# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

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WOODBRIDGE GROUP OF COMPANIES, LLC, et al., 1

Debtors.

Chapter 11

Case No. 17-12560 (KJC)

(Jointly Administered)

Ref. Doc. No. 3184, 3263

ORDER, PURSUANT TO SECTION 105(a) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019, APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN DEBTOR BELLFLOWER FUNDING, LLC AND 50 WEST OWNERS CORP. AND AKAM ASSOCIATES, INC.

Upon the Order, Pursuant to Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, Approving the Settlement Agreement by and between Debtor Bellflower Funding, LLC and 50 West Owners Corp. and AKAM Associates, Inc. (the "Motion")<sup>2</sup> filed by the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors"); and this Court having found that it has jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012; and this Court having found that venue of these cases and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that this matter is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C.

The last four digits of Woodbridge Group of Companies, LLC's federal tax identification number are 3603. The mailing address for Woodbridge Group of Companies, LLC is 14140 Ventura Boulevard #302, Sherman Oaks, California 91423. Due to the large number of debtors in these cases, which are being jointly administered for procedural purposes only, a complete list of the Debtors, the last four digits of their federal tax identification numbers, and their addresses are not provided herein. A complete list of this information may be obtained on the website of the Debtors' noticing and claims agent at <a href="https://www.gardencitygroup.com/cases/WGC">www.gardencitygroup.com/cases/WGC</a>, or by contacting the undersigned counsel for the Debtors.

Capitalized terms used, but not otherwise defined herein, have the meaning given to them in the Motion. 01:23877944.3

set forth in the Motion and that such notice is adequate and no other or further notice need be given; and this Court having found and determined that the relief sought in the Motion is in the best interest of the Debtors, their estates, and their creditors; and that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion, the *Declaration of Bradley D. Sharp in Support of the Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order, Pursuant to Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, Approving the Settlement Agreement by and between Debtor Bellflower Funding, LLC and 50 West Owners Corp. and AKAM Associates, Inc.*, and that the record of the Chapter 11 Cases establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein.
- 2. Pursuant to section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, the Settlement Agreement, attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u>, is approved, and the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement (including, without limitation, the mutual releases set forth therein) are incorporated into this Order as if fully set forth herein.
- 3. The Debtors and Defendants, as applicable, are authorized and empowered to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to consummate, carry out, effectuate, or otherwise enforce the terms, conditions, and provisions of the Settlement Agreement.
- 4. The Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the parties thereto and their respective successors and assigns.

The Court shall retain jurisdiction and power over any and all matters arising from 5. or related to the interpretation or implementation of this Order or the Settlement Agreement.

Dated: Wilmington, Delaware

# **EXHIBIT 1**

**Settlement Agreement** 

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

BELLFLOWER FUNDING LLC.

Plaintiff(s).

-Against-

50 WEST OWNERS CORP. and AKAM ASSOCIATES, INC.,

Defendant(s).

Index No.: 654851/2017

STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED, BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES HERETO AND THEIR ATTORNEYS, THAT THE WITHIN ENTITLED ACTION IS HEREBY SETTLED UPON THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

WHEREAS, Defendant 50 WEST OWNERS CORP. (the "Corporation") is a cooperative housing corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, which owns the residential cooperative apartment building located at 50 West 96th Street, New York, New York 10025 (the "Premises"); and

