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## ABRAMSON SMITH WALDSMITH, LLP

WILLIAM B. SMITH [State Bar # 58337; wbs@aswllp.com]
ROBERT J. WALDSMITH [State Bar #163774; rjw@aswllp.com]
BLAIR K. WALSH [State Bar # 263066; bkw@aswllp.com]
44 Montgomery Street, Suite 3340
San Francisco, California 94104
Telephone: (415) 421-7995

Telephone: (415) 421-7995 Facsimile: (415) 421-0912

Attorneys for plaintiffs
KIRAN PATEL and AMISH PATEL

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David H. Yamasaki
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Case: 1-15-CV-286138

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# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA – UNLIMITED

KIRAN PATEL and AMISH PATEL,
Plaintiffs,

VS.

SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS, LIMITED, SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS II, LLC, FORTY NINERS FOOTBALL COMPANY, LLC, SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS FOUNDATION, FORTY NINERS STADIUM, LLC, FORTY NINERS STADIUM MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC, FORTY NINERS SC STADIUM COMPANY, LLC, ELITE SHOW SERVICES, INC., CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 1 through 60, inclusive,

Case No.: 115CV286138

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES (Personal Injury)

BY FAX

# PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS (Against all Defendants)

Defendants.

1. Defendants DOES 1 through 60, inclusive, are sued herein by fictitious names because plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names or capacities of these

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defendants, but will insert the same herein when ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each of the defendants designated herein legally and proximately caused injury and damage to plaintiffs as herein alleged and is therefore responsible to plaintiffs for the damages herein requested.

- 2. Plaintiffs are informed, believe, and thereon allege, that, at all times herein mentioned, each defendant was acting as an agent, servant, employee, special employee, alter ego, successor in interest, partner, joint venturer, lessee, and licensee of each of the other defendants, and was acting within the course and scope of said relationship. In addition, plaintiffs are informed, believe and thereon allege, that each defendant has ratified and approved the acts of each of the other defendants.
- At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants SAN 3. FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS, LIMITED; SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS II, LLC; FORTY NINERS FOOTBALL COMPANY, LLC; SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS FOUNDATION; FORTY NINERS STADIUM, LLC; FORTY NINERS STADIUM MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC; and, FORTY NINERS SC STADIUM COMPANY, LLC (hereinafter also collectively referred to as the "FORTY NINER DEFENDANTS") and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, were doing business in the County of Santa Clara, which included owning, operating, controlling and managing a professional football team within the National Football League (hereinafter referred to as the "NFL") known as the "San Francisco 49ers" that played its home games at Levi's Stadium, located at 4900 Marie P. DeBartolo Way, Santa Clara, California.
- At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive, were public entities.
- In accordance with California Government Code sections 900 eq. seq., on 5. April 1, 2015, plaintiffs filed government claims against defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA and SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY. On May 26, 2015, plaintiffs' claims were rejected.

- 6. At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, the FORTY NINER DEFENDANTS, CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 1 through 40, inclusive, owned, leased, operated, managed, controlled, maintained, inspected and surveilled the San Francisco 49ers' home stadium, known as "Levi's Stadium," located in Santa Clara, California, and provided security services to said stadium on National Football League ("NFL") game days. In that capacity, at all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, the FORTY NINER DEFENDANTS, CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY, and DOES 1 through 40, inclusive, were responsible for selecting, hiring, supervising, evaluating, and retaining security personnel for Levi's Stadium on NFL game days.
- 7. At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants ELITE SHOW SERVICES, INC. and DOES 41 through 60, inclusive, were doing business in the State of California, which included providing security services to Levi's Stadium, located in the City and County of Santa Clara, before, during and after NFL games.
- 8. On or about October 5, 2014, plaintiffs were 49er season ticketholders and were patrons and invitees on the premises of Levi's Stadium attending an NFL football game. Plaintiffs are informed, believe, and thereon allege, that, on that same day, Dario Rebollero and Amador Rebollero, also patrons and invitees on the premises of Levi's Stadium, were visibly intoxicated and members of a well-known local gang, and wore and/or displayed gang clothing and/or indicia upon entry to and while patrons at the stadium.
- 9. On or about October 5, 2014, prior to the start of the game, plaintiffs KIRAN PATEL and AMISH PATEL were waiting in line in a men's restroom near Section 103 at Levi's Stadium, when they were viciously attacked by Dario and Amador Rebollero, without provocation, resulting in serious and permanent personal injuries to plaintiffs.

