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16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT,**
17 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

18 JANE DOE 1, an individual, and JANE
19 DOE 2, a minor, by and through her
20 guardian JANE DOE 1,

21 No. 2:25-cv-03142-DC-JDP

22 Plaintiff,

23 v.

24 G6 Hospitality, LLC; G6 Hospitality IP,
25 LLC; G6 Hospitality Property, LLC; G6
Hospitality Purchasing, LLC; G6
Hospitality Franchising, LLC; Motel 6
Operating, LP; D Mod Hotel LLC.; Pravin
G. Patel, an individual; and DOES 1-100,
inclusive,

26 Defendants.

27
28 **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT**

29 COMES NOW, the Plaintiffs JANE DOE 1 and JANE DOE 2, by and through the
30 undersigned counsel, and respectfully submits this First Amended Complaint for damages
31 and makes the following averments.
32

INTRODUCTION

1. Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 bring this action to hold Defendants accountable for facilitating and knowingly profiting from Jane Doe 1's sex trafficking, which caused serious and permanent injuries to Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 . Plaintiffs demand justice and compensation for the profound harms and losses Jane Doe 1 endured at Defendants' properties from 2018 through 2020 and the permanent debilitating harm caused to Jane Doe 2.

2. One of Jane Doe 1's permanent and most profound losses is her daughter's Jane Doe 2's cerebral palsy diagnosis. Jane Doe 1's trafficker forced her to perform commercial sex acts on Defendants' properties throughout her *entire* pregnancy up until she gave birth to her daughter Jane Doe 2 in 2020. The physical violence Jane Doe 1 endured during her trafficking caused Jane Doe 2 cerebral palsy with quadriplegia.

3. Since 2003, federal law, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (“TVPRA”), 18 U.S.C. §1581, et seq. has provided victims of sex trafficking a civil remedy against perpetrators of criminal sex trafficking.

4. In 2008, Congress recognized the need to extend liability beyond sex buyers and sellers and intentionally expanded the scope of the TVPRA to reach those who while not criminally liable under the TVPRA, financially benefit from participation in a venture that they know or should have known engaged in criminal sex trafficking.

5. For years, sex trafficking ventures have brazenly operated in and out of hotels throughout the United States and especially at Motel 6 and Studio 6 locations.

6. Major hotel brands, including Defendants, have made public claims about combating human trafficking, while at the same time expanding their economy hotels where sex trafficking is most prevalent and profiting from crimes that are perpetrated on their properties and from providing harbor for the underlying assaults. Time after time, Motel 6 has scouted and chosen properties on “blades” and areas specifically known for

1 prostitution, crime and sex trafficking.

2 7. The hotel and hospitality industry continue to create and expand the
 3 environment for traffickers to harbor victims and neglect taking reasonable steps to
 4 prevent such criminal misconduct, instead choosing to earn a profit at the expense of
 5 human life, human rights, and human dignity.

6 8. Appearances and sponsorships do not excuse corporations and individuals
 7 that have financially benefited from sex trafficking, including G6 entities and Motel 6
 8 companies. In fact, it reveals corporate knowledge of the use of their properties and
 9 technology as hubs for human trafficking. The hotel industry has provided the means,
 10 environment, and support for the human trafficking industry to become the second largest
 11 profitable criminal activity in the United States.¹ They speak about ending it, but their
 12 actions intentionally promote it as they continue to profit from it every single day.

13 9. As the trafficking industry grows, so have Defendants and their profits
 14 through the expansion of their properties and rooms rented for this explicit and apparent
 15 purpose.

16 10. At some locations, Motel 6 past live-in managers estimate that up to 90% of
 17 their business and profits were directly tied to trafficking. Managers and past employees
 18 allege the sex trafficking was reported up the chain to corporate (Defendants) and they
 19 were encouraged to look the other way. Corporate did nothing to prevent or stop it.

20 11. Jane Doe 1 endured sex trafficking in motels owned, operated, maintained,
 21 and controlled by Defendants, their agents and staff.

22 12. Jane Doe 1 was subjected to unimaginable atrocities including but not limited
 23 to repeated daily rape, verbal and physical attacks, humiliation, fear, and psychological
 24 manipulation and degradation, including while pregnant which ultimately led to her

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26 ¹ [Human trafficking is now the SECOND MOST PROFITABLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY in the United States! - Monique Burr Foundation](#)

1 daughter Jane Doe 2's devastating long-term health complications.

2 13. Defendants continued supporting traffickers, including Jane Doe 1's
3 trafficker, despite evident and apparent signs of ongoing sex trafficking, and of Jane Doe
4 being trafficked, at its motels and specifically the following Motel 6 locations:

- 5 a. Motel 6, 1433 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
- 6 b. Motel 6, 1920 W Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA 95350
- 7 c. Motel 6, 1250 Twin View Blvd, Redding, CA 96003
- 8 d. Motel 6, 250 S Walnut Rd, Turlock, CA 95380
- 9 e. Motel 6, 150 Northwoods Ave. Manteca, CA 95336

10 14. The Defendants benefited financially by allowing their motels, managers and
11 employees to facilitate and support the trafficking of Jane Doe 1. Defendants strategically
12 provided venues where traffickers could exploit victims like Jane Doe 1 with minimal risk
13 of detection and interruption so that Defendants could continue to profit from regular room
14 rentals. As a result of sex trafficking, Defendants thrive. To them, it's a well-thought-out
15 business decision. To Jane Doe 1 and her daughter, it a nightmare that they will never
16 wake up from. Defendants destroyed their lives.

17 15. Jane Doe 1 files this civil lawsuit seeking full justice for the harm she suffered
18 as a result of being sex trafficked and sold for sex at hotels owned, operated, maintained,
19 regulated, and controlled by Defendants and their agents and staff. Defendants knowingly
20 participated in atrocities so insurmountable, so indescribable, it defies comprehension—
21 an anguish no woman, no parent and no human should ever be condemned to face.

22 PARTIES

23 16. Jane Doe 1 is a natural person who is currently a resident and citizen of
24 California. Jane Doe 1 is a survivor of sex trafficking. From approximately July 2018 to
25 August 2020, she was harbored, forced and coerced to engage in commercial sex acts for
26 the benefit of her trafficker and Defendants.

1 a. Due to the sensitive, private, and potentially retaliatory nature of these
 2 allegations, this Complaint identifies Jane Doe 1 by a pseudonym only.
 3 Jane Doe 1 will move the Court to proceed under a pseudonym in all
 4 filings, all public Court proceedings, and to limit the disclosure of
 5 information about Jane Doe 1's true identity in order to protect Jane Doe
 6 1 and Jane Doe 1's identity.

7 b. Generally, pleadings must state the name of all parties.² However, there
 8 are exceptions when the issues involved may result in retaliation or
 9 harm to the Jane Doe 1.³ For good cause, the Court may issue an order to
 10 protect a party or person from undue harms and burdens.

11 c. In order to maintain her and her child's privacy and safety, Jane Doe 1
 12 should not be compelled to disclose her identity. Jane Doe 1's privacy
 13 interest substantially outweighs the customary practice of judicial
 14 openness.⁴ Jane Doe 1 and her daughter's life could be put in grave
 15 danger should her trafficker or his associates learn information about
 16 her through publicly filed documents in this action and if they find out
 17 she has spoken out about the trafficking.

18 d. Defendants will not be prejudiced. Jane Doe 1 will agree to reveal her
 19 identity to Defendants for the limited purpose of investigating Jane Doe
 20 1's claims once the parties have entered into a protective order.

21 e. Jane Doe 1 simply seeks redaction of her personally identifying
 22 information from the public docket and assurances that Defendants will
 23 not use or publish Jane Doe 1's identities in a manner that will

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25 ² Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(a).

26 ³ See Cases e.g., *Doe v. Penzato*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 51681, *6-9 (N.D. Cal. May 13, 2011); *Roe v. St. Louis Univ.*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27716, *13, (E.D. Mo. Apr. 2, 2009)

⁴ See case *Doe v. Frank*, 951 F.2d 320, 323 (11th Cir. 1992) (internal citation and quotations omitted).

1 compromise her personal life, future safety, family's safety, or
 2 employment prospects, as well as her rights to privacy after being a
 3 victim of multiple sex abuses, physical violence, and sexual assaults.

4 17. Jane Doe 2 is a natural person who is currently a resident and citizen of
 5 California and the minor biological daughter of Jane Doe 1. Jane Doe 2 was born
 6 prematurely in August 2020 and was diagnosed with cerebral palsy shortly thereafter.
 7 Throughout 2020, Jane Doe 1 was trafficked, brutally raped and assaulted, and she and
 8 Jane Doe 2 were subjected to physical violence at Defendants' hotels while Jane Doe 1 was
 9 pregnant with Jane Doe 2.

- 10 a. Due to the sensitive, private, and potentially retaliatory nature of these
 11 allegations and because Jane Doe 2 is a minor, this Complaint identifies
 12 Jane Doe 2 by a pseudonym only. Jane Doe 2 will move the Court to
 13 proceed under a pseudonym in all filings, all public Court proceedings,
 14 and to limit the disclosure of information about Jane Doe 1's true
 15 identity in order to protect Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 1's identity.
- 16 b. Generally, pleadings must state the name of all parties.⁵ However, there
 17 are exceptions when the issues involved may result in retaliation or
 18 harm to the Jane Doe 1.⁶ For good cause, the Court may issue an order to
 19 protect a party or person from undue harms and burdens.
- 20 c. In order to maintain her privacy and safety, Jane Doe 1 should not be
 21 compelled to disclose her identity. Jane Doe 1's privacy interest
 22 substantially outweighs the customary practice of judicial openness.⁷
 23 Jane Doe 2's life could be put in grave danger should her trafficker or his

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 25 ⁵ Fed. R. Civ. P. 10(a).

26 See Cases e.g., *Doe v. Penzato*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 51681, *6-9 (N.D. Cal. May 13, 2011); *Roe v. St. Louis Univ.*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 27716, *13, (E.D. Mo. Apr. 2, 2009)

⁷ See case *Doe v. Frank*, 951 F.2d 320, 323 (11th Cir. 1992) (internal citation and quotations omitted).

associates learn information about her through publicly filed documents in this action and if they find out she has spoken out about the trafficking.

- d. Defendants will not be prejudiced. Jane Doe 2 will agree to reveal her identity to Defendants for the limited purpose of investigating Jane Doe 2's claims once the parties have entered into a protective order.
- e. Jane Doe 1 simply seeks redaction of Jane Doe 2's personally identifying information from the public docket and assurances that Defendants will not use or publish Jane Doe 2's identities in a manner that will compromise her personal life, future safety, family's safety, or employment prospects, as well as her rights to privacy as a minor.

18. Defendant D Mod Hotel, LLC is a for-profit California limited liability company with its principal place of business in Frisco, Texas. Defendant D Mod Hotel, LLC owned, operated, managed, maintained, inspected, secured, supervised, and/or controlled Motel 6 located at 1920 W. Orangeburg Ave. Modesto, CA 95350 from 2019 through 2020 while Jane Doe 1 was trafficked there.

19. Defendant Parvin G. Patel is a resident of California conducting business in Riverside County, California. Defendant Parvin G. Patel, owned, operated, managed, maintained, inspected, secured, supervised, and/or controlled Motel 6, located at 150 Northwoods Ave. Manteca, CA 95336 from 2018 through 2020 while Jane Doe 1 was trafficked there.

20. Defendants D Mod Hotel, LLC and Parvin G. Patel will collectively be referred to as, "Motel 6 Location Defendants."

21. Defendant G6 Hospitality, LLC is a for-profit Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Carrollton, Texas.

22. Defendant G6 Hospitality, IP, LLC is a for-profit Delaware corporation with

1 its principal place of business in Carrollton, Texas.

2 23. Defendant G6 Hospitality Property, LLC is a for-profit Delaware corporation
3 with its principal place of business in Carrollton, Texas.

4 24. Defendant G6 Hospitality Purchasing, LLC is a for-profit Delaware
5 corporation with its principal place of business in Carrollton, Texas.

6 25. Defendant G6 Hospitality Franchising, LLC., is a for-profit Delaware
7 corporation with its principal place of business in Carrollton, Texas.

8 26. Defendant Motel 6 Operating, LP., is a for-profit Delaware corporation with
9 its principal place of business in Carrollton, Texas.

10 27. Defendants G6 Hospitality, LLC, G6 Hospitality IP, LLC; G6 Hospitality
11 Property, LLC.; G6 Hospitality Purchasing, LLC.; G6 Hospitality Franchising, LLC.; Motel
12 6 Operating, LP., will collectively be referred to as "G6 Defendants."

13 28. G6 Defendants are registered to do business in the State of California and
14 may be served at 1325 J Street, Suite 1550 Sacramento, California.

15 29. At all relevant times, G6 Defendants owned, operated, managed, maintained,
16 inspected, secured, supervised, and controlled the following locations; and transacted
17 business in the State of California and purposefully availed itself to the State of California
18 through its operation, control and ownership of the following Motel 6 locations:

- 19 a. Motel 6, located at 1433 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
- 20 b. Motel 6, located at 1920 W Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA 95350
- 21 c. Motel 6, located at 1250 Twin View Blvd, Redding, CA 96003
- 22 d. Motel 6, located at 250 S Walnut Rd, Turlock, CA 95380
- 23 e. Motel 6, located at 150 Northwoods Ave. Manteca, CA 95336

24 30. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act, deed, or conduct of
25 the Motel 6 Location Defendants, the allegation is that the Motel 6 Location Defendants
26 engaged in the act, deed or conduct by or through one or more of their officers, directors,

1 agents, staff, or representatives who was actively engaged in the management, direction,
 2 control, or transaction of the ordinary business and affairs of the G6 Defendants.

3 31. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act, deed, or conduct of
 4 the G6 Defendants, the allegations is that the G6 Defendants engaged in the act, deed, or
 5 conduct by or through one or more of their officers, directors, agents, staff, or
 6 representatives who was actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or
 7 transaction of the ordinary business and affairs of the G6 Defendants and the Motel 6
 8 Location Defendants.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 32. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because this
 11 action involves a federal question under the Trafficking Victims Protection
 12 Reauthorization Act (“TVPRA”).

13 33. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1391(b)(2) because a
 14 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims asserted in this action,
 15 including the Defendant’s misconduct and omissions, led to injuries that occurred in the
 16 judicial district where this action is brought.

17 34. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because,
 18 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c)(2) and 1391(d), at least one Defendant is a resident of
 19 Modesto County, California, and all Defendants are registered to do business in California.

20 35. Upon information and belief, the “Motel 6 Location Defendants,” and the “G6
 21 Defendants,” transacted business in the Counties of each Motel 6 at issue in this case
 22 throughout California, and purposefully availed themselves to the Counties within the
 23 Eastern District of California’s jurisdiction, and the citizens of California through the
 24 subject hotel locations.

