Hon, Nelson K.H. Lee 1 Noted for: September 17, 2024 Without Oral Argument 2 3 4 5 6 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON 7 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 MICHAEL MEHOLIC, individually and on 9 Case No. 23-2-20824-2 behalf of himself and all other similarly situated, 10 (PROPOSED) ORDER GRANTING Plaintiff, PLAINTIFF'S UNOPPOSED MOTION 11 FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL v. 12 SEATTLE ARENA COMPANY, LLC, 13 Defendant. 14 15 Plaintiff, by unopposed motion, has submitted a proposed Class Action Settlement 16 Agreement ("Settlement Agreement") to the Court for review. Having reviewed the Settlement 17 Agreement and Plaintiff's motion and supporting declarations, the Court FINDS, 18 CONCLUDES, and ORDERS as follows: 19 1. The Court concludes that the Settlement Agreement is the result of arms-length 20 negotiations between the parties after contested litigation. The Settlement Agreement has no 21 obvious defects and is within the range of possible settlement approval, such that the terms are 22 reasonable and notice to the Class is appropriate. Capitalized terms appearing in this Order 23 have the same meaning as used in the Settlement Agreement. 24 2. The proposed notices are to be emailed to potential Class members where emails 25 are available, and posted on the internet in a manner calculated to reach Class members, and at 26 a settlement website to be established by the Settlement Administrator, examples of which are

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS SETTLEMENT - 1

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attached to the Settlement Agreement and are sufficient in detail to provide sufficient notice of the Settlement Agreement to the Settlement Class. The proposed plan of distribution of the notice through email and the Internet, and the establishment of a website, are likewise sufficient.

- 3. The forms of Notice fairly, plainly, accurately, and reasonably inform Settlement Class members of: (1) appropriate information about the nature of this litigation, the Settlement, the Settlement Class definition, the identity of Class Counsel, and the essential terms of the Settlement; (2) appropriate information about Class Counsel's forthcoming application for attorneys' fees and the proposed incentive award to the Settlement Class Representative; (3) appropriate information about how to participate in the Settlement; (4) appropriate information about this Court's procedures for final approval of the Settlement, and about Settlement Class Members' right to appear through counsel if they desire; (5) appropriate information about how to challenge or opt-out of the Settlement, if they wish to do so; and (6) appropriate instructions as to how to obtain additional information regarding this litigation and the Settlement. In addition, pursuant to CR 23(c)(2)(B), the Notices inform Settlement Class Members that any Settlement Class Member who fails to opt-out will be prohibited from bringing a lawsuit against Defendant and certain entities related to Defendant based on or related to any of the claims asserted by Plaintiff.
- 4. The Court finds that the factors of CR 23(a) are satisfied here. Defendant has identified approximately 180,000 transactions that were assessed the 3% fee between February 27, 2023 and July 22, 2023, and joinder is therefore impracticable. The claims asserted by the Plaintiff are both common and typical of the claims of the class members. The Court finds no conflict of interest presented among Class Counsel or Plaintiff with the Settlement Class. In addition, the Court finds that the factors of CR 23(b) are also satisfied. The Court finds both factual questions and legal issues that are common to the Plaintiff's claims and the Settlement Class that predominate over any individualized issues. Certification of the Settlement Class for

settlement purposes is superior to piecemeal litigation of the Plaintiff's and Settlement Class Members' claims. The Court therefore certifies as the Settlement Class the following:

All individuals who purchased a concession at Climate Pledge Arena between February 27, 2023 and July 22, 2023 and were assessed a 3% fee. The Settlement Class specifically excludes: (i) Defendant and its officers and directors; (ii) all Settlement Class Members who timely and validly submit requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class; (iii) members of the judiciary to whom this case is assigned, their families, and members of their staff.

- 5. The Court appoints Kaleigh N. Boyd and Joan M. Pradhan of Tousley Brain Stephens, PLLC as the Proposed Settlement Class Counsel.
  - 6. The Court appoints Michael Meholic as Settlement Class Representative.
- 7. The Court appoints EAG Gulf Coast, LLC as the Settlement Administrator in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and finds, based on the Declaration of Brandon Schwartz, that EAG Gulf Coast, LLC has sufficient knowledge, skill, and expertise to effectively distribute the Notice and to handle the administration of claims to be submitted by the Settlement Class. The Settlement Administrator shall distribute Notice to the Settlement Class as provided by the Settlement Agreement.
- 8. As soon as practicable following the date of entry of this Order, the Settlement Administrator shall establish a settlement website for the posting of Notice and the Claim Form as provided in the Settlement Agreement. A copy of this Order, the amended complaint, Class Counsel's fee application, the Settlement Agreement, and Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement shall also be posted on the settlement website. Additional filings in the case may be posted on the site at the request of one or more of the parties.

- 9. Within 30 days of the date of entry of this Order, the Settlement Administrator shall have sent and made available the Notices substantially in the form specified in the Settlement Agreement.
- 10. Class Counsel shall file their motions for Final Approval and for attorneys' fees, costs, and class representative service awards at least 14 days before the Objections/Opt-Out Deadlines.
- 11. The Final Approval Hearing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m on January 24, 2025, at the King County Superior Courthouse, 516 3rd Ave, Courtroom W-842, Seattle, WA 98104. Class Counsel and/or Defendant may file a reply to any objections to the Settlement Agreement or opposition to Class Counsel's fee request no later than seven days before the Final Approval Hearing.
- 12. All Notice required by this Order and Settlement Agreement shall notify the Class of the Objection/Opt-Out Deadline, which shall be the date which is the 60th day after the date the Settlement Administrator has sent Notice.
- 13. All Notice required by this Order and the Settlement Agreement, as well as the Claim Form, shall notify the Class of the Claims deadline, which shall be 120 days from the date Notice is sent.

DATED this 17th day of September, 2024.



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2	Presented by:
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