

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
CASE NO. 16-24732-CIV-ALTONAGA/O'SULLIVAN

MARIA T. AGUERO, on behalf of herself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

HOTEL CONNECTIONS INC.,
a Florida corporation,

Defendant.

**ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND
RECOMMENDING THAT THE CASE BE DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**

THIS MATTER came before the Court *sua sponte* following a settlement conference before the undersigned and the Court having conducted a hearing concerning the settlement.

THE COURT has heard from counsel and considered the terms of the Settlement Agreements, the pertinent portions of the record, and is otherwise fully advised in the premises.

This case involves a claim for unpaid overtime compensation under the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, *et seq* ("FLSA"). In reviewing a settlement of an FLSA private claim, a court must "scrutiniz[e] the settlement for fairness," and determine that the settlement is a "fair and reasonable resolution of a bona fide dispute over FLSA provisions." *Lynn Food Stores v. United States*, 679 F.2d 1350, 1352-53 (11th Cir. 1982). A settlement entered into in an adversarial context where both sides are represented by counsel throughout litigation "is more likely to reflect a reasonable compromise of disputed issues." *Id.* The district court may approve the settlement in

order to promote the policy of encouraging settlement of litigation. Id. at 1354.

In this case, there is a bona fide factual dispute as to the number of overtime hours worked by the plaintiff, if any. Additionally, there is a legal dispute as to whether the plaintiff is an exempt employee under the FLSA. The Court has reviewed the terms of the Settlement Agreement including the amount to be received by the plaintiff and the attorney's fees and costs to be received by counsel and finds that the compromise reached by the parties is a fair and reasonable resolution of the parties' bona fide disputes. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the parties' Settlement Agreement (including attorney's fees and costs) is hereby APPROVED. It is further

RECOMMENDED that this case be dismissed with prejudice that the Court retain jurisdiction until **March 3, 2017** to enforce the terms of the settlement.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida this **13th** day of January, 2017.


JOHN J. O'SULLIVAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Copies provided to:
United States District Judge Altonaga
All counsel of record