

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DIVISION OF ST. CROIX**

<b>MOHAMMAD HAMED</b> , by his authorized agent <b>WALEED HAMED</b> ,	)	CIVIL NO. SX-12-CV-370
	)	
Plaintiff/Counterclaim Defendant,	)	ACTION FOR DAMAGES, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND DECLARATORY RELIEF
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
<b>FATHI YUSUF and UNITED CORPORATION</b> ,	)	<b>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</b>
	)	
Defendants/Counterclaimants,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	
	)	
<b>WALEED HAMED, WAHEED HAMED, MUFEED HAMED, HISHAM HAMED, and PLESSEN ENTERPRISES, INC.</b> ,	)	
	)	
Additional Counterclaim Defendants.	)	
	)	

**LIQUIDATING PARTNER'S NINTH BI-MONTHLY REPORT**

Pursuant to this Court's "Final Wind Up Plan Of The Plaza Extra Partnership" entered on January 9, 2015 (the "Plan"), defendant/counterclaimant Fathi Yusuf ("Yusuf"), as the Liquidating Partner<sup>1</sup>, respectfully submits this ninth bi-monthly report of the status of wind up efforts, as required by § 5 of the Plan.

Pursuant to the Court's "Order Adopting Final Wind Up Plan" dated January 7, 2015 and entered on January 9, 2015 (the "Wind Up Order"), the Court adopted the Plan. An Order entered on January 27, 2015 approving a stipulation of the parties provided, among other things, that the effective date of the Plan "shall be changed from ten (10) days following the date of the ... [Wind Up] Order to January 30, 2015."

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<sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise defined in this report shall have the meaning provided for in the Plan.

On February 25, 2015, the Claims Reserve Account (“CRA”) and the Liquidating Expense Account (“LEA”) were established at Banco Popular de Puerto Rico. No disbursements have been made from the CRA or LEA without the approval of the Master. The Liquidating Partner has provided the Master and Hamed with copies of bank statements, ledgers, and reconciliations reflecting the inflows/outflows concerning these accounts from inception through April 30, 2016. Copies of the bank statements, ledgers, and a final reconciliation reflecting the inflows/outflows of the other bank accounts used jointly by the Partners in the operation of the three stores from May 1, 2015 through August 31, 2015 have previously been provided to the Master and Hamed.<sup>2</sup>

On March 5, 2015, the Master issued his “Master’s Order Regarding Transfer of Ownership of Plaza Extra West.” On March 6, 2015, the Master issued his “Master’s Order Regarding Transfer of Ownership of Plaza Extra East.” An accounting reconciling the difference in the inventory and equipment values involved in the transfer of Plaza Extra East and Plaza Extra West has occurred resulting in the payment of \$1,211,267.01 to Yusuf in July 2015.

The closed auction for Plaza Extra Tutu Park took place on April 30, 2015, pursuant to the Master’s Order dated April 28, 2015. On April 30, 2015, the Master issued his “Master’s

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<sup>2</sup> These accounts used by all three stores remained open as an operational necessity with the consent of the Partners and the Master. Since these accounts were joint signatory accounts signed by representatives of both Partners, Hamed had uninterrupted, unfettered access to monitor these accounts. All checks drawn on these accounts have been signed by a representative of both Partners. All of these accounts, except one account at Scotiabank, were closed effective July 10, 2015 with all of the funds from those accounts transferred to the CRA. The one account was left open with a balance of \$1,000 for a few additional days because of pending document requests related to the 2014 Department of Justice review and Scotiabank needed an account to charge. After deducting fees, the \$895 balance in the account was transferred to the CRA.

Order Regarding Transfer Of Ownership Of Plaza Extra Tutu Park” (the “April 30 Master’s Order”), pursuant to which that store was transferred to Hamed’s designee, KAC357, Inc., for the price of \$4,050,000 plus \$220,000 in fees attributable to the Tutu Park Litigation (collectively, the “Tutu Park Purchase Price”), which has been paid.<sup>3</sup>

Pursuant to the express provisions of the Wind Up Order (p.5), § 8(2) of the Plan, and the April 30 Master’s Order (p.2), Hamed<sup>4</sup> was obligated to obtain releases of the Partnership and Yusuf from any further leasehold obligations to Tutu Park, Ltd. when he assumed sole ownership and control of the Tutu Park store premises as of May 1, 2015. Despite repeated demands, Hamed has failed to provide the required releases that are a precondition to the valid transfer of the Tutu Park store. In the absence of the delivery of such releases, the Tutu Park store will require the further attention of the Liquidating Partner and the Court for separation. Given the passage of more than fifteen (15) months since the releases should have been delivered, the Liquidating Partner is requesting the Court’s immediate intervention regarding Hamed’s failure to provide the required releases.<sup>5</sup> The significant problems created by Hamed’s failure to obtain the required releases has been reported by the Liquidating Partner

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<sup>3</sup> Because the Tutu Park Purchase Price was paid to Yusuf using Partnership funds, Yusuf was in fact paid an equal amount from the CRA representing a matching distribution to him of the funds used by Hamed to purchase Plaza Extra Tutu Park.

