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**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

In re:	§	
	§	Chapter 11
	§	
Higher Ground Education, Inc., <i>et al.</i> , ¹	§	Case No.: 25-80121-11 (MVL)
	§	
Debtor.	§	(Joint Administration Requested)

**DEBTORS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY
OF AN ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO MAINTAIN
AND ADMINISTER THEIR EXISTING DEPOSIT PROGRAMS AND HONOR
CERTAIN PREPETITION OBLIGATIONS RELATED THERETO
AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

Higher Ground Education, Inc. ("HGE") and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "**Debtors**") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the "**Chapter 11 Cases**") hereby file *Debtors' Emergency Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing the Debtors*

¹ The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal identification number, are: Higher Ground Education Inc. (7265); Guidepost A LLC (8540); Prepared Montessorian LLC (6181); Terra Firma Services LLC (6999); Guidepost Birmingham LLC (2397); Guidepost Bradley Hills LLC (2058); Guidepost Branchburg LLC (0494); Guidepost Carmel LLC (4060); Guidepost FIC B LLC (8609); Guidepost FIC C LLC (1518); Guidepost Goodyear LLC (1363); Guidepost Las Colinas LLC (9767); Guidepost Leawood LLC (3453); Guidepost Muirfield Village LLC (1889); Guidepost Richardson LLC (7111); Guidepost South Riding LLC (2403); Guidepost St Robert LLC (5136); Guidepost The Woodlands LLC (6101); Guidepost Walled Lake LLC (9118); HGE FIC D LLC (6499); HGE FIC E LLC (0056); HGE FIC F LLC (8861); HGE FIC G LLC (5500); HGE FIC H LLC (8817); HGE FIC I LLC (1138); HGE FIC K LLC (8558); HGE FIC L LLC (2052); HGE FIC M LLC (8912); HGE FIC N LLC (6774); HGE FIC O LLC (4678); HGE FIC P LLC (1477); HGE FIC Q LLC (3122); HGE FIC R LLC (9661); LePort Emeryville LLC (7324); AltSchool II LLC (0403). The Debtors' mailing address is 1321 Upland Dr. PMB 20442, Houston, Texas 77043.



to Maintain and Administer Their Existing Deposit Programs and Honor Certain Prepetition Obligations Related Thereto and (II) Granting Related Relief (the “**Motion**”). In support of this Motion, the Debtors respectfully represent as follows:

I.
JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND PREDICATES FOR RELIEF

1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the “**Court**”) has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). The Debtors confirm their consent, pursuant to Rule 7008 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “**Bankruptcy Rules**”), to the entry of a final order by the Court.

2. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

3. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 363(b) of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”), Bankruptcy Rule 6003, Local Rule 9013-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the “**Local Rules**”), and the Procedures for Complex Cases in the Northern District of Texas

II.
BACKGROUND

4. From their inception in 2016 through the beginning of 2025, the Debtors grew to over 150 schools (the “**Schools**”), becoming the largest owner and operator of Montessori schools in the world. The Debtors’ mission was to modernize and mainstream the Montessori education movement. In addition to owning and operating the Schools, the Debtors provided training and consulting services to Montessori schools around the world. The Debtors sought to offer an end-to-end experience that covers the entire lifecycle of a family at school, virtually, and at home, from birth through secondary education—enabled by next-gen, accredited Montessori

instruction. Information on the Debtors, their businesses, and a summary of the relief requested in this Motion can be found in the *Declaration of Jonathan McCarthy in Support of First Day Motions* (the “**First Day Declaration**”), filed concurrently herewith and incorporated herein by reference.

5. On June 17, 2025, (the “**Petition Date**”), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors remain in possession of their property and are managing their businesses as debtors-in-possession pursuant to Sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Court has not appointed a trustee, and no official committee has been established.

6. Contemporaneously with the filing of this Motion, the Debtors have filed with the Court a motion requesting joint administration of the Chapter 11 Cases for procedural purposes only pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).

III. RELIEF REQUESTED

7. To preserve their critical relationships with their students and their families (the “**Students**”), the Debtors request emergency consideration of this Motion. The Debtors believe an immediate and orderly transition into chapter 11 is critical to the viability of the Schools operations. Any delay in granting the relief requested could hinder the Debtors’ operations and cause irreparable harm the brand and goodwill that the Debtors have spent years cultivating.

8. The Debtors seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A** (the “**Proposed Order**”): (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to maintain and administer their Deposits (as defined herein) and honor certain prepetition obligations to their Students in the ordinary course of business consistent with past practice and in the Debtors’ sound business judgment and (b) granting related relief.

