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Exhibit A

**THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
South Carolina Court of Appeals**

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Oct 24 2022

SC Court of Appeals

**APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas**

2021-001050

The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Home Owners Association, Inc.,
and The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Horizontal Property
Regime..... Plaintiffs,

v.

Winston Carlyle Charleston National, LLC; Colin R. Campbell Construction, Inc.;
Colin Campbell, individually; Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC; Builders
FirstSource, Inc.; Americo Roofing Concepts, Inc.; DVS, Inc.; Advanced Building
Connection, LLC; Guy C. Lee Building Materials, LLC; WS Contractors, LLC; Dino
Schwartz, Individually; Charleston Exteriors, LLC; ECC Contracting, LLC; Hurley
Services, LLC; McDaniel Construction Co., LLC; AC Construction Corp.; AC
Construction, Inc.; L&G Construction Group, LLC; Liollo Architecture; JC
Contractors, LLC; Soto & Vasquez Construction, LLC; Costa De Oliveira
Construction, LLC; Solesmar Jesus De Oliveria; Wilson Lucas Sales d/b/a Miracle
Siding; Miracle Siding, LLC; Royal Homes of SC, Inc.; Collen Batissa; Christopher
Batissa; Norma Ferreira Bruno; Mendez Construction, LLC; Juan Garza Ramos,
individually; Juan Garza Ramos d/b/a Juan Constructors; Jessica Marroquin,
individually; Jessica Marroquin d/b/a Marroquin Construction; Carlos Marroquin,
individually; Carlos Marroquin Construction; Carlos and Jessica Marroquin d/b/a
Marroquin Construction; Feliciano Cruz Silva; Garcia Roofing, LLC; Givair De
Caris; and Mario Salgado..... Defendants,

Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC..... Third-Party Plaintiff, Appellant,

v.

Pohlman Quality Contractors; Pohlman Quality Exteriors; Palmetto Trim and
Renovation; Edward Bruce Witham; and East Coast
Carpentry..... Third-Party Defendants,

Of which Palmetto Trim and Renovation; Hurley Services, LLC; ECC Contracting,
LLC; East Coast Carpentry; AC Construction, Inc.; WS Contractors, LLC; Pohlman

Quality Exteriors, Inc.; and L&G Construction Group, LLC are the Respondents.

RECORD ON APPEAL
VOLUME II

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**BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE - SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC
MASTER SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT**

EXHIBIT**4**

THIS MASTER SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is entered into effective as of Feb. 26, 2008, between Builders FirstSource - Southeast Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, address: 111 Lumber Lane, GooseCreek, SC 29445, telephone: 843-553-6252, fax: 843-797-1710, Contact: Bill Crabtree, e-mail: bill.crabtree @bldr.com ("Contractor"), and ECG CONTRACTING, address: 2305 AUDUBON DR HAMAM - SC, telephone: (743) 477-1230, fax: 2255397, Contact: ROD ASSIS, e-mail: ECGCONTRACT@YAHOO.COM ("Subcontractor").

SECTION 1. Introduction.

a. **Work.** This Agreement contains the basic terms and conditions under which Subcontractor agrees to provide materials and/or to perform services (the "Work") from time to time for Contractor on any project (the "Project"). TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. It will apply to and govern all Work requested by Contractor from Subcontractor at any time following the date of this Agreement, unless other terms and conditions are specifically agreed to in writing by Contractor with respect to particular items of Work or until this Agreement is terminated as hereinafter provided. In accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, Subcontractor will perform and finish in a good and workmanlike manner, and will furnish all required materials, labor, equipment, supplies and tools for, the Work described from time to time for Contractor on any Project. Projects may or may not be owned or controlled by Contractor's customer (the "Owner"). The Work will be performed in accordance with plans, specifications, drawings and schedules for the Work, and any supplemental terms and conditions to this Agreement, all of which are, or will be, on file at the office of the Contractor (the "Contract Documents") and incorporated into the Agreement by reference as if fully set forth. Contractor will have the right at any time to supplement the plans and specifications for the Work with additional or replacement drawings and schedules or other documents and upon so doing such drawings and schedules will immediately become part of the Contract Documents. The Contract Documents, including any time schedules, may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by giving Subcontractor written notice thereof. Subcontractor's only remedy in the event an amendment or supplement to the Contractor Documents materially increases the cost or difficulty of performance by the Subcontractor is to terminate this Agreement by written notice to Contractor within 24 hours after Contractor delivers such amendment or supplement to Subcontractor.

b. **Work Orders.** It is contemplated under this Agreement that Subcontractor may perform Work on multiple projects at multiple locations. The description, completion date, special conditions, and cost of Work to be performed on a Project will be set forth in the written purchase order or work order (together, "Work Order") delivered by Contractor to Subcontractor relating to that Project. Such Work Order(s) are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth. The Work described in Work Orders must be performed under the terms of this Agreement.

[Signature]
Subcontractor
[Signature]
Contractor

c. **Term.** This Agreement shall be for an initial term of three (3) years. Upon the expiration of such initial term or any renewal term, this Agreement shall automatically renew for subsequent one (1) year periods unless either party gives written notice to the other party that it is electing to terminate this Agreement at the end of the then current term. Such written notice of intent to terminate must be given at least sixty (60), but not more than one hundred twenty (120), days prior to the end of the then current term. The provisions of Sections 3, 4, and 5 shall survive termination of this Agreement. If Contractor terminates this Agreement, Contractor will pay to Subcontractor sums due for the Work performed to the date of termination, as provided in Section 11.

d. **Notice.** Any notice or communication hereunder or in any agreement entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby must be in writing and given by depositing the same in the United States mail, addressed to the party to be notified, postage prepaid, and registered or certified with return receipt requested, or by delivering the same in person or by facsimile transmission. Such notice shall be deemed received on the date on which it is hand-delivered or received by facsimile transmission or on the third business day following the date on which it is so mailed. For purposes of notice, the addresses of the parties shall be as set forth on the front page of this Agreement. Any party may change its address for notice by written notice given to the other parties in accordance with this Section.

SECTION 2. Materials and Workmanship.

Subcontractor agrees to commence Work on Projects upon request by Contractor. Subcontractor agrees to provide all labor, services, equipment, and tools necessary to complete the Work.

a. **Scope of Work; Knowledge of Site; Plans and Specifications.** Subcontractor shall take all action necessary to familiarize itself and its employees, agents, and subcontractors with the scope and requirements of the Work, the existing site conditions, and any work to be performed by others that may affect the performance of the Work. Subcontractor shall confirm that the Contract Documents are correct and immediately notify Contractor of any errors and/or omissions.

b. **Change Orders.** Contractor may make any changes to the nature or scope of the Work; provided, however, that any changes resulting in a change in price must be agreed to in writing by Subcontractor and Contractor prior to the Work being performed. Subcontractor shall be notified of changes by written change order. Subcontractor shall not perform any extra work without written authorization by Contractor.

c. **Protection of Work.** Subcontractor shall bear all risk of loss or damage to the Work resulting from any cause whatsoever until Subcontractor has completed its Work on the Project and such work has been accepted by Contractor and Owner. Subcontractor shall at all times, and at its expense, protect all of its labor, materials (regardless of who supplied such materials), supplies, tools, and equipment (and those of its employees, agents, and subcontractors) against any damage, injury, destruction, theft, or loss. Subcontractor shall, at its expense, promptly repair or replace damage to the Work or damage to any other components of the Project resulting from the activities of Subcontractor or its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

d. **Safety and Environmental.**

(1) **Compliance with Laws.** Subcontractor will carefully check the drawings, plans, and specifications for conformity with all local, state, and Federal laws, codes, rules, and regulations bearing on the Work (the "Law") before commencing the Work. Unless Contractor or Owner otherwise agrees in writing, before commencement of the Work Subcontractor will obtain at its sole

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Subcontractor
Contractor

cost and expense all permits necessary for the Work. Subcontractor will comply with product manufacturer's specifications and will give all notices and comply with all Law bearing on the Work, including by way of enumerations and not limitation, safety, health, and environmental rules and regulations established by or pursuant to Federal, state, and local safety and environmental laws. Subcontractor at all times will furnish to its agents and employees a safe place of employment. If Subcontractor observes any violation of Law, it will immediately report such violation to Contractor in writing. Subcontractor will be responsible for any fines, charges, in-kind training or supplies, or penalties related to the Work, including, without limitation, fines, charges, and/or penalties related to the operation of equipment, the Subcontractor's performance of the Work, the handling of materials, or any other function that is in violation of the Law. All workmanship and materials will conform to Law and, if the Subcontractor performs or permits the performance of any Work not in compliance with Law, it will immediately cause such Work to be redone and bear all costs in connection therewith. The Work, as performed, will meet with the approval of, and pass any inspection of, any governmental authority having jurisdiction thereof. If the Work is being constructed under specifications of the Federal Housing Administration or the Veterans Administration, the Work will meet the requirements of these governmental agencies. No Work will be deemed complete until final inspection is made and approval is received from every governmental authority whose approval is required.

(2) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") and the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"). Regulations have been promulgated by OSHA and EPA ("Regulations") that require all contractors and subcontractors to exchange Material Safety Data Sheets ("MSDS") and share information about precautionary measures necessary to protect all workers on a building project.

Subcontractor agrees as follows:

(A) Subcontractor will fully comply with the Regulations and will cooperate with Contractor and/or Owner and all subcontractors of Owner in order to assure compliance with the Regulations.

(B) Subcontractor hereby accepts full responsibility and liability for the training of its employees as to all precautionary measures necessary to protect such employees during both routine and emergency situations on the Project.

(C) TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, SUBCONTRACTOR WILL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, AND CAUSES OF ACTION THAT ARISE FROM THE FAILURE OF SUBCONTRACTOR TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS.

(D) Subcontractor will assist Contractor in complying with the Regulations.

(E) Subcontractor will not use any chemicals in its performance of the Work for Contractor or incorporate any chemicals into materials or products supplied to Contractor or to the Project unless Subcontractor has given Contractor prior written notice of the existence and the possible exposure to such chemical, has delivered an MSDS to Contractor, and has received a written consent of Contractor to use such chemicals.

PS
Subcontractor
JP
Contractor

(3) **Subcontractor's Safety Program.** Subcontractor's safety program must specifically address, among other safety issues, scaffolding, fall hazards, trenching, and shoring, as may be applicable. For "hard hat" jobs, approved safety helmets and hard soled shoes must be worn at the Project at all times. Safety glasses must be worn when power equipment is used. Subcontractor shall erect and maintain all reasonable safeguards for safety and protection, including, but not limited to, necessary signage, protective barriers, and other warnings against hazards. Subcontractor shall furnish all flagmen, barricades, and other items required for public safety and right-of-way maintenance required by the installation of the Work. Safety vests shall be worn in the public right-of-way.

(4) **Default.** If Subcontractor fails to immediately comply with safety and environmental requirements after verbal or written notice from Contractor, Contractor may correct the violation and deduct the cost from any Partial Payment or final payment in addition to all other remedies available to Contractor, including, without limitation, consequential damages. Subcontractor shall pay any fines assessed to Owner or Contractor due to the acts, omissions, or negligence of Subcontractor. If construction at the Project in whole or in part is delayed or halted by any governmental authority as a result of Subcontractor's Work, Subcontractor shall pay to Contractor as liquidated damages, and not as a penalty, the amount of \$200 per hour for a minimum ten (10) hour day until construction at the Project can be safely resumed.

SECTION 3. Warranty.

In addition to any other warranty or guarantee expressly made by Subcontractor or implied by Law, Subcontractor unconditionally warrants and guarantees the Work will conform to any specifications provided by Contractor and comply with all Law and Subcontractor guarantees the Work against defects in design, workmanship, and materials for the benefit of Contractor and its successors and assigns, Owner, as well as the ultimate owner of any structure into which the Work is incorporated. This guarantee will commence upon the Subcontractor's completion of the Work and will continue for a minimum of (a) three (3) years for all Work; except, (b) ten (10) years for all Work consisting of any structural applications of any home, building, or other structure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this warranty will continue until such time as all express and implied warranties granted or deemed granted by Contractor and all other obligations of Contractor related to the Work are terminated or expired as a matter of Law. If demand is made upon Subcontractor to perform under this warranty, Subcontractor at its sole cost and expense will expeditiously repair or replace, at Contractor's sole option, any defective or nonconforming Work and indemnify Contractor and any other party for any costs incurred by any party relating to such demand. This warranty shall extend to all consequential damages resulting from such faults and/or defects of design, material, and workmanship described in this Section, including, without limitation, property damage to the homes or properties into which the Work is incorporated, property damage to the personal property of the ultimate owners of such homes or structures, and personal injury damages to persons residing at or visiting the properties into which the Work is incorporated. If Subcontractor fails to perform under this warranty, the party entitled to performance or Contractor will have the right to hire other persons to correct or replace the defective Work and hold Subcontractor liable for the costs thereof including costs, disbursements, and attorneys' fees incurred in the enforcement of this provision. This warranty is independent from all other obligations of Subcontractor under this Agreement, including, without limitation, all indemnification provisions, and will apply whether or not required by any other provision of this Agreement. Owner and any ultimate owner of any structure into which the Work is incorporated shall be intended non-incidental third party beneficiaries of this Agreement and shall have the power to enforce this Agreement. Subcontractor will maintain a published phone number or answering service during normal working hours.


Subcontractor
Witness

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SECTION 4. Insurance.

At all times while performing the Work, and continuing thereafter until the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations for any claims, Subcontractor will maintain for the benefit of itself and Contractor (and Owner, when requested), the following minimum insurance coverage:

- a. **Workers' Compensation Insurance** - statutory limits in the state where each Project is located.
- b. **Employer's Liability Insurance** - \$1,000,000 or such other higher limits imposed in accordance with the requirement, if any, of the laws of the states where Subcontractor is engaged in business.
- c. **Commercial General Liability** - \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 products-completed operations aggregate, \$1,000,000 general aggregate, and broad form contractual liability coverage to cover the indemnity obligations undertaken herein.
- d. **Business Auto Liability**, including hired and non-owned auto coverage - \$500,000 combined single limit.

Insurance policies shall (a) be issued by companies with a "Best's Rating A" and a "Financial Size Category of VIII", (b) be on an "occurrence" form, and (c) list Contractor and if requested, Owner, as additional insureds per Form CG 20 10 edition 11/85 or its equivalent on the General Liability and Automobile Liability Policies. For purposes of this additional insured requirement, the term "equivalent" means coverage for liability arising out of Subcontractor's Work performed for Contractor and includes both ongoing and products-completed operations coverage. The Workers' Compensation Policy shall include an Alternate Employer's Endorsement naming the Contractor. If Subcontractor utilizes any leased employees, Contractor must also be listed on an Alternate Employer's Endorsement on the Workers' Compensation Policy covering the leased employees.

Subcontractor will provide to Contractor certificates of insurance or other satisfactory evidence of compliance with the provisions of this Section promptly after the date of this Agreement and thirty (30) days before the expiration date of each policy or at any time upon request of Contractor. A copy of the actual additional insured endorsement and Alternate Employer's Endorsement must be supplied with the certificate of insurance. If such evidence is not furnished, Contractor will have the immediate right, but not the obligation, to procure at Subcontractor's expense (which Contractor may offset such costs against any Partial Payment or final payment), the required insurance on behalf of Subcontractor. The reference to "endeavor to" and "but failure to mail such notice will impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the company, its agents or representatives" in the cancellation notification portion of the certificate and/or endorsement to the policy must be deleted. To the fullest extent permitted by law, any provision on the face of any certificate of insurance provided by Subcontractor that states anything to the effect that the certificate of insurance does not confer rights to insurance upon Contractor is hereby deemed deleted from such certificate of insurance. The insurance provided herein by Subcontractor shall be primary and non-contributory to any other insurance available to the additional insureds. Waivers of subrogation shall be provided in favor of Contractor and Owner on all insurance policies carried by Subcontractor. Subcontractor hereby releases Contractor and Owner from all claims and causes of action resulting from or related to any loss covered or that should have been covered by insurance required to be maintained by Subcontractor including the deductible and any uninsured portion. Additionally, Subcontractor shall comply with any additional insurance requirements set forth in any other Contract Documents.

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[Signature]
Subcontractor
Contractor

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SECTION 5. INDEMNITY.

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, FINES, PENALTIES, AND EXPENSES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ARBITRATION OR COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH) ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM BODILY INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, INCLUDING LOSS OF USE OF PROPERTY, ARISING OR ALLEGED TO ARISE OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE SUBCONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK OR OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, BUT ONLY TO THE EXTENT CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR ANYONE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR ANYONE FOR WHOSE ACTS THE SUBCONTRACTOR MAY BE LIABLE. THE CONTRACTOR'S INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS WHICH SUBCONTRACTOR IS SUBJECT TO UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF INDEMNIFICATION HEREUNDER.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS, THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES (THE "INDEMNITEES"), FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH) ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM BODILY INJURY TO, OR SICKNESS, DISEASE, OR DEATH OF, THE SUBCONTRACTOR, ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, OR ANY OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH CLAIM, DAMAGE, LOSS, OR EXPENSE IS CAUSED, OR IS ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY OF THE INDEMNITEES, IT BEING THE EXPRESSED INTENT OF THE CONTRACTOR AND THE SUBCONTRACTOR THAT IN SUCH EVENT THE SUBCONTRACTOR IS TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE INDEMNITEES FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE, WHETHER IT IS OR IS ALLEGED TO BE THE SOLE OR CONCURRENT CAUSE OF THE BODILY INJURY, SICKNESS, DISEASE, OR DEATH OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, SUBCONTRACTOR'S AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE, OR THE AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS. THE INDEMNIFICATION

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Subcontractor
Contractor

FEB 27 2008

OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT BE LIMITED BY ANY LIMITATION ON THE AMOUNT OR TYPE OF DAMAGES, COMPENSATION, OR BENEFITS PAYABLE BY OR FOR SUBCONTRACTOR UNDER WORKERS COMPENSATION ACTS, DISABILITY BENEFIT ACTS, OR OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ACTS. THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL PROCURE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION 5.