WHEREAS, Defendant AKAM ASSOCIATES, INC., is the managing agent (the "Managing Agent") for the Corporation and is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York (the Corporation and the Managing Agent are hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Defendants"); and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff BELLFLOWER FUNDING LLC ("Plaintiff") (Plaintiff and Defendants are sometimes individually referred to as "Party" and collectively as "Parties") was the successful bidder for shares of stock (the "Shares") and a proprietary lease (the "Lease") attributable to apartment 12B (the "Apartment") in the Premises, at the foreclosure sale (the "Foreclosure") for the Shares and Lease owned by Twelve Bee Corp. ("Twelve Bee"), an affiliate

of the former sponsor of the premises (the "Sponsor") pursuant to a loan made by Plaintiff to Twelve Bee; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Foreclosure, Plaintiff is entitled to become the the owner of the Shares and Lease allocated to the Apartment; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2017, Plaintiff commenced the instant proceeding in Supreme Court, New York County, under Index Number 654851/2017 (the "Action"), seeking various forms of relief by the filing of a summons and complaint; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2018, Plaintiff filed a voluntary petition under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Bankruptcy Court"), and is one debtor in a jointly-administered case involving multiple entities (collectively, the "Debtors") pending under Case Number 17-12560 (the "Woodbridge Bankruptcy"); and

WHEREAS, the Apartment is presently occupied by tenant, Cynthia Burke and/or any persons related to and/or residing with Cynthia Burke (collectively, the "Tenant"); and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to reach a full and final settlement of the Action and all matters arising therefrom;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth herein, it is hereby stipulated and agreed by and among the Parties, subject to the approval of the Bankruptcy Court, as follows:

1. <u>Jurisdiction</u>. The Parties consent to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York; provided, however, that Plaintiff must first seek approval of the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement from the Bankruptcy Court. Promptly after execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, the Debtors shall file a motion under Bankruptcy Rule 9019 with the Bankruptcy Court seeking such approval (the "Approval").

Motion"). Debtors' counsel shall supply a draft of the Approval Motion to Defendants' counsel for any comments or edits, prior to filing same in Bankruptcy Court. The effectiveness of this Stipulation of Settlement is subject in all respects to the approval of the Bankruptcy Court and shall be effective upon entry of a final order of the Bankruptcy Court approving this Stipulation of Settlement (the "Effective Date").

2. Settlement Payment, Plaintiff agrees to pay the sums of: (i) \$17,500.00 (the "Flip Tax") and (ii) the total outstanding monthly maintenance and other related charges owed pursuant to the Shares and Lease as of the Effective Date, (which equals \$69,593.08 as of November 30, 2018, but shall continue to accumulate monthly) (the "Back Due Charges") (the Flip Tax and the Back Due Charges shall be collectively referred to as the "Settlement Sum") to Defendants, together with any administrative fees payable to the managing agent and/or the Corporation's attorney in connection with the Transfer of Shares (as that term is defined herein), as a full and complete settlement of any and all claims that Defendants may have as to any amounts due to Defendants related to the Flip Tax, the Back Due Charges, and/or any other amounts allegedly due under the Lease, the Corporation's By-Laws (the "By-Laws"), the Sponsor's Offering Plan (the "Offering Plan"), and/or any agreement between the Parties or between the Defendants and Plaintiff's predecessor(s) in interest, including but not limited to an agreement dated May 17, 1994. Payment by Plaintiff under this paragraph shall be made at the same time as the formal transfer of the Shares and Lease as set forth in paragraph 5 below (it being understood and agreed that Plaintiff's ownership of the Shares and rights under the Lease occurred on the date of the Foreclosure and that the transfer contemplated hereunder relates to that date).