IV.
THE TUITION AND PREPAYMENT DEPOSIT PROGRAMS

9. Prior to the Petition Date, in the ordinary course of the Debtors' business and as is customary in their industry, the Debtors required Students to pay a tuition deposit (the "**Tuition Deposit**") to hold a spot for their attendance at one of the Debtors' Schools. The Tuition Deposit is applied to the last month of tuition or, if the Debtors are unable to offer the child a spot in a School, refunded to the Student. This in turn funds the Debtors' educational programs and practices which include flexible homeschooling and virtual programs. As of the Petition Date, the Debtors believe they owe approximately \$671,000 on account of Tuition Deposits.

10. Parents of Students also have the option to prepay tuition at their discretion (the "**Prepayment Deposits**," and together with the Tuition Deposits, the "**Deposits**" or "**Deposit Programs**"). The Prepayment Deposits are credited to monthly tuition invoices; if proper notice that they are withdrawing a Student from one of the Schools is given, any Prepayment Deposit balance for unused tuition are historically refunded. All families are eligible to participate in the Prepayment Deposits. As of the Petition Date, the Debtors believe they owe approximately \$592,000 on account of Prepayment Deposits.

11. The Schools compete in highly competitive businesses and must regularly provide students educational programs similar to (or better than) those offered by competing educational providers. The Debtors have collected the Deposits as part of their ordinary course of business in order to provide stability for the Schools. Any delay in honoring obligations to Students would severely and irreparably harm the Debtors' efforts to maximize value for the benefit of all parties in interest in these cases. If the Debtors do not pay the Deposits, then there could be additional harm to the Debtors' business, potentially impacting jobs and Students that rely on the ongoing Schools.

12. Accordingly, by this Motion, the Debtors seek authority to honor all prepetition obligations related to the Deposits and to continue to honor the Deposit Programs in the ordinary course of their businesses on a postpetition basis without disruption. For the avoidance of doubt, the Debtors do not seek to pay any prepetition Deposits to any Student in excess of the \$3,800.00 priority deposit cap imposed by section 507(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code.

IV. BASIS FOR RELIEF

I. The Deposits Are Entitled to Priority Treatment.

13. Section 507(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code entitles the Deposits to priority treatment because such Deposits are for services purchased by individuals and such services were not provided by the Debtors. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7). As priority claims, the Debtors are required to pay these claims in full to confirm a chapter 11 plan. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 1129(a)(9)(B) (requiring payment in full of certain allowed unsecured claims for deposits of money in connection with the purchase, lease, or rental of property, or the purchases of services, for the personal, family, or household use of such individuals as specified in the section 507(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code). Indeed, the Debtors submit that the Deposits are the kind contemplated by section 507(a)(7) as they arise from purchasing educational services by students from the Debtors and are therefore entitled to priority. *See, e.g., In re Longo*, 144 B.R. 305, 311 (Bankr. D. Md. 1992) (finding that tuition refunds were considered deposits under section 507(a) because the students purchased a contract for lessons). Moreover, allowing the Debtors to continue to honor and pay the Deposits furthers the purpose of the section 507(a)(7) by protecting the innocent consumer-creditor, here individual Students and their families, “who [were] unable to protect [themselves] and [were] the last to receive the news of the impending insolvency.” *Id.* at 312.

14. For avoidance of doubt, the Debtors are requesting the authority to continue their Deposit Programs and only pay the amounts owed up to the statutory cap under section 507(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code. To the extent that any individual Student is owed aggregate amounts in excess of the priority cap, or amounts that are otherwise not entitled to priority status, the Debtors submit such amounts would be treated as general unsecured claims and paid pursuant to the Debtors' proposed plan of reorganization.

II. The Court Should Authorize the Debtors to Honor and Continue the Deposit Programs.

15. Courts in the Fifth Circuit and elsewhere have recognized that it is appropriate to authorize the payment of prepetition obligations where necessary to protect and preserve the estate. *See, e.g., In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. 487, 497 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2002); *In re Equalnet Commc'ns Corp.*, 258 B.R. 368, 369–70 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 2000); *see also In re Just for Feet, Inc.*, 242 B.R. 821, 825–26 (D. Del. 1999); *In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc.*, 98 B.R. 174, 175–76 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989); *Armstrong World Indus., Inc. v. James A. Phillips, Inc. (In re James A. Phillips, Inc.)*, 29 B.R. 391, 398 (S.D.N.Y. 1983). In so doing, these courts acknowledge that several legal theories rooted in sections 105(a) and 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code support the payment of prepetition claims.

