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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

**DISTRICT OF NEVADA** 

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JANE DOE, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

NEVADAPURE, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company doing business under the fictitious firm name of SHANGO LAS VEGAS,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:19-cv-01664-JCM-VCF

JOINT STIPULATION AND ORDER TO STAY PROCEEDINGS FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY DAYS

(Third Request)

Plaintiff Jane Doe ("Plaintiff"), by and through her counsel, Melanie Hill Law PLLC, and Defendant NevadaPure, LLC dba Shango Las Vegas ("Defendant"), by and through its counsel, Kamer Zucker Abbott, stipulate and request that the Court stay these proceedings for an additional thirty (30) days, through and including September 2, 2020, in light of orders and recommendations from the Governor of Nevada to limit in-person interactions, maintain proper social distancing, and wear masks in public as non-essential business begin to resume operations during phase two of the current pandemic. In support of this Stipulation, the parties state as follows:

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- 1. The parties entered into a Stipulation and the Court entered an Order staying this case and all related deadlines for sixty (60) days on April 13, 2020 [ECF No. 23].
- 2. The parties entered into a second Stipulation and the Court entered an Order staying this case and all related deadlines for an additional sixty (60) days on June 5, 2020 [ECF No. 29].
- 3. The Stipulations were entered into due to the COVID-19 pandemic taking place all over the world and to abide by the stay at home orders and social distancing guidelines in place at the time of the stipulations.
- 4. In the Stipulations, the parties agreed to confer about requesting an extension of the stay and file an appropriate motion to extend the stay if the pandemic had not been sufficiently suppressed. The parties have conferred and do believe an additional stay of thirty days would be beneficial prior to setting discovery deadlines in this case and would allow the parties time to further engage in informal settlement negotiations. While shut-down requirements in Nevada have eased, the pandemic is still a threat to the parties and their respective counsel's health and safety in light of orders and recommendations from the Governor of Nevada to limit in-person interactions, maintain proper social distancing, and wear masks in public as non-essential business begin to resume operations during phase two of the current pandemic wherein Governor Sisolak is currently rolling back the reopening and recently shut down bars in Clark county and other counties in Nevada and issued a mask mandate to children when they go back to school. Additionally, the Clark County School District is not reopening and is doing distance learning this Fall.
- 5. As part of the Order staying this case, the parties' deadline to submit their Discovery Plan and Scheduling Order ("DPSO") was stayed for an additional sixty-seven (67)

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days until August 10, 2020 and the opposition deadlines relative to the pending motions were stayed and reset to September 2, 2020.

- 6. The parties previously agreed that in the event the pandemic had been sufficiently suppressed by August 3, 2020, the parties agreed to file their DPSO within seven (7) days of the lifting of the stay setting the discovery deadlines in this case.
- 7. The parties further agreed that in the event the pandemic had been sufficiently suppressed by August 3, 2020, the parties agreed that Plaintiff's Opposition deadlines be continued thirty (30) days from the date the stay is lifted to September 2, 2020.
- 8. The parties also entered into a Stipulation and the Court entered an Order staying the early neutral evaluation conference in this case on April 23, 2020 [ECF No. 26] to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic, related case Stay, and the parties request to allow them time to engage in further informal settlement discussions.
- 9. In an effort to set realistic discovery deadlines due to the current pandemic, stay at home order, closures of nonessential businesses, phased reopening of nonessential businesses, and strict social distancing guidelines, and to conserve the parties' and the court's limited time and resources due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the parties sought and the Court ordered a Stay of all proceedings for sixty (60) days.
- As stated in the prior stipulation, the parties intend to engage in written discovery 10. and depositions which are impacted by the closure of third-party businesses, strict social distancing guidelines, recommendations to wear masks in public, and the Defendant's reduced operations.
- 11. The parties plan to conduct at least two depositions, which would require inperson interactions that should still be avoided at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic and

the declaration of a national emergency and Nevada state of emergency to protect the health and safety of the parties and their respective counsel. Even video conferencing depositions would require at least a videographer in the same room as both the deposing attorney and the witness being deposed and the parties prefer in person depositions to allow for them to confer with their clients, if necessary, throughout the depositions.

