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with claimant Tina Ingram (the “Claimant”), which is filed contemporaneously herewith (the “Stipulation”), due to the confidential and commercially sensitive information contained therein.

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

2. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas (the “Court”) has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). The Wind-Down Debtors confirm their consent to the entry of a final order by the Court. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

3. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 107(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), rules 9018 and 9037-1 Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and rule 9013-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the Southern District of Texas (the “Bankruptcy Local Rules”).

### **Basis for Relief**

4. Section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code codifies the inherent equitable powers of the bankruptcy court and empowers the bankruptcy court to “issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title.” Section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides bankruptcy courts with authority to issue orders that will protect entities from potential harm that may result from the disclosure of certain confidential information. 11 U.S.C. § 107(b). Specifically, section 107(b) provides, in relevant part:

On request of a party in interest, the bankruptcy court shall, and on the bankruptcy court's own motion, the bankruptcy court may—

(1) protect an entity with respect to a trade secret or confidential research, development, or commercial information. . .

11 U.S.C. § 107(b)(1).

5. Bankruptcy Rule 9018 defines the procedures by which a party may move for relief under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, providing that: “[o]n motion, or on its own initiative, with or without notice, the court may make any order which justice requires (1) to protect the estate or any entity in respect of a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information.” Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9018. Further, Bankruptcy Local Rule 9037-1 provides, in relevant part, that when it may be practicable to redact confidential information from a document, “(i) a redacted document should be filed, not under seal; and (ii) the unredacted document should simultaneously be filed, under seal.”

6. If the material sought to be protected satisfies one of the categories identified in section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, “the court is *required* to protect a requesting party and has no discretion to deny the application.” *In re Gen. Homes Corp.*, 181 B.R. 898, 903 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1995) (“The court has authority to seal court records, in order to protect trade secrets or confidential research, development, or confidential information, or to protect a person with regard to a scandalous or defamatory matter.”); *In re Kaiser Aluminum Corp.*, 327 B.R. 554, 560 (D. Del. 2005) (“Courts have supervisory power over their records and files and may deny access to those records and files to prevent them from being used for an improper purpose.”). The “authority goes not just to the protection of confidential documents, but to other confidentiality restrictions that are warranted in the interests of justice.” *See In re Glob. Crossing Ltd.*, 295 B.R. 720, 724 (Bankr. S.D. N.Y. 2003).

7. The Stipulation contains information protected under section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code due to the confidential and commercially sensitive nature to all related parties. Several claimants have asserted litigation claims against the Debtors and may seek to have the injunction included in the Wind-Down Debtors' confirmed plan of reorganization modified to permit such claimants to seek recovery from the Wind-Down Debtors' insurance policies. Each of those claims presents different facts, circumstances, and legal dynamics and may result in a negative financial impact to the estate. The Stipulation contains certain confidential commercial information (the "Confidential Information") relating to the Wind-Down Debtors' discussions with the Claimant which, if made public, other claimants may seek to use in settlement negotiations with the Wind-Down Debtors notwithstanding important differences in the factual and/or legal circumstances between their claim and the claims brought by Claimant. If the Confidential Information were to be made public via PACER, such disclosure would be to the detriment of the Wind-Down Debtors, their estates, and their creditors.

8. The Wind-Down Debtors believe that the Confidential Information should be subject to the protections of section 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and request the Court authorize the Wind-Down Debtors to file the Stipulation under seal.

#### **Notice**

9. The Wind-Down Debtors are giving notice of this Motion to the United States Trustee, all parties receiving notice through CM/ECF, and any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. In light of the nature of the relief requested, no other or further notice need be given.

The Wind-Down Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Order granting the relief requested in this Motion and such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Houston, Texas

Dated: February 21, 2024

*/s/ Veronica A. Polnick*

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*Counsel to the Wind-Down Debtors*

**Certificate of Service**

I certify that on February 21, 2024, I caused a copy of the foregoing document to be served by the Electronic Case Filing System for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas.

*/s/ Veronica A. Polnick*

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Veronica A. Polnick

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
AUTO PLUS AUTO SALES LLC, <sup>1</sup>	)	Case No. 23-90055 (CML)
	)	
Wind-Down Debtor.	)	(Formerly Jointly Administered under
	)	Lead Case IEH Auto Parts Holding
	)	LLC, Case No. 23-90054)
	)	

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**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE  
WIND-DOWN DEBTORS TO SEAL THE INGRAM STIPULATION**

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Upon the motion (the “Motion”)<sup>2</sup> of the above-captioned wind-down debtors (collectively, the “Debtors” before the Effective Date and “Wind-Down Debtors” after the Effective Date) for entry of an order (this “Order”): authorizing the Wind-Down Debtors to file under seal the Stipulation; all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Wind-Down Debtors, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Wind-Down Debtors’ notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having determined that the legal

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<sup>1</sup> The Wind-Down Debtor’s service address is: 5330 Carmel Crest Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28226. All pleadings related to these chapter 11 cases may be obtained from the website of the Wind Down Debtor’s claims and noticing agent at <https://www.kccllc.net/autoplus>.

<sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meanings ascribed to such terms in the Motion.

and factual bases set forth in the Motion establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is ORDERED THAT:

1. The Wind-Down Debtors are authorized to file the Stipulation under seal pursuant to sections 105(a) and 107(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rule 9018, and Local Rule 9037-1.

2. The Stipulation shall remain confidential, and shall not be made available to anyone, other than as provided in this Order or further order from the Court.

3. The Wind-Down Debtors are authorized to cause an unsealed copy of the Stipulation to be served on and/or made available, on a confidential basis, to (a) the Court, (b) the U.S. Trustee, (c) GUC Trustee; (d) counsel to Tina Ingram; (e) the Circuit Court of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi; (f) any insurer that issued any of the insurance policies under which coverage is sought in connection with the Claimant's claim; and (g) any other party as may be ordered by the Court.

4. Any party who receives the Stipulation in accordance with this Order shall not disclose or otherwise disseminate this information to any other person or entity, including in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act without the prior written consent of the Wind-Down Debtors.

5. The requirements set forth in Bankruptcy Local Rule 9013-1 and Bankruptcy Local Rule 9037-1 are satisfied by the contents of the Motion.

6. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion.

7. The terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

8. The Wind-Down Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.

9. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

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CHRISTOPHER M. LOPEZ  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE