

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
CASE NO. 18-20559-CIV-UNGARO/O'SULLIVAN

WILLIE HOUSEAL, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

NEW KRISHNA, LLC, a Florida limited liability company d/b/a KNIGHT'S INN OF FLORIDA CITY; NEW LAXMI, LLC, a Florida limited liability company d/b/a HOLIDAY MOTEL; NEW GAYATRI, INC., a Florida for-profit corporation d/b/a BUDGET HOST INN; KUNAL PATEL; NEEL PATEL; and JAGDISHBHAI C. PATEL d/b/a JAGDISH PATEL,

Defendants.

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

THIS MATTER came before the Court 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 agreement, the pertinent portions of the record, and is otherwise fully advised in the premises.

This case involves claims for minimum wage and 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 over the number of hours, if any, for which the plaintiff was not properly compensated. The terms of the settlement were announced on the record in open Court. 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 and that the Court **retain jurisdiction until November 1, 2018** to enforce the terms of the settlement.¹

DONE AND ORDERED, in Chambers, at Miami, Florida this **27th** day of April, 2018.



JOHN J. O'SULLIVAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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

¹ At the April 27, 2018 fairness hearing, the parties consented to magistrate judge jurisdiction for all future proceedings including any enforcement motions.