<sup>4</sup> On June 16, 2016, Hamed died. *See* Yusuf’s Statement Noting Death Of Mohammad Hamed filed on June 22, 2016. As a result of his death, any power of attorney given by Hamed to Waleed Hamed has been terminated. *See* V.I. Code Ann. tit. 15, § 1265(a). Since no motion for substitution of a representative of the estate of Hamed has been filed to date, it is unclear on whose behalf counsel for Hamed has been filing documents in this case since June 16, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> In the absence of such releases, at a minimum, Yusuf submits that a reserve must be created for all rent, percentage rent, and real property taxes that may accrue during the remaining term of the lease with Tutu Park, Ltd. (28 months), plus any matching payment that would be due to Yusuf if Partnership funds are used to pay these obligations.

beginning with his fourth bi-monthly report and in each of his succeeding reports. Although Hamed has filed multiple objections to the bi-monthly reports, he has never disputed his obligation to obtain the releases or his failure to do so. Although the Tutu Park Litigation was initially stayed after the auction of the Tutu Park store to provide Hamed an opportunity to negotiate a new lease with Tutu Park, Ltd. and obtain the required releases, after approximately a year of fruitless negotiations, that stay has now been lifted and the Tutu Park Litigation has been set for trial. Since the transfer of the Tutu Park store and Tutu Park Litigation was expressly conditioned upon the delivery of the required releases to United and Yusuf, Hamed and his counsel cannot be allowed to control that litigation unless they immediately produce the releases that should have been provided more than one year ago. On June 29, 2016, the Master asked counsel to “advise as to the status or whereabouts of the releases” and counsel responded that “[w]e understand the urgency and will get this done as soon as Wally returns.” See June 29, 2016 email exchange attached as **Exhibit 1**. Despite the passage of more than a month since that email exchange, no releases have been produced to date. Accordingly, the issue involving the failure to provide the releases has now become critical requiring this Court’s immediate attention.

The Liquidating Partner is also working to resolve issues involving recent claims presented by Tutu Park, Ltd. concerning property taxes for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014 and percentage rents claimed due for the period November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015. The Liquidating Partner authorized the payment of the entire, allocable taxes for 2012 and 2013 in

the amount of \$79,009.87 and for 2014 taxes in the amount of \$43,069.36. Checks for those amounts have been delivered to Tutu Park, Ltd. The property taxes for 2015 have not yet been billed, but reserves will be set aside to pay these taxes (estimated to be \$14,356.44 based on  $4/12 \times \$43,069.36$ )<sup>6</sup>, disputed federal unemployment (Form 940) taxes (approximately \$732,000)<sup>7</sup>, and contemplated accounting fees (approximately \$30,000).

The Liquidating Partner's sixth bi-monthly report incorrectly stated (at p. 4) that Tutu Park, Ltd.'s claim for percentage rents in the amount of \$41,462.28 had been rejected when, in fact, that claim was paid on December 17, 2015 via CRA check no. 278 and a matching check was issued to Yusuf via CRA check no. 279. Copies of these checks were provided to Hamed and the Master with the submission of the sixth bi-monthly report.

To date, no Partnership Assets requiring liquidation beyond those described above have been identified by or to the Liquidating Partner.<sup>8</sup> Hamed has inquired about the disposition of ½ acre of unimproved land located on St. Thomas that is allegedly owned by the Partnership and more particularly described as Parcel No. 2-4 Rem. Estate Charlotte Amalie, No. 3 New Quarter, St. Thomas, as shown on OLG Map. No. D9-7044-T002 (the "Land"). Yusuf submits

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<sup>6</sup> If the Liquidating Partner determines that the Partnership is responsible to Tutu Park, Ltd. for additional rent in the form of taxes or otherwise, the Partnership would be obligated to pay United comparable amounts since the rent for the Plaza Extra East store was pegged to the rent for the Tutu Park store, as recognized in this Court's Memorandum Opinion and Order entered on April 27, 2015. For example, when \$79,009.87 and \$43,069.36 in real property taxes were paid to Tutu Park, Ltd., the Liquidating Partner and the Master authorized matching payments of \$89,442.92 and \$46,990.48 to United based on this formula. Accordingly, in addition to creating a \$14,356.44 reserve for the 2015 pro-rated real property taxes, a reserve for the matching payment to United should be created in the amount of \$9,812.14.