THE DUTY TO DEFEND UNDER THIS SECTION 5 IS INDEPENDENT AND SEPARATE FROM THE DUTY TO INDEMNIFY, AND THE DUTY TO DEFEND EXISTS REGARDLESS OF ANY ULTIMATE LIABILITY OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, OR ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES. THE DUTY TO DEFEND ARISES IMMEDIATELY UPON PRESENTATION OF A CLAIM BY ANY PARTY INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER AND WRITTEN NOTICE OF SUCH CLAIM BEING PROVIDED TO SUBCONTRACTOR. SUBCONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNDER THIS SECTION 5 WILL SURVIVE THE EXPIRATION OR EARLIER TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT UNTIL IT IS FINALLY DETERMINED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR ARBITRATION PANEL THAT A CLAIM AGAINST THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE MATTER INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER IS FULLY AND FINALLY BARRED BY THE APPLICABLE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

THE DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE NOT INTENDED TO AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR OTHERS TO INDEMNIFY OR HOLD HARMLESS A REGISTERED ARCHITECT, LICENSED ENGINEER, OR AN AGENT, SERVANT, OR EMPLOYEE OF A REGISTERED ARCHITECT OR LICENSED ENGINEER FROM LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE THAT IS (a) CAUSED BY OR RESULTS FROM: (1) DEFECTS IN PLANS, DESIGNS, OR SPECIFICATIONS PREPARED, APPROVED, OR USED BY THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER; OR (2) THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER IN THE RENDERING OR CONDUCT OF PROFESSIONAL DUTIES CALLED FOR OR ARISING OUT OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND THE PLANS, DESIGNS, OR SPECIFICATIONS THAT ARE A PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT; AND (b) ARISES FROM PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, PROPERTY INJURY, OR ANY OTHER EXPENSE THAT ARISES FROM PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY INJURY.

SECTION 6. Independent Subcontractor Status and Warranty to be Lawfully Entitled to Work in the United States of America.

Subcontractor agrees that it and its employees, agents, and subcontractors (and their employees, agents, and subcontractors) will perform the Work as independent contractors, and not as employees or agents of Contractor. Contractor has no authority to direct, supervise, or control the means, manner, or method of construction of the Work. Further, Subcontractor warrants and agrees it will independently verify that it and

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[Signature]
Subcontractor
Contractor

its employees, agents, and subcontractors (and their employees, agents, and subcontractors) shall be lawfully entitled to work under the laws of the United States of America.

SECTION 7. Default and Damages.

a. **Subcontractor's Default.** The following acts on the part of Subcontractor will, at Contractor's option, result in the immediate termination of this Agreement and all Work Orders, and dismissal of Subcontractor from each site.

- (1) Any delays of the Work caused by Subcontractor's failure or refusal to supply enough skilled labor or materials to meet Contractor's schedule.
- (2) Subcontractor's failure to promptly pay any labor, material suppliers, or lien claimants with respect to any Work.
- (3) Adjudication of Subcontractor to be bankrupt or insolvent either by Contractor or any court or governmental entity.
- (4) If Subcontractor or any of its employees, subcontractors, or agents (or employees, subcontractors, or agents of any subcontractor retained by Subcontractor to perform Work) consume, use, or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the site. (Subcontractor agrees to strictly enforce rules to this effect and to inform all employees, agents, and subcontractors that such rules will be strictly enforced.)
- (5) Failure of Subcontractor or its agents, subcontractors, or employees to (a) operate motorized vehicles or equipment in a safe and orderly manner, (b) comply with safe labor and material installation practices designated by Contractor or Owner or otherwise accepted by the industry, or (c) leave the Project site in a safe condition (as determined by Contractor in its sole discretion) during or after construction.
- (6) Subcontractor's failure to comply with the provisions of this Agreement regarding assignment or subcontracting.
- (7) Any other violations of the Contract Documents including, without limitation, this Agreement.

b. **Damages.**

(1) **No Damages for Delay.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor will not be liable for any loss, claim, cost, liability, or damage incurred by Subcontractor, whether direct or indirect or whether related to efforts by Contractor to accelerate the Work, on account of any delay, disruption, hindrance, or any other impediment whatsoever, no matter by what, or by whom caused. Rather, the Cost of Work (defined in Section 8) is understood and agreed to include and cover all expenses and costs due to delays, disruptions, hindrances, or any other impediments regardless of their cause. Subcontractor agrees not to make, and hereby waives, any such claim for damages.

(2) **Subcontractor's Liability to Contractor upon Termination.** If this Agreement is terminated at Contractor's option as provided in this Section 7, Subcontractor will be liable to Contractor for all costs and damages incurred by Contractor due to Subcontractor's failure to perform under this Agreement or other Contract Documents (including, without limitation, the

Subcontractor
Contractor

amount by which the cost to complete the Project exceeds the cost of the Work), Subcontractor's failure to keep up the progress of the Work as required, or Subcontractor's failure to execute the Work as directed by Contractor. In addition to all costs and damages incurred by Contractor, Subcontractor shall be liable to Contractor for an additional amount equal to 25% of all costs and damages for Contractor's additional overhead and related costs.

- c. **Reimbursement for Fines.** Subcontractor shall promptly reimburse to Contractor and shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Contractor regarding any fines or penalties incurred by Contractor or Owner as a result of the actions or inaction of Subcontractor or its employees, agents, or subcontractors, relating to performance of Work or otherwise, including, without limitation, their failure to abide by the requirements of Section 2(d).

SECTION 8. Payment to Subcontractor.

- a. **Payment by Owner is Condition Precedent.** Subcontractor agrees and acknowledges that Contractor shall seek payment from Owner for the price of the Work ("Cost of Work") performed pursuant to Work Orders and that Contractor has no duty or obligation to pay Subcontractor for any Work until Contractor has been paid by Owner. Therefore, all obligations of Contractor to make Partial Payments and final payment are subject to the express conditions precedent that Owner accepts Subcontractor's Work and Contractor receives payments from Owner for all payments to Subcontractor. It is expressly agreed that any basis for non-payment by Owner, including, without limitation, the bankruptcy or insolvency of Owner, will not excuse this condition precedent and Subcontractor expressly assumes the risk of delayed payment or non-payment by Owner.

- b. **Partial Payments.** Partial payments ("Partial Payments") for portions of the Work that have been completed will be made by Contractor to Subcontractor as the Work progresses, but not more often than in accordance with Contractor's regular payment procedures. As a condition precedent to Partial Payments, Subcontractor must submit written applications that provide a description of the portion of the Work that has been completed during the payment period (including, without limitation, materials and supplies used therein if provided by Subcontractor), an estimate of the percentage of completion of the Work, a copy of each change order for the payment period, safety meeting sheets for the period of time since the last submission for payment, sheets indicating the number of hours worked by any employees of Subcontractor or any of its subcontractors ("Employee Time Sheets") for the period of time since the last submission for payment, evidence of payment, waivers (including, without limitation, lien waivers), and supplier affidavits in form satisfactory to Owner and Contractor, for itself, its subcontractors and material suppliers, and all other information Contractor is required to provide to Owner as a condition to Contractor's right to receive payment. Contractor reserves the right to modify such estimates in its sole and exclusive discretion and such modifications will bind Subcontractor for the purpose of Partial Payments. Partial Payments will be made to Subcontractor on or about the thirtieth day following approval of the application for payment by Contractor and receipt of payment by Contractor from Owner.

- c. **Retainage.** Contractor will retain at least ten percent (10%) of each Partial Payment (the "Retainage Amount") or any greater amount Contractor chooses to retain in its sole discretion. Contractor may, in its sole discretion, waive its right to retain any Retainage Amount from any Partial Payments or final payment.

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d. **Grounds for Withholding Payments.** Contractor may withhold any Partial Payments or the final payment in whole or in part upon the occurrence of any breach of this Agreement by Subcontractor until a cure satisfactory to Contractor has been completed.

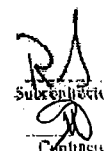
e. **Work Covered by Partial Payments.** All the completed Work covered by Partial Payments or final payment made to Subcontractor will thereupon become the sole property of Contractor, but this provision will not be construed as relieving Subcontractor from the sole responsibility for all Work upon which Partial Payments have been made, for the restoration of any damaged Work, for the correction of defective Work, or as a waiver of Contractor's right to require fulfillment of all of the terms of this Agreement. Payment to Subcontractor is specifically agreed not to imply acceptance by Contractor or Owner of any portion of the Work that fails to comply with the Contract Documents.

f. **Final Payment.** Final payment constitutes the entire unpaid balance of the Cost of Work minus any amounts retained. Final payment will be made by Contractor to Subcontractor upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

- (1) The Work is fully performed in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Documents, and Subcontractor is not in default under this Agreement or the Contract Documents;
- (2) Subcontractor has submitted satisfactory evidence of payments to, waivers by, and releases from all claims by, Subcontractor and any persons, firms, or corporations having performed work, labor, or services or furnished materials, equipment, tools, or supplies to Subcontractor for the Work (including, without limitation, lien waivers) if requested by Contractor;
- (3) Subcontractor has delivered to Contractor all as-built drawings, certifications, maintenance manuals, operating instructions, written guarantees, warranties, and bonds;
- (4) Subcontractor has provided safety meeting sheets and Employee Time Sheets for the period of time since the last submission for payment;
- (5) Owner, any general contractor, any lender, any architect, and Contractor have accepted the Work; and
- (6) Contractor has received payment from Owner.

g. **Release of Retainage.** Contractor will release any Retainage Amount thirty (30) days after all conditions precedent to Subcontractor's receipt of the final payment are met.

h. **Subcontractor's Agreement to Pay.** Subcontractor will promptly pay when due all charges owed by it for labor, services, materials, equipment, tools, and supplies furnished under this Agreement and will keep the Work and the Project free from any mechanics' and materialmen's liens. Subcontractor shall not acquire any materials, supplies, or equipment subject to any security interest or conditional sale or other agreement where any interest is retained by or granted to a seller, supplier, or lender. If Contractor reasonably believes that Subcontractor has failed to pay when due all charges owed by Subcontractor for its labor, services, materials, equipment, tools, and supplies, Contractor may issue joint checks made payable to Subcontractor and other parties owed by Subcontractor or directly to those parties owed by Subcontractor in Contractor's sole discretion. Contractor shall be entitled to and Subcontractor shall provide acceptable security insuring against claims by Subcontractor's creditors.


Subcontractor
Continued

I. INDEMNIFICATION FOR LIENS. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, SUBCONTRACTOR HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY MECHANICS' AND MATERIALMEN'S LIENS UPON THE PROJECT, ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES, AMOUNTS PAID IN SETTLEMENT, AND AMOUNTS PAID TO DISCHARGE JUDGMENTS ARISING OUT OF THE SERVICES, LABOR, EQUIPMENT, OR MATERIALS FURNISHED BY SUBCONTRACTOR, OR ITS EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS, OR SUBCONTRACTORS. IF SUBCONTRACTOR FAILS TO DO SO, CONTRACTOR MAY DEDUCT FROM SUMS THEN OR THEREAFTER DUE TO SUBCONTRACTOR SUCH AMOUNTS AS CONTRACTOR DEEMS APPROPRIATE IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION TO INDEMNIFY THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM SUCH LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES. CONTRACTOR MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, CURE ANY LIENS OR SATISFY ANY DEMANDS, AND RECOVER ITS COSTS RELATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THERETO FROM SUBCONTRACTOR. SUBCONTRACTOR HEREBY WAIVES, RELEASES, AND FOREVER DISCHARGES THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL COSTS, EXPENSES, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, OR LIABILITIES THAT SUBCONTRACTOR MAY HAVE AGAINST THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES THAT ARISE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM CURING ANY SUCH LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, OR DEMANDS.

SECTION 9. Miscellaneous.

a. **Assignment and Successors.** Subcontractor may not assign or subcontract any portion of the Work or its other obligations or rights hereunder without the prior written consent of Contractor. If Subcontractor assigns or subcontracts any portion of the Work (with the prior written consent of Contractor), Subcontractor will require each such assignee or sub-tier subcontractor to comply with the Contract Documents, including, without limitation, the pertinent provisions of this Agreement (including, without limitation, Section 5) by written agreement, a copy of which must be provided to Contractor. Subcontractor hereby unconditionally guarantees the compliance of each such assignee or sub-tier subcontractor with this Agreement. Subject to the preceding provisions of this Section, this Agreement will be binding on and will inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and permitted assigns.

b. **Acts of Affiliates.** For the purpose of this Agreement, any action of any agent, employee, subcontractor, director, officer, or invitee of Subcontractor or any of their agents, employees, subcontractors, officers, or invitees shall be deemed an act of Subcontractor. For the purposes hereof, any obligation or liability imposed on Subcontractor with regard to its employees or agents shall also be deemed an obligation or liability of Subcontractor with regard to employees or agents of its subcontractors. Subcontractors of Subcontractor shall include any suppliers of Subcontractor other than Contractor.

[Signature]
Subcontractor
Continued

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c. **Offset.** In addition to any other right provided hereunder, Contractor shall be entitled to offset any amount owed to it by Subcontractor hereunder against any Partial Payments or final payment under this Agreement or any other agreement.

d. **Clean up.** Subcontractor will at all times keep the Project safe and free from the accumulation of waste materials or rubbish caused by its operations or related to the Work. Upon completion of the Work and each portion thereof, Subcontractor will remove all rubbish and waste produced by its operations or Work hereunder from the Project as well as all of its tools, equipment, machinery, and surplus materials no longer needed and leave the Project in a "broom clean" or equivalent condition and safe for Subcontractor's employees and subsequent contractors to perform their work, unless otherwise specified in writing. If Subcontractor fails to clean up, Contractor may do so after written notice to Subcontractor and the cost thereof will be charged to Subcontractor.

e. **Lien waiver.** Subcontractor hereby waives and relinquishes any right, whether granted by statute or not, to file or claim any lien for Work performed hereunder.

f. **Other.** This Agreement embodies the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings. This Agreement may be amended or supplemented only by an instrument in writing executed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. No delay or failure by Contractor to exercise any right or remedy hereunder, and no partial or single exercise of such right or remedy, will constitute a waiver of that or any other right or remedy. The duties and obligations imposed by this Agreement and rights and remedies available hereunder shall be in addition to and not a limitation of duties, obligations, rights, and remedies otherwise imposed or available by Law. The prevailing party to any dispute shall have a right to collect its reasonable attorney's fees and expenses. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions thereof. The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed independent and severable, and the invalidity or partial invalidity of any provision or portion thereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision or portion thereof. It is the intent of the parties that any invalid provision hereof be reformed to the extent necessary to make it enforceable to the maximum extent of the law.

EXECUTED to be effective as of the date first above written.

SUBCONTRACTOR:

ECC CONTRACTING

By:

Name: RODRIGO ASSIS

Title: Owner

26-1548017

Subcontractor Social Security No. or Federal I.D.
No.

BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE -
SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC

By:

Name: Daryl Ward

Title: Associate General Counsel

Exhibit B

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
South Carolina Court of Appeals

RECEIVED

Oct 24 2022

SC Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

2021-001050

The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Home Owners Association, Inc.,
and The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Horizontal Property
Regime..... Plaintiffs,

v.

Winston Carlyle Charleston National, LLC; Colin R. Campbell Construction, Inc.;
Colin Campbell, individually; Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC; Builders
FirstSource, Inc.; Americo Roofing Concepts, Inc.; DVS, Inc.; Advanced Building
Connection, LLC; Guy C. Lee Building Materials, LLC; WS Contractors, LLC; Dino
Schwartz, Individually; Charleston Exteriors, LLC; ECC Contracting, LLC; Hurley
Services, LLC; McDaniel Construction Co., LLC; AC Construction Corp.; AC
Construction, Inc.; L&G Construction Group, LLC; Liollo Architecture; JC
Contractors, LLC; Soto & Vasquez Construction, LLC; Costa De Oliveira
Construction, LLC; Solesmar Jesus De Oliveria; Wilson Lucas Sales d/b/a Miracle
Siding; Miracle Siding, LLC; Royal Homes of SC, Inc.; Collen Batissa; Christopher
Batissa; Norma Ferreira Bruno; Mendez Construction, LLC; Juan Garza Ramos,
individually; Juan Garza Ramos d/b/a Juan Constructors; Jessica Marroquin,
individually; Jessica Marroquin d/b/a Marroquin Construction; Carlos Marroquin,
individually; Carlos Marroquin Construction; Carlos and Jessica Marroquin d/b/a
Marroquin Construction; Feliciano Cruz Silva; Garcia Roofing, LLC; Givair De
Caris; and Mario Salgado..... Defendants,

Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC.....Third-Party Plaintiff, Appellant,

v.

Pohlman Quality Contractors; Pohlman Quality Exteriors; Palmetto Trim and
Renovation; Edward Bruce Witham; and East Coast
Carpentry.....Third-Party Defendants,

Of which Palmetto Trim and Renovation; Hurley Services, LLC; ECC Contracting,
LLC; East Coast Carpentry; AC Construction, Inc.; WS Contractors, LLC; Pohlman

Quality Exteriors, Inc.; and L&G Construction Group, LLC are the Respondents.

RECORD ON APPEAL
VOLUME II

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Thomas F. Dougall Bar No.: 1729 Michal Kalwajtys Bar No.: 100950 Dougall & Collins 1700 Woodcreek Farms Road Elgin, SC 29045 (803) 865-8858 tdougall@dougallfirm.com mkalwajtys@dougallfirm.com Attorneys for Respondent L&G Construction Group, LLC	John P. Linton Bar No.: 79130 Jennifer S. Ivey Bar No.: 102533 Walker Gressette & Linton, LLC PO Box 22167 Charleston, SC 29413 (843) 727-2200 linton@wglfirm.com ivey@wglfirm.com Attorneys for Respondent WS Contractors, LLC
Finley B. Clarke Bar No.: 1252 Clarke Johnson Peterson & McLean, PA PO Box 1865 Florence, SC 29503 (843) 669-2401 fclarke@cjpmlaw.com Attorney for Respondent Hurley Services, LLC	

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**BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE – SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC
MASTER SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT**

THIS MASTER SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is entered into effective as of May 14, 2012, between Builders FirstSource – Southeast Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, address: 2001 Bryan Street, Suite 1600, Dallas, Texas 75201, telephone: _____, fax: _____, Contact: _____, e-mail: _____@bldr.com ("Contractor"), and Hurley Services, LLC, address: 201 Spar Kluberly Lane, Ladson, SC 29456, telephone: 843-425-5100, fax: 803-972-6563, Contact: Giovanni N. Mendes, e-mail: Hurley Services LLC @ gmail.com ("Subcontractor").

SECTION 1. Introduction.

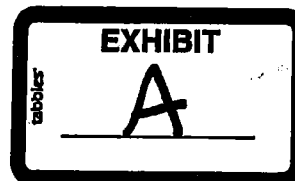
a. **Work.** This Agreement contains the basic terms and conditions under which Subcontractor agrees to provide materials and/or to perform services (the "**Work**") from time to time for Contractor on any project (the "**Project**"). TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. It will apply to and govern all Work requested by Contractor from Subcontractor at any time following the date of this Agreement, unless other terms and conditions are specifically agreed to in writing by Contractor with respect to particular items of Work or until this Agreement is terminated as hereinafter provided. In accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, Subcontractor will perform and finish in a good and workmanlike manner, and will furnish all required materials, labor, equipment, supplies and tools for, the Work described from time to time for Contractor on any Project. Projects may or may not be owned or controlled by Contractor's customer (the "**Owner**"). The Work will be performed in accordance with plans, specifications, drawings and schedules for the Work, and any supplemental terms and conditions to this Agreement, all of which are, or will be, on file at the office of the Contractor (the "**Contract Documents**") and incorporated into the Agreement by reference as if fully set forth; Contractor will have the right at any time to supplement the plans and specifications for the Work with additional or replacement drawings and schedules or other documents and upon so doing such drawings and schedules will immediately become part of the Contract Documents. The Contract Documents, including any time schedules, may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by giving Subcontractor written notice thereof. Subcontractor's only remedy in the event an amendment or supplement to the Contractor Documents materially increases the cost or difficulty of performance by the Subcontractor is to terminate this Agreement by written notice to Contractor within 24 hours after Contractor delivers such amendment or supplement to Subcontractor.

b. **Work Orders.** It is contemplated under this Agreement that Subcontractor may perform Work on multiple projects at multiple locations. The description, completion date, special conditions, and cost of Work to be performed on a Project will be set forth in the written purchase order or work order (together, "**Work Order**") delivered by Contractor to Subcontractor relating to that Project. Such Work Order(s)

GM
Subcontractor

Contractor

[Version - 5/17/06]



are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth. The Work described in Work Orders must be performed under the terms of this Agreement.

c. **Term.** This Agreement shall be for an initial term of three (3) years. Upon the expiration of such initial term or any renewal term, this Agreement shall automatically renew for subsequent one (1) year periods unless either party gives written notice to the other party that it is electing to terminate this Agreement at the end of the then current term. Such written notice of intent to terminate must be given at least sixty (60), but not more than one hundred twenty (120), days prior to the end of the then current term. The provisions of Sections 3, 4, and 5 shall survive termination of this Agreement. If Contractor terminates this Agreement, Contractor will pay to Subcontractor sums due for the Work performed to the date of termination, as provided in Section 8.

d. **Notice.** Any notice or communication hereunder or in any agreement entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby must be in writing and given by depositing the same in the United States mail, addressed to the party to be notified, postage prepaid, and registered or certified with return receipt requested, or by delivering the same in person or by facsimile transmission. Such notice shall be deemed received on the date on which it is hand-delivered or received by facsimile transmission or on the third business day following the date on which it is so mailed. For purposes of notice, the addresses of the parties shall be as set forth on the front page of this Agreement. Any party may change its address for notice by written notice given to the other parties in accordance with this Section.

SECTION 2. Materials and Workmanship.

Subcontractor agrees to commence Work on Projects upon request by Contractor. Subcontractor agrees to provide all labor, services, equipment, and tools necessary to complete the Work.

a. **Scope of Work; Knowledge of Site; Plans and Specifications.** Subcontractor shall take all action necessary to familiarize itself and its employees, agents, and subcontractors with the scope and requirements of the Work, the existing site conditions, and any work to be performed by others that may affect the performance of the Work. Subcontractor shall confirm that the Contract Documents are correct and immediately notify Contractor of any errors and/or omissions.

b. **Change Orders.** Contractor may make any changes to the nature or scope of the Work; provided, however, that any changes resulting in a change in price must be agreed to in writing by Subcontractor and Contractor prior to the Work being performed. Subcontractor shall be notified of changes by written change order. Subcontractor shall not perform any extra work without written authorization by Contractor.

c. **Protection of Work.** Subcontractor shall bear all risk of loss or damage to the Work resulting from any cause whatsoever until Subcontractor has completed its Work on the Project and such work has been accepted by Contractor and Owner. Subcontractor shall at all times, and at its expense, protect all of its labor, materials (regardless of who supplied such materials), supplies, tools, and equipment (and those of its employees, agents, and subcontractors) against any damage, injury, destruction, theft, or loss. Subcontractor shall, at its expense, promptly repair or replace damage to the Work or damage to any other components of the Project resulting from the activities of Subcontractor or its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

d. **Safety and Environmental.**

(1) **Compliance with Laws.** Subcontractor will carefully check the drawings, plans, and specifications for conformity with all local, state, and Federal laws, codes, rules, and regulations bearing on the Work (the "Law") before commencing the Work. Unless Contractor or Owner otherwise agrees in writing, before commencement of the Work Subcontractor will obtain at its sole cost and expense all permits necessary for the Work. Subcontractor will comply with product manufacturer's specifications and will give all notices and comply with all Law bearing on the Work, including by way of enumeration and not limitation, safety, health, and environmental rules and regulations established by or pursuant to Federal, state, and local safety and environmental laws. Subcontractor at all times will furnish to its agents and employees a safe place of employment. If Subcontractor observes any violation of Law, it will immediately report such violation to Contractor in writing. Subcontractor will be responsible for any fines, charges, in-kind training or supplies, or penalties related to the Work, including, without limitation, fines, charges, and/or penalties related to the operation of equipment, the Subcontractor's performance of the Work, the handling of materials, or any other function that is in violation of the Law. All workmanship and materials will conform to Law and, if the Subcontractor performs or permits the performance of any Work not in compliance with Law, it will immediately cause such Work to be redone and bear all costs in connection therewith. The Work, as performed, will meet with the approval of, and pass any inspection of, any governmental authority having jurisdiction thereof. If the Work is being constructed under specifications of the Federal Housing Administration or the Veterans Administration, the Work will meet the requirements of these governmental agencies. No Work will be deemed complete until final inspection is made and approval is received from every governmental authority whose approval is required.

(2) **The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") and the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").** Regulations have been promulgated by OSHA and EPA ("Regulations") that require all contractors and subcontractors to exchange Material Safety Data Sheets ("MSDS") and share information about precautionary measures necessary to protect all workers on a building project.

Subcontractor agrees as follows:

(A) Subcontractor will fully comply with the Regulations and will cooperate with Contractor and/or Owner and all subcontractors of Owner in order to assure compliance with the Regulations.

(B) Subcontractor hereby accepts full responsibility and liability for the training of its employees as to all precautionary measures necessary to protect such employees during both routine and emergency situations on the Project.

(C) TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, SUBCONTRACTOR WILL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, AND CAUSES OF ACTION THAT ARISE FROM THE FAILURE OF SUBCONTRACTOR TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS.

(D) Subcontractor will assist Contractor in complying with the Regulations.

(E) Subcontractor will not use any chemicals in its performance of the Work for

GM
Subcontractor
JD
Contractor

Contractor or incorporate any chemicals into materials or products supplied to Contractor or to the Project unless Subcontractor has given Contractor prior written notice of the existence and the possible exposure to such chemical, has delivered an MSDS to Contractor, and has received a written consent of Contractor to use such chemicals.

(3) **Subcontractor's Safety Program.** Subcontractor's safety program must specifically address, among other safety issues, scaffolding, fall hazards, trenching, and shoring, as may be applicable. For "hard hat" jobs, approved safety helmets and hard soled shoes must be worn at the Project at all times. Safety glasses must be worn when power equipment is used. Subcontractor shall erect and maintain all reasonable safeguards for safety and protection, including, but not limited to, necessary signage, protective barriers, and other warnings against hazards. Subcontractor shall furnish all flagmen, barricades, and other items required for public safety and right-of-way maintenance required by the installation of the Work. Safety vests shall be worn in the public right-of-way.

(4) **Default.** If Subcontractor fails to immediately comply with safety and environmental requirements after verbal or written notice from Contractor, Contractor may correct the violation and deduct the cost from any Partial Payment or final payment in addition to all other remedies available to Contractor, including, without limitation, consequential damages. Subcontractor shall pay any fines assessed to Owner or Contractor due to the acts, omissions, or negligence of Subcontractor. If construction at the Project in whole or in part is delayed or halted by any governmental authority as a result of Subcontractor's Work, Subcontractor shall pay to Contractor as liquidated damages, and not as a penalty, the amount of \$200 per hour for a minimum ten (10) hour day until construction at the Project can be safely resumed.

SECTION 3. Warranty.

In addition to any other warranty or guarantee expressly made by Subcontractor or implied by Law, Subcontractor unconditionally warrants and guarantees the Work will conform to any specifications provided by Contractor and comply with all Law and Subcontractor guarantees the Work against defects in design, workmanship, and materials for the benefit of Contractor and its successors and assigns, Owner, as well as the ultimate owner of any structure into which the Work is incorporated. This guarantee will commence upon the Subcontractor's completion of the Work and will continue for a minimum of (a) three (3) years for all Work except, (b) ten (10) years for all Work consisting of any structural applications of any home, building, or other structure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this warranty will continue until such time as all express and implied warranties granted or deemed granted by Contractor and all other obligations of Contractor related to the Work are terminated or expired as a matter of Law... If demand is made upon Subcontractor to perform under this warranty, Subcontractor at its sole cost and expense will expeditiously repair or replace, at Contractor's sole option, any defective or nonconforming Work and indemnify Contractor and any other party for any costs incurred by any party relating to such demand. This warranty shall extend to all consequential damages resulting from such faults and/or defects of design, material, and workmanship described in this Section, including, without limitation, property damage to the homes or properties into which the Work is incorporated, property damage to the personal property of the ultimate owners of such homes or structures, and personal injury damages to persons residing at or visiting the properties into which the Work is incorporated. If Subcontractor fails to perform under this warranty, the party entitled to performance or Contractor will have the right to hire other persons to correct or replace the defective Work and hold Subcontractor liable for the costs thereof including costs, disbursements, and attorneys' fees incurred in the enforcement of this provision. This warranty is independent from all other obligations of Subcontractor under this Agreement, including, without limitation, all indemnification provisions, and will apply whether or not required by any other provision of this Agreement. Owner and any ultimate owner of any structure into which the Work is incorporated shall be

GM
Subcontractor
Contractor

intended non-incident third party beneficiaries of this Agreement and shall have the power to enforce this Agreement. Subcontractor will maintain a published phone number or answering service during normal working hours.

SECTION 4. Insurance.

At all times while performing the Work, and continuing thereafter until the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations for any claims, Subcontractor will maintain for the benefit of itself and Contractor (and Owner, when requested), the following minimum insurance coverage:

- a. Workers' Compensation Insurance - statutory limits in the state where each Project is located.
- b. Employer's Liability Insurance - \$1,000,000 or such other higher limits imposed in accordance with the requirement, if any, of the laws of the states where Subcontractor is engaged in business.
- c. Commercial-General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 products-completed operations aggregate, \$1,000,000 general aggregate, and broad form contractual liability coverage to cover the indemnity obligations undertaken herein.
- d. Business Auto Liability, including hired and non-owned auto coverage - \$500,000 combined single limit.

Insurance policies shall (a) be issued by companies with a "Best's Rating A" and a "Financial Size Category of VIII", (b) be on an "occurrence" form, and (c) list Contractor and if requested, Owner, as additional insureds per Form CG 20 10 edition 1/1/85 or its equivalent on the General Liability and Automobile Liability Policies. For purposes of this additional insured requirement, the term "equivalent" means coverage for liability arising out of Subcontractor's Work performed for Contractor and includes both ongoing and products-completed operations coverage. The Workers' Compensation Policy shall include an Alternate Employer's Endorsement naming the Contractor. If Subcontractor utilizes any leased employees, Contractor must also be listed on an Alternate Employer's Endorsement on the Workers' Compensation Policy covering the leased employees.

Subcontractor will provide to Contractor certificates of insurance or other satisfactory evidence of compliance with the provisions of this Section promptly after the date of this Agreement and thirty (30) days before the expiration date of each policy or at any time upon request of Contractor. A copy of the actual additional insured endorsement and Alternate Employer's Endorsement must be supplied with the certificate of insurance. If such evidence is not furnished, Contractor will have the immediate right, but not the obligation, to procure at Subcontractor's expense (which Contractor may offset such costs against any Partial Payment or final payment); the required insurance on behalf of Subcontractor. The reference to "endeavor to" and "but failure to mail such notice will impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the company, its agents or representatives" in the cancellation notification portion of the certificate and/or endorsement to the policy must be deleted. To the fullest extent permitted by law, any provision on the face of any certificate of insurance provided by Subcontractor that states anything to the effect that the certificate of insurance does not confer rights to insurance upon Contractor is hereby deemed deleted from such certificate of insurance. The insurance provided herein by Subcontractor shall be primary and non-contributory to any other insurance available to the additional insureds. Waivers of subrogation shall be provided in favor of Contractor and Owner on all insurance policies carried by Subcontractor. Subcontractor hereby releases Contractor and Owner from all claims and causes of action resulting from or related to any loss covered or that should have been covered by insurance required to be maintained by Subcontractor including the deductible and any uninsured portion. Additionally, Subcontractor shall comply with any additional insurance requirements set forth in any other Contract Documents.

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SECTION 5. INDEMNITY.

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, FINES, PENALTIES, AND EXPENSES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ARBITRATION OR COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH) ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM BODILY INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, INCLUDING LOSS OF USE OF PROPERTY, ARISING OR ALLEGED TO ARISE OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE SUBCONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK OR OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, BUT ONLY TO THE EXTENT CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR ANYONE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR ANYONE FOR WHOM THE SUBCONTRACTOR MAY BE LIABLE. THE CONTRACTOR'S INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS WHICH SUBCONTRACTOR IS SUBJECT TO UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF INDEMNIFICATION HEREUNDER.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS, THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES (THE "INDEMNITEES"), FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH) ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM BODILY INJURY TO, OR SICKNESS, DISEASE, OR DEATH OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, OR ANY OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH CLAIM, DAMAGE, LOSS, OR EXPENSE IS CAUSED, OR IS ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY OF THE INDEMNITEES; IT BEING THE EXPRESSED INTENT OF THE CONTRACTOR AND THE SUBCONTRACTOR THAT IN SUCH EVENT THE SUBCONTRACTOR IS TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE INDEMNITEES FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE, WHETHER IT IS OR IS ALLEGED TO BE THE SOLE OR CONCURRENT CAUSE OF THE BODILY INJURY, SICKNESS, DISEASE, OR DEATH OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, SUBCONTRACTOR'S AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE, OR THE AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS. THE INDEMNIFICATION

OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT BE LIMITED BY ANY LIMITATION ON THE AMOUNT OR TYPE OF DAMAGES, COMPENSATION, OR BENEFITS PAYABLE BY OR FOR SUBCONTRACTOR UNDER WORKERS COMPENSATION ACTS, DISABILITY BENEFIT ACTS, OR OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ACTS. THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL PROCURE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION 5.

THE DUTY TO DEFEND UNDER THIS SECTION 5 IS INDEPENDENT AND SEPARATE FROM THE DUTY TO INDEMNIFY, AND THE DUTY TO DEFEND EXISTS REGARDLESS OF ANY ULTIMATE LIABILITY OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, OR ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES. THE DUTY TO DEFEND ARISES IMMEDIATELY UPON PRESENTATION OF A CLAIM BY ANY PARTY INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER AND WRITTEN NOTICE OF SUCH CLAIM BEING PROVIDED TO SUBCONTRACTOR. SUBCONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNDER THIS SECTION 5 WILL SURVIVE THE EXPIRATION OR EARLIER TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT UNTIL IT IS FINALLY DETERMINED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR ARBITRATION PANEL THAT A CLAIM AGAINST THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE MATTER INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER IS FULLY AND FINALLY BARRED BY THE APPLICABLE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

THE DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE NOT INTENDED TO AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR OTHERS TO INDEMNIFY OR HOLD HARMLESS A REGISTERED ARCHITECT, LICENSED ENGINEER, OR AN AGENT, SERVANT, OR EMPLOYEE OF A REGISTERED ARCHITECT OR LICENSED ENGINEER FROM LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE THAT IS (a) CAUSED BY OR RESULTS FROM: (1) DEFECTS IN PLANS, DESIGNS, OR SPECIFICATIONS PREPARED, APPROVED, OR USED BY THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER; OR (2) THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER IN THE RENDERING OR CONDUCT OF PROFESSIONAL DUTIES CALLED FOR OR ARISING OUT OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND THE PLANS, DESIGNS, OR SPECIFICATIONS THAT ARE A PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT; AND (b) ARISES FROM PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, PROPERTY INJURY, OR ANY OTHER EXPENSE THAT ARISES FROM PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY INJURY.