- 3. <u>Late Charges</u>. Upon full payment of the Settlement Sum, Defendants agree to waive any and all late charges that have been assessed against the Shares and Lease, through and including the date of closing. Defendants further agree to remove any such charges from the account for the Apartment and/or the Plaintiff.
- 4. Unsold Share Status. Defendants agree to recognize Plaintiff, its successors and assigns, as of the date of the Foreclosure, as "holders of unsold shares" as that term is defined in the Offering Plan and the Lease, and Plaintiff, its successors and/or assigns, shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of same (the "Unsold Share Status") as set forth in the Lease, By-Laws, and the Corporation's House Rules and Regulations (the "House Rules") (the Lease, By-Laws, and House Rules are collectively the "Governing Documents"). Notwithstanding anything to contrary contained here, the Plaintiff, its successors and/or assigns, shall be recognized as "holders of unsold shares" until either: (i) Plaintiff, or any of its successors, assigns, principals, shareholders, officers, employees, or other related person to any of the foregoing, either occupy or have a family member occupy the Apartment as specified in paragraph 38 of the Lease, or (ii) Tenant vacates the Apartment, in which case any subsequent transfer and/or sale shall be to a bonafide occupant who shall not receive this Unsold Share Status. This Unsold Share Status shall include exemption from the payment by the Plaintiff, its successors and/or assigns of fees or flip taxes of any kind whatsoever, aside from the Settlement Sum, if and/or when Plaintiff, its successors and/or assigns sell the Apartment with the exception of the administrative fees payable to the managing agent and/or the Corporation's attorney in connection with any transfer of the Shares and Lease. Furthermore, as set forth in the Governing Documents, if and/or when Plaintiff, its successors and/or assigns sell the Apartment, Plaintiff, its successors and

- assigns shall be entitled to transfer its Unsold Share Status and the exemption referred to herein, except as otherwise set forth herein or in the Governing Documents. These terms shall also apply to any transfers for "no consideration" between and/or among Plaintiff, its successors and assigns, and any related and/or affiliated entities.
- Transfer of Shares. Upon the Effective Date, Defendants agree to facilitate the transfer of the physical Shares and Lease to Plaintiff, or such other entity as Plaintiff may designate, and the Unsold Share Status as to same, provided there is compliance with the Governing Documents (i.e. not to anyone who will be occupying the Apartment) (the "Transfer of Shares"). Defendants agree to execute the documents attached hereto as <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> (the "Transfer Documents"), and any and all other documents reasonably necessary to effectuate the transfer of the Shares, the Lease, and the Unsold Share Status, into the name of the Plaintiff or such other entity as Plaintiff may designate, and to issue an appropriate new stock certificate and proprietary lease in accordance with the terms of this paragraph, this Stipulation of Settlement, and the Governing Documents. The transfer of the Shares and Lease shall occur within 30 days of the Effective Date.
- 6. Responsibilities as Shareholder. Upon the Transfer of Shares, Plaintiff agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Governing Documents as of the date of the Foreclosure and shall assume all shareholder responsibilities as set forth therein from the date of the Foreclosure, with the exception of those provisions inapplicable to Plaintiff by virtue of its Unsold Share Status; provided that any and all financial responsibilities between the date of the Foreclosure and the Effective Date are settled per paragraph 2 hereof. Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that it is obligated to pay all monthly maintenance charges that accrue going forward from the Effective Date. The Corporation shall also not be

- responsible for managing the Apartment, the Tenant, and/or the Apartment's occupants, including the responsibilities of maintaining leases, obtaining lease renewals, for rent collection, and/or other related issues.
- 7. Right to Appeal. The Parties waive: (a) the right to appeal or seek any stays other than as specifically set forth herein; (b) to bring orders to show cause to seek a further stay of this Stipulation of Settlement; or (c) to bring any other actions with respect to the Action or the facts herein.
- Mutual Releases. Upon the Effective Date, the Parties agree to mutually release and forever discharge each other and their respective members, managers, investors, officers, directors, affiliates, employees, heirs, insurers, policy holders, executors, agents, successors and/or assigns, including the Parties' attorneys, from and against any and all actions, causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, damages, costs, claims, counterclaims, cross claims, and expenses, asserted or that could have been asserted whether existing, or known or unknown by the Parties at this time, in law or equity, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of this Stipulation of Settlement, arising out of, related to, or which were or could have been alleged in connection with the Action, including any matters arising out of this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 9. Indemnification. Plaintiff agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Defendants, their members, managers, investors, officers, directors, affiliates, employees, heirs, insurers, policy holders, executors, agents, successors and/or assigns, including their attorneys, against any damages, claims, and/or liabilities arising from the Foreclosure or made by

