

CCT 07 2022

By: M. Abosamra, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

TONI ZIEROLD and BRIAN TRIMBLE, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

15

16

17

18

19

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE, LTD., an Illinois corporation; and DOES 1-50, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 37-2022-00009703-CU-BT-CTL

CLASS ACTION

[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR NOTICE

[IMAGED FILE]

Pending before the Court is the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement ("Motion") relating to the Settlement Agreement ("Settlement") between plaintiffs, on the one hand, and The Bradford Exchange, Ltd. ("Bradford") and Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co., Inc. ("Hammacher"), on the other hand. Having read and considered the moving papers, including the Settlement Agreement, and finding good cause, the Court finds and orders as follows:

- 1. Based upon the Court's review of the Settlement Agreement, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of the Motion, the discussion at the hearing conducted on October 7, 2022, and the entire record, the Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement is GRANTED. Bradford and Hammacher are collectively referred to herein as "Defendants."
- 2. The Court hereby conditionally certifies the following class ("Class") for settlement purposes only: "All California residents who, between March 14, 2018 and October 7, 2022, were both (i) enrolled in either the Bradford Rewards program or the Hammacher Rewards program and (ii) charged at least one membership fee for such program. Excluded from the Class are all employees of Bradford and Hammacher, all employees of Plaintiffs' counsel, and the judicial officers to whom this case is assigned." The Court grants leave for Plaintiffs to file a Second Amended Complaint, setting forth the foregoing definition of the Class, adding Ken Witt as a named plaintiff, and adding Hammacher as a named defendant, all for settlement purposes only.
- 3. The Court appoints Dostart Hannink LLP as Class Counsel. The Court appoints Toni Zierold, Brian Trimble, and Ken Witt as the Class Representatives. The Court designates CPT Group, Inc. as the Settlement Administrator.
- 4. The Court preliminarily approves the Settlement, including the monetary relief, injunctive relief, procedure for payment of Class Counsel's attorneys' fees and litigation expenses to the extent ultimately awarded by the Court, and procedure for payment of any service awards to the extent ultimately awarded by the Court. The Court has reviewed the monetary relief and the injunctive relief that are provided as part of the Settlement and recognizes the value to the Class. It

¹ The definitions of capitalized terms in this Order are the same as the definitions of those terms in the Settlement Agreement.

- Agreement), the mailed Summary Class Notice (Exhibit A to the Settlement Agreement), the mailed Summary Class Notice (Exhibit B to the Settlement Agreement), the Long Form Notice (Exhibit C to the Settlement Agreement), and the paper Claim Form (Exhibit D to the Settlement Agreement), as revised and submitted on October 7, 2022). The notice procedure described in the Settlement Agreement meets the requirements of Rule 3.766(d) of the California Rules of Court and due process, and constitutes the best practicable notice under the circumstances. The Settlement Administrator is directed to disseminate the Summary Class Notice to Class Members via email (or, if no email address is available, then via U.S. Mail) no later than thirty-five (35) days following notice of entry of this order. The date on which the Summary Class Notice is emailed or mailed is the "Notice Date." The Parties are authorized to direct the Settlement Administrator to undertake additional steps to disseminate the Summary Class Notice. The Settlement Administrator is directed to take all steps necessary to establish a settlement website and dedicated toll free number, and to post the Long Form Notice on the website by the Notice Date.
- 6. In order to receive a share of the Settlement Amount, Class Members must file a timely Claim, either electronically via the Settlement Website or via a paper Claim Form, and that Claim must be validated by the Settlement Administrator. Completed Claims that are timely submitted electronically through the Settlement Website by individuals to whom the emailed or mailed Summary Class Notice was sent will be deemed valid. Completed Claims that are submitted in the form of a paper Claim Form will be deemed valid if the claimant's name and the claimant's mailing address and/or email address match information in the Class List. To be timely, the Claim must be returned to the Settlement Administrator no later than the Claim/Exclusion/Objection Deadline. If the Claim is returned via the Settlement Website, the date of return will be the date of

submission through the Settlement Website. If the Claim is returned by U.S. Mail, the date of return will be the date of postmark. If the Claim is returned by personal delivery or email, the date of return will be the date the Claim is received by the Settlement Administrator. The Parties may jointly direct the Settlement Administrator to treat as timely a Claim received by the Settlement Administrator after the Claim/Objection/Exclusion Deadline and before the Final Approval Hearing.