SECTION 6. Independent Subcontractor Status and Warranty to be Lawfully Entitled to Work in the United States of America.

Subcontractor agrees that it and its employees, agents, and subcontractors (and their employees, agents, and subcontractors) will perform the Work as independent contractors, and not as employees or agents of Contractor. Contractor has no authority to direct, supervise, or control the means, manner, or method of

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construction of the Work. Further, Subcontractor warrants and agrees it will independently verify that it and its employees, agents, and subcontractors (and their employees, agents, and subcontractors) shall be lawfully entitled to work under the laws of the United States of America.

SECTION 7. Default and Damages.

a. **Subcontractor's Default.** The following acts on the part of Subcontractor will, at Contractor's option, result in the immediate termination of this Agreement and all Work Orders, and dismissal of Subcontractor from each site.

- (1) Any delays of the Work caused by Subcontractor's failure or refusal to supply enough skilled labor or materials to meet Contractor's schedule.
- (2) Subcontractor's failure to promptly pay any labor, material suppliers, or lien claimants with respect to any Work.
- (3) Adjudication of Subcontractor to be bankrupt or insolvent either by Contractor or any court or governmental entity.
- (4) If Subcontractor or any of its employees, subcontractors, or agents (or employees, subcontractors, or agents of any subcontractor retained by Subcontractor to perform Work) consume, use, or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the site. (Subcontractor agrees to strictly enforce rules to this effect and to inform all employees, agents, and subcontractors that such rules will be strictly enforced.)
- (5) Failure of Subcontractor or its agents, subcontractors, or employees to (a) operate motorized vehicles or equipment in a safe and orderly manner, (b) comply with safe labor and material installation practices designated by Contractor or Owner or otherwise accepted by the industry, or (c) leave the Project site in a safe condition (as determined by Contractor in its sole discretion) during or after construction.
- (6) Subcontractor's failure to comply with the provisions of this Agreement regarding assignment or subcontracting.
- (7) Any other violations of the Contract Documents including, without limitation, this Agreement.

b. **Damages.**

- (1) **No Damages for Delay.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor will not be liable for any loss, claim, cost, liability, or damage incurred by Subcontractor, whether direct or indirect or whether related to efforts by Contractor to accelerate the Work, on account of any delay, disruption, hindrance, or any other impediment whatsoever, no matter by what, or by whom caused. Rather, the Cost of Work (defined in Section 8) is understood and agreed to include and cover all expenses and costs due to delays, disruptions, hindrances, or any other impediments regardless of their cause. Subcontractor agrees not to make, and hereby waives, any such claim for damages.
- (2) **Subcontractor's Liability to Contractor upon Termination.** If this Agreement is terminated at Contractor's option as provided in this Section 7, Subcontractor will be liable to Contractor for all costs and damages incurred by Contractor due to Subcontractor's failure to

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perform under this Agreement or other Contract Documents (including, without limitation, the amount by which the cost to complete the Project exceeds the cost of the Work), Subcontractor's failure to keep up the progress of the Work as required, or Subcontractor's failure to execute the Work as directed by Contractor. In addition to all costs and damages incurred by Contractor, Subcontractor shall be liable to Contractor for an additional amount equal to 25% of all costs and damages for Contractor's additional overhead and related costs.

c. **Reimbursement for Fines.** Subcontractor shall promptly reimburse to Contractor and shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Contractor regarding any fines or penalties incurred by Contractor or Owner as a result of the actions or inaction of Subcontractor or its employees, agents, or subcontractors, relating to performance of Work or otherwise, including, without limitation, their failure to abide by the requirements of Section 2(d).

SECTION 8. Payment to Subcontractor.

a. **Payment by Owner is Condition Precedent.** Subcontractor agrees and acknowledges that Contractor shall seek payment from Owner for the price of the Work ("Cost of Work") performed pursuant to Work Orders and that Contractor has no duty or obligation to pay Subcontractor for any Work until Contractor has been paid by Owner. Therefore, all obligations of Contractor to make Partial Payments and final payment are subject to the express conditions precedent that Owner accepts Subcontractor's Work and Contractor receives payments from Owner for all payments to Subcontractor. It is expressly agreed that any basis for non-payment by Owner, including, without limitation, the bankruptcy or insolvency of Owner, will not excuse this condition precedent and Subcontractor expressly assumes the risk of delayed payment or non-payment by Owner.

b. **Partial Payments.** Partial payments ("Partial Payments") for portions of the Work that have been completed will be made by Contractor to Subcontractor as the Work progresses, but not more often than in accordance with Contractor's regular payment procedures. As a condition precedent to Partial Payments, Subcontractor must submit written applications that provide a description of the portion of the Work that has been completed during the payment period (including, without limitation, materials and supplies used therein if provided by Subcontractor), an estimate of the percentage of completion of the Work, a copy of each change order for the payment period, safety meeting sheets for the period of time since the last submission for payment, sheets indicating the number of hours worked by any employees of Subcontractor or any of its subcontractors ("Employee Time Sheets") for the period of time since the last submission for payment, evidence of payment, waivers (including, without limitation, lien waivers), and supplier affidavits in form satisfactory to Owner and Contractor, for itself, its subcontractors and material suppliers, and all other information Contractor is required to provide to Owner as a condition to Contractor's right to receive payment. Contractor reserves the right to modify such estimates in its sole and exclusive discretion and such modifications will bind Subcontractor for the purpose of Partial Payments. Partial Payments will be made to Subcontractor on or about the thirtieth day following approval of the application for payment by Contractor and receipt of payment by Contractor from Owner.

c. **Retainage.** Contractor will retain at least ten percent (10%) of each Partial Payment (the "Retainage Amount") or any greater amount Contractor chooses to retain in its sole discretion. Contractor may, in its sole discretion, waive its right to retain any Retainage Amount from any Partial Payments or final payment.

d. **Grounds for Withholding Payments.** Contractor may withhold any Partial Payments or the final payment in whole or in part upon the occurrence of any breach of this Agreement by Subcontractor until a cure satisfactory to Contractor has been completed.

e. **Work Covered by Partial Payments.** All the completed Work covered by Partial Payments or final payment made to Subcontractor will thereupon become the sole property of Contractor, but this provision will not be construed as relieving Subcontractor from the sole responsibility for all Work upon which Partial Payments have been made, for the restoration of any damaged Work, for the correction of defective Work, or as a waiver of Contractor's right to require fulfillment of all of the terms of this Agreement. Payment to Subcontractor is specifically agreed not to imply acceptance by Contractor or Owner of any portion of the Work that fails to comply with the Contract Documents.

f. **Final Payment.** Final payment constitutes the entire unpaid balance of the Cost of Work minus any amounts retained. Final payment will be made by Contractor to Subcontractor upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

- (1) The Work is fully performed in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Documents, and Subcontractor is not in default under this Agreement or the Contract Documents;
- (2) Subcontractor has submitted satisfactory evidence of payments to, waivers by, and releases from all claims by, Subcontractor and any persons, firms, or corporations having performed work, labor, or services or furnished materials, equipment, tools, or supplies to Subcontractor for the Work (including, without limitation, lien waivers) if requested by Contractor;
- (3) Subcontractor has delivered to Contractor all as-built drawings, certifications, maintenance manuals, operating instructions, written guaranties, warranties, and bonds;
- (4) Subcontractor has provided safety meeting sheets and Employee Time Sheets for the period of time since the last submission for payment;
- (5) Owner, any general contractor, any lender, any architect, and Contractor have accepted the Work; and
- (6) Contractor has received payment from Owner.

g. **Release of Retainage.** Contractor will release any Retainage Amount thirty (30) days after all conditions precedent to Subcontractor's receipt of the final payment are met.

h. **Subcontractor's Agreement to Pay.** Subcontractor will promptly pay when due all charges owed by it for labor, services, materials, equipment, tools, and supplies furnished under this Agreement and will keep the Work and the Project free from any mechanics' and materialmen's liens. Subcontractor shall not acquire any materials, supplies, or equipment subject to any security interest or conditional sale or other agreement where any interest is retained by or granted to a seller, supplier, or lender. If Contractor reasonably believes that Subcontractor has failed to pay when due all charges owed by Subcontractor for its labor, services, materials, equipment, tools, and supplies, Contractor may issue joint checks made payable to Subcontractor and other parties owed by Subcontractor or directly to those parties owed by Subcontractor in Contractor's sole discretion. Contractor shall be entitled to and Subcontractor shall provide acceptable security insuring against claims by Subcontractor's creditors.

1. INDEMNIFICATION FOR LIENS. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, SUBCONTRACTOR HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY MECHANICS' AND MATERIALMEN'S LIENS. UPON THE PROJECT, ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES, AMOUNTS PAID IN SETTLEMENT, AND AMOUNTS PAID TO DISCHARGE JUDGMENTS ARISING OUT OF THE SERVICES, LABOR, EQUIPMENT, OR MATERIALS FURNISHED BY SUBCONTRACTOR, OR ITS EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS, OR SUBCONTRACTORS. IF SUBCONTRACTOR FAILS TO DO SO, CONTRACTOR MAY DEDUCT FROM SUMS THEN OR THEREAFTER DUE TO SUBCONTRACTOR SUCH AMOUNTS AS CONTRACTOR DEEMS APPROPRIATE IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION TO INDEMNIFY THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM SUCH LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES. CONTRACTOR MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, CURE ANY LIENS OR SATISFY ANY DEMANDS, AND RECOVER ITS COSTS RELATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THERETO FROM SUBCONTRACTOR. SUBCONTRACTOR HEREBY WAIVES, RELEASES, AND FOREVER DISCHARGES THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL COSTS, EXPENSES, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, OR LIABILITIES THAT SUBCONTRACTOR MAY HAVE AGAINST THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES THAT ARISE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM CURING ANY SUCH LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, OR DEMANDS.

SECTION 9. Miscellaneous.

a. **Assignment and Successors.** Subcontractor may not assign or subcontract any portion of the Work or its other obligations or rights hereunder without the prior written consent of Contractor. If Subcontractor assigns or subcontracts any portion of the Work (with the prior written consent of Contractor), Subcontractor will require each such assignee or sub-tier subcontractor to comply with the Contract Documents, including, without limitation, the pertinent provisions of this Agreement (including, without limitation, Section 5) by written agreement, a copy of which must be provided to Contractor. Subcontractor hereby unconditionally guarantees the compliance of each such assignee or sub-tier subcontractor with this Agreement. Subject to the preceding provisions of this Section, this Agreement will be binding on and will inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and permitted assigns.

b. **Acts of Affiliates.** For the purpose of this Agreement, any action of any agent, employee, subcontractor, director, officer, or invitee of Subcontractor or any of their agents, employees, subcontractors, officers, or invitees shall be deemed an act of Subcontractor. For the purposes hereof, any obligation or liability imposed on Subcontractor with regard to its employees or agents shall also be deemed an obligation or liability of Subcontractor with regard to employees or agents of its

subcontractors. Subcontractors of Subcontractor shall include any suppliers of Subcontractor other than Contractor.

c. **Offset.** In addition to any other right provided hereunder, Contractor shall be entitled to offset any amount owed to it by Subcontractor hereunder against any Partial Payments or final payment under this Agreement or any other agreement.

d. **Clean up.** Subcontractor will at all times keep the Project safe and free from the accumulation of waste materials or rubbish caused by its operations or related to the Work. Upon completion of the Work and each portion thereof, Subcontractor will remove all rubbish and waste produced by its operations or Work hereunder from the Project as well as all of its tools, equipment, machinery, and surplus materials no longer needed and leave the Project in a "broom clean" or equivalent condition and safe for Subcontractor's employees and subsequent contractors to perform their work, unless otherwise specified in writing. If Subcontractor fails to clean up, Contractor may do so after written notice to Subcontractor and the cost thereof will be charged to Subcontractor.

e. **Lien waiver.** Subcontractor hereby waives and relinquishes any right, whether granted by statute or not, to file or claim any lien for Work performed hereunder.

f. **Other.** This Agreement embodies the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings. This Agreement may be amended or supplemented only by an instrument in writing executed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. No delay or failure by Contractor to exercise any right or remedy hereunder, and no partial or single exercise of such right or remedy, will constitute a waiver of that or any other right or remedy. The duties and obligations imposed by this Agreement and rights and remedies available hereunder shall be in addition to and not a limitation of duties, obligations, rights, and remedies otherwise imposed or available by Law. The prevailing party to any dispute shall have a right to collect its reasonable attorney's fees and expenses. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions thereof. The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed independent and severable, and the invalidity or partial invalidity of any provision or portion thereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision or portion thereof. It is the intent of the parties that any invalid provision hereof be reformed to the extent necessary to make it enforceable to the maximum extent of the law.

EXECUTED to be effective as of the date first above written.

SUBCONTRACTOR:

Hurley Services, LLC

By:

Giovanni M. Mendes

Name: Giovanni N. Mendes

Title: Owner

80-0803713

Subcontractor Social Security No. or Federal I.D.
No.

BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE -
SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC

By:

Daryl Ward

Name: Daryl Ward

Title: Vice President



BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE - SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC
MASTER SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

THIS MASTER SUBCONTRACTOR AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is entered into effective as of 12-18, 2014, between Builders FirstSource - Southeast Group, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, address: 2001 Bryan Street, Suite 1600, Dallas, TX 75201, telephone: _____, fax: _____, Contact: _____, e-mail: _____@bldg.com ("Contractor"), and HURLEY SERVICES, LLC, address: 836 LEBBY ST, CHARLESTON SC 29412, telephone: 843 3432045, fax: 803 972 6563, Contact: GIOVANNI MENDOZA, e-mail: HURLEYSERVICESLLC@GMAIL.COM ("Subcontractor").

SECTION 1. Introduction.

a. **Work.** This Agreement contains the basic terms and conditions under which Subcontractor agrees to provide materials and/or to perform services (the "Work") from time to time for Contractor on any project (the "Project"). TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. It will apply to and govern all Work requested by Contractor from Subcontractor at any time following the date of this Agreement, unless other terms and conditions are specifically agreed to in writing by Contractor with respect to particular items of Work or until this Agreement is terminated as hereinafter provided. In accordance with the terms and conditions contained in this Agreement, Subcontractor will perform and finish in a good and workmanlike manner, and will furnish all required materials, labor, equipment, supplies and tools for the Work described from time to time for Contractor on any Project. Projects may or may not be owned or controlled by Contractor's customer (the "Owner"). The Work will be performed in accordance with plans, specifications, drawings and schedules for the Work, and any supplemental terms and conditions to this Agreement, all of which are, or will be, on file at the office of the Contractor (the "Contract Documents") and incorporated into the Agreement by reference as if fully set forth. Contractor will have the right at any time to supplement the plans and specifications for the Work with additional or replacement drawings and schedules or other documents and upon so doing such drawings and schedules will immediately become part of the Contract Documents. The Contract Documents, including any time schedules, may be amended and/or supplemented from time to time by giving Subcontractor written notice thereof. Subcontractor's only remedy in the event an amendment or supplement to the Contract Documents materially increases the cost or difficulty of performance by the Subcontractor is to terminate this Agreement by written notice to Contractor within 24 hours after Contractor delivers such amendment or supplement to Subcontractor.

b. **Work Orders.** It is contemplated under this Agreement that Subcontractor may perform Work on multiple projects at multiple locations. The description, completion date, special conditions, and cost of Work to be performed on a Project will be set forth in the written purchase order or work order (together, "Work Order") delivered by Contractor to Subcontractor relating to that Project. Such Work Order(s)



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Contractor

are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth. The Work described in Work Orders must be performed under the terms of this Agreement.

c. **Term.** This Agreement shall be for an initial term of three (3) years. Upon the expiration of such initial term or any renewal term, this Agreement shall automatically renew for subsequent one (1) year periods unless either party gives written notice to the other party that it is electing to terminate this Agreement at the end of the then current term. Such written notice of intent to terminate must be given at least sixty (60), but not more than one hundred twenty (120), days prior to the end of the then current term. The provisions of Sections 3, 4, and 5 shall survive termination of this Agreement. If Contractor terminates this Agreement, Contractor will pay to Subcontractor sums due for the Work performed to the date of termination, as provided in Section 8.

d. **Notice.** Any notice or communication hereunder or in any agreement entered into in connection with the transactions contemplated hereby must be in writing and given by depositing the same in the United States mail, addressed to the party to be notified, postage prepaid, and registered or certified with return receipt requested, or by delivering the same in person or by expedited transmission. Such notice shall be deemed received on the date on which it is hand-delivered or received by expedited transmission or on the third business day following the date on which it is so mailed. For purposes of notice, the addresses of the parties shall be as set forth on the front page of this Agreement. Any party may change its address for notice by written notice given to the other parties in accordance with this Section.

SECTION 2. Materials and Workmanship.