25 **SEX TRAFFICKING UNDER FEDERAL LAW**

26 36. Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision,

1 obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of causing the person to
 2 engage in a commercial sex act either (1) before the person turns 18 years old; or (2)
 3 through force, fraud, or coercion.⁸

4 37. The requirements for liability under the TVPRA on a beneficiary theory can
 5 be stated as follows: (1) the person or entity “knowingly benefits, financially or by receiving
 6 anything of value” (2) “from participating in a venture” (3) that the “person knew or should
 7 have known has engaged in an act in violation of this chapter.” 18 U.S.C. § 1595(a).

8 38. “Sex trafficking” is defined by the TVPRA under 22 U.S.C. § 7102(12) as “the
 9 recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a
 10 person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.”

11 39. The term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” includes “sex trafficking in
 12 which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person
 13 induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.” 22 U.S.C. § 7102(11).

14 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

15 **The Hospitality Industry Aids and Abets Sex Traffickers**

16 40. The Defendants’ knowledge and notice is not limited to the specific red flags
 17 that Jane Doe 1 exhibited at the subject hotel locations in the presence of the staff. The
 18 widely known and pervasive relationship between sex trafficking and the hotel industry
 19 necessarily shapes what the Defendant’s knew or should have known regarding the
 20 trafficking at their subject hotel locations, including the trafficking of Jane Doe 1. The
 21 hospitality industry has been aiding and abetting sex trafficking for decades.

22 41. Hotels are the primary place where sex trafficking happens.⁹ For years, sex
 23 traffickers have “been able to reap their profits with little risk when attempting to operate

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 26 ⁸ 18 U.S.C. §1591; 22 U.S.C. § 7102.

⁹ “This is not only a dominant issue, it’s an epidemic issue.” See Jaclyn Galucci, *Human Trafficking is an Epidemic in the U.S. It’s also Big Business*, Fortune (April 2019), <https://fortune.com/2019/04/14/human-sex-trafficking-us-slavery/>

1 within hotels.”¹⁰ According to National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics, hotels are
 2 the top-reported venue, even over commercial front brothels, where sex trafficking acts
 3 occur. In 2014, 92% of calls received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline involved
 4 reports of sex trafficking taking place at hotels.”¹¹ Traffickers and buyers alike frequently
 5 use hotel rooms to exploit victims.

6 42. In 2017, human trafficking was noted as the world’s fastest growing crime.¹²
 7 While the term “human trafficking” incorporates all forced labor, the sex trafficking
 8 industry alone brings in an estimated \$99 billion each year making it the second largest
 9 illicit crime industry behind only the sale of all illegal drugs.¹³

10 43. The hospitality industry plays a crucial role in the sex trade.¹⁴ Hotels have
 11 long profited from their reputations as havens of privacy and discretion for the offending.
 12 Despite the known risks and known trafficking crimes, Hotels, including the Defendants,
 13 offer anonymity and non-traceability to the traffickers, making them ideal venues for crime
 14 and sex trafficking in particular. Hotels, including the Defendants, knowingly harbor
 15 traffickers, buyers, and victims.

16 44. According to National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics, hotels are the
 17 top-reported venue, even over commercial front brothels, where sex trafficking acts occur.
 18 Traffickers and buyers alike frequently use hotel rooms to exploit victims.

19 45. Due to the overall hospitality industry’s complacency, complicity, and
 20 reckless disregard in addressing the known issue of sex trafficking, hotels are the venue of

22 ¹⁰ See Human Trafficking in the Hotel Industry, Polaris Project (Feb. 10 2016),
 23 <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2016/02/human-trafficking-in-the-hotel-industry/>

24 ¹¹ Michele Sarkisian, Adopting the Code: Human Trafficking and the Hotel Industry, Cornell Hotel Report (Oct. 2015),

25 ¹² Human Trafficking is the World’s Fastest Growing Crime. May 22, 2017. The Advisory Board. Available at: <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2017/05/22/human-trafficking>

26 ¹³ Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labor. May 24, 2014. International Labor Organization. Available at: http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/ilo-bookstore/orderonline/books/WCMS_243391/lang--en/index.htm

¹⁴ Cavagnar, Giovanna L. C. 2017. Sex Trafficking: The Hospitality Industry’s Role and Responsibility. Cornell University School of Hotel Administration. Available at: <http://scholarship.sha.cornell.edu/honortheses/3>.

1 choice for sex trafficking. Traffickers and buyers capitalize on the hotel industry's general
 2 refusal to (1) adopt and enforce companywide anti-trafficking policies from the corporate
 3 to the property level, (2) train staff on what to look for and how to respond, and/or (3)
 4 establish
 5 safe and secure reporting mechanisms for those at the point of sale.

6 46. Every day, thousands of hotel staff witness manifestations of sex trafficking
 7 and commercial exploitation. Thus, the hospitality industry has the greatest reach to
 8 prevent, identify and thwart sexual exploitation where it is most likely to occur.

9 47. Hotels and motels have the highest obligation to protect their guests from
 10 known dangers, including sex trafficking and sexual exploitation and should be held
 11 accountable when they fail to comply. As stated in a publication by the Cornell University
 12 School of Hospitality, "the hospitality industry is undoubtedly involved in the sex
 13 trafficking industry...and therefore has an inherent responsibility to deter the crime and
 14 can be liable for failing to do so."

15 48. Even estimates by attorneys for the hospitality industry indicate that eight
 16 (8) out of ten (10) arrests for human trafficking occur in or around hotels.¹⁵ The 2016
 17 Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the United States Department of State also
 18 confirmed that human trafficking occurs in the hospitality industry in the United States.

19 49. The complicity of the hospitality industry is essential to the perpetuation of
 20 human trafficking, allowing traffickers to remain transient, collect profits, and evade
 21 detection. Sex trafficking ventures move from place to place so that they are less visible to
 22 law enforcement. Similarly, sex traffickers also want to keep their victims moving from
 23 place to place to isolate them from any possible means of escape or rescue. Traffickers are
 24 well aware of the seclusion and anonymity attendant with booking rooms with certain
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26 ¹⁵ U.S. Dep't of State. 2016. 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report, at 387. Available at:
 https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf.

1 hotel chains, including the Hotel chain named in this complaint — they know it is unlikely
 2 that they will be disturbed.

3 50. Because of this link between hotels and sex trafficking, government agencies
 4 and non-profits have devoted significant efforts to educating the hotel industry, including
 5 Defendants, on best practices for identifying and responding to sex trafficking.

6 51. The most effective weapon against sexual exploitation and human trafficking
 7 is education and training.¹⁶ As PACT concluded:

8 *Due to the anonymous, risk-free nature of the hospitality industry,
 9 children across the globe are exploited in hotels—ranging from budget
 10 properties to luxury resorts. Hotel associates are uniquely situated to
 11 identify and report suspicious activity. From check-in to check-out there
 12 are a number of indicators victims and traffickers exhibit during the time
 13 they are on a hotel property. With proper training, a front desk agent or a
 14 housekeeper can notice that something is not right and respond.¹⁷*

15 52. There are abundant free resources available to the hotel industry that provide
 16 effective trafficking recognition and response training. Every hotel – large and small,
 17 luxury and modest, urban and rural – has the resources to implement a viable anti-
 18 trafficking program.

19 53. Multiple agencies have established recommended policies and procedure for
 20 recognizing the signs of sex trafficking. Each of the following organizations offers guidance
 21 and recommendations for viable programs in this context:

22 a. The United States Department of Homeland Security – DHS Blue Campaign
 23 b. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
 24 c. The Polaris Project
 25 d. The Texas Attorney General
 26 e. Love 146

¹⁶ Polaris Project, *Recognizing Human trafficking*, <https://polarisproject.org/recognizing-human-trafficking/>

¹⁷ PACT USA, *Hotel Training for Associates and Managers*, <https://courses.wearepact.org/hotel-training>

- 1 f. Protect All Children from Trafficking - PACT
- 2 g. United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 3 h. United Nations Global Compact
- 4 i. United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- 5 j. The Code – The Tourism Child Protection Code of Conduct
- 6 k. National Human Trafficking Resource Center and Hotline
- 7 l. HHS/ACF Look Beneath the Surface
- 8 m. Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking - BEST
- 9 n. Sustainable Hospitality Alliance Trafficking Recommendations
- 10 o. American Hotel Lodging Association Trafficking Recommendations

11 54. The leading federal agency in this area is The United States Department of
 12 Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign. The Blue Campaign is the unified voice for the
 13 U.S. Department of Homeland Security's efforts to combat human trafficking. Working
 14 with law enforcement, government and non-governmental and private organizations, the
 15 Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and bring those who exploit
 16 human lives to justice.¹⁸

17 55. The Blue Campaign recognizes that traffickers have long used the hotel
 18 industry for sex trafficking and offers resources for the industry, including an essential list
 19 of actions these businesses can take to help stop human trafficking.

20 56. The Blue Campaign has produced lists of warning signs of human for
 21 members of the hotel industry. The DHS remarked “Hotel and hotel staff are often in the
 22 best position to see potential signs of human trafficking, especially since your duties give
 23 you access to different areas of the properties. You may also have direct or indirect contact
 24 with both traffickers and victims.”¹⁹ Sex trafficking “red flags” applicable to this lawsuit

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 26 ¹⁸ <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

¹⁹ *Id; see also* Indicators of Human Trafficking, <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking>

1 are described below. The compendium of “red flags” is available as part of the Blue
 2 Campaign Hospitality Toolkit.²⁰

3 57. The Blue Campaign provides specific “signs of human trafficking for
 4 housekeeping, maintenance, and room service staff.²¹ According to the Blue Campaign:
 5 “Housekeeping, maintenance, and room service staff typically have the most access to
 6 guest rooms where signs of human trafficking may be apparent. By being conscious of
 7 human trafficking indicators, you can help identify possible human trafficking activities
 8 and victims.”

9 58. There is a distinct list of “red flags” that pertain specifically to “concierge,
 10 bellman, front desk, security, and valet staff.” These staff are typically the first to see
 11 guests when they enter the hotel and should be trained to detect signs of potential
 12 trafficking.”²²

13 59. There is yet an additional category dedicated to providing signs of human
 14 trafficking for “food and beverage staff” in the hospitality industry.

15 60. Some of the recommended policies and procedures intended to reduce or
 16 eliminate sex trafficking in the hospitality industry, which Defendants were aware or
 17 should have been aware of at all subject times of the trafficking alleged herein include
 18 learning to identify warning signs and indicators of sex trafficking, including but not
 19 limited to:

- 20 • Individuals show signs of fear, anxiety, tension, submission, and/or
 21 nervousness;
- 22 • Individuals show signs of physical abuse, restraint, and/or confinement;
- 23 • Individuals exhibit evidence of verbal threats, emotional abuse, and/or

25 ²⁰ Blue Campaign. One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking. Hospitality Toolkit.
 26 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/blue-campaign/toolkits/hospitality-toolkit-eng.pdf>

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

1 being treated in a demeaning way;

- 2 • Individuals show signs of malnourishment, poor hygiene, fatigue, sleep
3 deprivation, untreated illness, injuries, and/or unusual behavior;
- 4 • Individuals lack freedom of movement or are constantly monitored;
- 5 • Individuals avoid eye contact and interaction with others;
- 6 • Individuals have no control over or possession of money or ID;
- 7 • Individuals dress inappropriately for their age or have lower quality
8 clothing compared to others in their party;
- 9 • Individuals have few or no personal items—such as no luggage or other
10 bags;
- 11 • Individuals appear to be with a significantly older “boyfriend” or in the
12 company of older males;
- 13 • A group of girls appears to be traveling with an older female or male;
- 14 • A group of males or females with identical tattoos in similar locations.
15 This may indicate “branding” by a trafficker;
- 16 • Drug abuse or frequent use of “party drugs” such as GHB, Rohypnol,
17 Ketamine, MDMA (Ecstasy), Methamphetamines, Cocaine, and
18 Marijuana;
- 19 • Possession and presence of bulk sexual paraphernalia such as condoms
20 or lubricant;
- 21 • Possession or use of multiple cell phones;
- 22 • Possession or use of large amounts of cash or pre-paid cards;
- 23 • “Do Not Disturb” sign used constantly;
- 24 • Requests room or housekeeping services (additional towels, new linens,
25 etc.), but denies hotel/hotel staff entry into room;
- 26 • Refusal of cleaning services for multiple days;

- 1 • Excessive amounts of cash in a room;
- 2 • Smell of bodily fluids and musk;
- 3 • Presence of multiple computers, cell phones, pagers, credit card swipes,
- 4 or other technology;
- 5 • The same person reserving multiple rooms;
- 6 • Individuals leaving the room infrequently, not at all, or at odd hours;
- 7 • Individuals loitering in hallways or appearing to monitor the area;
- 8 • Excessive amounts of alcohol or illegal drugs in rooms;
- 9 • Evidence of pornography;
- 10 • Excessive number of people staying in a room;
- 11 • Extended stay with few or no personal possessions;
- 12 • Provocative clothing and shoes;
- 13 • Constant flow of men into a room at all hours;
- 14 • Excessive amounts of sex paraphernalia in rooms (condoms, lubricant,
- 15 lotion, etc.);
- 16 • Patrons checking into room appear distressed or injured;
- 17 • Room paid for with cash or pre-loaded credit card;
- 18 • Excessive use of hotel computers for adult oriented or sexually explicit
- 19 websites;
- 20 • Patrons not forthcoming about full names, home address or vehicle
- 21 information when registering;
- 22 • Individuals dropped off at the hotel or visited repeatedly over a period of
- 23 time;
- 24 • Individuals checking into room have no identification;
- 25 • Room is rented hourly, less than a day, or for long term stay that does
- 26 not appear normal;

- 1 • Patrons request information or access to adult services or sex industry;
- 2 • Room rented has fewer beds than patrons;
- 3 • Individuals enter/exit through the side or rear entrances, instead of the
- 4 lobby;
- 5 • Car in parking lot regularly parked backward, so the license plate is not
- 6 visible;
- 7 • Individuals asking staff or patrons for food or money.

8 61. The above policies and warning signs are designed to reduce sex trafficking.
 9 These “red flags” compose the standard of what hotels must look out for and know to look
 10 out for, and all of which have been known to the hospitality industry and G6 Defendants
 11 and the people behind the G6 Defendants’ companies since long before 2018.