- Twelve Bee or the tenant of the Apartment, and/or the Sponsor, and shall reimburse any losses, costs, fines, fees, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements) incurred as a result of same.
- 10. Entire Agreement. This Stipulation of Settlement constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties hereto, and supersedes any prior contemporaneous oral agreements, negotiations, and discussions, and there are no further or other agreements or understandings, written or oral, in effect between the Parties relating to the subject matter of this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 11. Strict Compliance. All terms of this Stipulation of Settlement require strict compliance, any failure to comply with any term hereof, shall be a default under the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement. All dates set forth herein are "time is of the essence" and any failure to make a timely payment shall be a default under the terms of this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 12. No Waiver. This Stipulation of Settlement is not to be construed as a waiver or estoppel of any of the Parties' rights under the Lease and/or By-Laws or in connection with the Foreclosure. No waiver of any provision of this Stipulation of Settlement shall be deemed, or shall constitute, a waiver of any other provision, whether or not similar, nor shall any waiver constitute a continuing waiver. No waiver shall be binding unless executed in writing by the Party making the waiver.
- 13. <u>Effectiveness and Counterparts</u>. This Stipulation of Settlement shall not take effect and shall not be enforceable as against any Party hereto unless and until it is fully executed by the Parties and approved by the Bankruptcy Court (i.e. the Effective Date). This Stipulation of Settlement may be executed in any number of counterparts, all of which taken together

shall constitute one and the same instrument, and any of the Parties hereto may execute this Stipulation of Settlement by signing any such counterpart each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall be deemed to be one and the same Stipulation of Settlement. Facsimile, digital and/or electronic copies of such signed counterparts may be used in lieu of the original for any purpose and may be filed with the Court without further notice by either side to the other.

- 14. No Admission of Liability. This Stipulation of Settlement is a compromise of a disputed matter and may not be construed as an admission of any Party's liability in any of the within matters as to any of the asserted claims against the other and the Parties agree that all matters arising out of the claims in the Action as set forth above are finally compromised and settled.
- 15. <u>Draftsman</u>. This Stipulation of Settlement is the result of an arm's length, negotiated settlement between the Parties and may not be construed against any one party versus the other.
- 16. Notices. Any notice or other communication required or permitted to be given under this Stipulation of Settlement shall be made by e-mail and shall also be sent by either hand-delivery or first-class mail to the Parties' respective attorneys at the following addresses, and shall be deemed given when received:

#### If to Plaintiff:

Daniel S. Finger, Esq.
Finger & Finger, A Professional Corporation
158 Grand Street
White Plains, New York 10601
Email: daniel@fingerandfinger.com

#### If to Defendants:

Prior to March 1. 2019
Jeffrey M. Schwartz, Esq.
Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP
270 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10016
Email: jschwartz@ssrga.com

And after March 1, 2019
Jeffrey Schwartz, Esq.
Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP
444 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022
Email: jschwartz@ssrga.com

- 17. Damages. The Parties hereto agree that the terms and provisions of this Stipulation of Settlement may be enforced in equity, and all Parties hereto waive any claim to the defense that the remedy at law is adequate for a breach of any of the terms and provisions of this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 18. Attorneys' Fees. In the event of a default under this Stipulation of Settlement, the defaulting Party shall reimburse the non-defaulting Party or Parties for all costs and expenses reasonably incurred by the non-defaulting Party or Parties in connection with the default, including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees.
- 19. Applicable Law. This Stipulation of Settlement shall be governed by and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York and the Supreme Court, County of New York shall be the proper venue in the event of any dispute involving this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 20. <u>Binding Effect</u>. This Stipulation of Settlement is intended to bind and benefit the Parties, their heirs, agents, legal representatives, assigns, and successors in interest, except as otherwise set forth herein.