16. Section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code permits a bankruptcy court, after notice and a hearing, to authorize a debtor to “use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate.” 11 U.S.C. § 363(b)(1). To do so, “the debtor must articulate some business justification, other than the mere appeasement of major creditors.” *See In re Ionosphere Clubs*, 98 B.R. at 175 (noting that section 363(b) provides “broad flexibility” to authorize a debtor to honor prepetition claims where supported by an appropriate business justification). In addition, under section 1107(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, a debtor in possession has, among other things, the

“implied duty . . . to ‘protect and preserve the estate, including an operating business’ going-concern value.” *In re CEI Roofing, Inc.*, 315 B.R. 50, 59 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2004) (quoting *In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. at 497).

17. Courts also authorize payment of prepetition claims in appropriate circumstances based on section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code codifies a bankruptcy court’s inherent equitable powers to “issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title.” 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). Under section 105(a), courts may authorize pre-plan payments of prepetition obligations when essential to the continued the long-term value of the Debtors’ business and brand. *See In re Mirant Corp.*, 296 B.R. 427, 429 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2003) (noting that non-payment of prepetition claims may seriously damage a debtor’s business); *In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. at 497 (finding that sections 105 and 1107 of the Bankruptcy Code provide the authority for a debtor in possession to pay prepetition claims).

18. Specifically, a court may use its power under section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code to authorize payment of prepetition obligations when the payments are critical to preserving the going-concern value of the debtor’s estate, as is the case here. *See, e.g., In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. at 497 (“[I]t is only logical that the bankruptcy court be able to use [s]ection 105(a) of the [Bankruptcy] Code to authorize satisfaction of the prepetition claim in aid of preservation or enhancement of the estate.”). A bankruptcy court’s use of its equitable powers to “authorize the payment of prepetition debt when such payment is needed to facilitate the rehabilitation of the debtor is not a novel concept.” *In re Ionosphere Clubs*, 98 B.R. at 175–76 (citing *Miltenberger v. Logansport, C. & S.W. Ry. Co.*, 106 U.S. 286 (1882)). Indeed, at least one court has recognized

that there are instances when a debtor's fiduciary duty can "only be fulfilled by the preplan satisfaction of a prepetition claim." *In re CoServ, L.L.C.*, 273 B.R. at 497.

19. Here, continuing to administer the Deposits without interruption during the pendency of these Chapter 11 Cases is critical to preserve the value of the Debtors' assets by preserving customer goodwill. The Debtors' failure to honor prepetition obligations on account of the Deposits could push many families to decide to pull Students from the Schools or suspend or revoke applications for future student enrollment—harming the value of the reorganized debtors and future operations.

20. The success of the Debtors' businesses and these Chapter 11 Cases is dependent upon the Debtors' ability to attract and retain Students. Any curtailment of the Debtors' ability to continue the Deposit Programs, and the resulting negative public perception, may enable the Debtors' competitors to take advantage of the Debtors' chapter 11 proceedings, causing substantial harm to the Debtors' businesses, their estates, and their stakeholders. Conversely, the value from continuing to comply with all obligations under the Deposit Programs will inure to the benefit of the Debtors' estates and their stakeholders. Further, uninterrupted payment and processing of the Deposits ensures that families can plan for upcoming months for their children's ongoing education.

21. Courts in this jurisdiction have granted similar relief where retaining the loyalty and patronage of customers is critical to successful chapter 11 cases. *See, e.g., In re TGI Friday's, Inc., et al.*, No. 24-80069 (SGJ) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 2, 2024) (authorizing debtors to continue to maintain and administer prepetition customer programs in the ordinary course of business and honor prepetition obligations related to same); *In re Stoli Group (USA), LLC, et al.*, No. 24-80146 (SWE) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 27, 2024) (same); *Cottonwood Financial Ltd.*, No. 24-80035

(SWE) [Docket No. 74] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Feb. 29, 2024) (same); *In re CiCi's Holdings, Inc.*, No. 21-30146 (SGJ) [Docket No. 129] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Feb. 18, 2021) (same); *In re Studio Movie Grill Holdings, LLC*, No. 20-32622 (SGJ) [Docket No. 198] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 19, 2020) (same); *In re TriVascular Sales LLC*, No. 20-31840 (SGJ) [Docket No. 61] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. July 7, 2020) (same); *In re Tuesday Morning Corp.*, No. 20-31476 (HDH) [Docket No. 107] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. May 29, 2020) (same); *In re PHI, Inc.*, No. 19-30923 [Docket No. 73] (HDH) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Mar. 20, 2019) (same).²

22. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the substantial benefit conferred on the Debtors' estates by the Deposit Programs warrants the authority to honor the Deposits and any prepetition obligations relating thereto, subject to the priority cap of section 507(a)(7). Therefore, the Debtors respectfully request the authority to continue the Deposits and honor prepetition commitments related thereto in the ordinary course of the Debtors' businesses.