12 62. The Department of Homeland security urges businesses – such as the subject
 13 hotels and hotel chains – to utilize the free educational services offered by the Blue
 14 Campaign to help identify victims of human trafficking by raising awareness and
 15 encouraging the public to report instances of human trafficking.²³

16 63. Federal government agencies also publish extensive tools for responding to
 17 suspected sex trafficking. One compendium is the United States Department of Health
 18 and Human Services “Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking – Fact Sheet.”²⁴ This
 19 document acknowledges that responding to sex trafficking requires affirmative action: “It
 20 is important to be vigilant and to ‘look beneath the surface’ in situations that don’t seem
 21 quite right. One chance encounter could be a victim’s best hope for rescue.”²⁵

22 64. It is widely recognized that effective training has a substantial, positive

25 ²³ <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

26 ²⁴ United States Department of Health and Human Services , Fact Sheet: Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking,
 https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/fact_sheet_identifying_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf

25 ²⁵ *Id.*

1 impact on the prevalence and scope of trafficking.²⁶ According to the American Hotel
 2 Lodging Association: “Hotel staff who have undergone training are more aware of
 3 trafficking when it happens and are more willing to report it – than those who have not
 4 been trained.”²⁷

5 65. Thus, when hotels implement viable anti-trafficking measures, provide
 6 proper training, and enforce anti-trafficking policies, trafficking is less likely to occur, and
 7 victims are more likely to be rescued.

8 66. Conversely, when training is not provided and when anti-trafficking policies
 9 are not enforced, hotels and their staff are much more likely to participate in and facilitate
 10 the trafficking of victims like Jane Doe 1.

11 67. From the top, major hotel brands like Motel 6, including all of the G6
 12 Defendants and the people behind each company, know that sex trafficking is occurring at
 13 their properties and they are getting consistent reports from their employees regarding
 14 the same. Unfortunately, instead of taking expedient, specific and zero-tolerance action
 15 and policies to stop and prevent it, Motel 6 companies have merely treated it as a
 16 cost/benefit analysis in terms of how likely they were to get sued or held accountable versus
 17 the profits it was generating. Until recently, lawsuits were not being filed, and they were
 18 not being held accountable. Now, through this lawsuit, Jane Doe 1 intends to hold them
 19 fully accountable and to make sex trafficking an unprofitable venture for Defendants to
 20 participate in.

21 68. To be truly effective, human trafficking training should be part of an ongoing
 22 education and communication program to provide hotel staff with the knowledge and
 23 support they need to ensure a safe environment for all staff and guests.²⁸

24 _____
 25 ²⁶ Emily Roman, “Evaluating the Impact of Training Staff to Identify Victims of Human Trafficking” (2019). Digital
 Commons @ ACU, Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Paper 152, <https://core.ac.uk/download/212874317.pdf>

26 ²⁷ American Hotel Lodging Association, No Room for Trafficking, <https://www.ahlafoundation.org/nrft/>

²⁸ Five Ways Human Trafficking Training Can Help Hotels Increase Awareness and Prevention (2020), <https://hospitalitytech.com/five-ways-human-trafficking-training-can-help-hotels-increase-awareness-and-prevention>

1 69. The relationship between a pimp and prostitute is inherently coercive, and
 2 the United States Department of Justice and other agencies and organizations have
 3 recognized that most individuals involved in “prostitution,” also known as “commercial
 4 sex,” are subject to force, fraud, and/or coercion. It is also well understood that
 5 “prostitution” and “sex trafficking” involve a common denominator: the exchange of sex for
 6 money that goes to a controlling abuser/captor.

7 70. Every day, thousands of hotel staff witness manifestations of sex trafficking
 8 and commercial exploitation. Thus, the hospitality industry has the greatest reach to
 9 prevent, identify and thwart sexual exploitation where it is most likely to occur.

10 71. At all relevant times, there were long-standing, well known, viable standards
 11 of conduct and corporate operations available to the hotel industry to combat, prevent, and
 12 end sex trafficking at their properties.

13 72. At all times of trafficking alleged herein, Defendants understood the practical
 14 and legal association between commercial sex and sex trafficking in a hotel environment.
 15 Defendants knew or should have known that signs of commercial sex activity, in
 16 combination with any other red flags, in their hotels were in fact signs of sex trafficking
 17 and should have and did see signs of the sex trafficking of Jane Doe 1 Jane Doe 1 that were
 18 observable by Defendants.

19 73. Defendants were aware or should have been aware of these signs of sex
 20 trafficking when operating, controlling, and managing their motel properties, including
 21 the subject properties, when enacting and enforcing policies and procedures applicable to
 22 those motels and when training, educating, and supervising the staff of each motel.

23 74. Given the prevalence of human trafficking in hotels and the abundance of
 24 information about how franchisors, owners, operators and hotel staff can identify and
 25 respond to sex and labor trafficking, it has become apparent that the decision of
 26 Defendants to continue generating revenue from traffickers without taking reasonable

1 steps to identify and prevent trafficking in its motels—or in the face of actual knowledge
 2 that its happening—is a conscious decision to financially benefit by supporting and
 3 facilitating unlawful sex trafficking.

4 **G6 Defendants Control the Motel 6 Location Defendants and franchised**
 5 **Motel 6 Locations.**

6 75. G6 Defendants directly owned and controlled, and did not franchise, all of the
 7 subject Motel 6 properties for part or all of the time Jane Doe 1 was trafficked there except
 8 the Motel 6 in Manteca, California.

9 76. For a portion of the time Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at the Motel 6 in Modesto
 10 California and the Motel 6 in Turlock, California, G6 Defendants franchised the properties
 11 and sold them to entities owned by Amandeep Dhillon and Jagmohan Dhillon. During all
 12 periods that these motels and the Motel in Manteca, California were franchised, G6
 13 Defendants controlled many day-to-day operations, benefitted from the room rentals, and
 14 knew that trafficking was occurring at the motels when Jane Doe 1 was trafficked there.

15 77. G6 Defendants are vicariously liable for the acts, omissions, and knowledge
 16 of their Motel 6 Location Defendants and staff of the Motel 6 Location Defendants named
 17 herein, which are the G6 Defendants' actual agents or subagents.

18 78. Upon information and belief, it is a standard practice in the hospitality
 19 industry, followed by all Defendants, for Parent companies to set exacting brand quality
 20 standards reaching everything from the temperature at which coffee shall be served, to the
 21 number of pillows that are placed on the beds, to the décor, to the types of payments
 22 accepted, to procedures followed in response to crime, to when, where, and how guests are
 23 greeted.

24 79. G6 Defendants provide their Motel 6 Location Defendants with signage on
 25 and in front of the building. This is done to assure customers that when they check in, they
 26 can expect an experience consistent with the standards of the Parent Hotel Brand. This

1 brand logo is displayed on everything in the motel, such as pens and paper on the bedside
 2 table and staff uniforms worn at the front desk during check-in.

3 80. G6 Defendants provide their hotel branded locations brand name recognition,
 4 a marketing campaign, and motel listings in the Global Distribution System and other
 5 online agency databases. They also provide access to their brand-wide central reservation
 6 systems, 800 numbers, revenue management tools, brand loyalty programs, internal risk
 7 analyses, internal incident reporting processes, and company websites. Therefore,
 8 bookings, room reservations, and incidents that create liability risk, are primarily
 9 controlled by G6 Defendants.²⁹

10 81. G6 Defendants subject Motel 6 Location Defendants to detailed standards
 11 and requirements regarding the operation of the Motel 6 locations named herein through
 12 the franchising agreements, detailed written policies and manuals and through other
 13 formal and informal protocols, directives, mandates, reporting, and expectations imposed
 14 by the G6 Defendants.

15 82. Upon information and belief, G6 Defendants require their branded Motel 6
 16 Location Defendants' properties to use a property management system. This system is
 17 linked to the G6 Defendants' corporate network and data center. This is to, among other
 18 things, receive reservations, all related customer data, and process payment transactions.
 19 G6 has the data for each of its Motel 6 locations. G6 has the incident reports, including
 20 and especially related to police activity, calls for service, warrants, and surveillance footage
 21 pulled for law enforcement.

22 83. Upon information and belief, per the relevant franchise agreements, G6
 23 Defendants may enforce their brand standards through periodic inspections of the motel
 24

25
 26 ²⁹ Ellen Meyer, *The Origins and Growth of Franchising in the Hotel Industry*, LODGING MAGAZINE (Apr. 10,
 2018), [The Origins and Growth of Franchising in the Hotel Industry \(lodgingmagazine.com\)](http://lodgingmagazine.com).

1 locations, backed up with the ultimate threat of termination of the agreement.³⁰ G6
 2 Defendants keep regional managers and other employees responsible for overseeing their
 3 franchised properties and are well aware of what is going on at each franchised property,
 4 and were aware at all relevant times alleged herein.

5 **Motel 6 Location Defendants Acted as Actual Agents of G6 Defendants.**

6
 7 84. G6 Defendants are vicariously liable for the acts, omissions, and knowledge
 8 of their Motel 6 locations, their staff, and staff of all of the locations named herein, which
 9 are G6 Defendants' actual agents or subagents, including employees.

10 85. G6 Defendants subjected the Motel 6 locations named herein and the owners
 11 to detailed standards and requirements regarding the operation of the Motel 6 locations
 12 named herein through the franchising agreements, through detailed written policies and
 13 manuals, and through other formal and informal protocols, directives, mandates,
 14 reporting, and expectations imposed by the G6 Defendants.

15 86. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant herein, Defendants, and
 16 each of them, were the apparent ostensible principals, principals, apparent ostensible
 17 agents, agents, apparent ostensible servants, servants, apparent ostensible staff, staff,
 18 apparent ostensible assistants, assistants, apparent ostensible consultants, and
 19 consultants of their co-defendants and were acting as such within the course, scope and
 20 authority of said agency and employment, and that each of the Defendants, as aforesaid,
 21 when acting as a principal or agent, was negligent, including but not limited to, in the
 22 hiring, training, retention, and supervision of each and every other Defendant as an agent,
 23 servant, employee, assistant, and consultant.

24 87. Upon information and belief, every act or omission of the Defendants and
 25

26 ³⁰ Many of the franchise disclosure documents, which outline the policies and procedures of franchise agreements
 can be accessed publicly on <https://fddexchange.com/view-fdd-docs>.

1 their apparent ostensible principals, principals, apparent ostensible agents, agents,
2 apparent ostensible servants, servants, apparent ostensible staff, staff, apparent
3 ostensible assistants, assistants, apparent ostensible consultants, and consultants of their
4 co-defendants, whether or not within the scope of their agency, was ratified by the other
5 remaining defendants.

6 88. G6 Defendants obscure the full extent of control they exercise over their Motel
7 6 Franchisee locations and individual locations by treating the manuals and certain
8 policies as confidential and proprietary and prohibiting any public disclosure of those
9 policies and manuals.

10 89. Upon information and belief, the standards that G6 Defendants imposed on
11 the Motel 6 Location Defendants:

- 12 a. Did not merely identify quality or outcome standards but instead
13 specifically controlled the means, methods, and tools Motel 6 Defendants
14 used at their Motel 6 locations;
- 15 b. Covered virtually all aspects of hotel operations, including internal
16 operating functions;
- 17 c. Dictated the specific manner in which Motel 6 Location Defendants and
18 hotel staff must carry out most day-to-day functions at their Motel 6
19 locations; and
- 20 d. Significantly exceeded what was necessary for G6 Defendants to protect
21 its registered trademarks.

22 90. G6 Defendants were in an agency relationship with the Motel 6 Location
23 Defendants. Upon information and belief, this agency relationship was created through G6
24 Defendants exercise of an ongoing and systemic right of control over Motel 6 Location
25 Defendants, including the means and methods of how Motel 6 Location Defendants
26 conducted daily business through one or more of the following:

- 1 a. Sharing profits;
- 2 b. Requiring Motel 6 Location Defendants to use Motel 6's customer
- 3 rewards program;
- 4 c. Hosting online bookings on G6 Defendant's and Motel 6's developed,
- 5 owned, and operated domain;
- 6 d. Regulating internet access for guests;
- 7 e. Setting employee wages;
- 8 f. Making decisions about employment and budgets, including for security
- 9 and management;
- 10 g. Advertising for management and local positions;
- 11 h. Standardized training and methods for Motel 6 Location Defendants
- 12 staff;
- 13 i. Standardized or strict rules of operation;
- 14 j. Oversight in hiring and/or terminating staff and managers;
- 15 k. Building and maintaining the Motel 6 Location Defendants properties;
- 16 l. Fixing prices; and/or
- 17 m. Creating advertising campaigns and unrealistic expectations of safety for
- 18 guests.

19 91. G6 Defendants held the Motel 6 Location Defendants properties to the public
20 as possessing authority to act on their behalf.

21 92. In addition to the ways described above, upon information and belief, G6
22 Defendants exercised and reserved the right to exercise systemic and pervasive control
23 over Motel 6 Location Defendants day-to-day operation of the subject Motel 6 locations
24 named herein, including the following ways:

25 a. G6 Defendants required Motel 6 Location Defendants and management of
26 Motel 6 Location Defendants to participate in mandatory training programs,

1 both during onboarding and on an ongoing basis. This training covered all
2 aspects of hotel operations, including aspects of hotel operations that go
3 significantly beyond what would be necessary for G6 Defendants to protect
4 their registered trademarks;

5 b. G6 Defendants provided training for hotel management and select hotel staff
6 on-site at the Motel 6 locations selected by G6 Defendants;

7 c. G6 Defendants required all hotel staff to participate in training it created
8 through an online learning platform it controlled and maintained;

9 d. G6 Defendants controlled training provided by Motel 6 Location Defendants
10 to hotel staff by dictating the content of that training, providing required
11 content for that training, and dictating the training methods used;

12 e. G6 Defendants retained sole discretion to determine whether all training had
13 been completed satisfactorily;

14 f. For certain products and services that Motel 6 Location Defendants were
15 required to purchase to operate the Motel 6 locations named herein, G6
16 Defendants designated approved vendors and prohibited the locations from
17 purchasing goods and services from anyone other than an approved vendor;

18 g. G6 Defendants required Motel 6 Location Defendants to sign a technology
19 agreement governing the terms under which they must procure and use
20 technical services and software while operating the Motel 6 locations named
21 herein. Motel 6 Location Defendants were required to install, and use certain
22 brands, types, makes, and/or models of hardware, software, peripheral
23 equipment, and support services to perform internal operating functions at
24 the hotel;

25 h. G6 Defendants set required staffing levels for the Motel 6 locations named
26 herein;

- i. G6 Defendants established detailed job descriptions for all positions in its Motel 6 locations and drafted numerous, detailed policies that referenced these positions and dictated which positions must perform which tasks and how they must do so;
- j. G6 Defendants set requirements for the hiring process used by the Motel 6 Locations named herein and oversaw employee discipline processes and termination decisions;
- k. G6 Defendants provided benefits for staff of the Motel 6 Location Defendants;
- l. G6 Defendants required the Motel 6 Location Defendants to use a customer resource management program maintained and operated by the G6 Defendants;
- m. G6 Defendants controlled channels for guests to report complaints or provide feedback regarding the Motel 6 locations and directly participated in the response and/or supervised the response to customer complaints or other feedback. G6 Defendants retained the right to provide refunds or other compensation to guests and to require Motel 6 Location Defendants to pay associated costs;
- n. G6 Defendants generated reports and analysis of guest complaints and online reviews for the subject Motel 6 locations;
- o. G6 Defendants required the Motel 6 Location Defendants to use a Guest Relations Application owned, operated, and maintained by G6 Defendants to manage all guest data and information. G6 Defendants could use the backend of this system to analyze data and generate reports;
- p. G6 Defendants set detailed requirements for insurance that the Motel 6 Location Defendants must purchase and retain the right to purchase insurance for the Motel 6 Location Defendants and to bill them directly for

1 that insurance if G6 Defendants determine that they have not purchased
 2 adequate insurance;

- 3 q. G6 Defendants regularly audited the books and records of Motel 6 Location
 4 Defendants;
- 5 r. G6 Defendants conducted frequent and unscheduled inspections of Motel 6
 6 locations, including the Motel 6 locations named herein;
- 7 s. G6 Defendants retained the right to issue fines, require additional training,
 8 to impose and supervise implementation of detailed corrective action plans,
 9 and to take other steps up to and including termination of any agreements if
 10 the Motel 6 Location Defendants violated any of the G6 Defendants' detailed
 11 rules, expectations, protocols, or policies, including those that governed day-
 12 to-day operations of the Motel 6 locations named herein;
- 13 t. G6 Defendants controlled all marketing for subject Motel 6 locations and
 14 prohibited them from maintaining any online presence unless specifically
 15 reviewed and approved by the G6 Defendants;
- 16 u. G6 Defendants imposed detailed recordkeeping and reporting requirements
 17 on Motel 6 Location Defendants regarding virtually all aspects of hotel
 18 operations;
- 19 v. G6 Defendants supervised and controlled day-to-day operations of the Motel
 20 6 locations named herein through detailed information and extensive reports
 21 that it obtained through the property management system and other
 22 software systems it required the Motel 6 Location Defendants to use; and
- 23 w. G6 Defendants retained the virtually unlimited right to revise policies or
 24 adopt new requirements for the day-to-day aspects of hotel operations.