Subcontractor agrees to commence Work on Projects upon request by Contractor. Subcontractor agrees to provide all labor, services, equipment, and tools necessary to complete the Work.

a. **Scope of Work; Knowledge of Site; Plans and Specifications.** Subcontractor shall take all action necessary to familiarize itself and its employees, agents, and subcontractors with the scope and requirements of the Work, the existing site conditions, and any work to be performed by others that may affect the performance of the Work. Subcontractor shall confirm that the Contract Documents are correct and immediately notify Contractor of any errors and/or omissions.

b. **Change Orders.** Contractor may make any changes to the nature or scope of the Work provided, however, that any changes resulting in a change in price must be agreed to in writing by Subcontractor and Contractor prior to the Work being performed. Subcontractor shall be notified of changes by written change order. Subcontractor shall not perform any extra work without written authorization by Contractor.

c. **Protection of Work.** Subcontractor shall bear all risk of loss or damage to the Work resulting from any cause whatsoever until Subcontractor has completed its Work on the Project and such work has been accepted by Contractor and Owner. Subcontractor shall at all times, and at its expense, protect all of its labor, materials (regardless of who supplied such materials), supplies, tools, and equipment (and those of its employees, agents, and subcontractors) against any damage, injury, destruction, theft, or loss. Subcontractor shall, at its expense, promptly repair or replace damage to the Work or damage to any other components of the Project resulting from the activities of Subcontractor or its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

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d. **Safety and Environmental.**

(1) **Compliance with Laws.** Subcontractor will carefully check the drawings, plans, and specifications for conformity with all local, state, and Federal laws, codes, rules, and regulations bearing on the Work (the "Law") before commencing the Work. Unless Contractor or Owner otherwise agrees in writing, before commencement of the Work Subcontractor will obtain at its sole cost and expense all permits necessary for the Work. Subcontractor will comply with product manufacturer's specifications and will give all notices and comply with all Law bearing on the Work, including by way of enumeration and not limitation, safety, health, and environmental rules and regulations established by or pursuant to Federal, state, and local safety and environmental laws. Subcontractor at all times will furnish to its agents and employees a safe place of employment. If Subcontractor observes any violation of Law, it will immediately report such violation to Contractor in writing. Subcontractor will be responsible for any fines, charges, in-kind training or supplies, or penalties related to the Work, including, without limitation, fines, charges, and/or penalties related to the operation of equipment, the Subcontractor's performance of the Work, the handling of materials, or any other function that is in violation of the Law. All workmanship and materials will conform to Law and, if the Subcontractor performs or permits the performance of any Work not in compliance with Law, it will immediately cause such Work to be redone and bear all costs in connection therewith. The Work, as performed, will meet with the approval of, and pass any inspection of, any governmental authority having jurisdiction thereof. If the Work is being constructed under specifications of the Federal Housing Administration or the Veterans Administration, the Work will meet the requirements of these governmental agencies. No Work will be deemed complete until final inspection is made and approval is received from every governmental authority whose approval is required.

(2) The Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") and the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), Regulations have been promulgated by OSHA and EPA ("Regulations") that require all contractors and subcontractors to exchange Material Safety Data Sheets ("MSDS") and share information about precautionary measures necessary to protect all workers on a building project.

Subcontractor agrees as follows:

(A) Subcontractor will fully comply with the Regulations and will cooperate with Contractor and/or Owner and all subcontractors of Owner in order to assure compliance with the Regulations.

(B) Subcontractor hereby accepts full responsibility and liability for the training of its employees as to all precautionary measures necessary to protect such employees during both routine and emergency situations on the Project.

(C) TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, SUBCONTRACTOR WILL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, AND CAUSES OF ACTION THAT ARISE FROM THE FAILURE OF SUBCONTRACTOR TO COMPLY

WITH THE REGULATIONS.

(D) Subcontractor will assist Contractor in complying with the Regulations.

(E) Subcontractor will not use any chemicals in its performance of the Work for Contractor or incorporate any chemicals into materials or products supplied to Contractor or to the Project unless Subcontractor has given Contractor prior written notice of the existence and the possible exposure to such chemical, has delivered an MSDS to Contractor, and has received a written consent of Contractor to use such chemicals.

(F) Subcontractor's Safety Program. Subcontractor's safety program must specifically address, among other safety issues, scaffolding, fall hazards, trenching, and shoring, as may be applicable. For "hard hat" jobs, approved safety helmets and hard soled shoes must be worn at the Project at all times. Safety glasses must be worn when power equipment is used. Subcontractor shall erect and maintain all reasonable safeguards for safety and protection, including, but not limited to, necessary signage, protective barriers, and other warnings against hazards. Subcontractor shall furnish all flagmen, barricades, and other items required for public safety and right-of-way maintenance required by the installation of the Work. Safety vests shall be worn in the public right-of-way.

(G) Default. If Subcontractor fails to immediately comply with safety and environmental requirements after verbal or written notice from Contractor, Contractor may agree the violation and deduct the cost from any Partial Payment or final payment in addition to all other remedies available to Contractor, including, without limitation, consequential damages. Subcontractor shall pay any fines assessed to Owner or Contractor due to the acts, omissions, or negligence of Subcontractor. If construction of the Project in whole or in part is delayed or halted by any governmental authority as a result of Subcontractor's Work, Subcontractor shall pay to Contractor as liquidated damages, and not as a penalty, the amount of \$200 per hour for a minimum ten (10) hour day until construction at the Project can be safely resumed.

SECTION 3. Warranty.

In addition to any other warranty or guarantee expressly made by Subcontractor or implied by Law, Subcontractor unconditionally warrants and guarantees the Work will conform to any specifications provided by Contractor and comply with all Law and Subcontractor guarantees the Work against defects in design, workmanship, and materials for the benefit of Contractor and its successors and assigns, Owner, as well as the ultimate owner of any structure into which the Work is incorporated. This guarantee will commence upon the Subcontractor's completion of the Work and will continue for a minimum of (a) three (3) years for all Work except, (b) ten (10) years for all Work consisting of any structural applications of any home, building, or other structure. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this warranty will continue until such time as all express and implied warranties granted or deemed granted by Contractor and all other obligations of Contractor related to the Work are terminated or expired as a matter of Law. If demand is made upon Subcontractor to perform under this warranty, Subcontractor at its sole cost and expense will expeditiously repair or replace, at Contractor's sole option, any defective or nonconforming Work and indemnify Contractor and any other party for any costs incurred by any party relating to such demand. This warranty shall extend to all consequential damages resulting from such faults and/or defects of design, material, and workmanship described in this Section, including, without limitation, property damage to the homes or properties into which the Work is incorporated, property damage to the personal property of the ultimate owners of such homes or structures, and personal injury damages to persons residing at or visiting the properties into which the Work is incorporated. If

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Subcontractor fails to perform under this warranty, the party entitled to performance or Contractor will have the right to hire other persons to correct or replace the defective Work and hold Subcontractor liable for the costs thereof including costs, disbursements, and attorneys' fees incurred in the enforcement of this provision. This warranty is independent from all other obligations of Subcontractor under this Agreement, including, without limitation, all indemnification provisions, and will apply whether or not required by any other provision of this Agreement. Owner and any ultimate owner of any structure into which the Work is incorporated shall be intended non-beneficial third party beneficiaries of this Agreement and shall have the power to enforce this Agreement. Subcontractor will maintain a published phone number or answering service during normal working hours.

SECTION 4. Insurance.

At all times while performing the Work, and continuing thereafter until the expiration of the applicable statute of limitations for any claims, Subcontractor will maintain for the benefit of itself and Contractor (and Owner, when requested), the following minimum insurance coverage:

- a. Workers' Compensation Insurance - statutory limits in the state where each Project is located.
- b. Employer's Liability Insurance - \$1,000,000 or such other higher limits imposed in accordance with the requirement, if any, of the laws of the states where Subcontractor is engaged in business.
- c. Commercial General Liability - \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$1,000,000 products-completed operations aggregate, \$1,000,000 general aggregate, and broad form contractual liability coverage to cover the indemnity obligations undertaken herein.
- d. Business Auto Liability, including hired and non-owned auto coverage - \$500,000 combined single limit.

Insurance policies shall (a) be issued by companies with a "Best's Rating A" and a "Financial Size Category of VII", (b) be on an "occurrence" form, and (c) list Contractor and if requested, Owner, as additional insureds per Form CG 20 10 edition 1/83 or its equivalent on the General Liability and Automobile Liability Policies. For purposes of this additional insured requirement, the term "equivalent" means coverage for liability arising out of Subcontractor's Work performed for Contractor and includes both ongoing and products-completed operations coverages. The Workers' Compensation Policy shall include an Alternate Employer's Endorsement naming the Contractor. If Subcontractor utilizes any leased employees, Contractor must also be listed on an Alternate Employer's endorsement on the Workers' Compensation Policy covering the leased employees.

Subcontractor will provide to Contractor certificates of insurance or other satisfactory evidence of compliance with the provisions of this Section promptly after the date of this Agreement and thirty (30) days before the expiration date of each policy or at any time upon request of Contractor. A copy of the actual additional insured endorsement and alternate employer's endorsement must be supplied with the certificate of insurance. If such evidence is not furnished, Contractor will have the immediate right, but not the obligation, to procure at Subcontractor's expense (which Contractor may offset such costs against any Partial Payment or final payment), the required insurance on behalf of Subcontractor. The reference to "endeavor to" and "but failure to" in such notices will impose no obligation or liability of any kind upon the company, its agents or representatives. In the cancellation notification portion of the certificate and/or endorsement to the policy must be deleted. To the fullest extent permitted by law, any provision on the face of any certificate of insurance provided by Subcontractor that states anything to the effect that the certificate of insurance does not confer rights to insurance upon Contractor is hereby deemed deleted from such certificate of insurance. The insurance

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provided herein by Subcontractor shall be primary and non-contributory to any other insurance available to the additional insureds. Waivers of subrogation shall be provided in favor of Contractor and Owner on all insurance policies carried by Subcontractor. Subcontractor hereby releases Contractor and Owner from all claims and causes of action resulting from or related to any loss covered or that should have been covered by insurance required to be maintained by Subcontractor including the deductible and any uninsured portion. Additionally, Subcontractor shall comply with any additional insurance requirements set forth in any other Contract Documents.

SECTION 5. INDEMNITY.

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, FINES, PENALTIES, AND EXPENSES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ARBITRATION OR COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH) ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM BODILY INJURY OR DEATH OF ANY PERSON, OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, INCLUDING LOSS OF USE OF PROPERTY, ARISING OR ALLEGED TO ARISE OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE SUBCONTRACTOR'S PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK OR OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, BUT ONLY TO THE EXTENT CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY ANY NEGLIGENT ACT OR OMISSION OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR ANYONE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR ANYONE FOR WHOSE ACTS THE SUBCONTRACTOR MAY BE LIABLE. THE CONTRACTOR'S INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS WHICH SUBCONTRACTOR IS SUBJECT TO UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF INDEMNIFICATION HEREUNDER.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS, THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES (THE "INDEMNITEES"), FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH) ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM BODILY INJURY TO, OR SICKNESS, DISEASE, OR DEATH OF, THE SUBCONTRACTOR, ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, OR ANY OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH CLAIM, DAMAGE, LOSS, OR EXPENSE IS CAUSED, OR IS ALLEGED TO BE CAUSED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY

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OF THE INDEMNITEES, IT BEING THE EXPRESSED INTENT OF THE CONTRACTOR AND THE SUBCONTRACTOR THAT IN SUCH EVENT THE SUBCONTRACTOR IS TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE INDEMNITEES FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR OWN NEGLIGENCE, WHETHER IT IS OR IS ALLEGED TO BE THE SOLE OR CONCURRENT CAUSE OF THE BODILY INJURY, SICKNESS, DISEASE, OR DEATH OF THE SUBCONTRACTOR, SUBCONTRACTOR'S AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE, OR THE AGENT, EMPLOYEE, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY OF ITS SUBCONTRACTORS. THE INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL NOT BE LIMITED BY ANY LIMITATION ON THE AMOUNT OR TYPE OF DAMAGES, COMPENSATION, OR BENEFITS PAYABLE BY OR FOR SUBCONTRACTOR UNDER WORKERS COMPENSATION ACTS, DISABILITY BENEFIT ACTS, OR OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ACTS. THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL PROCURE LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS SECTION 5.

THE DUTY TO DEFEND UNDER THIS SECTION 5 IS INDEPENDENT AND SEPARATE FROM THE DUTY TO INDEMNIFY, AND THE DUTY TO DEFEND EXISTS REGARDLESS OF ANY ULTIMATE LIABILITY OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, OR ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES. THE DUTY TO DEFEND ARISES IMMEDIATELY UPON PRESENTATION OF A CLAIM BY ANY PARTY INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER AND WRITTEN NOTICE OF SUCH CLAIM BEING PROVIDED TO SUBCONTRACTOR. SUBCONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATION TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS UNDER THIS SECTION 5 WILL SURVIVE THE EXPIRATION OR EARLIER TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT UNTIL IT IS FINALLY DETERMINED BY A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR ARBITRATION PANEL THAT A CLAIM AGAINST THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ANY OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FOR THE MATTER INDEMNIFIED HEREUNDER IS FULLY AND FINALLY BARRED BY THE APPLICABLE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

THE DEFENSE AND INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT ARE NOT INTENDED TO AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE THE SUBCONTRACTOR OR OTHERS TO INDEMNIFY OR HOLD HARMLESS A REGISTERED ARCHITECT, LICENSED ENGINEER, OR AN AGENT, SERVANT, OR EMPLOYEE OF A REGISTERED ARCHITECT OR LICENSED ENGINEER FROM LIABILITY FOR DAMAGE THAT IS (1) CAUSED BY OR RESULTS FROM: (A) DEFECTS IN PLANS, DESIGNS, OR SPECIFICATIONS PREPARED, APPROVED, OR USED BY THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER; OR (B) THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER IN THE RENDERING OR CONDUCT OF PROFESSIONAL DUTIES CALLED FOR OR ARISING OUT OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT AND THE PLANS,

DESIGNS, OR SPECIFICATIONS THAT ARE A PART OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT; AND (2) ARISES FROM PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, PROPERTY INJURY, OR ANY OTHER EXPENSE THAT ARISES FROM PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY INJURY.

SECTION 6. Independent Subcontractor Status and Warranty to be Lawfully Entitled to Work in the United States of America.

Subcontractor agrees that it and its employees, agents, and subcontractors (and their employees, agents, and subcontractors) will perform the Work as independent contractors, and not as employees or agents of Contractor. Contractor has no authority to direct, supervise, or control the means, manner, or method of construction of the Work. Further, Subcontractor warrants and agrees it will independently verify that it and its employees, agents, and subcontractors (and their employees, agents, and subcontractors) shall be lawfully entitled to work under the laws of the United States of America.

SECTION 7. Certification of Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions
If the Project contracted for herein is subject to or becomes subject to 41 CFR 60-741.5(a), then the Subcontractor and Contractor certify that they shall abide by the requirements of 41 CFR 60-741.5(a), such requirements being incorporated by reference herein. This regulation prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of disability, and requires affirmative action by covered prime contractors and subcontractors to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities.

If the Project contracted for herein is subject to, or becomes subject to, 41 CFR 60-300.5(a), then the Subcontractor and Contractor certify that they shall abide by the requirements of 41 CFR 60-300.5(a), such requirements being incorporated by reference herein. This regulation prohibits discrimination against qualified protected veterans, and requires affirmative action by covered prime contractors and subcontractors to employ and advance in employment qualified protected veterans.

Subcontractor further certifies that it has read and familiarized itself with the requirements contained in 41 CFR 60-741.5(a) and 41 CFR 60-300.5(a) and shall incorporate the above language into its purchase orders and subcontracts.

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, THE SUBCONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, SUITS, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, DAMAGES, LIABILITIES, FINES, PENALTIES, AND EXPENSES OF ANY KIND WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ARBITRATION OR COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES (SUCH LEGAL EXPENSES TO INCLUDE COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING THE INDEMNIFICATION AND OTHER RIGHTS AGREED TO IN THIS PARAGRAPH)

ARISING OUT OF, RESULTING FROM OR RELATED TO SUBCONTRACTOR'S BREACH OF THE OBLIGATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION 7.

SECTION 8. Default and Damages.

a. **Subcontractor's Default.** The following acts on the part of Subcontractor will, at Contractor's option, result in the immediate termination of this Agreement and all Work Orders, and dismissal of Subcontractor from each site.

- (1) Any delays of the Work caused by Subcontractor's failure or refusal to supply enough skilled labor or materials to meet Contractor's schedule.
- (2) Subcontractor's failure to promptly pay any labor, material suppliers, or lien claimants with respect to any Work.
- (3) Adjudication of Subcontractor to be bankrupt or insolvent either by Contractor or any court or governmental entity.
- (4) If Subcontractor or any of its employees, subcontractors, or agents (or employees, subcontractors, or agents of any subcontractor retained by Subcontractor to perform Work) consume, use, or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs while on the site, (Subcontractor agrees to strictly enforce rules to this effect and to inform all employees, agents, and subcontractors that such rules will be strictly enforced.)
- (5) Failure of Subcontractor or its agents, subcontractors, or employees to (a) operate motorized vehicles or equipment in a safe and orderly manner, (b) comply with safe labor and material installation practices designated by Contractor or Owner or otherwise accepted by the industry, or (c) leave the Project site in a safe condition (as determined by Contractor in its sole discretion) during or after construction.
- (6) Subcontractor's failure to comply with the provisions of this Agreement regarding assignment or subcontracting.
- (7) Any other violations of the Contract Documents including, without limitation, this Agreement.

b. **Damages.**

(1) **No Damages for Delay.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement and to the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor will not be liable for any loss, claim, cost, liability, or damage incurred by Subcontractor, whether direct or indirect or whether related to efforts by Contractor to accelerate the Work, on account of any delay, disruption, hindrance, or any other impediment whatsoever, no matter by what, or by whom, caused. Rather, the Cost of Work (defined in Section 8) is understood and agreed to include and cover all expenses and costs due to delays, disruptions, hindrances, or any other impediments regardless of their cause. Subcontractor agrees not to make, and hereby waives, any such claim for damages.

(2) **Subcontractor's Liability to Contractor upon Termination.** If this Agreement is terminated at Contractor's option as provided in this Section 7, Subcontractor will be liable to

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Contractor for all costs and damages incurred by Contractor due to Subcontractor's failure to perform under this Agreement or other Contract Documents (including, without limitation, the amount by which the cost to complete the Project exceeds the cost of the Work), Subcontractor's failure to keep up the progress of the Work as required, or Subcontractor's failure to execute the Work as directed by Contractor. In addition to all costs and damages incurred by Contractor, Subcontractor shall be liable to Contractor for an additional amount equal to 25% of all costs and damages for Contractor's additional overhead and related costs.

c. **Reimbursement for Fines.** Subcontractor shall promptly reimburse to Contractor and shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Contractor regarding any fines or penalties incurred by Contractor or Owner as a result of the actions or inaction of Subcontractor or its employees, agents, or subcontractors, relating to performance of Work or otherwise, including, without limitation, their failure to abide by the requirements of Section 2(d).