<sup>7</sup> The Liquidating Partner does not believe that any such taxes are actually due and owing.

<sup>8</sup> With the permission of the Master, a 2005 Toyota Camry owned by the Partnership and used primarily by NejeH Yusuf in connection with his co-management of Plaza Extra Tutu Park was purchased by United on May 1, 2015 for the sum of \$5,000.

that the Land has been erroneously carried on the balance sheet of the Partnership, because the record owner of the Land, pursuant to a Warranty Deed dated July 26, 2006 and recorded August 24, 2006, was Plessen Enterprises, Inc. (“Plessen”), a corporation jointly owned by the Hamed and Yusuf families. The Land was encumbered by a mortgage dated August 24, 2006 from Plessen to United in the face amount of \$330,000. Pursuant to a Deed In Lieu Of Foreclosure dated October 23, 2008 and recorded on March 24, 2009, Plessen conveyed the Land to United. Pursuant to a Release Of Mortgage dated October 23, 2008 and recorded on March 24, 2009, United released its mortgage covering the Land.<sup>9</sup> Copies of the Deed In Lieu Of Foreclosure and Release Of Mortgage have been provided to the Master and Hamed. Accordingly, the Liquidating Partner does not intend to pursue liquidation of the Land or the mortgage since the Partnership has no continuing interest in either.<sup>10</sup>

Hamed has claimed that the Liquidating Partner has “fail[ed] to identify a significant partnership asset, a Merrill-Lynch account that has in excess of \$300,000 in it, all of which came from Plaza Extra funds.” *See, e.g.*, Motion To Remove The Liquidating Partner filed by Hamed on January 29, 2016 at p. 6.<sup>11</sup> At page 3 of Yusuf’s September 3, 2015 Response to the Objection, Yusuf states:

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<sup>9</sup> The fourth bi-monthly report contained dated information. After that report was filed, counsel for the Liquidating Partner learned of the subsequent conveyance of the Land to United.

<sup>10</sup> On August 18, 2015, Hamed filed a “Notice of Objection to Liquidating Partners Bi-Monthly Reports” (the “Objection”), which raised the issue of the Land, among other issues, but acknowledged that these issues would be addressed in the “claims portion” of the liquidation process. On September 3, 2015, Yusuf filed his Response to the Objection. On February 8, 2016, Hamed filed his “Notice of Objection to Liquidating Partner’s Sixth Bi-Monthly Report,” to which Yusuf replied on February 24, 2016.

<sup>11</sup> Yusuf filed his Opposition to that motion on February 17, 2016.

At no time has Hamed provided the Liquidating Partner with any information establishing that a Merrill Lynch account in the name of a third party actually represents Partnership Assets. Hamed certainly does not explain why he only raised the prospect of such account 18 days after the filing of the third bi-monthly report. (footnote omitted).

To date, the Liquidating Partner has been provided with no information whatsoever that even suggests the unidentified Merrill Lynch account was funded with Partnership money, contains any Partnership funds, or otherwise constitutes Partnership Assets.

An updated balance sheet was provided to counsel and the Master on February 6, 2015, as required by § 9, Step 4 of the Plan. Combined balance sheets and income statements for the Partnership as of June 30, 2016 and supporting general ledger, cash reconciliation, accounts receivable aging, and accounts payable aging information (collectively, the “Financial Information”) have been provided to the Master and Hamed with this report. John Gaffney, an accountant who has been engaged on behalf of and paid by the Partnership, has compiled the Financial Information, which the Liquidating Partner believes is generally reliable and historically accurate.<sup>12</sup>

The pending litigation identified in Exhibit C to the Plan was updated by the more detailed list attached as Exhibit C-1 to the first bi-monthly report. The Liquidating Partner is attempting to establish appropriate reserves for all pending litigation<sup>13</sup> and any future litigation

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<sup>12</sup> The submission of the Financial Information by the Liquidating Partner is not intended to impair or otherwise affect the right of either Partner to submit his proposed accounting and distribution plan contemplated by § 9, Step 6, of the Plan.

<sup>13</sup> An updated, more detailed list of pending litigation (Exhibit C-2) was previously provided to the Master and counsel for Hamed.

that may be filed within the two year statute of limitations period for personal injuries allegedly occurring prior to the transfer of the Plaza Extra Stores. Such reserves will be established out of the funds in the CRA.