25 **G6 Defendants Knowingly Benefited from Participation in a Venture with**
 26 **the Motel 6 Location Defendants and Jane Doe 1's Traffickers.**

1 93. G6 Defendants own locations and lend their name and likeness to third party
 2 owners, while the building and operations are under the brands' supervision and control.
 3 This is done through brand standards, franchise agreements, and maintaining control over
 4 all aspects of operations. This allows the parent brand to exchange the high risk that is
 5 inherent in owning an asset like a motel for the low risk associated with owning a property
 6 contract or franchise contract and still profit. Because of this, the motel locations and
 7 parent brands are inextricably intertwined. Here, Motel 6 Hotel Location Defendants and
 8 G6 Defendants are inextricably intertwined.

9 94. Additionally, the following Motel 6® locations were directly owned and
 10 operated by a G6 Defendant Entity, G6 Hospitality Property, LLC so they are even more
 11 intertwined since G6 Defendants essentially all operate together and share the same
 12 information, data, profits, revenue and are controlled by the same individual people:

- 13 • Motel 6, located at 1433 Calle Joaquin San Luis Obispo, CA 93405;
- 14 • Motel 6, located at 1920 W Orangeburg Ave. Modesto, CA 95350;
- 15 • Motel 6, located at 1250 Twin View Blvd. Redding, CA 96003;
- 16 • Motel 6, located at 250 S. Walnut Rd Turlock, CA 95380; and

17 95. The average customer does not see the franchisor/franchisee relationship.
 18 The parent brand gives the franchisee or individual property its identity. The parent brand
 19 provides the signage that assures customers that if they check into that hotel they can
 20 expect the standards consistent with the parent brand. The motel 6s are advertised as
 21 motel 6s, not a motel owned by anyone other than G6. The G6 Defendants hold themselves
 22 out to the public as the owners of the properties. Brand requirements and rules are
 23 contractual with the power to control weighed heavily toward the corporate parent brand.
 24 The Brand, here G6 Defendants, retain control over the properties.

25 96. At all times of trafficking alleged herein and currently, booking and room
 26 reservations are controlled by the corporate parent brands, the G6 Defendants.

1 97. Upon information and belief, at all times of trafficking alleged herein and
 2 currently, the franchised Motel 6 Location Defendants typically pay and paid a percentage
 3 of their total revenue back to the G6 Defendants and is required to develop and maintain
 4 the property in accordance with the parent brand G6 Defendants' standards as they are
 5 laid out in the franchise agreements. G6 retains the right of entry and inspection, response
 6 to crime, response to trafficking, and trainings related to the same.

7 98. Upon information and belief, per the agreements, the G6 Defendants may
 8 enforce standards through periodic inspections and even termination of the franchise
 9 agreement if the franchise hotel is found to be inadequate, unsafe, or operating in violation
 10 of any laws. The right of the G6 Defendants to enforce their brand standards, including
 11 safety standards, is not just their right but their responsibility. Here, G6 Defendants did
 12 have employees in charge of inspecting and that did inspect the properties at relevant
 13 times when plaintiff was being trafficked there and who did see all of the red flags of Jane
 14 Doe 1 being trafficked and who knew or should have known that she, as well as several
 15 others, were indeed being trafficked for sex for long periods of time at their Motel 6
 16 locations.

17 99. At all times of trafficking alleged herein, G6 Defendants dictated franchisee
 18 policies related to safety, security, human trafficking, employee training and franchisee's
 19 response. As to the properties they owned, they dictated every single aspect of day to day
 20 operation and are directly responsible for their employees, managers, supervisors, regional
 21 managers, officers, directors and agents conduct in knowingly facilitating, aiding, abetting,
 22 and allowing trafficking to occur at the subject Motel 6 locations for profit.

23 100. Upon information and belief, at all times of trafficking alleged herein,
 24 reservation information for rooms at the subject motels passed through a system operated
 25 and managed by the G6 Defendants.

26 101. Defendants profited from the sex trafficking of Jane Doe 1 when they rented

1 rooms to Jane Doe 1 and/or her trafficker when they knew or should have known that
 2 human trafficking was occurring due to several red flags being apparent and visible.

3 102. Defendants benefited from the steady stream of income that Jane Doe 1's
 4 trafficker, and many other traffickers, brought to their motels and motel brands.
 5 Defendants profited from each and every room that Jane Doe 1's trafficker rented where
 6 Jane Doe 1 was harbored and maintained for the purpose of sex trafficking.

7 103. Defendants facilitated the trafficking through its practices, policies, and
 8 procedures. They failed to take appropriate action to prevent the trafficking of individuals,
 9 including Jane Doe 1, for sex so they could continue to profit from the room rentals, and
 10 business that trafficking brings. They accommodated Jane Doe 1's trafficker's requests,
 11 allowed cash payments for extended periods, allowed men to parade in and out despite not
 12 being guests, allowed money exchanges to take place in front of them, and watched and
 13 heard physical abuse and rape occurring daily while Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at each
 14 property for long periods of time regularly.

15 104. G6 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants owned and operated the
 16 subject locations while buyers paraded in and out of rooms rented for the purpose of
 17 trafficking Jane Doe 1. Their staff and agents observed and should have observed the
 18 buyers parading in and out of its hotel rooms to engage in the sex trafficking of Jane Doe
 19 1. Their staff and agents observed or should have observed the trafficking occurring
 20 regularly and for multiple days at a time at the subject hotel locations but allowed it so
 21 they could profit.

22 105. Jane Doe 1's trafficking at the subject hotel locations was a result of G6
 23 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants participation in a venture with each other
 24 as well as Jane Doe 1's criminal trafficker. If G6 Defendants and Motel 6 Location
 25 Defendants had not continued participating in a venture that they knew or should have
 26 known violated 18 U.S.C. §1591(a), they would not have received a benefit from Jane Doe

1 1's trafficking at the subject hotel locations and Jane Doe 1 would not have suffered the
 2 harm that she did there.

3 106. Despite its actual or constructive knowledge that the venture it was engaged
 4 in was in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§1591(a) and 1595(a) through the conduct of motel staff
 5 and the widespread trafficking at the subject motel locations named herein, G6 Defendants
 6 participated in the venture by continuing to associate with the motel staff and with other
 7 Motel 6 Location Defendants to operate the hotel locations named herein in a way that it
 8 knew or should have known would lead to further violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1591(a)
 9 including trafficking of victims like Jane Doe 1.

10 107. G6 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants financially benefited from
 11 renting rooms to Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 1's trafficker on numerous occasions since they
 12 benefited each day that Jane Doe 1 was forced to engage in commercial sex at each of the
 13 Motel 6 locations for years.

14 108. G6 Defendants participated in this venture through the conduct described
 15 herein as they were jointly responsible for relevant aspects of motel operations at the
 16 subject motel locations.

17 **Defendants Knowledge of Sex Trafficking at Their Locations.**

18 109. Defendants' knowledge is not limited to a general awareness of the problem
 19 of sex trafficking in the hotel industry. Defendants have known, since well before Jane Doe
 20 1's trafficking, that sex trafficking was ongoing and widespread at their Motel 6 locations,
 21 including the subject locations named herein.

22 110. Use of the G6 Defendants' branded properties for sex trafficking is well
 23 known to Defendants. Upon information and belief, before and at the time Jane Doe 1 was
 24 trafficked at the subject properties, each of the Motel 6 Location Defendants and/or G6
 25 Defendants monitored criminal activity occurring at the branded hotels and were aware of
 26 activity indicating commercial sex, sex trafficking, and related crimes occurring at those

1 branded motels, including the specific motel properties where Jane Doe 1 was trafficked.

2 111. Defendants knew staff at the subject Motel 6 properties were facilitating sex
 3 trafficking and that it was generating revenue through policies that encouraged sex
 4 traffickers to operate at their brand properties, including but not limited to choosing not
 5 to implement policies and procedures known to be necessary to stop known trafficking; not
 6 requiring identification cards or “IDs”; allowing daily payments of cash for extended stays;
 7 complying with requests for rooms to be rented away from other guests; allowing
 8 traffickers to escort bruised and battered women to rooms without IDs; allowing several
 9 buyers to come in and out of the rooms victims were trafficked without ID; ignoring yelling
 10 and screaming from rooms where trafficking took place; ignoring obvious copious amounts
 11 of sex paraphernalia; not addressing the trafficking signs and reports of drugs, abuse and
 12 prostitution; forming relationships with traffickers and treating traffickers like “regulars”
 13 with benefits by accommodating specific requests that entail known signs of trafficking
 14 and not reporting the trafficking or taking any steps to prevent or stop it.

15 112. Defendants have access to reviews left by guests on websites wherein guests
 16 frequently complain about the prevalence of obvious trafficking, hearing physical violence
 17 by traffickers, and other signs of trafficking at the subject locations and at nearly all Motel
 18 6 locations.

19 113. Information that has become public through news stories establishes the
 20 entrenched and pervasive nature of Defendants’ role in providing a venue where sex
 21 trafficking has continued unabated for years. Defendants have provided the means
 22 necessary for traffickers to traffic victims, including Jane Doe 1.

23 114. During the period Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at the subject locations named
 24 herein, there were obvious signs that her trafficker was engaged in sex trafficking. In the
 25 summer of 2020, there were obvious signs that Jane Doe 1 was also pregnant.

26 115. Other girls were trafficked at the same motels at the same time as Jane Doe

1 and that was obvious to Defendants.

2 116. Jane Doe 1's trafficker was often present with Jane Doe 1 at check in and
3 would linger around the hotel or in the parking lot while Jane Doe 1 was forced to have
4 sex with customers at the subject motels. This was all in plain sight of Defendants'
5 employees at the subject locations. Jane Doe 1's trafficker could be seen leaving the room
6 when another male arrived and then returning as soon as that male left. This would
7 happen multiple times a day for extended periods that Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at
8 Defendants' properties for years.

9 117. There was heavy foot traffic in and out of the rooms where Jane Doe 1 was
10 being harbored. This foot traffic involved men who were not motel guests. Several men
11 came in and out of the subject hotel rooms in a single day. These individuals entered and
12 left at unusual hours and were present at the motel for brief periods of time. Their comings
13 and goings were visible to motel employees that were located at front desks and around
14 the property. A reasonable motel would have seen these regular "red flag" interactions at
15 their property in plain sight and Defendants should have seen it and did see it by and
16 through their employees and agents.

17 118. There were obvious signs of trafficking consistent with sex trafficking, and
18 which included well known "red flags" for trafficking in a motel, such as condoms, sex
19 paraphernalia, and lingerie. These things were not only visible to but must have been seen
20 by motel employees entering and cleaning the rooms or even just collecting the trash.

21 119. When forced and coerced into coming and going from the subject motel
22 locations, Jane Doe 1 looked unhealthy, unhappy, abused, and scared. Her trafficker
23 and/or associates were always watching her, and her noticeable demeanor was visible to
24 hotel employees they passed by.

25 120. Upon information and belief, multiple employees at the subject hotel locations
26 named herein, including management-level employees, observed, or were made aware of

1 these obvious signs of Jane Doe 1's trafficking while acting within the scope and course of
 2 their employment.

3 121. As such, Defendants knew and should have known that Jane Doe 1 was being
 4 trafficked at the subject motel locations named herein.

5 122. A brief examination of just a handful of examples shows the extraordinary
 6 frequency with which Defendants have long received and continue to receive evidence and
 7 reports that human trafficking is a known issue at their hotel locations.

8 **G6 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants Knowledge of Sex**
 9 **Trafficking at Motel 6 Locations.**

10 123. A Los Angeles Motel 6® became such a hub for human trafficking and other
 11 criminal activity that G6 Defendants paid to settle a public nuisance lawsuit related to
 12 such trafficking filed by the City of Los Angeles.³¹

13 124. The Los Angeles nuisance settlement required G6 Defendants' to change
 14 policies that were facilitating sex trafficking.³² G6 Defendants knew from that lawsuit,
 15 from many prior lawsuits, from reports from their branded locations and from their
 16 personal knowledge about sex trafficking at their locations that their policies were
 17 facilitating sex trafficking. Based on information and belief, at all times relevant in this
 18 Complaint and currently, G6 Defendants' have failed to adequately implement and enforce
 19 such changes.

20 125. Public statements of G6 Defendants' confirm that they knew before and
 21 during the sex trafficking of Jane Doe 1 that sex trafficking is a problem in the hotel
 22 industry, sex trafficking was occurring at their branded hotels, and that they retained
 23 control over the response of their branded hotels to this problem. G6 Defendants
 24 recognized that "[t]raffickers often use hotels and motels for sex trafficking activities due

25 _____
 26 ³¹ Motel 6 pays \$250,000 to settle human trafficking suit (Aug. 31, 2017), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/motel-6-pays-250000-to-settle-human-trafficking-suit/>.