SECTION 9. Payment to Subcontractor.

a. **Payment by Owner is Condition Precedent.** Subcontractor agrees and acknowledges that Contractor shall seek payment from Owner for the price of the Work ("Cost of Work") performed pursuant to Work Orders and that Contractor has no duty or obligation to pay Subcontractor for any Work until Contractor has been paid by Owner. Therefore, all obligations of Contractor to make Partial Payments and final payment are subject to the express conditions precedent that Owner accepts Subcontractor's Work and Contractor receives payments from Owner for all payments to Subcontractor. It is expressly agreed that any basis for non-payment by Owner, including, without limitation, the bankruptcy or insolvency of Owner, will not excuse this condition precedent and Subcontractor expressly assumes the risk of delayed payment or non-payment by Owner.

b. **Partial Payments.** Partial payments ("Partial Payments") for portions of the Work that have been completed will be made by Contractor to Subcontractor as the Work progresses, but not more often than in accordance with Contractor's regular payment procedures. As a condition precedent to Partial Payments, Subcontractor must submit written applications that provide a description of the portion of the Work that has been completed during the payment period (including, without limitation, materials and supplies used therein if provided by Subcontractor), an estimate of the percentage of completion of the Work, a copy of each change order for the payment period, safety meeting sheets for the period of time since the last submission for payment, sheets indicating the number of hours worked by any employees of Subcontractor or any of its subcontractors ("Employee Time Sheets") for the period of time since the last submission for payment, evidence of payment, waivers (including, without limitation, lien waivers), and supplier affidavits in form satisfactory to Owner and Contractor, for itself, its subcontractors and material suppliers, and all other information Contractor is required to provide to Owner as a condition to Contractor's right to receive payment. Contractor reserves the right to modify such estimates in its sole and exclusive discretion and such modifications will bind Subcontractor for the purpose of Partial Payments. Partial Payments will be made to Subcontractor on or about the thirtieth day following approval of the application for payment by Contractor and receipt of payment by Contractor from Owner.

c. **Retainage.** Contractor will retain at least ten percent (10%) of each Partial Payment (the "Retainage Amount") or any greater amount Contractor chooses to retain in its sole discretion.

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Contractor may, in its sole discretion, waive its right to retain any Retainage Amount from any Partial Payments or final payment.

d. **Grounds for Withholding Payments.** Contractor may withhold any Partial Payments or the final payment in whole or in part upon the occurrence of any breach of this Agreement by Subcontractor until a cure satisfactory to Contractor has been completed.

e. **Work Covered by Partial Payments.** All the completed Work covered by Partial Payments or final payment made to Subcontractor will thereupon become the sole property of Contractor, but this provision will not be construed as relieving Subcontractor from the sole responsibility for all Work upon which Partial Payments have been made, for the restoration of any damaged Work, for the correction of defective Work, or as a waiver of Contractor's right to require fulfillment of all of the terms of this Agreement. Payment to Subcontractor is specifically agreed not to imply acceptance by Contractor or Owner of any portion of the Work that fails to comply with the Contract Documents.

f. **Final Payment.** Final payment constitutes the entire unpaid balance of the Cost of Work minus any amounts retained. Final payment will be made by Contractor to Subcontractor upon satisfaction of the following conditions:

- (1) The Work is fully performed in accordance with the requirements of the Contract Documents, and Subcontractor is not in default under this Agreement or the Contract Documents;
- (2) Subcontractor has submitted satisfactory evidence of payments to, waivers by, and releases from all claims by, Subcontractor and any persons, firms, or corporations having performed work, labor, or services or furnished materials, equipment, tools, or supplies to Subcontractor for the Work (including, without limitation, lien waivers) if requested by Contractor;
- (3) Subcontractor has delivered to Contractor all as-built drawings, certifications, maintenance manuals, operating instructions, written guarantees, warranties, and bonds;
- (4) Subcontractor has provided safety meeting sheets and Employee Time Sheets for the period of time since the last submission for payment;
- (5) Owner, any general contractor, any lender, any architect, and Contractor have accepted the Work; and
- (6) Contractor has received payment from Owner.

g. **Release of Retainage.** Contractor will release any Retainage Amount thirty (30) days after all conditions precedent to Subcontractor's receipt of the final payment are met.

h. **Subcontractor's Agreement to Pay.** Subcontractor will promptly pay when due all charges owed by it for labor, services, materials, equipment, tools, and supplies furnished under this Agreement and will keep the Work and the Project free from any mechanics' and materialmen's liens. Subcontractor shall not acquire any materials, supplies, or equipment subject to any security interest or conditional sale or other agreement where any interest is retained by or granted to a seller, supplier, or lender. If Contractor reasonably believes that Subcontractor has failed to pay when due all charges owed by Subcontractor for its labor, services, materials, equipment, tools, and supplies, Contractor may issue

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Joint checks made payable to Subcontractor and other parties owed by Subcontractor or directly to those parties owed by Subcontractor in Contractor's sole discretion. Contractor shall be entitled to and Subcontractor shall provide acceptable security insuring against claims by Subcontractor's creditors.

1. **INDEMNIFICATION FOR LIENS.** TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, SUBCONTRACTOR HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ANY MECHANICS' AND MATERIALMEN'S LIENS UPON THE PROJECT, ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES, AMOUNTS PAID IN SETTLEMENT, AND AMOUNTS PAID TO DISCHARGE JUDGMENTS ARISING OUT OF THE SERVICES, LABOR, EQUIPMENT, OR MATERIALS FURNISHED BY SUBCONTRACTOR, OR ITS EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS, OR SUBCONTRACTORS, IF SUBCONTRACTOR FAILS TO DO SO, CONTRACTOR MAY DEDUCT FROM SUMS THEN OR THEREAFTER DUE TO SUBCONTRACTOR SUCH AMOUNTS AS CONTRACTOR DEEMS APPROPRIATE IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION TO INDEMNIFY THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM SUCH LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES. CONTRACTOR MAY, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, CURE ANY LIENS OR SATISFY ANY DEMANDS, AND RECOVER ITS COSTS RELATED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THERETO FROM SUBCONTRACTOR. SUBCONTRACTOR HEREBY WAIVES, RELEASES, AND FOREVER DISCHARGES THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES FROM ALL COSTS, EXPENSES, CLAIMS, DEMANDS, DAMAGES, LOSSES, CAUSES OF ACTION, OR LIABILITIES THAT SUBCONTRACTOR MAY HAVE AGAINST THE CONTRACTOR, THE OWNER, AND ALL OF THEIR OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES THAT ARISE DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM CURING ANY SUCH LIENS, CLAIMS, ENCUMBRANCES, OR DEMANDS.

SECTION 10. Miscellaneous.

a. **Assignment and Successors.** Subcontractor may not assign or subcontract any portion of the Work or its other obligations or rights hereunder without the prior written consent of Contractor. If Subcontractor assigns or subcontracts any portion of the Work (with the prior written consent of Contractor), Subcontractor will require each such assignee or sub-tier subcontractor to comply with the Contract Documents, including, without limitation, the pertinent provisions of this Agreement (including, without limitation, Section 5) by written agreement, a copy of which must be provided to Contractor. Subcontractor hereby unconditionally guarantees the compliance of each such assignee or sub-tier subcontractor with this Agreement. Subject to the preceding provisions of this Section, this Agreement will be binding on and will inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective heirs, administrators, executors, successors, and permitted assigns.

b. **Acts of Affiliates.** For the purpose of this Agreement, any action of any agent, employee, subcontractor, director, officer, or invitee of Subcontractor or any of their agents, employees, subcontractors, officers, or invitees shall be deemed an act of Subcontractor. For the purposes hereof, any obligation or liability imposed on Subcontractor with regard to its employees or agents shall also be deemed an obligation or liability of Subcontractor with regard to employees or agents of its subcontractors. Subcontractors of Subcontractor shall include any suppliers of Subcontractor other than Contractor.

c. **Offset.** In addition to any other right provided hereunder, Contractor shall be entitled to offset any amount owed to it by Subcontractor hereunder against any Partial Payments or final payment under this Agreement or any other agreement.

d. **Clean up.** Subcontractor will at all times keep the Project safe and free from the accumulation of waste materials or rubbish caused by its operations or related to the Work. Upon completion of the Work and each portion thereof, Subcontractor will remove all rubbish and waste produced by its operations or Work hereunder from the Project as well as all of its tools, equipment, machinery, and surplus materials no longer needed and leave the Project in a "broom clean" or equivalent condition and safe for Subcontractor's employees and subsequent contractors to perform their work, unless otherwise specified in writing. If Subcontractor fails to clean up, Contractor may do so after written notice to Subcontractor and the cost thereof will be charged to Subcontractor.

e. **Lien waiver.** Subcontractor hereby waives and relinquishes any right, whether granted by statute or not, to file or obtain any lien for Work performed hereunder.

f. **Release.** Subcontractor hereby waives, releases, and forever discharges the Contractor, the Owner, and all of their officers, directors, agents, and employees from all costs, expenses, claims, demands, damages, losses, causes of action, or liabilities that Subcontractor may have against the Contractor, the Owner, and all of their officers, directors, agents, and employees. Specifically, Subcontractor agrees that Subcontractor shall not file, or cause to be filed, any demand, claim, suit or cause of action against Contractor and all of its officers, directors, agents, and employees hereunder.

g. **Other.** This Agreement embodies the entire agreement between the parties and supercedes all prior agreements and understandings. This Agreement may be amended or supplemented only by an instrument in writing executed by the party against whom enforcement is sought. No delay or failure by Contractor to exercise any right or remedy hereunder, and no partial or single exercise of such right or remedy, will constitute a waiver of that or any other right or remedy. The duties and obligations imposed by this Agreement and rights and remedies available hereunder shall be in addition to and not a limitation of duties, obligations, rights, and remedies otherwise imposed or available by Law. The prevailing party to any dispute shall have a right to collect its reasonable attorney's fees and expenses. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to the conflicts of law provisions thereof. The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed independent and severable, and the invalidity or partial invalidity of any provision or portion thereof shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision or portion thereof. It is the intent of the parties that any invalid provision hereof be reformed to the extent necessary to make it enforceable to the maximum extent of the law.

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EXECUTED to be effective as of the date first above written.

Simultaneous

HURLEY SERVICES, LLC

Business First Group -
SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC

By: Giovanni Mendes

Name: GIOVANNI MENDES

Title: OWNER

80-0803713

Subcontractor Social Security No. or
Federal I.D. No.

By:

Name: Daryl Ward

Title: Vice President

EXECUTED to be effective as of the date first above written.

SUBCONTRACTOR:

HURLEY SERVICES, LLC

BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE-
SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC

By: Giovanni Mendes
Name: GIOVANNI MENDES
Title: OWNER

By: [Signature]
Name: Daryl Ward
Title: Vice President

80-0803713
Subcontractor Spinal Security No. or
Federal I.D. No.

Subcontractor
[Signature]
Contractor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON) CIVIL ACTION NO: 2016-CP-10-03783

The Retreat at Charleston National
Country Club Home Owners
Association, Inc. and The Retreat at
Charleston National Country Club
Horizontal Property Regime,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Winston Carlyle Charleston National,
LLC; Colin R. Campbell Construction,
Inc.; Colin Campbell, individually;
Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group,
LLC; Americo Roofing Concepts, Inc.;
DVS, Inc.; Advanced Building
Connection, LLC; Guy C., Lee
Building Materials, LLC; WS
Contractors, LLC; Dino Schwartz,
Individually,

Defendants.

Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group,
LLC,

Third Party Plaintiff,

vs.

Charleston Exteriors, LLC; ECC
Contracting, LLC; Hurley Services,
LLC; McDaniel Construction Co., LLC;
AC Construction Corp.; and L&G
Construction Group, LLC; Pohlman
Quality Contractors; and Pohlman
Quality Exteriors, Inc.

Third Party Defendants.

BUILDERS FIRSTSOURCE
SOUTHEAST GROUP, LLC ANSWERS
TO HURLEY SERVICES, LLC
INTERROGATORIES



Exhibit C

RECEIVED

Jun 20 2025

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Supreme Court

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Jennifer B. McCoy, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case No. 2021-001050
Case No. 2016-CP-10-03783

Opinion No. 2025-6099

The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Home Owners Association, Inc., and The
Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Horizontal Property Regime,
Plaintiffs,

v.

Winston Carlyle Charleston National, LLC; Colin R. Campbell Construction, Inc.; Colin
Campbell, individually; Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC; Builders FirstSource, Inc.;
Americo Roofing Concepts, Inc.; DVS, Inc.; Advanced Building Connection, LLC; Guy C. Lee
Building Materials, LLC; WS Contractors, LLC; Dino Schwartz, Individually; Charleston
Exteriors, LLC; ECC Contracting, LLC; Hurley Services, LLC; McDaniel Construction Co.,
LLC; AC Construction Corp.; AC Construction, Inc.; L&G Construction Group, LLC; Liollo
Architecture; JC Contractors, LLC; Soto & Vasquez Construction, LLC; Costa De Oliveira
Construction, LLC; Solesmar Jesus De Oliveria; Wilson Lucas Sales d/b/a Miracle Siding;
Miracle Siding, LLC; Royal Homes of SC, Inc.; Collen Batissa; Christopher Batissa; Norma
Ferreira Bruno; Mendez Construction, LLC; Juan Garza Ramos, individually; Juan Garza Ramos
d/b/a Juan Constructors; Jessica Marroquin, individually; Jessica Marroquin d/b/a Marroquin
Construction; Carlos Marroquin, individually; Carlos Marroquin Construction; Carlos and
Jessica Marroquin d/b/a Marroquin Construction; Feliciano Cruz Silva; Garcia Roofing, LLC;
Givair De Caris; and Mario Salgado;
Defendants,

Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC, Petitioner

v.

Pohlman Quality Contractors; Pohlman Quality Exteriors; Palmetto Trim and Renovation;
Edward Bruce Witham; and East Coast Carpentry, Third-Party Defendants,

Of which Palmetto Trim and Renovation; Hurley Services, LLC; ECC Contracting, LLC; East Coast Carpentry; AC Construction, Inc.; WS Contractors, LLC; Pohlman Quality Exteriors, Inc.; and L&G Construction Group, LLC are the Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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Certification

Counsel for the Petitioner certifies that the petition for rehearing was made and finally ruled upon by the court of appeals on May 21, 2025.

Questions Presented

1. When a contractor files a general third-party claim against its subcontractor seeking to recover in contractual indemnity for all damages for which it might be held liable, does such claim include those damages for which the subcontractor is either solely or concurrently responsible?
2. Should a contract provision imposing an obligation to indemnify – specifically as it relates to a contractor’s claim for damages for which its subcontractor is either solely or concurrently responsible – be construed in accordance with precedent and with the laws governing contracts generally, or should it for the first time be subject to the heightened “clear and unequivocal” standard that would be applicable if the contractor were solely seeking indemnity for its *own* negligence?
3. Should the court restrict its inquiry to the provision of the contract directly at issue, that is, the indemnification provision, rather than considering provisions under which no cause of action has been brought in this case, and should the inquiry into the meaning of the contract always give defined terms in the parties' contract the limited meaning ascribed to them in the contract?
4. Does the court's refusal to honor the severance language in this contract, and its consequent refusal to sever the offending language and thus save the contract, violate the Supreme Court's precedent?
5. Does S.C. Code Section 32-2-10 by its specific provisions apply only to agreements in indemnification, and does its silence regarding attorneys' fees reflect both legislative intent and a common law imperative that attorneys' fees do not fall within the scope of Section 32-2-10?

6. Is a trial court's order that is on appeal, and thus on which judgment has not yet been finally entered, considered sufficiently "final" for collateral estoppel or res judicata purposes?

Statement of the Case

The court of appeals' opinion, in applying a heightened standard to review of contractual provisions imposing obligations to indemnify against the negligence of the indemnitor, establishes new and unprecedented law governing contractual relationships, disrupting well-settled South Carolina precedent regarding risk allocation between parties. In departing from established decisions, the opinion creates legal uncertainty that extends far beyond this case, casting doubt on the enforceability of standard indemnity provisions across the entire construction industry. The indemnity provisions at issue – based on a standard AIA indemnity provisions used industry-wide – have historically been upheld under general contract principles. Never before has South Carolina law required that contract provisions, imposing the obligation to indemnify against liability for damages occasioned by the negligence of the indemnitor, meet a heightened "clear and unequivocal" standard to be enforceable. Yet, for the first time, the court of appeals applies that heightened standard and ignores Supreme Court precedent setting forth general principles of contract construction. This shift effectively renders standard indemnity provisions unenforceable, leaving contractors unable to recover from negligent subcontractors and forcing them to bear the costs of others' mistakes. Subcontractors, in turn, avoid accountability for their own negligence. The consequences are sweeping: two of the contracts at issue date back to 2005 – now, at-least two decades of construction work is implicated by the Opinion. Petitioner does not believe the court of appeals intended to rewrite industry norms and accordingly asks this Court to grant review.

Retreat at Charleston National Appeal

This appeal is the result of a long and complex construction defect litigation originally filed by the Plaintiffs on July 22, 2016. [R. pp. 174-186]. The Plaintiffs, The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Homes Owners Association, Inc. and The Retreat at Charleston National Country Club Horizontal Property Regime, sought recovery of damages allegedly occasioned by deficiencies in original construction of the subject project, a multi-family development, consisting of 32 buildings, encompassing a total of 129 townhome units, located in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. [Id.].