- 21. Severability. If any provision of this Stipulation of Settlement is held by a court to be void, inoperative as a matter of law, invalid or unenforceable, then all other provisions shall nevertheless continue in full force and effect and same shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of this Stipulation of Settlement as a whole.
- 22. <u>Authority to Bind Respective Parties</u>. The signatories herein hereby acknowledge that they each have the authority (with, as to Plaintiff, the approval of the Bankruptcy Court) to enter into this Stipulation of Settlement and bind the directors, officers and shareholders of each Party.
- 23. <u>Amendments to By-Laws</u>. It is agreed that any future amendment to the By-Laws shall not cause any provision of this Stipulation of Settlement to be null and void or to cause any provision of this Stipulation of Settlement to not be given full force and effect.
- 24. Benefit of Counsel. The Parties represent and warrant that each has undertaken its, his, or her own investigation of the facts and is relying solely upon its, his, or her own knowledge and advice of its, his, or her own counsel. The Parties represent and warrant that each has consulted with counsel with respect to the preparation, negotiation, and execution of this Stipulation of Settlement to the extent they deemed such consultation necessary or appropriate and that this Stipulation of Settlement is a result of a negotiated compromise and settlement of the above Action.
- 25. <u>Execution of Necessary Documents</u>. The Parties agree to take all necessary steps and execute all documents necessary to effectuate each and every provision of this Stipulation of Settlement.
- 26. <u>Stipulation of Discontinuance</u>. Simultaneously with the execution of this Stipulation of Settlement, Plaintiff shall execute the Stipulation of Discontinuance in the form annexed

- hereto as <u>Exhibit B</u>, the original of which shall be held by counsel for Plaintiff and shall be filed with the Court upon the Transfer of Shares to Plaintiff.
- 27. Extension of Time to Answer. Plaintiff agrees to extend Defendants' time to answer the summons and complaint filed in the Action until the Transfer of Shares has occurred and shall execute any stipulations necessary to do so.

28. <u>Amendments</u>. This Stipulation of Settlement may not be modified, amended, changed or terminated, except in a writing signed by the Parties hereto.

Dated: White Plains, New York November\_, 2018

BELLFLOWER FUNDING LLC

Debtor in Possession

By: Bredley Lors

Title: CRO

50 WEST OWNERS CORP

Name: Davidle J. Wiedemann

Title: President

Approved as to Form:

**AKAM ASSOCIATES** 

Title:

KLEE, TUCHIN, BOGDANOFF & STERN LLP

Bankruptcy Counsel for Debtors in Possession in Woodbridge Bankruptcy

Robert J. Pfister

1999 Avenue of the Stars, 39th Floor

Los Angeles, California 90067

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Email: RPfister@ktbslaw.com

# EXHIBIT A

# TRANSFER DOCUMENTS

### **EXHIBIT B**

EA	UTDII D
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NE COUNTY OF NEW YORK	W YORK
BELLFLOWER FUNDING LLC,	
Plaintiffs, -against-	Index No.654851/2017
50 WEST OWNERS CORP. and AKAM ASSOCIATES, INC.,	STIPULATION OF DISCONTINUANCE WITH PREJUDICE
Defendants.	
IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AN	ID AGREED, by and between the undersigned
attorneys for the parties to this action, that when	eas no party hereto is an infant, incompetent persor
for whom a committee has been appointed, or co	onservatee, and no person not a party has an interest
in the subject matter of the action, this action	n be, and the same hereby is discontinued, with
prejudice, and without costs to any party as aga	inst any other.
This stipulation may be filed with the (	Clerk of the Court without further notice, may be
signed in counterparts, and electronic signature	s on this stipulation shall be deemed originals.
Dated: New York, New York November, 2018	
FINGER & FINGER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION	SCHWARTZ SLADKUS REICH GREENBERG ATLAS LLP
Ву:	Ву:
Daniel S. Finger	Jeffrey M. Schwartz
Attorneys for Plaintiff	Attorneys for Defendants
158 Grand Street	270 Madison Avenue, 9th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601	New York, NY 10016
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