³² *Id.*

1 to the privacy extended to guests.”³³ They also acknowledged the significant role G6
 2 Defendants’ have in the three D’s: deterring, detecting, and disrupting sex trafficking in
 3 their branded hotels.³⁴

4 126. G6 Defendants acknowledge on its website that it controls the policies,
 5 procedures, training, and codes of conduct that have facilitated sex trafficking at its Motel
 6 Brand hotels, including the subject Motel 6 Defendant locations where Jane Doe 1 was
 7 trafficked and abused.³⁵

8 127. G6 Defendants’ claim to take a zero policy against sex trafficking at its Motel
 9 6 Brand locations, but G6 Defendants intentionally ensure its hotels are “strategically
 10 located . . . close to airports, freeways, and other thoroughfares” making them attractive
 11 venues for trafficking and compelled prostitution.³⁶ For years, G6 Defendants’ have chosen
 12 to place their branded locations, including the subject locations, in known trafficking
 13 areas/hubs. They have scouts that specifically choose these locations after gathering data
 14 regarding the crime and trafficking rates in the area as part of a larger analysis. G6
 15 Defendants then weigh their risk and knowingly choose to put their branded motels on or
 16 near “the blade” or streets specifically known for commercial sex and sex trafficking.

17 128. At the time of the trafficking alleged herein and currently, G6 Defendants’
 18 policies and procedures also provides the means for sex trafficking to harbor victims by
 19 providing low-rate rooms, accepting cash as payment, relaxed identification policies, not
 20 requiring IDs for persons entering and exiting the hotel, not providing adequate security,
 21 and providing multiple room keys for a single person.

22 129. Upon information and belief, before and at the time Jane Doe 1 was trafficked
 23

24 ³³ G6 HOSPITALITY ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING, http://g6propertycollateral.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/G6_TheRoomNextDoor_Training_V12b_NoFacilitator.pdf

25 ³⁴ *Id.*

26 ³⁵ <https://g6hospitality.com/combating-human-trafficking/>

³⁶ Motel 6 – An Iconic American Brand, <https://g6hospitality.com/our-brands/#about-motel-six> (last visited March 27, 2024).

1 at the subject Motel 6 locations, each of the Motel 6 Location Defendants monitored
 2 criminal activity occurring at G6 branded hotels and were aware of activity indicating
 3 commercial sex, sex trafficking and related crimes occurring at those branded hotels,
 4 including the specific hotel locations where Jane Doe 1 was trafficked.

5 130. Scores of news stories from across the United States highlight G6 Defendants'
 6 facilitation of sex trafficking and certainly establish that G6 Defendants' and Motel 6
 7 Location Defendants knew, or should have known, of the use of Motel 6 hotels, including
 8 the subject hotels, for sex trafficking.

9 131. Information that has become public through news stories establishes the
 10 entrenched and pervasive nature of G6 Defendants' and Motel 6 Location Defendants role
 11 in providing a venue where sex trafficking has continued unabated for years. Defendants
 12 have provided the means necessary for traffickers to traffic victims, including Jane Doe 1.
 13 Among notable press involving the frequent use of Motel 6 hotels for illegal trafficking
 14 activity, the following was noted:

- 15 a. In late 2003, a trafficker set up a sex trafficking venture at a Motel 6 in
 16 Connecticut in which two (2) young women were sold for sex eight (8) to ten
 17 (10) times per day.³⁷
- 18 b. In April 2009, a sex trafficking venture operated out of a Motel 6 in Toledo,
 19 Ohio.³⁸
- 20 c. In approximately September 2011, sex traffickers set up an operation at a
 21 Motel 6 in Toledo, Ohio to sell fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) year old girls for
 22 sex.³⁹

23

24 ³⁷ Amy Fine Collins, Sex Trafficking of Americans: The Girls Next Door, Vanity Fair (May 2011),
 25 <https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2011/05/human-trafficking-201105>

26 ³⁸ Five Toledoans Indicted On Sex Trafficking Charges, ABC7Chicago.com (Nov. 7, 2010),
<https://abc7chicago.com/archive/7771888/>.

³⁹ Mark Reiter, Two Toledoans Accused Of Juvenile Sex Trafficking, The Blade (Jun. 1, 2010),
<https://www.toledoblade.com/Courts/2012/06/02/2-Toledoans-accused-of-juvenile-sex-trafficking-1.html>

1 d. From approximately 2012 through October 2014, two (2) men engaged in a
 2 criminal sex trafficking venture of children which operated in part out of a
 3 Motel 6 in Harvey, Illinois.⁴⁰

4 e. Police rescued an eighteen (18) year old girl from a sex trafficker in February
 5 2012, at a Motel 6 in Portland, Oregon.⁴¹

6 f. The FBI investigated and arrested several individuals in December 2012, for
 7 the victimization and human trafficking of several young women and a juvenile
 8 at a Motel 6 in Madison, Alabama.⁴²

9 g. The Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force busted a criminal
 10 enterprise in December 2012 that was selling women for sex out of a Motel 6 in
 11 Anaheim, California.⁴³

12 h. Two men were arrested in March 2015 for sex trafficking a fifteen (15) year old
 13 girl at Motel 6 in Austin, Texas.⁴⁴

14 i. In March 2015, police arrested a man for sex trafficking a runaway seventeen
 15 (17) year old at a Motel 6 in Warwick, Rhode Island.⁴⁵

16 j. Over a fourteen (14) month period ending in approximately April 2015, at the
 17 same Motel 6 in Warwick, Rhode Island had seventy-five (75) arrests on its

18

19

20

21 ⁴⁰ Press Release, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Two Aspiring Rappers Charged With Operating Sex-Trafficking Ring In
 22 Chicago And Suburbs (Jan. 15, 2016), <https://www.justice.gov/usaonil/file/813771/download>.

23 ⁴¹ Press Release, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Tacoma Pimp Sentenced To 25 Years For Sex-Trafficking Two
 24 Victims (Nov. 20, 2013), <https://www.justice.gov/usao-or/pr/tacoma-pimp-sentenced-25-years-sex-trafficking-two-victims>.

25 ⁴² FBI Investigates Human Trafficking At Madison Hotel, WHNT News 19 (Dec. 7, 2012),
 26 <https://whnt.com/2012/12/07/fbi-investigates-human-trafficking-at-madison-motel/>.

⁴³ Suspects Busted in Anaheim Sex Ring, ABC13 Eyewitness News (Dec. 5, 2012),
<https://abc13.com/archive/8909784>.

⁴⁴ Lindsay Bramson, Local Teen Saved from Sex Slavery; Two Charged, KXAN Austin (Mar. 6, 2015),
<https://www.kxan.com/news/local/austin/local-teen-freed-from-sex-slavery-two-charged/1049580764>.

⁴⁵ Amanda Milkovits, Massachusetts Man Accused of Trafficking Teen In Warwick Motel, NewportRI.com (Mar. 24, 2015), <https://www.newportri.com/article/20150324/NEWS/150329666>.

1 property for crimes including sex-trafficking.⁴⁶

2 k. Seven (7) people were indicted in January 2016, by a Colorado grand jury for
3 sex trafficking children from 2014 through the summer of 2015, out of hotels in
4 Denver, Colorado, including a Denver area Motel 6.⁴⁷

5 l. In the summer of 2015, a woman was arrested at a Motel 6 in Great Falls,
6 Montana where she was involved in sex trafficking a seventeen (17) year old
7 girl.⁴⁸

8 m. A married couple was indicted in June 2015, for their roles in sex trafficking
9 minor children ages seventeen (17), sixteen (16), and fifteen (15) years old out
10 of a Motel 6 in Everett, Washington.⁴⁹

11 n. In Tuscaloosa, Alabama police rescued a fourteen (14) year old girl from a
12 Motel 6 in June 2015, and a grand jury subsequently charged her assailant
13 with human trafficking and rape.⁵⁰

14 o. In approximately July 2015, sex traffickers sold a fifteen (15) year old girl for
15 sex at a Motel 6 in Pismo Beach, California.⁵¹

16 p. In approximately March 2013, sex traffickers began operating a sex trafficking
17 venture out of Motel 6 locations in Bangor and Portland, Maine.⁵²

18

19 ⁴⁶ Sarah Kaplan, Crime-Ridden Motel 6 In R.I. Will Hand Over Guest List To Police, The Washington Post (Apr.
20 28, 2015)https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2015/04/28/crime-ridden-motel-6-in-r-i-will-hand-over-guest-list-to-police/?utm_term=.a804ce3f32a8.

20 ⁴⁷ Hsing Tseng, Seven Indicted by Colorado Grand Jury In Child Sex Trafficking Ring Bust, Fox 31 Denver (Jan.
21 6, 2016), <https://kdvr.com/2016/01/06/7-indicted-by-colorado-grand-jury-in-child-sex-trafficking-ring-bust/>.

22 ⁴⁸ Andrea Fisher, Woman Caught Up In Human Trafficking Ring Pleads Guilty (Aug. 29, 2016),
23 <https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2016/08/29/woman-caught-human-trafficking-ring-pleads-guilty/89566374/>.

24 ⁴⁹ Diana Hefley, County Investigating 45 Ongoing Human Sex Trafficking Cases, Herald Net (Jun. 26, 2015),
<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/county-investigating-45-ongoing-human-sex-trafficking-cases/>.

25 ⁵⁰ Tuscaloosa Man Charged With Rape And Trafficking Mississippi Teen, News Mississippi (Nov. 7, 28 2014),
<https://newsms.fm/tuscaloosa-man-charged-human-trafficking-mississippi-teen/>.

26 ⁵¹ Matt Fountain, Four Accused Of Pimping Out 15-Year-Old Girl In SLO Will Stand Trial, SanLuisObispo.com (May 5, 2016), <https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/article75832962.html>.

⁵² Danielle McLean, What Drives Maine Sex Traffickers' Inhumanity, Bangor Daily News Maine Focus (Sept. 12, 2016), <https://bangordailynews.com/2016/09/12/mainefocus/what-drives-maine-sex-traffickers-inhumanity/>.

1 q. Beginning in approximately May 2013, a fifteen (15) year old runaway was
 2 trafficked for sex out of the Motel 6 on Caton Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland.⁵³

3 r. In Richmond County, Georgia a man was arrested at a local Motel 6 in October
 4 2013 and charged with sex trafficking of two young women.⁵⁴

5 132. Ultimately, at least several hundred traffickers involved with hundreds to
 6 thousands of victims have been prosecuted by state and federal law enforcement agencies
 7 for sex trafficking and forced prostitution out of G6 branded locations owned and controlled
 8 by G6 Defendants.

9 133. This sampling of news stories, reviews, and other public information
 10 establishes that, at the time Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at the subject properties, G6
 11 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants knew or should have known that:

- 12 a. There was widespread and ongoing sex trafficking occurring at the G6
 13 branded properties;
- 14 b. Sex trafficking was a brand-wide problem for G6 Defendants;
- 15 c. G6 franchisees and G6's own motel staff were not taking reasonable
 16 steps to identify, intervene, prevent and respond to known or probable
 17 sex trafficking occurring at their motel properties and were facilitating
 18 sex trafficking and harboring trafficking victims at the branded motel
 19 properties; and
- 20 d. G6 and its franchisees were earning revenue by providing venues where
 21 widespread and ongoing sex trafficking was occurring.

22 134. G6 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants were specifically aware
 23 that sex trafficking was widespread and ongoing at the subject Motel 6 locations.

24

25 ⁵³ Anne Kramer, Man Faces Prison Time For Sex Trafficking Baltimore Teen, WBAL News Radio (Apr. 10, 2014),
 26 <https://www.wbal.com/article/106578/2/man-faces-prison-time-for-sex-trafficking-baltimore-teen>.

⁵⁴ UPDATE: Man Arrested For Sex Trafficking, WRDW.com On Your Side, (Oct. 3, 2013),
<https://www.wrdw.com/home/headlines/Man-arrested-for-sex-trafficking-226301261.html>.

1 135. Internet reviews for the subject Motel 6 locations named herein, which G6
 2 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants managed, controlled, responded to and
 3 monitored, show the pervasiveness of sex trafficking before and after Jane Doe 1 was
 4 trafficked. Here are just a few examples:

- 5 a. Motel 6 located, at 1433 Calle San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
 - 6 o August 2011 review "...This one has somewhat transient
 Megan's law registrants."
 - 7 o Google 2020 review "...When I took my dog to go to the bathroom
 I saw a tweeker getting banged out by some dude and what I
 think was the laundry area."
- 8 b. Motel 6 located, at 1920 W Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA 95350
 - 9 o Google review 2020 "There are underage human trafficking
 everyday. Police needs to investigate this Motel on a daily
 basis...They need to get respectful housekeeping at this Motel.
 Seriously... They also know there are underage human
 trafficking at this place."
 - 10 o June 2020 "Horrible! Druggies and drug dealers everywhere.
 Prostitution. Noisy as hell. Front desk does nothing about
 complaints."
- 11 c. Motel 6 located, at 250 S. Wanut Rd. Turlock, CA 95380
 - 12 o September 2013 "...They rent rooms out by the hour clearly to
 druggies and prostitutes and they are not cleaned right."
 - 13 o June 2016 "...But why leave the hotel when there are
 prostitutes and drug dealers for all of your entertainment
 needs."

1 ○ August 2016 "...tweekers and prostitutes kept me up all night.
 2 Coming and going at the room next to our and the room
 3 upstairs."

4 d. Motel 6 located, at 150 Northwoods Ave., Manteca, CA 95336

5 ○ December 2020 "Pretty sure this was a hotel for prostitutes and
 6 drug deals gone bad. The room next to me had a hooker that was
 7 suffering from an overdose and screaming like she was on fire
 8 until 2 in the morning."
 9 ○ January 2020 "Price was ok if you don't mind noise, fights,
 10 barking dogs and hookers."
 11 ○ November 2024 "There was a condom on the ground in the
 12 walkway outside my room and also a syringe left in the shower
 13 and front desk was notified and no one ever came to clean it up.

14 136. G6 Defendants and Motel 6 Location Defendants knew Jane Doe 1 was being
 15 trafficked at the locations named herein by the many red flags present during their
 16 continued stays. Jane Doe 1's trafficker paid for stays in cash, oftentimes was not required
 17 to present ID, paid for extended stays on a day-to-day basis, requested rooms away from
 18 other guest and/or the front desk, obvious signs of illegal drug use, obvious visible signs of
 19 physical abuse, do not disturb signs always up, frequent requests for new linens and towels
 20 but not letting cleaning staff into the rooms, men waiting out of the room while other men
 21 were inside with Jane Doe 1 for short periods of time.

22 137. The calls for service for law enforcement at each one of the Motel 6 locations
 23 named herein show just how much criminal activity was taking place at these specific
 24 locations. These calls for service include but are not limited to multiple calls for suspicious
 25 circumstances, prostitution, suspicious vehicles, domestic violence, battery, sexual assault,
 26 threats, disturbances, and welfare checks. These calls for service would have put Motel 6

1 Location Defendants as well as G6 Defendants on notice of the crimes occurring at their
 2 properties consistent with trafficking.