The Plaintiffs' claims, as asserted against Builders FirstSource – Southeast Group, LLC (“BFS” or “Petitioner”), allege, among other contentions, that the framing and window installation services of Petitioner were deficient, resulting in water intrusion and corresponding damages. [R. pp. 177-179]. Plaintiffs' forensic expert has also opined: (a) that the windows at the project are characterized by inadequate DP ratings, requiring comprehensive replacement of those windows; (b) that installation was performed using incorrect fasteners, which were, both (i) of improper type, and (ii) of inadequate length to assure required embedment of the fastener into the framing; and (c) that fasteners were installed at spacing intervals which exceeded those required by the manufacturer's installation criteria. [R. pp. 1107, 1108, 11110].

Petitioner contracted with several subcontractors who performed the allegedly defective installation work at the project. Therefore, Petitioner filed cross-claims or third-party claims, against its subcontractors, including: ECC Contracting, LLC, Hurley Services, LLC, McDaniel Construction Co¹, LLC, AC Construction Corp and/or AC Construction Inc., L&G Construction

¹ Plaintiffs filed a Stipulation of Dismissal dismissing their claims with prejudice against McDaniel Construction Co, LLC on April 17, 2020. Therein, Plaintiffs stipulated that there are no defects in the work performed by McDaniel Construction Co, LLC on the project that is the subject of this suit. Premised upon Plaintiffs' stipulations, the Honorable Bentley D. Price granted McDaniel Construction Co, LLC summary judgment as to Builders FirstSource-Southeast Group, LLC claims on December 18, 2020. McDaniel Construction Co, LLC is not a party to this appeal.

Group, LLC, WS Contractors, LLC, Pohlman Quality Exteriors, Inc., Palmetto Trim and Renovations, LLC, Edward Bruce Witham², and East Coast Carpentry Company. [R. pp. 414-454]. The claims of Petitioner included causes of action in negligence, breach of express and implied warranty, breach of contract, contractual indemnity and equitable indemnity. [Id.].

Of the above-mentioned subcontractors, eight moved for summary judgment at various times during 2019 and/or 2020. All eight subcontractors' motions were heard on November 6, 2020 by the Hon. Jennifer McCoy. [R. pp. 1386-1450]. Each subcontractor argued its own motion, and the arguments forming the basis for the different motions varied from subcontractor to subcontractor. [Id.]. On May 10, 2021, Judge McCoy issued seven³ separate Form 4 Orders granting, or granting in part, summary judgment to the subcontractors, and requesting that *each* subcontractor submit its own proposed order. [R. pp. 1-19]. As a result, Judge McCoy received eight different proposed orders, one from each subcontractor, with each outlining different legal and factual grounds for an award of summary judgment. Judge McCoy then adopted each of the eight proposed orders over the course of multiple days. On July 7, 2021, the lower court issued orders granting, in part, summary judgment to: ECC Contracting, LLC; AC Construction; Hurley Service, LLC; Pohlman Quality Exteriors, Inc.; and L&G Construction. [R. pp. 22-41, 58-83, 102-121]. On July 26, 2021, the trial court issued an order granting, in part, summary judgment to Palmetto Trim and Renovations. [R. pp. 50-57]. On July 29, 2021, the trial court issued orders granting, or, granting in part, summary judgment to: East Coast Carpentry; and WS Contractors. [R. pp. 42-49, 84-101].

² The Honorable Jennifer B. McCoy Ordered an Entry of Default against Edward Bruce Witham on June 12, 2020. Edward Bruce Witham is not a party to this appeal.

³ For reasons that are unclear to Appellant, the lower court never issued an Initial Form 4 Order addressing L&G's motion. It did, however, ultimately grant partial summary judgment to L&G in an order dated July 7, 2021.

Petitioner timely moved for reconsideration of each of the eight orders. [R. pp. 1208-1387]. On August 23, 2021, the trial court issued eight Form 4 Orders denying each of Petitioner's motions for reconsideration. [R. pp. 122-145]. Petitioner separately filed eight notices of appeal – one for each order – on September 22, 2021. By letter dated October 7, 2021, the Clerk of Court for the court of appeals advised the parties to this action that it had consolidated the eight appeals filed by Petitioner. Petitioner responded by letter dated October 25, 2021, and later by motion dated November 22, 2021, setting forth its objections to consolidation of the appeals. Nonetheless, by letter dated January 28, 2022, the court of appeals reaffirmed the consolidation.

On appeal, this case was considered by a panel of judges composed of Judges McDonald, Thomas, and Verdin. Petitioner's final briefs were submitted on November 14, 2022, and oral arguments were held on March 5, 2024. The court of appeals issued its order as a published opinion on February 12, 2025, affirming the trial court's orders. Petitioner filed a petition for rehearing on February 27, 2025. On May 21, 2025, the court of appeals issued a substituted opinion denying the petition for rehearing. This petition for writ of certiorari follows.

Argument

I. In a marked departure from the Rules of Civil Procedure and common law precedent, the court of appeals held that Petitioner's general claim for contractual indemnification did not encompass a claim specifically for damages caused by the subcontractor's sole or concurrent negligence.

The first step in analyzing this case is identifying what type of contractual indemnification claim is before the court. It is well established that if a party seeks to recover for its own negligence, the language of the contract on which it relies for such recovery must articulate that right to recovery clearly and unequivocally. Concord & Cumberland Horizontal Prop. Regime v. Concord & Cumberland, LLC, 424 S.C. 639, 819 S.E.2d 166 (Ct. App. 2018), reh'g denied (Oct. 18, 2018). However, all other recovery in contractual indemnification – including the right to

recover from a subcontractor for that subcontractor's own negligence, whether sole or concurrent -- is analyzed only in accordance with the rules of contractual interpretation generally; that is to say, the heightened "clear and unequivocal" standard does not apply. Id.

Thus, the issue here is the extent of the indemnity sought by the Petitioner: a) whether this Petitioner is seeking recovery for the subcontractors' negligence; b) solely for its own negligence; or c) potentially for both types of negligence. The answer to that question will determine the appropriate standard or standards to apply to the parties' contract.

Petitioner pled that if Petitioner were to be found liable to Plaintiff in the underlying action, that such liability would be the result of damages caused by its subcontractors. [R. pp. 440-41, 447-449]. It then pled that it was entitled to full indemnification for any amounts for which it was found to be liable to the Plaintiffs (i.e., if Petitioner is liable, it is due to the defective work of Petitioner's subcontractors, so if Petitioner is found liable for the acts or omissions of its subcontractors, then Petitioner's subcontractors are required to indemnify the Petitioner against such liability). [Id.]. The court of appeals held that because Petitioner sought indemnification for "any" amounts for which it may be liable, it was seeking indemnification for its own negligence. [Opinion p. 21]. Because the court dismissed the entire contractual indemnity claim on this ground, the implicit holding was that Petitioner sought recovery *only* for its own negligence, and somehow, in seeking recovery for "any" sums, Petitioner was *not* also seeking recovery for the negligence of its subcontractors.

Contrary to the determination of the court of appeals, Petitioner's pleadings, read in context, in fact *only* seek recovery for the alleged negligence of the subcontractors. Moreover at every stage of this litigation, Petitioner has insisted on the record that it is seeking recovery only for damages occasioned by its subcontractors' negligence. But even under the least generous

reading, “any” amounts cannot be determined inherently to exclude amounts that are attributable to the subcontractor’s negligence. When Petitioner is seeking recovery for “any” amounts, the use of the word “any” is meant in the sense of its definition: “used to express a lack of restriction in selecting one of a specified class.” The particular recovery is unrestricted: “any” amounts could be those amounts attributable to any source of negligence – whether by Petitioner or by Petitioner’s subcontractors, or by the concurrent negligence of both parties. By this Petition, Petitioner seeks the ability to pursue those claims against its subcontractors for the subcontractor’s negligence.

A. The court of appeals’ interpretation of Petitioner’s pleadings is in direct conflict with the Rules of Civil Procedure promulgated by this Court.

Failing to find that a cause of action, which seeks indemnity against the subcontractors, also encompasses claims arising from the negligence of those subcontractors (whether sole or concurrent) flies in the face of the rules for pleadings outlined in Rule 8 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. For example, Rule 8(f) requires that pleadings be construed “as to do substantial justice to all parties.” The most just outcome in this case is one that allows Petitioner to seek recovery against its subcontractors for the negligent work of the subcontractors.

As this Court is aware, the purpose of the new pleading rules, effective July 1, 1985, was to move to a system of notice pleading. Petitioner’s pleadings were sufficient to place the subcontractors on notice that Petitioner was seeking damages from its subcontractors for the subcontractors’ negligence. Moreover, parties routinely plead claims seeking damages they may ultimately be unable to recover. Importantly, this overly expansive pleading does not preclude parties’ recovery of damages they are entitled to.

Rule 8(a) allows a party to plead alternative theories of recovery. Rule 8(e)(1) requires parties to be concise, and Rule 8(e)(2) promotes conciseness by allowing parties to plead such alternative theories of recovery in the same count. Notably, when “one of [the theories] if made

independently would be sufficient, the pleading is not made insufficient by the insufficiency of one or more of the alternative statements.” S.C. R. Civ. P. 8(e)(2).

In seeking recovery of “any” amounts, Petitioner maintains it sought recovery only for the negligence of its subcontractors. However, even assuming the Court adopts a broader interpretation of Petitioner’s pleadings, it must acknowledge that “any” amounts, if it includes amounts resulting from Petitioner’s negligence, must equally encompass amounts resulting from the subcontractor’s negligence, whether sole or concurrent. Petitioner’s pleading, then, becomes an implicit pleading of alternatives, seeking recovery for “any” amounts – whether from Petitioner’s negligence, or, alternatively, from the negligence of the subcontractors.

Under Rule 8(e)(2), even if Petitioner fails on its alleged plea to recover for its own negligence, the alternative plea for damages related to the negligence of the subcontractor remains fully intact. Rather than adhering to the Rules of Civil Procedure and honoring the remaining claim, the court of appeals, contrary to the Rules, dismissed the plea for recovery for the subcontractor’s negligence merely because it found that the alternative claim for recovery for Petitioner’s own negligence could not stand.

Because the court of appeal’s Opinion contradicts the Rules promulgated by this Court, this Court should grant certiorari to correct the misapplication of Rule 8.

B. The court of appeal’s interpretation of Petitioner’s pleadings is in direct conflict with prior precedent.

This is not the first time that a contractor has sought complete contractual indemnification from its subcontractors before the appellate courts. In Concord & Cumberland, whose analysis on the merits will be discussed in greater detail below, a contractor sought recovery from its subcontractor in contractual indemnity for damages caused by both the contractor *and* the subcontractor. It pled:

104. Superior [the contractor] is entitled by contractual provisions, to the fullest extent permitted by law, *full indemnity from the Subcontractors* and Suppliers, to include the assumption of Superior's defense, as a result of the allegations and claims made by the Plaintiff, if substantiated.

(emphasis added). Notably, the general contractor did not limit its contractual indemnity claims against the subcontractors. In moving for partial summary judgment, it explicitly sought recovery in indemnity against liability for damages occasioned by *both* the negligence of its subcontractor, and the negligence of the general contractor itself.

Petitioner draws this Court's attention to the way that the court of appeals in Concord & Cumberland handled the general contractor's claim for relief. The court ultimately allowed the general contractor to proceed to seek recovery for its subcontractor's negligence while dismissing the claim to the extent that it purported to seek recovery for the general contractor's own negligence. The Concord & Cumberland Court clearly recognized two types of claims present in the general contractual indemnification pleading: a claim for indemnity for damages to the extent caused by the general contractor itself and a claim for indemnity for damages to the extent caused by the subcontractor - even if such subcontractor's negligence is concurrent with the negligence of the general contractor. Here, the court of appeals, contrary to its own precedent, failed to distinguish these two types of claims in Petitioner's very similar pleadings. The effect is a completely contrary result to the one in Concord & Cumberland, where in this case Petitioner is precluded from *any* recovery in contractual indemnity, even if the jury determines that the subcontractors have been solely or concurrently negligent in causing the damages at issue.

II. The court of appeals failed to follow precedent when it erroneously applied the heightened "clear and unequivocal" standard to Petitioner's contractual indemnification claim seeking recovery of damages resulting from the subcontractors' negligence.

- A. In applying the heightened "clear and unequivocal" standard to Petitioner's claims seeking indemnity for the subcontractors' negligence, the court of appeals ran afoul of this Court's precedent.

South Carolina has historically recognized that contractual indemnity provisions are to be construed in accordance with rules of construction of contracts generally. See Fed. Pac. Elec. v. Carolina Prod. Enters., 298 S.C. 23, 26, 378 S.E.2d 56, 57 (Ct. App. 1989); Campbell v. Beacon Mfg. Co., 313 S.C. 451, 453, 438 S.E.2d 271, 272 (Ct. App. 1993). Our courts also recognize the basic rule that when a party seeks to be indemnified from its own negligent acts, the heightened “clear and unequivocal terms” standard will be applied to the indemnity provision. See Ashley II of Charleston, L.L.C. v. PCS Nitrogen, Inc., 409 S.C. 487, 490, 763 S.E.2d 19, 20 (2014); Laurens Emergency Med. Specialists, PA v. M.S. Bailey & Sons Bankers, 355 S.C. 104, 111, 584 S.E.2d 375, 379 (2003).

In Concord & Cumberland, the court of appeals acknowledged and attempted to clarify those circumstances under which the respective standards are to be applied. However, here, the court of appeals’ opinion runs afoul of and directly contradicts these precedential cases, including Concord & Cumberland.

In Concord & Cumberland, Superior was a general contractor who hired Muhler as its subcontractor. When Superior was sued by the Concord and Cumberland Horizontal Property Regime, it looked to Muhler for indemnification pursuant to their contract. Superior claimed that the contractual provisions required Muhler to indemnify Superior, and that Superior’s right to indemnity included not only damages occasioned by Muhler’s negligence, but also liability for the negligence of Superior itself. Id. at 645. Muhler countered that the contract did not require it to indemnify Superior for Superior’s wrongdoing. Id.

The trial court found, and the court of appeals agreed, that in order for Superior to prevail on a claim seeking indemnity *for its own negligence* (as opposed to indemnity for the negligence of its subcontractor), it was required to show that the contract language granting that right was set

forth in clear and unequivocal terms. Id. at 649. The court of appeals noted that this heightened standard applied regardless of whether Superior was seeking indemnification for its own sole negligence or for its own concurrent negligence (but notably not for Muhler's sole or concurrent negligence). Id.

Because the court found that the language in Superior's contract did not meet the heightened standard, it held that the contract did not require Muhler to indemnify Superior for Superior's own negligence, and instead affirmed the trial court's decision that "*limited indemnification to damages resulting from the work Muhler performed.*" Concord & Cumberland at 645 (emphasis added). Thus, despite overt representations by the general contractor that it was seeking indemnity for damages resulting from both its own negligence and the negligence of its subcontractor, the court in Concord & Cumberland nonetheless allowed the general contractor to recover from its subcontractor for damages resulting from the work of the subcontractor. To arrive at this conclusion, not only did the Concord & Cumberland Court recognize that Superior's claims for contractual indemnification encompassed both a claim to be indemnified for its own negligence as well as a claim to be indemnified for the negligence of the subcontractors, but the court then also separately analyzed the two types of claims: to the claim for indemnification for Superior's own negligence, the court applied the heightened clear and unequivocal standard and found that the contract could not meet that heightened standard; however, for the second type of claim – Superior's claim to recover for its subcontractor's negligence – it then applied the analysis used with contracts generally (i.e., *not* the heightened standard), and under such analysis the court allowed Superior to recover for damages caused by its subcontractor (regardless of whether Muhler's negligence was sole or concurrent).

The court of appeals in this case, under factual circumstances nearly identical to those presented in Concord & Cumberland, has nonetheless reached a diametrically opposed result. Rather than apply the heightened “clear and unequivocal” standard only to the portion of claims allegedly seeking recovery for Petitioner’s own negligence, the court applied the heightened standard to *every* contractual indemnity claim – including Petitioner’s claim to recover for the negligence of its subcontractors. Applying the heightened standard, the court then determined that Petitioner’s contractual indemnity claims failed as a matter of law, because the contractual provisions were not sufficiently clear and unequivocal to pass the heightened test. Such a broad application of the “clear and unequivocal” standard is contrary to established law, including the court’s own precedent.

Remarkably, the court of appeals in this case considered Concord & Cumberland to be good law, while simultaneously maintaining that the result it reached in this case – which is completely opposite that in Concord & Cumberland – is *also* good law. The two cases cannot stand simultaneously as precedent. Among the purposes of precedent is to protect those who have taken action in reliance on a past decision, to require that like cases be decided in a like manner, and to contribute to the integrity of the judicial process. Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org., 597 U.S. 215, 263–64, 142 S. Ct. 2228, 2261–62 (2022). Each of these aims is undermined if both Concord & Cumberland and the court of appeal’s opinion in this case are allowed to stand.

Nowhere did the court of appeals in this case attempt to distinguish its holding from that in Concord & Cumberland, and nowhere did the court criticize its previous analysis, its holding, or its results. Nonetheless, the court’s unexplained deviation has implicitly rejected established and recognized precedent regarding fundamental principles of contractual indemnity. See Coleman v. Page's Est., 202 S.C. 486, 25 S.E.2d 559, 560 (1943)(A decision which is to overrule

all former precedents and to establish a principle never before recognized should either contain some internal evidence that the prevailing law is to be overthrown, or else be founded upon reasoning far stronger than that comprehended in the previous decisions which by implication it would set aside.)

Unless the Supreme Court weighs in, the result of these two opinions is that the legal landscape will be filled with instability, unpredictability, and confusion regarding how to proceed in a situation where appellate courts are divided over whether or not a party may recover from its subcontractor in contractual indemnity for that subcontractor's negligence.