III. Processing of Checks and Electronic Fund Transfers Should Be Authorized.

23. The Debtors have sufficient funds to pay the amounts described in this Motion in by virtue of anticipated access to postpetition financing. In addition, under the Debtors' existing cash management system, the Debtors can readily identify checks or wire transfer requests as relating to any authorized payment in respect of the relief requested herein. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that checks or wire transfer requests, other than those relating to authorized payments, will not be honored inadvertently. Therefore, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court authorize all applicable financial institutions, when requested by the Debtors, to receive,

² Because of the voluminous nature of the orders cited herein, such orders have not been attached to this Motion. Copies of these orders are available upon request of the Debtors' proposed counsel.

process, honor, and pay any and all checks or wire transfer requests in respect of the relief requested in this Motion.

V.

THE DEBTORS HAVE SATISFIED BANKRUPTCY RULE 6003(B)

24. Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) provides that, to the extent relief is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm, a bankruptcy court may issue an order granting “a motion to use, sell, lease, or otherwise incur an obligation regarding property of the estate, including a motion to pay all or part of a claim that arose before the filing of the petition” before 21 days after filing of the petition. FED. R. BANKR. P. 6003(b). For the reasons described above, the relief requested is necessary for the Debtors to operate their businesses in the ordinary course and maximize the value of their estates for the benefit of all stakeholders. Accordingly, the Debtors believe that the relief requested herein is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm, and, therefore, Bankruptcy Rule 6003 is satisfied.

VI.

WAIVER OF BANKRUPTCY RULE 6004(A) AND 6004(H)

25. To implement the foregoing successfully, the Debtors seek a waiver of the notice requirements under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the 14-day stay of an order authorizing the use, sale, or lease of property under Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h).

VII.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

26. Nothing contained herein or any actions taken pursuant to such relief requested is intended or shall be construed as: (a) an admission as to the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against a Debtor entity under the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable nonbankruptcy law; (b) a waiver of the Debtors’ or any other party in interest’s right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any claim; (d) an implication or admission that any

particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this motion or any order granting the relief requested by this motion or a finding that any particular claim is an administrative expense claim or other priority claim; (e) a request or authorization to assume, adopt, or reject any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) an admission as to the validity, priority, enforceability, or perfection of any lien on, security interest in, or other encumbrance on property of the Debtors' estates; (g) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors', or any other party in interest's, rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (h) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) that may be satisfied pursuant to the relief requested in this motion are valid, and the rights of all parties in interest are expressly reserved to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens. If the Court grants the requested relief, any payment made pursuant to the Court's order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as to the validity of any particular claim or a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

VIII. **NOTICE**

27. No trustee, examiner, or statutory creditors' committee has been appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases. This Motion has been provided to (a) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Texas; (b) the United States Attorney's Officer for the Northern District of Texas; (c) the state attorney generals for all states in which the Debtors conduct or have recently conducted business; (d) the Internal Revenue Service, (e) the holders of the 30 largest unsecured claims against the Debtors (on a consolidated basis); (f) Cozen O'Connor, as counsel to the Senior DIP Lender and Plan Sponsor; (g) Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC, as counsel to the Junior DIP Lender; (h) the banks and financial institutions where the Debtors maintain banking accounts; and

(i) all parties in interest who have formally appeared and requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. The Debtors respectfully submit that no further notice of this Motion is required.

28. The pleadings in these Chapter 11 Cases and supporting papers are available on the Debtors' website at www.veritaglobal.net/HigherGround or on the Bankruptcy Court's website at <https://ecf.txnb.uscourts.gov/>. You can request any pleading you need from (i) the proposed noticing agent at: HigherGroundInfo@veritaglobal.com, (888) 733-1431 (U.S./Canada) (toll-free), +1 (310) 751-2632 (International), or (ii) proposed counsel for the Debtors at: Foley & Lardner LLP, 1144 15th Street, Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202, Attn: Tim Mohan (tmohan@foley.com), and Foley & Lardner LLP, 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77002, Attn: Nora McGuffey (nora.mcguffey@foley.com) and Quynh-Nhu Truong (qtruong@foley.com).

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Proposed Order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

DATED: June 18, 2025

Respectfully submitted by:

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**PROPOSED COUNSEL TO DEBTORS
AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 18, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically by the Court's PACER system.