3 138. While at Motel 6 located at 150 Northwoods Ave. Manteca, CA 95336, Jane
 4 Doe 1 would often run from her trafficker through the hallways screaming. On several
 5 occasions the motel staff asked if she was okay and told her she needed to be less noisy but
 6 did not offer to help or do anything to prevent her trafficker from the continued abuse and
 7 capture. At this location, the owners lived on the property and knew Jane Doe 1's trafficker
 8 and many other traffickers that used their location for sex trafficking. This location was
 9 conveniently placed right next to the freeway, and many males went in and out of the motel
 10 seeking services.

11 139. While at Motel 6 located at 250 S. Wanut Rd. Turlock, CA 95380 the owner
 12 was aware that Jane Doe 1 was being trafficked and approached her several times in
 13 suggestive ways like he wanted to participate. Jane Doe 1 felt helpless and knew she could
 14 not tell the employees or ask them for help because they made it clear they knew her
 15 trafficker and would not help her.

16 140. While at the Motel 6 located at 1920 W. Orangeburg Ave. Modesto CA 95350,
 17 the hotel staff and particularly an African American woman who worked the front desk
 18 held a very friendly relationship with Jane Doe 1's trafficker. She often let Jane Doe 1 and
 19 her trafficker sleep in the parking lot. The abuse that Jane Doe 1 was enduring would have
 20 been evident to the staff because he was aggressive with her in front of staff, she was not
 21 allowed to talk to anyone or make eye contact. Many other victims were being trafficked
 22 at this location at the same time as Jane Doe 1. Jane Doe 1 would often give money to her
 23 trafficker in the parking lot, where he waited after finishing with a buyer in the room. She
 24 would be constantly watched and abused at this location. It was at this same location
 25 where Jane Doe 1 had to be taken to the hospital to have an emergency c-section because
 26 her trafficker forced her to have commercial sex and was so abused so often while pregnant

1 that she nearly lost her child, Jane Doe 2, and her life.

2 **Defendants Participate in the Sex Trafficking Venture that Trafficked**
 3 **Jane Doe 1 where She is Forced and Coerced to Engage in Commercial Sex at**
 4 **Defendants' Properties.**

5 141. Under false pretenses Jane Doe 1's trafficker initially fraudulently promised
 6 love and financial stability. She had no idea he was a trafficker. After her trafficker gained
 7 her trust and confidence, things quickly changed. Jane Doe 1's trafficker began to control
 8 her every move, control her identification, not let her have access to things to get help or
 9 away from him, beat her all the time, deprived her of basic needs, threatened her and her
 10 family constantly, and forced her to engage in commercial sex and follow any and all rules
 11 he set for her so that he and defendants could profit and benefit. He drugged her and used
 12 weapons to control her.

13 142. Jane Doe 1 was drugged, trapped and controlled with severe abuse, threats,
 14 physical force, weapons, manipulation, drug addiction, and coercion. Jane Doe 1 was
 15 trapped and was terrified of attempting to escape.

16 143. From approximately July 2018 and through approximately August 2020,
 17 Jane Doe 1 was a victim of unlawful sex trafficking at the following locations:

- 18 a. Motel 6, located at 1433 Calle Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
- 19 b. Motel 6, located at 1920 W Orangeburg Ave, Modesto, CA 95350
- 20 c. Motel 6, located at 1250 Twin View Blvd, Redding, CA 96003
- 21 d. Motel 6, located at 250 S Walnut Rd, Turlock, CA 95380
- 22 e. Motel 6, located at 150 Northwoods Ave. Manteca, CA 95336

23 144. For approximately two years, Plaintiffs trafficker rotated between these
 24 hotels consistently and regularly. These motels were used by Plaintiffs trafficker for weeks
 25 and months at a time encountering the same staff before switching to the next and
 26 continuing the cycle. Motel 6 was her trafficker's motel of choice because they were known

1 for trafficking, and he knew they would let him get away with it.

2 145. Upon information and belief, the commonly accepted “red flags” of sex
3 trafficking that Jane Doe 1 exhibited were open and obvious to the staff and management
4 of the subject motels. The staff and management reported the “red flags” of trafficking at
5 their subject locations to the Motel 6 Location Defendants and G6 Defendants, which
6 directly placed them on knowledge and notice of Jane Doe 1’s trafficking that was taking
7 place on their owned, managed and controlled properties.

8 146. While in the presence of the staff at the subject motel locations, Jane Doe 1’s
9 trafficker physically, mentally and emotionally abused her. All of the abuse that Jane Doe
10 1 endured was apparent to the staff at the subject motel locations.

11 147. Jane Doe 1’s trafficker used the same locations so often that the staff
12 regularly recognized them.

13 148. Jane Doe 1’s trafficker held a friendly relationship with the staff at the
14 subject motels, and they were aware of his criminal acts. The staff often allowed Jane Doe
15 1’s trafficker to retain the rooms he had reserved for extra time without payment while
16 Jane Doe 1 was trafficked to pay for those rooms.

17 149. While in the presence of the staff at the subject motel locations, Jane Doe 1’s
18 trafficker physically, mentally and emotionally abused her. All of the abuse that Jane Doe
19 1 endured was apparent to the staff at the subject motel locations.

20 150. The motel locations named in this pleading are location in recognized
21 trafficking areas and are well known as locations that regularly invite traffickers to use
22 their rooms to traffic women like Jane Doe 1.

23 151. Motel 6 left the light on for Jane Doe 1’s trafficker and several other
24 traffickers and opened their doors to disgusting, inhumane abuse and sex trafficking so
25 that they could reap the profits for room rentals.

26 152. Every day during the two years that Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at these motels

1 – including during her pregnancy with Jane Doe 2 – the front desk and other staff at the
 2 subject motel locations assisted, supported, facilitated and engaged in numerous
 3 affirmative acts during their continuous and friendly business relationship with Jane Doe
 4 1's trafficker.

5 153. Upon information and belief, while being trafficked at the subject motel
 6 locations, Jane Doe 1's trafficker held a friendly relationship with front desk staff. Jane
 7 Doe 1's trafficker was regularly allowed to wait in the parking lot while Jane Doe 1 would
 8 go back and forth between the parking lot and the rooms to engage in unlawful forced sex
 9 acts and then returning to the parking lot immediately after to hand off cash to her
 10 trafficker to avoid severe abuse, death or harm to her or her family.

11 154. Upon information and belief, while being trafficked at the subject motel
 12 locations, when Jane Doe 1 was threatened or physically abused, if she could break away
 13 she would scream loudly and run through the hallways to get away. Motel 6 staff often
 14 approached her and warned her to be quiet. They didn't help and allowed her trafficker to
 15 take control of her, abuse her, and continue to force and coerce her.

16 155. Upon information and belief, the motel staff at the subject locations who held
 17 a friendly relationship with Jane Doe 1's trafficker often warned Jane Doe 1's trafficker
 18 that the police were either on the way and/or looking for him. Jane Doe 1 heard him talk
 19 about their warnings and knew they warned him on certain occasions.

20 156. During her trafficking period, Jane Doe 1 became pregnant with her daughter
 21 Jane Doe 1. Jane Doe 1's trafficker prohibited her from obtaining appropriate medical care
 22 during her entire pregnancy. Her trafficker forced her to engage in commercial sex acts
 23 during her entire pregnancy during which she would be manhandled, raped, and abused,
 24 and this occurred continually until the very day that she gave birth through an emergency
 25 c-section.

26 157. Defendants were aware of her trafficking and it was visibly obvious to Motel

1 6 staff that she was pregnant during the last few months she was trafficked. After her
 2 trafficker forced her to perform commercial sex acts over 8 months into her pregnancy,
 3 Jane Doe was not allowed to seek care despite desperate pleas that Defendants heard or
 4 should have heard., Eventually, Jane Doe 1 had to be rushed to a hospital from one of the
 5 subject Motel 6 locations. An emergency C-section ultimately led to Jane Doe 1's escape
 6 from her trafficker.

7 158. During the c-section, Jane Doe 1's daughter Jane Doe 2 almost died and was
 8 later diagnosed with cerebral palsy with incomplete quadriplegia. Jane Doe 2's diagnosis
 9 has and continues to require extensive medical treatment and ongoing care. Jane Doe 1
 10 has had the responsibility to and has provided that constant care since Jane Doe 2's birth.

11 159. The Defendants in this case participated as active and willing accomplices to
 12 sex trafficking Jane Doe 1.

13 160. Upon information and belief, the staff at the subject motel locations observed
 14 repeated signs of Jane Doe 1's trafficking but continued to rent out rooms to Jane Doe 1's
 15 trafficker.

16 161. Upon information and belief, the staff at the subject motel locations observed
 17 and reported Jane Doe 1's trafficking to the Motel 6 Location Defendants who also observed
 18 and reported Jane Doe 1's trafficking to the G6 Defendants. Despite knowledge and notice
 19 all Defendants continued to rent out rooms to Jane Doe 1's trafficker despite knowing.

20 162. Jane Doe 1 was forced to work long hours each night. The subject hotel
 21 locations regularly supplied excessive amounts of additional clean towels and bed sheets
 22 for Jane Doe 1's forced commercial sex acts.

23 163. Jane Doe 1's trafficker used the subject motel locations to escort and force her
 24 to have sex with as many as eight or more buyers daily. She was forced to take every single
 25 buyer that requested services. Buyers would come and go from her motel room excessively
 26 without hotel staff intervention.

1 164. For hours a day, Jane Doe 1's trafficker forced her to meet a quota by walking
 2 the parking lot and streets surrounding the subject motel locations while he watched.
 3 Additionally, Jane Doe 1's trafficker advertised her on many different websites where he
 4 posted prices for her services ranging from \$100 "quickies" to \$300.

5 165. While walking the streets, Jane Doe 1's trafficker observed from the subject
 6 hotels' parking lots and drove around and observed her every move so much so that the
 7 Motel 6 staff recognized his vehicle and could have recognized the illegal activity he was
 8 engaging in. Jane Doe 1's trafficker continued this routine over and over again for long
 9 hours and day after day at the subject motel locations.

10 166. Jane Doe 1's trafficker forced her and required that she make at least \$800
 11 per day from engaging in commercial sex acts otherwise her trafficker severely punished
 12 her by beating her, starving her or not allowing her to sleep.

13 167. The staff at the subject motel locations supported the illegal activity of Jane
 14 Doe 1's trafficker such that Jane Doe 1 often collected as much as \$2,500, while engaging
 15 in forced sex acts with buyers coming in and out of the rooms rented by the subject hotel
 16 locations.

17 168. Jane Doe 1's traffickers would often steal money from buyers online and then
 18 they would later show up with weapons and force Jane Doe 1 to engage in commercial sex
 19 with them, these aggressive interactions occurred while in the presence of the subject
 20 motel staff.

21 169. During her trafficking period, Jane Doe 1 appeared visibly malnourished and
 22 under distress, including while she was noticeably pregnant in 2020. During her
 23 trafficking she often was forced to "work" long hours with little sleep and as little as one
 24 meal per day.

25 170. Everyday Jane Doe 1 was forced to wear provocative clothing such as lingerie
 26 and high heels while walking in the subject motel's parking lot, hallways, breakfast

1 areas, and laundry rooms.

2 171. The subject motel rooms that Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at had excessive
3 amounts of cash, condoms, paraphernalia and drugs, which were visible to hotel staff from
4 the hallways.

5 172. Jane Doe 1 was forced to keep her head down and not look at anyone in the
6 eyes or interact with anyone. Although she was terrified of asking for help, it was apparent
7 that Jane Doe 1 was being sex trafficked and abused when she would scream in her room
8 and through the hallways many times trying to escape and/or defend herself from her
9 trafficker's abuse.

10 173. The subject motel locations where Jane Doe 1 was harbored during her
11 trafficking had visible and olfactory signs of illegal drug use and sale.

12 174. Jane Doe 1's trafficker regularly drugged her to force her to submit. The
13 apparent signs of forced drug use would have also placed the staff at the motel locations
14 on notice of Jane Doe 1's trafficking.

15 175. Jane Doe 1 sustained permanent and disabling bodily injuries as a result of
16 the abuse of her trafficker, including her emergency c-section and her daughter Jane Doe
17 2's diagnoses, including cerebral palsy.

18 176. Jane Doe 1 continues to suffer from mental and emotional health problems,
19 which impact her life on a daily basis. It is foreseeable that Jane Doe 1 will suffer from the
20 ill effects of her trafficking for the rest of her life.

21 177. Jane Doe 2's diagnosis of cerebral palsy with quadriplegia was a direct and
22 proximate result of the abuse Jane Doe 1 sustained at the hands of her trafficker and sex
23 buyers. The fact that Jane Doe 1 was a pregnant woman in an obviously unsafe situation
24 was foreseeable and known to Defendants' employees who knew she was trafficked at their
25 properties repeatedly, including while she was pregnant, and witnessed that she was far
26 along in her pregnancy.

1 178. Defendants engaged in overt actions which were the direct and unimpeded
2 causes of Jane Doe 1's trafficking at their motels and Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2's resulting
3 injuries.

4 179. Each of the following "red flags" and/or signs of knowledge took place in the
5 presence and observation of the subject motel staff:

- 6 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker obtained discounted hotel rooms.
- 7 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker paid for hotel rooms in cash.
- 8 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker requested back rooms and those with easy access to
9 the back/side doors of the hotels.
- 10 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker rented hotel rooms for days at a time, encountering
11 the same staff.
- 12 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker kept the 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door at all times
13 and would not let Jane Doe 1 answer the door if hotel staff knocked.
- 14 • The Hotel rooms were occupied by people who did not book rooms and were
15 not authorized guests.
- 16 • Arguments, fighting and yelling took place in the subject hotel rooms.
- 17 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker grabbed and pushed her to the ground at the subject
18 hotel locations.
- 19 • The hotel staff would personally provide excessive towels and linen changes
20 for Jane Doe 1's traffickers.
- 21 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker would wait for the housekeepers to come around to
22 request more towels.
- 23 • Drug use and large amounts of cash were visible to hotel staff from the
24 hallways.
- 25 • There were individuals frequently entering and leaving the room in which
26 Jane Doe 1 was held.

