UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Before the SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

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ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING File No. 3-18078

In the Matter of

Aja Cannafacturing, Inc., et al.,

Respondents.

DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT'S STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION OF RECORD, RULINGS, AND ORDERS IN THIS PROCEEDING

On November 30, 2017, the Commission issued an order ratifying the prior appointment of its Administrative Law Judges to preside over pending administrative proceedings. *See In re: Pending Administrative Proceedings*, Securities Act Release No. 10440 (Nov. 30, 2017). As applied to this proceeding, the order directs the Administrative Law Judges to determine, based on a *de novo* reconsideration of the full administrative record, whether to ratify or revise in any respect all prior actions taken by any administrative law judge during the course of this proceeding. *Id.* at 1-2.

It is well established that subsequent ratification of an earlier decision rendered by an unconstitutionally appointed officer remedies any alleged harm or prejudice caused by the violation. *See Doolin Sec. Sav. Bank, F.S.B. v. Office of Thrift Supervision*, 139 F.3d 203, 213-14 (D.C. Cir. 1998); *FEC v. Legi-Tech, Inc.*, 75 F.3d 704, 707-09 (D.C. Cir. 1996). And that principle applies whether or not the ratifying authority is the same person who made the initial decision, so long as "the ratifier has the authority to take the action to be ratified," and, "with full knowledge of the decision to be ratified," makes a "detached and considered affirmation of th[at]

earlier decision." Advanced Disposal Services East, Inc. v. NLRB, 820 F.3d 592, 602-03 (3d Cir. 2016).

Accordingly, to implement this remedy, the Administrative Law Judge in each affected proceeding should conduct a *de novo* review of the administrative record, engage in an independent evaluation of the merits through the exercise of detached and considered judgment, and then determine whether prior actions should be ratified and thereby affirmed. This process ensures "that the ratifier does not blindly affirm the earlier decision without due consideration." *Advanced Disposal Services East*, 820 F.3d at 602-03.

The Division submits that the previous decisions and orders issued by Judge Elliot in this proceeding, including the initial decision issued on August 28, 2017, were well-founded and respectfully requests that they be ratified. To that end, the Division attaches a proposed draft order to this letter.

Dated: January 4, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

James Carlson202-551-3711David S. Frye202-551-4728Securities and Exchange Commission100 F Street, N.E.Washington, D.C.20549-6010

COUNSEL FOR DIVISION OF ENFORCEMENT

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After a de novo review and reexamination of the record in these proceedings, I have reached the independent decision to ratify and affirm all prior actions made by an administrative law judge in these proceedings, including the initial decision issued on August 28, 2017, Initial Decision Rel. No. 1165. This decision to ratify and affirm is based on my detached and considered judgment after an independent evaluation of the merits.

> Jason S. Patil Administrative Law Judge

Certificate of Service

I, the undersigned, certify that on January 4, 2017, I caused to be served, or commenced the process leading to service of, the Division of Enforcement's Statement in Support of Ratification of Record, Rulings, and Orders in this proceeding, and the accompanying proposed Order on the people and entities listed below in the manner indicated:

By hand and by email to alj@sec.gov:

The Honorable Jason S. Patil Administrative Law Judge Securities and Exchange Commission 100 F Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20549-2557

By First Class Mail:

Montalvo Spirits, Inc. 13092 Caminito Del Rocio Del Mar, CA 92014

By First Class Mail:

Sanook Enterprises, Inc. (n/k/a Applife Digital, Inc.) 28/14 Moo 3, Bophut, Koh Samui Suratthani, 84320 Thailand

By First Class Mail:

Spire Technologies, Inc. 80 Broad Street, 5th Floor, PMB #247 New York, NY 10004

David S. Frye