On March 17, 2016, Yusuf, as Liquidating Partner, filed motions to consolidate three cases pending in the Superior Court, namely, *United Corporation v. Waheed Hamed*, Civ. No. ST-13-CV-0000101, *United Corporation v. Waleed Hamed*, Civ. No. SX-13-CV-000003, and *United Corporation v. Wadda Charriez*, Civ. No. SX-13-CV-0000152, with this case since the claims asserted in these three cases “may be treated as claims for resolution in the liquidating process of the Partnership pursuant to the Plan adopted” in this case. For similar reasons, on March 21, 2016, the parties filed a stipulation to consolidate two cases pending in the Superior Court with this case, namely, *Hamed v. Yusuf*, Civ. No. SX-2014-CV-278, and *Hamed v. United Corporation*, Civ. No. SX-2014-CV-287.<sup>14</sup>

Section 9, Step 2, of the Plan requires the Liquidating Partner to “submit to Hamed and the Master each month a reconciliation of actual expenditures against the projected expenses set forth in Exhibit A. Unless the Partners agree or the Master orders otherwise, the Liquidating Partner shall not exceed the funds deposited in the Liquidated Expense Account.” That reconciliation was provided to the Master and Hamed with the third bi-monthly report. It reflected that the actual expenditures incurred through June 30, 2015 in winding up the Partnership and liquidating its assets were approximately \$4 million less than the projected expenses reflected in Exhibit A to the Plan. An updated reconciliation through August 31,

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<sup>14</sup> By Order dated April 15, 2016, Civ. No. SX-2014-CV-287 was consolidated with this case.



2015 was provided to the Master and Hamed with the filing of the fourth bi-monthly report reflecting a similar difference. An updated comparison through October 31, 2015 was provided to the Master and Hamed with the filing of fifth bi-monthly report. An updated comparison through December 31, 2015 was provided to the Master and Hamed with the filing of the sixth report, an updated comparison through February 29, 2016 was provided with the filing of the seventh report, an updated comparison through April 30, 2016 was provided with the filing of the eighth report, and an updated comparison through June 30, 2016 was provided with the filing of this report.

Pursuant to a “Further Stipulation Regarding Motion to Clarify Order of Liquidation” filed with the Court on October 5, 2015 and “So Ordered” on November 13, 2015, the Partners stipulated that the Liquidating Partner will provide the Master and Hamed with the Partnership accounting required by § 5 of the Plan on November 16, 2015, which was done, and the Partners will submit their proposed accounting and distribution plans contemplated by § 9, Step 6, of the Plan to each other and the Master by March 3, 2016. At the request of Hamed, the Master extended the date for submission of the Partners’ accounting and distribution plans until May 2, 2016. Subsequently, that deadline was further extended by the Master without a date certain.

Section 9, Step 4 of the Plan provides, in pertinent part, as follows: “Hamed’s accountant shall be allowed to view all partnership accounting information from January 2012 to present and to submit his findings to the Master.” Yusuf submits that Hamed’s accountants

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have not been prevented from viewing any Partnership accounting information for the relevant period. Instead of accepting John Gaffney's March 2015 proposal to have one of Hamed's accountants work alongside him to facilitate their ability to review the relevant accounting information, Hamed's accountants submitted 81 "Questions/Requests for Info" to Yusuf, and those requests were recently expanded even further to "130 very specific questions." As reflected in his Reply to Plaintiff's Notice of Objection to Liquidating Partner's Eighth Bi-Monthly Report (page 2-4), Yusuf objects to these discovery requests to the extent they seek to interrogate Yusuf, through Mr. Gaffney, as opposed to simply seeking Mr. Gaffney's assistance in accessing or reviewing partnership accounting information.

Respectfully submitted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2016.

**DUDLEY, TOPPER and FEUERZEIG, LLP**

By: 

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2016, I caused the foregoing **Liquidating Partner's Ninth Bi-Monthly Report** to be served upon the following via e-mail:

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## Gregory H. Hodges

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**From:** Joel Holt <holtvi@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 1:21 PM  
**To:** Edgar Ross  
**Cc:** Gregory H. Hodges  
**Subject:** Re: Tutu Park Plaza Releases

The final meeting to resolve this issue was set for today, but was canceled because Wally is in the Middle East due to his father's death. We understand the urgency and will get this done as soon as Wally returns

Joel H Holt  
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On Jun 29, 2016, at 12:54 PM, Edgar Ross <[edgarrossjudge@hotmail.com](mailto:edgarrossjudge@hotmail.com)> wrote:

More than a year has elapsed since the Hameds were to obtain releases from the Lessor of the Tutu Park Plaza for the benefit of United Corp. and Fathi Yusuf. Please advise as to the status or whereabouts of the releases.

Sent via the Samsung GALAXY S®4, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