- The rooms in which Jane Doe 1 was held smelled of body fluids and musk, which was evident from the public hallway.
- There were excessive amounts of drugs and foil in the room(s) in which Jane Doe 1 was held which was visible from the hallways.
- There were excessive amounts of sex paraphernalia in the room(s) in which Jane Doe 1 was held, including condoms and lubricant which were visible from the hallways and when the trash was changed and/or the rooms were cleaned.
- The Hotel staff stared at Jane Doe 1 in a judgmental manner.
- Jane Doe 1's trafficker appeared paranoid every night.
- Jane Doe 1 showed visible signs of intoxication and illegal drug use while walking through the hotel and encountering hotel staff.
- Jane Doe 1 showed signs of fear, anxiety, tension, submission and/or nervousness.
- Jane Doe 1 showed signs of physical abuse, restraint, and/or confinement.
- Jane Doe 1 showed signs of emotional abuse, and/or being treated in a demeaning way.
- Jane Doe 1 showed signs of malnourishment, poor hygiene, fatigue, sleep deprivation, injuries and/or unusual behavior.
- Jane Doe 1 avoided eye contact or interacting with others.
- Jane Doe 1 had no control over possession of money.
- Jane Doe 1 appeared distressed or injured due to being beaten and raped multiple times.
- Jane Doe 1 appeared in provocative clothing and shoes.
- Jane Doe 1 was forced to keep her head down and not make eye contact with anyone at the hotels.

- 1 • Jane Doe 1's trafficker controlled her decisions and conversations.
- 2 • Jane Doe 1 was visibly drugged by her trafficker while being transported and
- 3 taken to and from the subject hotel rooms.
- 4 • Jane Doe 1 was often not coherent.
- 5 • Signs of physical, mental and emotional abuse were clearly visible to the hotel
- 6 staff that saw her return again and again.
- 7 • Jane Doe 1 was visibly being abused and forced to have sex while noticeably
- 8 pregnant; Defendants could have seen Jane Doe 2 was in Jane Doe 1's uterus.

9 180. These red flags were open and obvious to anyone working at the subject motel
10 locations and anyone inspecting the location and lasted for two years.

11 181. Jane Doe 1's trafficking had profound effects on her, consistent with "red
12 flags" of trafficking that are well recognized in the hospitality industry. These "red flags"
13 include the visible effects on her appearance, demeanor, movements throughout the motel,
14 her interactions with her trafficker, hotel staff, and others. Observing these effects
15 provided Defendants with notice that Jane Doe 1 was being continuously subjected to
16 coercion, control and exploitation, including while she was pregnant with Jane Doe 2.

17 182. Upon information and belief, these "red flags" were open and obvious to the
18 staff and management of the subject hotels. The staff and management reported the "red
19 flags" of trafficking at the subject locations to the Motel 6 Location Defendants and G6
20 Defendants directly placing them on knowledge and notice of Jane Doe 1's trafficking
21 which was taking place on their owned, managed and controlled property.

22 **Motel 6 Location Defendants Facilitated Trafficking of Jane Doe 1**

23 183. Motel 6 Location Defendants had both actual and constructive knowledge of
24 the trafficking of Jane Doe 1 at the motel locations they owned and operated because the
25 trafficking was the direct result of Motel 6 Location Defendants facilitating her trafficking
26 at the subject locations.

184. Motel 6 Location Defendants, and G6 Defendants, are responsible for the acts,
1 omissions, and knowledge of all employees of the subject motel locations when operating
2 the motels because these acts and omissions were committed in the course and scope of
3 employment and every employee acted as an agent of Defendants. Motel 6 Location
4 Defendants and G6 Defendants ratified the wrongful acts and omissions that was the
5 participation in Jane Doe 1's sex trafficking because Defendants knew that it was
6 happening, knew the employees were allowing it to happen, knew the employees were not
7 trained and/or not following trainings, policies and/or procedures to stop it, and knew that
8 Defendants were benefitting from their employees' participation in sex trafficking
9 ventures through room rentals for the same.

11 185. Despite having actual and constructive knowledge of widespread and ongoing
12 sex trafficking at the subject locations, Motel 6 Location Defendants continued renting
13 rooms to traffickers, including the rooms used to sexually exploit Jane Doe 1 and other
14 victims.

15 186. Motel 6 Location Defendants knew or were willfully blind to the fact that Jane
16 Doe 1 was being trafficked and, despite this, benefited from continued association with her
17 trafficker by providing them with a venue in the form of hotel rooms and related services,
18 to harbor and facilitate Jane Doe 1's sexual exploitation.

187. Defendants also facilitated widespread trafficking at their hotel locations,
including the trafficking of Jane Doe 1 in ways including:

21 a. Allowing inappropriate and inadequate practices for hiring, training,
22 supervising, managing and disciplining front line staff regarding issues
23 related to human trafficking;
24 b. Inadequate and inadequately enforced sex trafficking notice and training
25 for hotel staff;
26 c. Choosing not to report known or suspected criminal activity including

1 sex trafficking according to reasonable practices, industry standards,
 2 laws, and/or applicable franchisor policies and procedures; and
 3 d. Implicitly encouraging the activities of traffickers by creating an
 4 environment where they did not need to incur the burden of taking
 5 significant steps to conceal their activities but, instead, could operate
 6 without concern for detection or interference by the hotel staff.

7 **G6 Defendants Facilitated the Trafficking of Jane Doe 1**

8 188. Upon information and belief, during the times Jane Doe 1 was trafficked at
 9 the subject properties, G6 Defendants participated directly in aspects of the operation of
 10 those subject motels, including the ones it owned the entire time and the ones that were
 11 franchised at any point, that influenced whether and to what extent trafficking occurred
 12 at the motels, including but not limited to the trafficking of Jane Doe 1, as follows:

13 a. G6 Defendants assumed responsibility and control over the human
 14 trafficking response of their subject motel properties, including design
 15 and implementation of practices to prevent trafficking, safety, and
 16 security procedures, employee, and franchisee education, training and
 17 response, partnership with external organizations, and advocacy;

18 b. G6 Defendants retained control over when its branded hotels would
 19 share information with law enforcement and when law enforcement
 20 would be contacted about suspected criminal activity in their branded
 21 hotel locations;

22 c. G6 Defendants retained control over determining which hotels needed
 23 additional training or other resources on the risk of trafficking occurring
 24 and other related criminal activity;

25 d. G6 Defendants retained control to terminate hotel staff and/or a
 26 franchising agreement based on the response to human trafficking;

- e. G6 Defendants determined whether the training is provided, when it is provided, the content of the training, how the training is delivered, who receives it, and the consequences of someone not participating or failing to follow such training; and
- f. G6 Defendants retained control over setting, supervision, overseeing, and enforcement policies and procedures for housekeeping services at the subject motel locations, including how often rooms must be entered, how to respond to guest refusals of entry into rooms, and steps to monitor guest safety issues through housekeeping services.

189. As a direct and proximate result of these egregious practices on the part of the G6 Defendants, Jane Doe 1 and victims of sex trafficking and exploitation have been permanently injured and damaged physically, emotionally, psychologically, and financially. G6 Defendants, together with these Motel 6 Location Defendants, provided multiple venues to Jane Doe 1's trafficker that aided and abetted his trafficking of her. G6 Defendants have been displaying the same level of participation in the sex trafficking industry for decades. It must stop. They must be held accountable.

Defendants are Jointly Responsible for the Trafficking of Jane Doe 1

190. G6 Defendants and their subject Motel 6 Location Defendants were participants in a joint venture with each other, which involved a common enterprise, profit-sharing, a community of interests, and joint rights of control and management, and are vicariously liable for the violations of the other participants in the joint venture.

191. Upon information and belief, the operation of the subject Motel 6 locations were part of a single unified operation by G6 Defendants. Upon information and belief, the subject Motel 6 locations shared common parent companies, were subject to joint control, and operated as an integrated enterprise and/or as alter-egos. Upon information and belief, G6 Defendants acted jointly to own, operate, control, manage, and supervise the subject

1 Motel 6 locations. As an integrated enterprise and/or joint venture, G6 Defendants and
 2 Motel 6 Location Defendants were separately and jointly responsible for compliance with
 3 all applicable laws.

4 **Defendants are Responsible for Jane Doe 2's Injuries**

5 192. Defendants owed a duty of care to ensure the safety of their hotel guests,
 6 including Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2.

7 193. Defendants' staff, including managers, front desk workers, cleaning staff,
 8 security, and other employees at the subject Motel 6 locations witnessed Jane Doe 1's
 9 trafficking and knew or should have known she was in an unsafe situation while pregnant.
 10 The obvious danger Jane Doe 1 – and her unborn baby Jane Doe 2 – only grew while she
 11 was pregnant.

13 194. During the last months of Jane Doe 1's pregnancy, it was obvious and
 14 apparent to Motel 6 staff – who already knew or should have known she was being
 15 trafficked – that she was also visibly pregnant. It was also obvious and apparent that she
 16 was being beaten, raped, and abused by her trafficker and buyers during this time.

18 195. The likelihood of harm to her fetus Jane Doe 2 was foreseeable because Motel
 19 6 staff knew that Jane Doe 1 was being subjected to severe physical violence while
 20 pregnant.

22 196. Despite the obvious and apparent risk to Jane Doe 1 and her unborn baby,
 23 Jane Doe 2, Defendants staff chose not to intervene or offer to help Jane Doe 1 escape.
 24 Instead, Defendants knowingly or recklessly chose to facilitate and accommodate Jane Doe
 25 1's traffickers and to shield them from law enforcement. So, the trafficking, rape, assaults,
 26

1 and physical abuse of visibly pregnant Jane Doe 1 continued every night at the subject
 2 Motel 6 locations.

3 197. The violence ultimately led Jane Doe 1 to require an emergency c-section after
 4 being brutally raped by a buyer at one of the subject Motel 6 properties. Jane Doe 2 had
 5 several health issues as a result of the trauma from her mother being trafficked and abused
 6 at Defendants properties. She was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Jane Doe 2 requires and
 7 will require complex and ongoing medical care for the rest of her life.

8 198. Physical violence and injuries sustained during pregnancy are linked to
 9 increased risk of the unborn fetus developing cerebral palsy, especially in the following
 10 circumstances: injuries are more severe; multiple injuries; when the injuries result in
 11 hospitalization; and when the baby is delivered shortly after the injury.⁵⁵

12 199. Physical violence and abuse that Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 experienced at
 13 Defendants' hotels was more likely than not the proximate cause of Jane Doe B suffering
 14 multiple health issues and injuries before and at birth, including but not limited to cerebral
 15 palsy with quadriplegia.

16 **Defendants are Jointly and Severally Liable for Plaintiffs Damages**

17 200. The venture or ventures in which each Defendants participated were direct,
 18 producing, and proximate causes of the injuries and damages to Jane Doe 1.

19 201. Under the TVPRA, Defendants are jointly and severally liable for all damages
 20 that a jury awards to Jane Doe 1 for past and future losses she suffered as a proximate
 21 result of her sexual exploitation and trafficking.

22

 23 ⁵⁵ Ahmed et al., In Utero Exposure to Maternal Injury and the Associated Risk of Cerebral Palsy, 177 JAMA Pediatr. 53 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.4535>

202. Under a negligence theory, Defendants are jointly and severally liable for all damages that a jury awards to Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 for past and future losses she suffered as a proximate result of their injuries.

CAUSES OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

Sex Trafficking under 18 U.S.C. § 1595

(Jane Doe 1 against all Defendants)

Cause of Action 1: Perpetrator liability under 18 U.S.C §1595(a) based on violation of 18 U.S.C §1591(a) (All Defendants)

203. Jane Doe 1 realleges and incorporates the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 187.

204. Jane Doe 1 is a victim of sex trafficking within the meaning of §1591 and 1595(a) and is thus entitled to bring a civil action under 18 U.S.C §1595(a) against the “perpetrator” of any violation of the TVPRA.

205. Defendants are perpetrators within the meaning of 18 U.S.C §1595(a) because they:

- a. Violated 18 U.S.C §1591(a)(1) when, through the acts and omissions described throughout this Complaint, they harbored individuals, including Plaintiff, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the victims would be caused, through force, coercion, or fraud, to engage in commercial sex acts while at its respective hotel property; and
- b. Violated 18 U.S.C §1591(a)(2) when, through the acts and omissions described throughout this Complaint, it knowingly received financial benefit by knowingly assisting, supporting, or facilitating a venture that was engaged in violations under 18 U.S.C §1591(a)(1) at its respective hotel locations.

206. Violations of 18 U.S.C §1595(a) by each of the Defendants as “perpetrators” operated, jointly, with other unlawful acts and omissions alleged in this Complaint, to

1 cause Jane Doe 1 to suffer substantial physical and psychological injuries and other
 2 damages as a direct and proximate result of being trafficked and sexually exploited at the
 3 Defendants' motel locations.

4 **Cause of Action 2: Beneficiary Liability under §1595 (a) of the TVPRA (all
 5 Defendants).**

6 207. Jane Doe 1 realleges and incorporates the allegations in Paragraphs 1
 7 through 191.

8 208. Jane Doe 1 is a victim of sex trafficking within the meaning of 18 U.S.C §§
 9 1591 and 1595(a) and is thus entitled to bring a civil action under the "beneficiary" theory
 10 in 18 U.S.C §1595(a) against anyone who knowingly benefited from participation in a
 11 venture that the person knew or should have, with reasonable diligence, known was
 12 engaged in a violation of the TVPRA.

13 209. Through acts and omissions described throughout this Complaint,
 14 Defendants received a financial benefit from participating in a venture with each other
 15 and traffickers, including Jane Doe 1's trafficker, despite the fact that each defendant
 16 knew or should have known that this trafficker was engaged in violations of 18 U.S.C
 17 §1591(a)(1) and 18 U.S.C §1591(a)(2) at Defendants' properties, including the subject
 18 locations alleged in this Complaint. As more specifically alleged above, G6 Defendants and
 19 Motel 6 Location Defendants took part in a common undertaking and enterprise involving
 20 risk and potential profits, and here, actual profits resulted. G6 Defendants' and Motel 6
 21 Location Defendants' employees had a direct association with the trafficker and knowingly
 22 facilitated the trafficker, which, as shown more thoroughly in the incorporated allegations
 23 above, showed a continuous business relationship between the trafficker and Defendants
 24 such that the pattern of conduct appears to be a tacit agreement between them. Thus,
 25 Defendants are liable as a beneficiary under 18 U.S.C §1595(a).

26 210. Through the acts and omissions described throughout this Complaint,

1 Defendants received a financial benefit from participating in a venture with each other in
 2 the operations of its respective hotel locations even though Defendants knew or should
 3 have known that this venture was violating 18 U.S.C §§ 1591(a) and 1595(a).

4 211. Violations of 18 U.S.C §1595(a) by Defendants as “beneficiaries” operated,
 5 jointly, with other unlawful acts and omissions alleged in this Complaint, to cause Jane
 6 Doe 1 to suffer substantial physical and psychological injuries and other damages because
 7 of being trafficked and sexually exploited at the Defendants’ hotel locations.

8 **Cause of Action 3: Vicarious Liability for TVPRA Violations (G6
 9 Defendants)**

10 212. Jane Doe 1 realleges and incorporates the allegations in Paragraphs 1
 11 through 196.

12 213. Under the TVPRA and the federal common law, each member of a joint
 13 venture is vicariously liable for the acts and omissions of all other members of that joint
 14 venture.