- B. The Supreme Court should take this case because the consequence of allowing the ruling of the court of appeals to stand will upend the entire construction industry in ways the court never intended.

The court of appeal's opinion creates new and unprecedented law governing contractual relations between parties. Specifically, it unsettles established South Carolina law regarding the allocation of risk between contractors and their subcontractors, and it upends the recognized contractual requirements for indemnity provisions. In ignoring and abandoning precedential cases, such as Laurens, Ashley II, and Concord and Cumberland, the court of appeal's opinion has effectively created new and harmful law that will cause turbulence to the relationships of parties far beyond this case; virtually every contract currently in effect in the industry is now subject to challenge and left potentially without support.⁴

The contractual indemnity provisions to which the court of appeals applied the heightened clear and unequivocal standard in this case are virtually identical to those provisions reviewed by

⁴ See **South Carolina Ruling Has Major Implications on Indemnity Provisions and Collateral Estoppel**
<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/south-carolina-ruling-has-major-9011993/>

the court of appeals in Concord and Cumberland, where the court found such provisions to be adequate to support the contractor's claim for indemnity against liability caused by the negligence of its subcontractor – these provisions were not subjected to the clear and unequivocal standard. Moreover, these provisions are based on provisions promulgated by the AIA. This means they are standard terms, and they are present in nearly *every single contract* used in the industry. Never before had a court required these provisions to withstand the heightened clear and unequivocal analysis in order for one party to recover from a second party for that second party's negligence; instead courts analyzed them under the rules governing contracts generally, and under that level of scrutiny, the indemnification provisions were found acceptable. Thus, year after year, they were incorporated into contracts and year after year, serve as the basis for a contractual indemnification claim.

Now, for the first time, the holding of the court of appeals will require that a party's entire contract must meet the clear and unequivocal standard in order for that party to recover in contractual indemnity *at all*. The court of appeals looked at this standard AIA indemnification language and, by this opinion, has already held that this language fails to meet the heightened standard. [Opinion p. 23]. While this opinion stands, no contractor who used AIA language will be able to recover from any negligent subcontractor for that subcontractor's negligence. Contractors will be left to bear the financial burdens of the mistakes of others, and subcontractors who performed negligently will face no consequences. To emphasize the magnitude of the situation, Petitioner points out that one of the contracts at issue to this litigation contains a version of this AIA language that dates back to 2005, which means that nearly 20 years of construction work is implicated in this upheaval.

Petitioner does not believe that the court of appeals intended to create new law or to upend an entire industry. It thus asks that the Supreme Court take this case to clarify (1) that Petitioner has preserved a claim for contractual indemnity for the negligence of its subcontractors; and (2) that this portion of the claim for contractual indemnity is subject only to the general rules of construction for contracts generally, and not to the heightened "clear and unequivocal" standard.

III. The manner in which the court of appeals indefensibly parsed the parties' contract violated the long-established rules of contract interpretation memorialized in the precedential opinions of this Supreme Court.

The court of appeals' misinterpretation of the contract language formed the basis of its holdings, including its holdings that: (1) Petitioner sought recovery only for its own negligence, which it did not have the requisite contractual language to pursue under Concord & Cumberland; (2) Petitioner's right to contractual indemnity ran afoul of Section 32-2-10; (3) the contracts' severance provisions were unenforceable; and (4) the contracts were unconscionable. All of these court of appeals' holdings rely on a misconstrued view of the contract in which both the warranty and the indemnity provisions allegedly permit Petitioner to recover for its own negligence. The court of appeals reached this view of the contracts by isolating provisions of the contracts, some of which are completely irrelevant to the issue in this case, and by refusing to give defined terms their explicit meaning – despite precedent from many Supreme Court cases to the contrary.

"The cardinal rule of contract interpretation is to ascertain and give legal effect to the parties' intentions as determined by the contract language." Whitlock v. Stewart Title Guar. Co., 399 S.C. 610, 614, 732 S.E.2d 626, 628 (2012) (quoting McGill v. Moore, 381 S.C. 179, 185, 672 S.E.2d 571, 574 (2009)). "A contract is read as a whole document so that one may not create an ambiguity by pointing out a single sentence or clause." Williams v. Gov't Emps. Ins. Co. (GEICO), 409 S.C. 586, 595, 762 S.E.2d 705, 710 (2014) (quoting McGill, 381 S.C. at 185, 672 S.E.2d at

574). When a contract is unambiguous, a court must construe its provisions according to the terms the parties used and as understood in their plain and ordinary meaning. Schulmeyer v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co., 353 S.C. 491, 495, 579 S.E.2d 132, 134 (2003).

Despite the explicit prohibition against creating an ambiguity by pointing out a single sentence or clause, the court of appeals has done exactly that. It points to the unrelated Warranty provision of the contract, where the subcontractor agrees to provide a warranty for the Work the subcontractor performed on the project. The court of appeals found this provision unconscionable because, by the court's interpretation, the provision purports to require the subcontractor to warrant work that Petitioner, rather than the subcontractor, performed. But this erroneous interpretation was reached only because the court read this provision in isolation AND the court ignored and did not address the fact that "Work" is a defined term, limited, by *the explicit provisions of the contract, to the materials provided and/or services performed by the subcontractor*. [R. pp. 1451, 1464, 1477, 1489, 1501, 1514⁵]. When read with the proper definition, as the parties intended, the Warranty section no longer can be interpreted to require something illicit, and thus, the Warranty section can no longer be the basis of *any* the Court's holdings listed above.

The opinion evidences that the court of appeals failed to give credit to the defined term "Work" as required under the contracts. The court of appeals' failure to do so directly contradicts this Court's precedent on honoring terms used by the parties in the contract. See Schulmeyer, 353 S.C. 491, 495, 579 S.E.2d 132, 134 (2003) (explaining courts must interpret a contract "according to the terms the parties used").

⁵ The Record on Appeal does not contain copies of BFS contracts for L&G Constuction and AC Construction, however the contracts are identical in form and content to the "Later Contracts," and why L&G and AC filed motions joining the other parties' motions for summary judgment. See R. pp. 1156, 1205-1207.

In addition to failing to acknowledge defined terms in the contract, the lower court and court of appeals reviewed terms and provisions of the contracts which have absolutely no relevance whatsoever to the claims pending before the court. For example, the court focused on the warranty provisions of the contract despite the fact that there is no *warranty* claim before the court⁶. Further, the court of appeals took issue with a provision within “SECTION 8. Payment to Subcontractor,” when there is no claim or issue regarding payments owed by Petitioner to subcontractors before the court. Moreover, the court of appeals inappropriately considered a provision in “SECTION 5. Indemnification,” that pertains only to bodily injury claims made by an agent, employee or representative of the subcontractor, which is absolutely not at issue or a claim before the court.

The court of appeals in picking and choosing select language from non-relevant provisions to create conflicting terms, directly contradicts this Court’s precedent that a court may not review isolated portions of a contract or single sentences or clauses to create ambiguities. See McGill, 381 S.C. at 185, 672 S.E.2d at 574; Farr v. Duke Power Co., 265 S.C. 356, 218 S.E.2d 431 (1975); Williams v. Gov’t Emps. Ins. Co. (GEICO), 409 S.C. 586, 595, 762 S.E.2d 705, 710 (2014). Because the court of appeal’s opinion conflicts with this Court’s precedent on basic rules of contract interpretation, this Court should grant certiorari.

IV. The failure of the court of appeals to sever any problematic language in the contract conflicts with this Court’s precedent regarding severance provisions and severability of contracts.

Contrary to the finding of the court of appeals, the contracts, when the terms and provisions are given their proper, reasonable, and plain meaning, are not replete with illegal or unconscionable terms. As such there is no basis to support the court’s failure to sever, when the provisions in fact

⁶ While Petitioner pled breach of warranty causes of action, Petitioner conceded during oral arguments at the trial court that Stoneledge at Lake Keowee Owners’ Ass’n, Inc. v. Builders FirstSource-Se. Grp., 413 S.C. 630 (Ct. App. 2015) is valid law and renders the warranty claims as disguised indemnity claims and thus it did not appeal the trial court’s ruling granting summary judgment on such basis.

comply with relevant law. Petitioner is not asking any court to re-write the contracts; however, to the extent necessary, it is asking the Court to honor the intent of the parties and sever any provision that violates South Carolina law.

“Whether an illegal provision in an otherwise valid contract may be separated from the contract is a matter of intent of the parties” The Beach Company v. Twillman, Ltd., 351 S.C. 56, 64, 56 S.E.2d 63, 867 (Ct. App. 2002). The presence of a severability clause, such as the clause incorporated within each of the contracts at issue here, should be treated as strong evidence of the parties’ intent to sever unenforceable language. Jane Doe v. TCSC, LLC, 430 S.C. 602, 615, 846 S.E.2d 874, 880-81 (Ct. App. 2020). Equally importantly, this Court has long since held that the primary purpose in the construction of contracts is to discover the intention of the parties, which, when discovered, will be given effect regardless of technical forms of expression. Am. Nat. Bank of Winter Haven, Fla., v. Caldwell, 166 S.C. 194, 164 S.E. 613, 615 (1932).

The contracts at issue here contain separate distinct sections relating to separate matters, including, respectively, indemnity, warranty, payment, etc. [R. pp. 1451-1525]. Moreover, the section regarding indemnity, in addition to its initial paragraph upon which Petitioner relies in support of its indemnity claims, is further characterized by separate paragraphs, each addressing separate and distinct circumstances under which an obligation to indemnify may arise. [R. pp. 1455-56, 1468-69, 1482-83, 1494-95, 1506-07, 1519-20]. Each of these separate sections, and the distinct paragraphs within the respective sections, relate to separate rights and or responsibilities and are all subject to severance if needed without compromising the goals of the contracting parties.

Moreover, the contracts also include severability provisions that explicitly state

“The provisions of this Agreement shall be deemed independent and severable, and the invalidity or partial invalidity of any provision or portion thereof shall not affect

the validity or enforceability of any other provision or portion thereof. It is the intent of the parties that any invalid provision hereof be reformed to the extent necessary to make it enforceable to the maximum extent of the law.”

[R. pp. 1460, 1473, 1488, 1500, 1512, 1525].

In light of the format of the contracts and the severability provisions, there can be no dispute that the parties intended for any unenforceable provision be severed and the remainder of the contract be left intact and in effect. Moreover, the court of appeals opinion declining to honor the severance provision defies reason as certainly, no party to the contract intended that the contract be rendered wholly unenforceable, as all parties to the contract relied upon the contract for business purposes and their livelihood.

The court of appeal’s opinion directly contradicts this Court’s precedent which acknowledges that for centuries, the law has stricken illegal parts from contracts and upheld the legal parts, as long as the central purpose of the parties’ agreement did not depend upon the illegal part. Huskins v. Mungo Homes, LLC, 444 S.C. 592, 595-96, 910 S.E.2d 474, 477-78 (2024)(citing Pigot’s Case, 77 ER 1177, 1179 (1614); United States v. Bradley, 35 U.S. 343 (1836)). Moreover, our courts perform severance even where the parties may not have intended such action to take place. Id.

Accordingly, this Court must grant certiorari to review and correct the errors of the court of appeals.

V. Whether S.C. Code Section 32-2-10 prohibits a party’s ability to recover attorney’s fees is a novel issue in South Carolina, and the Supreme Court should hear this case to clarify that under strict statutory construction, Section 32-2-10, which is in derogation of common law and expressly applies only to indemnification, does not apply to attorneys’ fees, which are a separate form of recovery.

Section 32-2-10 governs agreements for indemnity against liability for damages; it is silent regarding attorneys’ fees, and no South Carolina Court has yet addressed the question of whether

the statute was intended to apply expansively to attorneys' fees or whether it was intended, as written, to apply only to indemnification for damages.

When approaching statutory interpretation, courts must assume that the legislature was aware of the common law, "and where a statute uses a term that has a well-recognized meaning in the law, the presumption is that the General Assembly intended to use the term in that sense." Grier v. AMISUB of S.C., Inc., 397 S.C. 532, 536, 725 S.E.2d 693, 696 (2012). Additionally, when, as here, a statute is "in derogation of the common law," it must be strictly construed. Id.

Section 32-2-10 specifically states that it governs agreements for *indemnity* against liability for damages. As noted by Concord & Cumberland, our courts "have consistently defined *indemnity* as 'that form of compensation in which a first party is liable to pay a second party for loss or damage the second party incurs to a third party.'" Concord & Cumberland, 424 S.C. at 646-47. Attorneys' fees do not fall within the scope of indemnity because they are not paid by a first party to "a second party for loss or damage the second party incurs to a third party." Rather, they are consequential damages of an indemnity claim. Because Section 32-2-10 imposes restrictions unknown at common law, it must be strictly construed. Because it uses the term "indemnify," a term that "has a well-recognized meaning in the law," it must be read only to apply to agreements governing indemnification; its meaning may not be expanded by the court to include agreements governing attorneys' fees.

While Section 32-2-10 addresses agreements governing the duty to indemnify, the statute is silent as to agreements imposing a duty to defend. The duty to defend and the duty to indemnify are two separate and distinct contractual obligations. City of Hartsville v. S.C. Mun. Ins. & Risk Fin. Fund, 382 S.C. 535, 544, 677 S.E.2d 574, 578 (2009). "Although these duties are related in the sense that the duty to defend depends on an initial or apparent potential liability to satisfy the

judgment, the duty to defend exists regardless of the [indemnitor's] ultimate liability to the [indemnitee]." Sloan Const. Co. v. Cent. Nat. Ins. Co. of Omaha, 269 S.C. 183, 186, 236 S.E.2d 818, 820 (1977). As such, this Court should grant certiorari to review the Record on Appeal which will confirm that Paragraph Three of the Later Contracts is neither addressed nor prohibited by Section 32-2-10.

VI. Whether a trial court's order on appeal is "final" for purposes of collateral estoppel or res judicata is a novel issue in South Carolina and a split issue in the Fourth Circuit; the South Carolina Supreme Court should hear this case to resolve the uncertainty and clarify the state of the law in South Carolina.

The issue of whether a trial court decision on appeal is sufficiently "final" for purposes of collateral estoppel is an issue of first impression in South Carolina. There are no cases on point. Even the cases cited by the parties herein have reached different conclusions, and the issue is split amongst states in the Fourth Circuit. *Compare* Arkansas Best Freight Sys., Inc. v. H.H. Moore, Jr. Trucking Co., 244 Va. 304, 307, 421 S.E.2d 197, 198 (1992) ("A judgment, to be relied upon for the application of the doctrine of res judicata, must be final, and a judgment which is being appealed is not final for res judicata purposes.") to Warwick Corp. v. Maryland Dep't of Transp., 573 F. Supp. 1011, 1014 (D. Md. 1983) ("Such a consequence would also be laughable. If a judgment was denied its *res judicata* effect merely because an appeal was pending, litigants would be able to refile an identical case in another trial court while the appeal is pending, which would hog-tie the trial courts with duplicative litigation.") Because the issue is one of novel impression in South Carolina, the Court should grant certiorari to provide clarity on this issue.

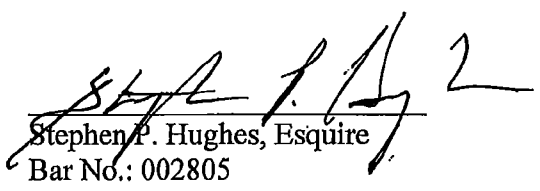
Moreover, the court of appeals overlooked that no trial court has yet answered the question of whether Petitioner can recover, under the relevant indemnity provisions of the respective contracts, for the negligence of its subcontractors, regardless of whether Petitioner can recover

indemnity for its own negligence. All prior cases cited as the basis for the lower court's collateral estoppel have involved the lower courts' consideration of Petitioner's claims purportedly seeking indemnity against Petitioner's negligence. No prior court has specifically addressed the issue – the specific claims Petitioner contends that it is seeking in litigation – of whether Petitioner may recover indemnity for the subcontractors' negligence.

The doctrine of collateral estoppel is only available *when the same issues of fact or law* are actually litigated and directly determined by valid and final judgment. Carman v. South Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Com'n, 317 S.C. 1, 451 S.E.2d 383 (S.C. 1994) (emphasis added). The issue before the trial court in this case was *whether BFS may recover under the relevant indemnity provisions for the subcontractors' negligence* (whether sole or concurrent). This issue has not been ruled upon by a single court to date, and thus, it is not subject to collateral estoppel. Therefore, this Court should answer the novel question, which is not precluded by collateral estoppel.

Conclusion

Because the opinion of the court of appeals in this case contradicts the rules promulgated by this Court, flies in the face of precedent, and will unwittingly upend the entire construction industry, the Supreme Court should grant certiorari in this case and provide guidance to the courts, the parties, and the industry on the correct analysis of contractual indemnification claims.


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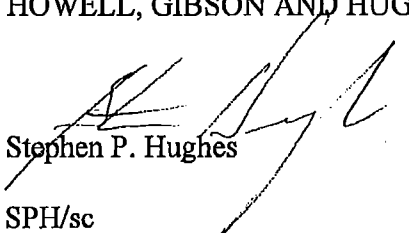
Re: Builders FirstSource- Southeast Group, LLC v. Palmetto Trim and Renovations
Civil Action No.: 2021-001050
Our File No.: 11981.5 SPH

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed herewith for filing an original and one copy of the *Petition for Writ of Certiorari*, together with the Certificate of Service, with regard to the above referenced matter. Also enclosed please find the applicable filing fee in the amount of \$250.00. I would appreciate your filing the Petition for Rehearing and returning a filed clocked copy to me via email at sphughes@hghpa.com, wcox@hghpa.com, and scombites@hghpa.com. If return of the clocked copy must be via U.S. Mail, please advise and I will provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope provided for same.

With kindest regards, I am
Yours truly,

HOWELL, GIBSON AND HUGHES, P.A



Stephen P. Hughes

SPH/sc
Enclosures
cc: Court of Appeals
Counsel of Record