). Here, the Plan
26 satisfies the requirements of Section 1129(b)(2)(A)(iii), which provides a plan is “fair and equitable”
27 if, with respect to a class of secured claims, it provides “for the realization by such holders of the
28 indubitable equivalent of such claims.” 11 U.S.C. § 1129(b)(2)(A)(iii). Where the plan changes a

1 secured creditor's rights in the collateral, providing the indubitable equivalent requires that the plan
2 provide substitute collateral or other assurances that the creditor's risk is not increased. *In re Arnold*
3 *& Baker Farms*, 85 F.3d 1415, 1422 (9th Cir.1996) (citation omitted).

4 The Plan provides substitute collateral to Meacher such that Meacher's risk is not increased.
5 The Plan provides that Meacher's asserted lien will attach to the reserve account to the same extent
6 and validity of his asserted existing lien against the Debtor's firearms. Thus, the Debtor has met the
7 requirements of Section 1129(b)(2)(A)(iii) and the Plan is fair and equitable with respect to the
8 treatment of the Meacher Secured Claim.

9 Meacher additionally objects to the Plan to the extent that it provides for the Court to retain
10 exclusive jurisdiction. This objection is not well founded. The Retention of Jurisdiction provision,
11 Article III.F of the Plan, does not provide for exclusive jurisdiction. The provision specifically states
12 that the retention of jurisdiction over the enumerated matters is in addition to jurisdiction which
13 exists in any other court.

14 Thus, the Court should overrule the Meacher Objection and confirm the Plan.

15 **V. THE COMMITTEE OBJECTION**

16 The Debtor has attempted to work consensually with the Committee throughout this case and
17 was disappointed by the tone of the Committee Objection, and by the Committee's attempt to deflect
18 from its own failure to complete its insider investigation(s) in a timely manner. The Debtor believes
19 that most, if not all, of the Committee's concerns are addressed throughout this Reply. To reiterate,
20 if the Debtor is unable to obtain Court approval of the Plan at the November 18, 2022 hearing
21 because the Committee has failed to reasonably negotiate with the Debtor, its insiders (based on
22 wildly inflated and unsubstantiated potential insider claims) and Nevada PF, the Debtor will not be
23 able to meet the Plan confirmation deadlines in the DIP financing order and will be required to move
24 forward with a 363 sale with the \$19 million stalking horse agreement [ECF No. 150]. This is
25 simply not in the best interests of Class 6 Claimants, who have voted to accept the Plan.

26 The Committee argues that the Plan fails to meet the best interest test under Section
27 1129(a)(7) because the Plan provides insufficient value to Class 6 Claimants. The Committee
28 contends without any supporting evidence that unsecured creditors will not receive more than in a

1 chapter 7 liquidation because the Liquidation Analysis fails to ascribe any value to estate claims
2 against the Debtor's insiders and the \$3 million allocated to general unsecured creditors includes the
3 cost of reconciling and prosecuting objections to claims. These arguments lack merit.

4 The Debtor does not believe that there are any material discrepancies in its Liquidation
5 Analysis, except that administrative claims are substantially higher because the Committee's counsel
6 has far exceeded its budget. The Liquidation Analysis intentionally does not include a valuation for
7 estate claims against the Debtor's insiders because the Debtor believes that such claims have no
8 value for the reasons discussed above. With respect to the costs of prosecuting claim objections, by
9 the time of the Effective Date, most claim objections will have been filed and claims will already
10 have been reconciled, i.e., paid for during the course of the case and not from the \$3 million
11 allocated to Class 6 under the Plan. Meaning the Debtor has done the "considerable" work already
12 regarding claim reconciliation.

13 Contrary to the Committee's unsupported assertion that a 10% to 30% distribution to
14 unsecured creditors is implausible, as of the date this Reply is filed, the Debtor has filed objections
15 to all but approximately \$15 million of general unsecured claims. By the time of the Confirmation
16 Hearing, the Debtor will have filed objections that, if sustained, will bring the general unsecured
17 claims pool to approximately \$11 million. Based on the claims filed since the rejection bar date
18 notice was served, the Debtor expects that there will be approximately \$11 million in claims up to a
19 maximum of \$15 million in general unsecured claims. With \$15 million of general unsecured
20 claims, and \$2.7 million to distribute (assuming \$300,000 in attorneys' fees), that would be an 18%
21 distribution. If total general unsecured claims are \$11 million (assuming \$300,000 in attorneys'
22 fees), then that would be a 24.5% distribution. Both distributions are significantly higher than the
23 projected 9.5% best case scenario distribution under a chapter 7 liquidation (which when adjusted
24 for the increased administrative expenses would likely be far smaller), and are not illusory. Thus,
25 the Plan meets the requirement of Section 1129(a)(7).

26 The Committee additionally argues that the Debtor has not demonstrated that the Plan is
27 feasible. Nevada PF will be filing evidence of feasibility to address the Committee Objection.
28 However, the Debtor notes that it was provided with a letter from Northern Trust dated November 8,

1 2022 that FS DIP (an affiliate of Nevada PF) maintains deposit, custody, investment and/or
2 brokerage accounts with Northern Trust in an amount exceeding \$27 million.

3 **VI. THE UST OBJECTION**

4 The Debtor will add additional language to the Exculpations and Releases that limits the
5 Exculpations and Releases to the period between the Petition Date and the Effective Date of the
6 Plan.

7 The Debtor will remove the language from the Continuing Stay/Injunction provision
8 regarding asserting a setoff against the Debtor.

9 The Debtor agrees to include a provision in the Confirmation Order that states that no
10 provision in the Plan constitutes a nonconsensual non-debtor, third party release.

11 The Debtor agrees with the US Trustee that quarterly fees do not require an allowance
12 process. The confirmation order will provide that quarterly fees are assessed fees that do not require
13 allowance and will be paid for periods when this case remains open, in chapter 11, and has not been
14 converted or dismissed.

15 Additionally, the confirmation order will include the US Trustee's requested language
16 regarding monthly operating reports and confirmation reports, and the Notice of Occurrence of the
17 Effective Date.

18 **VII. CONCLUSION**

19 Based on the foregoing reasons, the Debtor respectfully submits that the requirements for
20 confirmation of the Plan have been met, and the Court should confirm the Plan subject to the
21 revisions set forth above.

22 DATED: November 11, 2022

BG LAW LLP

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24 By: /s/ Susan K. Seflin
Susan K. Seflin
Jessica S. Wellington
25 Attorneys for Chapter 11 Debtor
26 and Plan Proponent
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