15 214. Under the TVPRA and the federal common law, an entity is vicariously liable
 16 for the acts and omissions of its alter-egos.

17 215. Motel 6 Location Defendants acted as the actual agents of G6 Defendants
 18 when operating its respective motel locations and in committing the wrongful acts and
 19 inactions alleged herein.

20 216. Through the wrongful acts and omissions described throughout this
 21 Complaint, G6 Defendants exercised or retained the right to exercise systematic and day-
 22 to-day control over the means and methods used by its franchisees to operate its respective
 23 motel properties; and as to the properties it directly owned and controlled, it did the same.

24 217. G6 Defendants are vicariously liable for the TVPRA violations of its
 25 franchisees, the Motel 6 Location Defendants, and the subagents of such.

26 218. Additionally, on information and belief, each of the G6 Defendants

1 participated in a joint venture operating the subject Motel 6 locations when they owned,
 2 operated, and/or controlled each property during the trafficking period. They had highly
 3 integrated operations at the hotels, shared revenue and profits generated from the hotels,
 4 and exercised mutual control over the venture at the hotels. They functioned as a single
 5 integrated entity and/or as alter-egos of one another and are therefore each directly and
 6 proximately liable for the harms and damages caused to Jane Doe 1 as a result.

7 **Negligence**

8 (Plaintiffs against all Defendants)

9 **Cause of Action 4: General Negligence**

10 219. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through
 11 218.

12 220. Defendants owed a duty of care to protect Plaintiffs Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe
 13 2 from foreseeable risks from harm as hotel guests on their properties.⁵⁶

14 221. Through the wrongful acts and omissions described throughout this Amended
 15 Complaint, Defendants employed staff to operate their Motel 6 properties, including but
 16 not limited to managers, front desk clerks, night auditors, housekeeping staff, security
 17 guards, and/or maintenance workers.

18 Throughout the period Jane Doe 1 was trafficked, Defendants, their actual and/or apparent
 19 agents, and/or their employees witnessed the red flags of Jane Doe 1's trafficking and signs
 20 that Jane Doe 1 was in an unsafe, abusive trafficking situation – which included beatings,
 21 rapes, and sexual assaults – while she was visibly pregnant with Jane Doe 2.

22
 23
 24
 25 ⁵⁶ See Cal. Civ. Code § 43.1 ("A child conceived, but not yet born, is deemed an existing person, so far as necessary
 26 for the child's interests in the event of the child's subsequent birth.").

1 222. Defendants repeatedly witnessed Jane Doe 1 obviously under the control of
 2 her trafficker while pregnant. Defendants' employees witnessed Jane Doe 1's trafficker
 3 physically abuse her in public areas of the subject Motel 6 locations and signs of physical
 4 abuse such as sounds of screaming and yelling coming from her room; bruising; scarring;
 5 black eyes; Jane Doe 1 attempting to run away and ask for help; and Jane Doe 1 appearing
 6 abused, malnourished, and scared. Defendants witnessed this both before and during Jane
 7 Doe 1's pregnancy, including up to when she was over 8 months pregnant and crying for
 8 help because she feared injuries to her baby.

9
 10 223. Defendants breached their duty of care by acts, omissions, and commissions,
 11 including but not limited to the following:

- 12 a. Failing to intervene or help Jane Doe 1 despite obvious signs she was
 13 regularly being beaten while pregnant and prior knowledge of physical
 14 violence for a year before her pregnancy;
- 15 b. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees to ensure
 16 proper monitoring of surveillance cameras at their properties for signs of
 17 human trafficking, sexual exploitation, or physical abuse;
- 18 c. Failing to provide and/or train adequate security in their establishments
 19 and/or on their properties;
- 20 d. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees, to ensure
 21 proper monitoring of their establishment for signs of dangerous
 22 conditions;
- 23 e. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees, to ensure the

1 investigation of suspicious behavior at their establishment and/or
 2 properties, which would have alerted the Defendants to the Plaintiffs'
 3 unsafe situation;

4 f. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees, to ensure
 5 proper reporting to law enforcement of signs of guest misconduct, violence,
 6 and crimes at their establishment and/or on their property; and
 7
 8 g. Failing to otherwise provide adequate security and take reasonable steps
 9 to protect Plaintiffs.

10 224. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent acts, omissions,
 11 and/or commissions described above, Plaintiffs Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 were injured
 12 and harmed. Jane Doe 1 suffered serious and permanent physical, mental and emotional
 13 injuries in a sum that will be shown according to proof at trial. Jane Doe 2 suffered serious
 14 and permanent injuries, including but not limited to cerebral palsy, because of Jane Doe
 15 1's repeated beatings, rapes, and assault by her traffickers and sex buyers while she was
 16 pregnant during her trafficking at the subject Motel 6 locations owned and/or controlled
 17 by Defendants. This physical violence was the proximate cause of Jane Doe 2's physical
 18 and permanent injuries, including but not limited to cerebral palsy with quadriplegia. Jane
 19 Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 will suffer like injuries in the future, all in amounts currently unknown to them,
 20 which shall be shown according to proof at trial.

21 225. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent acts and
 22 omissions, Plaintiff Jane Doe 2 has and will suffer every day due to her cerebral palsy and
 23 quadriplegia, and underwent and will undergo significant medical treatments for her

1 injuries.

2 226. Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer from injuries including,
3 but not limited to, past and future conscious physical pain and mental anguish, past and
4 future pain and suffering, and economic loss in the past, present and future, as a direct
5 and proximate result of the Defendants' failures.

6 227. Additionally, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer damages,
7 including but not limited to, a lifetime loss of earnings, a diminution in earning capacity
8 and medical expenses past and future, including the expenses that in reasonable
9 probability will be incurred in the future, as a direct and proximate cause of the
10 Defendants' negligence. Plaintiffs have also suffered and continue to suffer from injuries
11 including, but not limited to, a loss of expected enjoyment of life and a permanent
12 alteration of reasonable pre-injury life expectancy expectations.

13 228. All injuries and damages, past, present, and future were a direct and
14 proximate result of the negligent acts, omissions, and/or commissions of the Defendants,
15 without any negligence or want of due care on the part of the Plaintiffs contributing
16 thereto.

17 229. At all times relevant, Defendants' negligent acts and omissions were a
18 substantial factor in causing the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs at their properties and
19 thereafter.

20 **Cause of Action 5: Negligent Hiring, Retention, Training, and Supervision**

21 230. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the allegations in Paragraphs 1 through
22 229.

1 231. At all relevant times, Defendants owed a duty to exercise reasonable care in
2 the hiring, retention, training, and supervision of their employees, agents, and/or
3 representatives so as to ensure the safety and well-being of its hotel guests, including
4 Plaintiffs.

5 232. Defendants had a duty to implement and follow reasonable policies,
6 procedures, and practices for screening, training, monitoring, and disciplining employees
7 to prevent foreseeable harm to hotel guests like the Plaintiffs from being injured by others
8 on their properties.

9 233. Defendants breached its duties by negligently hiring, retaining, training,
10 and/or supervising Motel 6 employees that Defendant knew or, in the exercise of
11 reasonable care, should have known was unfit, incompetent, and/or posed a foreseeable
12 risk of harm to others, including Plaintiffs.

13 234. The unfitness and/or incompetence of Defendants' employees was known to
14 Defendants or would have been discovered by Defendants through the exercise of
15 reasonable care in hiring, training, supervision, investigation of complaints, inspection
16 and/or disciplinary measures.

17 235. Defendant's negligent hiring, training, retention, and/or supervision was a
18 substantial factor in causing Plaintiffs' harm.

19 236. Defendants breached their duty of care by acts, omissions, and commissions,
20 including but not limited to the following:

21 a. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees to recognize
22 when a hotel guest, like Jane Doe A, is in an unsafe situation;

- b. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees on when and how to intervene to prevent danger to hotel guests, including but not limited to removing dangerous individuals from the property and involving law enforcement;
- c. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees to ensure proper monitoring of surveillance cameras at their properties for signs of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, or physical abuse;
- d. Failing to provide and/or train adequate security in their establishments and/or on their properties;
- e. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees, to ensure proper monitoring of their establishment for signs of dangerous conditions;
- f. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees, to ensure the investigation of suspicious behavior at their establishment and/or properties, which would have alerted the Defendants to the Plaintiffs' unsafe situation;
- g. Failing to adequately train, supervise, and retain employees, to ensure proper reporting to law enforcement of signs of guest misconduct at their establishment and/or on their property; and
- h. Failing to otherwise provide adequate security and take reasonable steps to protect Plaintiffs in the face of foreseeability, notice and knowledge of risk and harm to Plaintiffs at the properties.

1 237. Defendants' negligent hiring, retention, training, and/or supervision occurred
2 within the course and scope of its business operations and created an undue risk of harm
3 to foreseeable victims such as Plaintiffs.

4 238. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent acts, omissions,
5 and/or commissions described above, Plaintiffs Jane Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 were injured
6 and harmed. Jane Doe 1 suffered serious and permanent physical, mental and emotional
7 injuries in a sum that will be shown according to proof at trial. Jane Doe 2 suffered serious
8 and permanent injuries, including but not limited to cerebral palsy, because of Jane Doe
9 1's repeated beatings, rapes, and assault by her traffickers and sex buyers while she was
10 pregnant during her trafficking at the subject Motel 6 locations owned and/or controlled
11 by Defendants. This physical violence was the proximate cause of Jane Doe 2's physical
12 and permanent injuries, including but not limited to cerebral palsy with quadriplegia. Jane
13 Doe 1 and Jane Doe 2 will suffer like injuries in the future, all in amounts currently unknown to them,
14 which shall be shown according to proof at trial.

15 239. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' negligent acts and
16 omissions, Plaintiff Jane Doe 2 has and will suffer every day due to her cerebral palsy and
17 quadriplegia, and underwent and will undergo significant medical treatments for her
18 injuries.

19 240. Plaintiffs have suffered and will continue to suffer from injuries including,
20 but not limited to, past and future conscious physical pain and mental anguish, past and
21 future pain and suffering, and economic loss in the past, present and future, as a direct
22 and proximate result of the Defendants' failures.

241. Additionally, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer damages, including but not limited to, a lifetime loss of earnings, a diminution in earning capacity and medical expenses past and future, including the expenses that in reasonable probability will be incurred in the future, as a direct and proximate cause of the Defendants' negligence. Plaintiffs have also suffered and continue to suffer from injuries including, but not limited to, a loss of expected enjoyment of life and a permanent alteration of reasonable pre-injury life expectancy expectations.

242. All injuries and damages, past, present, and future were a direct and proximate result of the negligent acts, omissions, and/or commissions of the Defendants, without any negligence or want of due care on the part of the Plaintiffs contributing thereto.

243. At all times relevant, Defendants' negligent acts and omissions were a substantial factor in causing the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs at their properties and thereafter.

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITY

244. “Joint and several liability ‘applies when there has been a judgment against multiple defendants.’⁵⁷ If two or more defendants jointly cause harm, each defendant is held liable for the entire amount of the harm; provided, however, that the Plaintiffs recover only once for the full amount.⁵⁸

245. Federal and California law allows an injured party to sue a tortfeasor for the full amount of damages for an indivisible injury that the tortfeasor's negligence was a

⁵⁷ *McDermott, Inc. v. AmClyde*, 511 U.S. 202, 220–21 (1994).

⁵⁸ See 735 ILCS 5/2-1117; see Restatement (Second) of Torts § 875 (1977); *Honeycutt v. United States*, 137 S. Ct. 1626 (2017).

1 substantial factor in causing, without regard to his proportion of fault and even if the
 2 concurrent negligence of others contributed to the incident.⁵⁹

3 Plaintiffs allege Defendants, and each of them, should be held joint and severally
 4 liable to Plaintiffs for the totality of her injuries and damages alleged herein.

5 **DAMAGES**

6 246. Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions described above, individually and
 7 collectively, caused Plaintiffs to sustain legal damages.

8 247. Plaintiffs did suffer the following injuries as a direct and proximate result of
 9 Defendants', and each of their, wrongful actions and inactions alleged herein, and as such
 10 Plaintiffs are entitled to be compensated for past and future personal injuries, non-
 11 economic damages, and economic damages, see, e.g., 18 U.S.C. §§ 1593, 1595, including:

- 12 a. actual damages;
- 13 b. direct damages;
- 14 c. incidental and consequential damages;
- 15 d. lost earnings and lost earning capacity;
- 16 e. necessary medical expenses;
- 17 f. life care expenses;
- 18 g. physical pain and suffering;
- 19 h. physical impairment;
- 20 i. mental anguish and emotional distress damages (until trial and in the
 future);
- 21 j. restitution;
- 22 k. unjust enrichment; and
- 23 l. disgorgement of profits.

26 ⁵⁹ *Edmonds v. Compagnie Generale Transatlantique*, 443 U.S. 256 (1979) (citations omitted); *Manganiello v. City
 of New York*, No. 07 Civ. 3644, 2008 WL 2358922 (S.D.N.Y. June 10, 2008), affirmed, 612 F.3d 149 (2nd Cir. 2010).

248. Plaintiffs are entitled to pre- and post-judgment interest at the maximum legal rates.

PUNITIVE DAMAGES

249. Plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages under the applicable statutes and common law against Defendants, and each of them, for each and every cause of action alleged herein, as a result of Defendants' outrageous, wanton, willful, and malicious conduct underlying Jane Doe 1's claims. See *Ditullio v. Boehm*, 662 F.3d 1091 (9th Cir. 2011).

COSTS AND ATTORNEY FEES

250. Plaintiffs are entitled to recover costs and reasonable, necessary, or customary attorneys' fees from Defendants under common law and applicable statutes. See 18 U.S.C. § 1595(a).

251. All conditions precedent to Plaintiffs' recovery of its costs and attorneys' fees have occurred or will occur prior to entry of judgment in this suit.

JURY DEMAND

252. Plaintiffs request a jury trial in this action.

PRAYER

For these reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully pray that this case be set for trial before a jury, and that upon a final hearing of the cause, judgment be entered for Plaintiffs against Defendants jointly and severally, for:

- a. all economic damages to which they are entitled;
- b. all actual damages to which they are entitled;
- c. all incidental and consequential damages to which she is entitled;
- d. all mental anguish and emotional distress damages to which they are entitled;
- e. all restitution damages to which they are entitled;

- 1 f. all disgorgement of profits to which they are entitled;
- 2 g. all unjust enrichment damages to which they are entitled;
- 3 h. exemplary, treble, and/or punitive damages;
- 4 i. attorneys' fees and costs of suit;
- 5 j. pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest rate allowed by
- 6 law; and
- 7 k. all other relief to which she is entitled in law or in equity.

8 SINGLETON SCHREIBER

9 Dated: January 12, 2026

/s/ Meagan Verschueren

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