- 12. Further, at least some of the witnesses may be subject to state school and business closures and are expected to stay home at this time and/or are impacted by the closures of schools, summer camps, and childcare providers.
- and do believe an additional Stay of thirty (30) days is necessary so that social distancing can continue to be maintained, for the protection of the parties and their respective counsel's health and safety, and to ensure that the parties can set realistic discovery deadlines when they prepare and file their DPSO. The parties also desire to participate in an early neutral evaluation conference with social distancing that is not possible or safe at this time until more information becomes known regarding the continued reopening of businesses or tightening of restrictions on reopening due the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic that has been acknowledged by the revision of Nevada's Road to Recovery, amended on August 3, 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- 14. While the shut-down requirements in Nevada have eased, the pandemic is still a threat and in person meetings and depositions are still discouraged to allow for proper social distancing at this time. Further, social distancing with face masks is the preferred form of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>See https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Road-to-Recovery.pdf</u>, which focuses on critical statewide and county metrics and a targeted approach, and which provides for a return to "baseline" mitigation efforts if additional suppression criteria are not met.

interaction at this phase of the pandemic, which may interfere with the taking of depositions and participation in the early neutral evaluation conference. Further, Plaintiff's counsel is considered at higher risk and is taking continued precautions as restrictions are eased.

- 15. In the event the pandemic has been sufficiently suppressed by September 2, 2020, and social distancing is eased to allow for an early neutral evaluation conference and in person depositions to be conducted in a safe manner, the parties agree to submit their DPSO within seven (7) days of the lifting of the stay of setting forth requested discovery deadlines on or before September 9, 2020.
- 16. In the event the pandemic has been sufficiently suppressed by September 2, 2020, the parties agree that Plaintiff's opposition deadlines be continued thirty (30) days from the date the stay is lifted to October 2, 2020.
- 17. In the event the pandemic has been sufficiently suppressed by September 2, 2020, and social distancing is eased to allow for an in-person early neutral evaluation conference, the parties agree to submit a joint request within seven (7) days of the lifting of the Stay, for the early neutral evaluation conference be reset on or before September 9, 2020.
- 18. In the event the pandemic has not been sufficiently suppressed by September 2, 2020, the parties will further confer about requesting an extension of the stay and file an appropriate motion on or before September 9, 2020.
- 19. This request for an additional thirty (30) day Stay of proceedings is not sought for any improper purpose or other reason of delay. Rather, it is sought only to conserve the parties' and court's respective resources and efficiently yet responsibly set discovery deadlines.

WHEREFORE, the parties respectfully request that the Court stay the proceedings in this case for the next thirty (30) days, through and including September 2, 2020. In the event

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1 the pandemic has been sufficiently suppressed by September 2, 2020, the parties shall submit 2 their Joint DPSO and joint request for the early neutral evaluation conference be reset by 3 September 9, 2020. In the event the pandemic has not been sufficiently suppressed by 4 September 2, 2020, the parties will further confer about requesting an extension of the Stay and 5 file an appropriate motion on or before September 9, 2020. 6 7 DATED this 6th day of August, 2020. 8 Respectfully submitted, Respectfully submitted, 9 MELANIE HILL LAW PLLC KAMER ZUCKER ABBOTT 10 11 /s/ Melanie Hill /s/ Jen Sarafina 12 Melanie A. Hill, Esq. (NV Bar No. 8796) Jen J. Sarafina, Esq. (NV Bar No. 9679) 13 520 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A Nicole A. Martin, Esq. (NV Bar No. 13423) Las Vegas, NV 89101 3000 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 3 14 Tel.: (702) 362-8500 Las Vegas, NV 89102 Tel: (702) 259-8640 Fax: (702) 362-8505 15 Melanie@MelanieHillLaw.com Fax: (702) 259-8646 16 Attorneys for Plaintiff Jane Doe Attorneys for Defendant NevadaPure, LLC 17 18 IT IS SO ORDERED. 19 Dated August 14, 2020. 20 21 22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 23 24 25 26

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