/s/ Nora J. McGuffey

Nora J. McGuffey

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

In re:	§	
	§	Chapter 11
	§	
Higher Ground Education, Inc., <i>et al.</i> , ¹	§	Case No.: 25-80121-11 (MVL)
	§	
Debtor.	§	(Joint Administration Requested)

**ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO MAINTAIN AND
ADMINISTER THEIR EXISTING DEPOSIT PROGRAMS AND HONOR
CERTAIN PREPETITION OBLIGATIONS RELATED THERETO
AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

¹ The Debtors in these Chapter 11 Cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal identification number, are: Higher Ground Education Inc. (7265); Guidepost A LLC (8540); Prepared Montessorian LLC (6181); Terra Firma Services LLC (6999); Guidepost Birmingham LLC (2397); Guidepost Bradley Hills LLC (2058); Guidepost Branchburg LLC (0494); Guidepost Carmel LLC (4060); Guidepost FIC B LLC (8609); Guidepost FIC C LLC (1518); Guidepost Goodyear LLC (1363); Guidepost Las Colinas LLC (9767); Guidepost Leawood LLC (3453); Guidepost Muirfield Village LLC (1889); Guidepost Richardson LLC (7111); Guidepost South Riding LLC (2403); Guidepost St Robert LLC (5136); Guidepost The Woodlands LLC (6101); Guidepost Walled Lake LLC (9118); HGE FIC D LLC (6499); HGE FIC E LLC (0056); HGE FIC F LLC (8861); HGE FIC G LLC (5500); HGE FIC H LLC (8817); HGE FIC I LLC (1138); HGE FIC K LLC (8558); HGE FIC L LLC (2052); HGE FIC M LLC (8912); HGE FIC N LLC (6774); HGE FIC O LLC (4678); HGE FIC P LLC (1477); HGE FIC Q LLC (3122); HGE FIC R LLC (9661); LePort Emeryville LLC (7324); AltSchool II LLC (0403). The Debtors' mailing address is 1321 Upland Dr. PMB 20442, Houston, Texas 77043.

Upon the motion (the “**Motion**”)² of Higher Ground Education, Inc. (“**HGE**”) and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “**Debtors**”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “**Chapter 11 Cases**”) for entry of an order (this “**Order**”), (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to maintain and administer the Deposits and honor certain prepetition obligations related thereto, and (b) granting related relief; all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors’ estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors’ notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the “**Hearing**”); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT**:

1. The Motion is granted on a final basis as set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to continue to administer the Deposits in the ordinary course and to honor any prepetition obligations related to the Deposits, and to modify, replace, or terminate any Deposit Programs in the ordinary course of business, up to the statutory cap under section 507(a)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code.

² Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed in the Motion.

3. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Order and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against a Debtor entity under the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable nonbankruptcy law; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in this Order or the Motion or a finding that any particular claim is an administrative expense claim or other priority claim; (e) a request or authorization to assume, adopt, or reject any prepetition agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) an admission as to the validity, priority, enforceability, or perfection of any lien on, security interest in, or other encumbrance on property of the Debtors' estates; (g) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (h) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) that may be satisfied pursuant to the Motion are valid, and the rights of all parties in interest are expressly reserved to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens.

4. The banks and financial institutions on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, whether such checks or other requests were submitted prior to, or after, the Petition Date, and all such banks and financial institutions are authorized to rely on the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this Order.

5. The Debtors are authorized to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored

as a consequence of these Chapter 11 Cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with the relief granted herein.

6. Nothing contained in the Motion or this Order is intended or should be construed to create an administrative priority claim on account of any of the Deposits.

7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Motion or this Order, any payment to be made, obligation incurred, or relief or authorization granted hereunder shall not be inconsistent with, and shall be subject to, and in compliance with, the requirements imposed on the Debtors under the terms of each interim and final order entered by the Court in respect of approving the DIP Motion filed substantially contemporaneously with the Motion (the “**DIP Orders**”) (and any permitted variances thereto), including compliance with any budget or cash flow forecast in connection therewith and any other terms and conditions thereof. Nothing herein is intended to modify, alter, or waive, in any way, any terms, provisions, requirements, or restrictions of the DIP Orders or Approved Budget. In the event of any inconsistency between the terms of this Order and the terms of the DIP Orders, the terms of the DIP Orders shall govern.

8. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) have been satisfied.

9. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

10. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

11. The Debtors are authorized to take all reasonable actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.

12. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

###END OF ORDER###

Submitted by:

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