- 7. If the Settlement Administrator disallows a Claim based on a deficiency that can be cured (such as the failure to sign the Claim Form), the Settlement Administrator has the discretion to either waive the deficiency or notify the claimant of the reason for the disallowance and invite the claimant to cure the deficiency. The Settlement Administrator also will consider any additional information or corrective action by the claimant submitted within twenty-one (21) days after the mailing of the notice of deficiency.
- 8. As set forth in the Settlement Agreement, any individual who wishes to exclude himself or herself from the Settlement Class shall mail, email, or deliver to the Settlement Administrator a written request for exclusion no later than forty-five (45) days following the Notice Date. Class Members who do not timely request exclusion shall be bound by the provisions of the Settlement Agreement and all orders or judgments that may be entered by the Court.
- 9. Class Members may object to the Settlement orally or in writing. To object to the Settlement in writing, a Class Member must file a written objection with the Court and serve copies of the objection on Class Counsel, Defendants' counsel, and the Settlement Administrator, no later than forty-five (45) days following the Notice Date. The written objection must set forth the name of the lawsuit (*Zierold v. The Bradford Exchange, Ltd.*, Case No. 37-2022-00009703-CU-BT-CTL), the Class Member's name, address, and telephone number, and the following statement: "I declare under penalty of perjury that, to the best of my knowledge, between March 14, 2018 and October 7, 2022, I was enrolled in either the Bradford Rewards program or the Hammacher Rewards program and was charged a membership fee for such program, and I wish to object to the Settlement." The written objection must also state the factual and legal basis for the objection; the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting the objector in connection with the preparation or submission of the objection or who may profit from the pursuit

of the objection; and a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing. Any documents that the objecting Class Member wishes for the Court to consider must also be attached to the objection. Any written objection must be filed with the Court and served by mail as follows: (1) Zierold v. Bradford Settlement Administrator, c/o CPT Group, Inc., 50 Corporate Park, Irvine, California 92606; (2) to Defendants' counsel, Christine M. Reilly, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, 2049 Century Park East, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90067; and (3) to Class Counsel, Zach P. Dostart, Dostart Hannink LLP, 4225 Executive Square, Suite 600, La Jolla, California 92037. Alternatively, a Class Member may object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing.

- 10. Plaintiffs shall file their motion for final approval, and Class Counsel shall file its motion for attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and for any service awards to the Class Representatives, by the date specified below. The motion for final approval shall identify a proposed *cy pres* recipient for any excess funds, consistent with Section IV.B of the Settlement Agreement and with Code of Civil Procedure section 384.
- 11. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held by this Court, located at 330 West Broadway, San Diego, California 92101, Department 75, on April 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., at which time the Court will determine whether the Settlement should be granted final approval. At that time, the Court will also consider Class Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees, litigation expenses, and any proposed service awards. The Parties, Class Members, and any other interested parties should consult this Action's Register of Actions and the Superior Court's General Orders and website for information about whether that hearing will proceed in person and/or by remote means.
- 12. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court, (i) the conditional certification of the Class shall be withdrawn, (ii) the Second Amended Complaint and any Answer thereto shall be stricken or withdrawn; and (iii) the Settlement Administrator will, after deducting any settlement administration expenses incurred as of that date, return any Settlement funds in its possession to Defendants.

13. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the Final Approval Hearing and all dates provided for in the Settlement without further emailed or mailed notice to the Class Members, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further matters arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

In accordance with the terms of the Settlement, the Court hereby adopts the following 14. dates for performance of the specified activities leading to the Final Approval Hearing:

Proposed Deadline	Event
7 days after both (1) notice of entry of this Order and (2) delivery to Defendants' counsel of the Settlement Administrator's Confidentiality Confirmation	Deadline for Defendants to provide to the Settlement Administrator an Excel spreadsheet that includes each Class Member's name, mailing address, email address, telephone number, and the name of the Rewards program in which the Class Member was enrolled, to the extent such information is available in Defendants' business records
14 days after notice of entry of this Order	Deadline for Defendants to wire transfer the Settlement Amount to Settlement Administrator
35 days after notice of entry this Order	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to email the Court-Approved Summary Class Notice to Class Members for whom an email address is available, mail the Summary Class Notice to Class Members for whom an email address is not available, and establish the settlement website ("Notice Date")
14 days after Notice Date	Deadline for Settlement Administrator to mail the Summary Class Notice to last known address of any Class Members for whom an email notice was bounced back as undeliverable
45 days after Notice Date	Last day for Class Members to submit completed Claim Forms
45 days after Notice Date	Last day for Class Members to object or opt out
16 court days prior to Final Approval Hearing	Deadline for Plaintiffs to file Motion for Final Approval of Settlement
10 days prior to Final Approval Hearing	Deadline for parties respond to any objections to the Settlement
As set forth above in Paragraph 11	Final Approval Hearing

1	15. The Parties are ordered to carry out the Settlement in the manner provided in the	
2	Settlement Agreement and this Order.	
3	IT IS SO ORDERED.	
4	DATED:, 2022	
5	Manh .	
6	A Mange	
7	Hop. James A. Mangione Judge of the Superior Court	
8	982879.4	
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		