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## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

### **NEGLIGENCE**

(Against defendants SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS, LIMITED, SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS II, LLC, FORTY NINERS FOOTBALL COMPANY, LLC, SAN FRANCISCO FORTY NINERS FOUNDATION, FORTY NINERS STADIUM, LLC, FORTY NINERS STADIUM MANAGEMENT COMPANY, LLC, FORTY NINERS SC STADIUM COMPANY, LLC, ELITE SHOW SERVICES, INC., DOES 1 through 20 and DOES 41 through 60)

- Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 9 and 10. make them part of the First Cause of Action, as though fully set forth herein.
- At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants and each of 11. them had a special relationship with the patrons and invitees present at Levi's Stadium on NFL game days, an environment where guests should be allowed to enjoy their gameday experience in a safe and enjoyable atmosphere free from fighting, overly intoxicated patrons and gang activity; and, thus, had a legal duty to exercise ordinary care to ensure the safety of all persons who were lawfully on the premises of Levi's Stadium, including the restrooms.
- At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants and each of 12. them had actual and constructive notice that before, during and after NFL games at said stadium, patrons consumed alcoholic beverages and often got intoxicated, excited, anxious and aggressive, thereby creating an unreasonable risk of injury to other patrons and a dangerous condition. In addition, at all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants and each of them had actual and constructive notice that this unreasonable risk of injury was even greater and more dangerous in long lines waiting to use the restrooms and in unsupervised or low security areas, such as men's restrooms.
- At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants and each of them had knowledge of prior similar acts of violence at NFL football games, as well as knowledge of the pattern of criminal and violent behavior engaged in by NFL players, including members of the San Francisco 49ers. At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants and each of them had reasonable cause to anticipate criminal acts

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of third parties at NFL games held at Levi's Stadium.

- Accordingly, at all times herein mentioned, defendants had a duty to reasonably screen patrons upon entry to said stadium and after their entry, and prohibit patrons from attending the game or eject patrons that exhibited signs of intoxication, violent tendencies and/or gang affiliations and activity, including but not limited to wearing and/or displaying gang clothing, colors and/or indicia; to surveil patrons for; to staff, inspect, patrol and surveil restrooms as a way of deterring violence; and to quickly respond to, and mitigate, violent behavior.
- 15. At all times herein mentioned, defendants had a duty to reasonably screen patrons upon entry to said
- At all times herein mentioned, the FORTY NINER DEFENDANTS and defendants DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, so carelessly and negligently owned, leased, operated, managed, controlled, maintained, inspected and surveilled Levi's Stadium, and so carelessly and negligently provided security services at said stadium, on the date of the subject NFL football game, as to cause plaintiffs to suffer serious personal injuries.
- At all times herein mentioned, the FORTY NINER DEFENDANTS and defendants DOES 1 through 20, inclusive, so carelessly and negligently selected, hired, supervised, evaluated, and retained unfit and inadequate security services for Levi's Stadium, as to cause plaintiffs to suffer serious personal injuries.
- At all times herein mentioned, defendants ELITE SHOW SERVICES, INC. and DOES 41 through 60, inclusive, so carelessly and negligently provided security services to Levi's Stadium as to cause plaintiffs to suffer serious personal injuries.
- As a direct and proximate result of defendants' negligence, plaintiffs sustained serious personal injuries and incurred obligations for medical care and treatment necessitated by those injuries, including, but not limited to, hospitalization services, medications and medical supplies. Plaintiffs will likely incur additional obligations for further medical care necessary to treat those personal injuries. At this

time, plaintiffs do not know the reasonable value thereof, but pray that the same may be inserted herein when ascertained.

- 20. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' negligence, plaintiffs were forced to take time off of work and, in turn, lost income. At this time, plaintiffs do not know the reasonable value thereof, but pray that the same may be inserted herein when ascertained.
- 21. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' negligence, plaintiffs suffered non-economic damages, including pain and suffering. At this time, plaintiffs do not know the reasonable value of those damages, but pray that the same may be inserted herein when ascertained.

# SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION DANGEROUS CONDITION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY (Against Defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive)

- 22. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 21 and make them part of the Second Cause of Action, as though fully set forth herein.
- 23. At all times herein mentioned, defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive, owned and controlled the Levi's Stadium property and had a non-delegable legal duty to exercise ordinary care to ensure the safety of all persons who were lawfully on the property. Specifically, at all times herein mentioned, defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive, had a duty to reasonably screen patrons upon entry to said stadium, to surveil patrons for signs of violent tendencies and/or gang affiliations, to inspect, patrol and surveil restrooms as a way of deterring violence, and to quickly respond to, and mitigate, violent behavior.
- 24. At all times herein mentioned, defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive, so carelessly and negligently owned, leased, operated, managed, controlled, maintained,

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inspected, serviced, surveilled, and provided security services at Levi's Stadium on the date of the subject NFL football game, as to create a dangerous condition of public property, pursuant to California Government Code sections 835 et. seq. Said dangerous condition was an unreasonable risk of harm created by a combination of the failure to take protective measures or adequate safety features to safeguard against dangerous third party conduct and the acts of third parties, and more specifically included, but is not limited to the following. The lack of an adequate number of urinal and toilet facilities in the tailgating portions of the Red, Blue and Green parking lots and immediately inside the stadium at Gate A where crowds and long lines foreseeably created frustration, anxiety and confrontation due to the unreasonable delay in allowing alcohol-consuming patrons to use restroom facilities in a timely manner. The physical characteristics of the restroom where the attack occurred limited visibility to security personnel and provided an opportunity for criminal activity. Finally, there was a lack of any reasonable surveillance equipment in the restroom. All of the above-described factors increased and/or intensified the risk of physical confrontations in the restrooms near the entrances of the stadium immediately before the game and concurrently contributed to the harm suffered by plaintiffs.

- As set forth in detail above, at all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive, had actual and constructive knowledge of the dangerous condition of public property that existed at Levi's Stadium on October 5, 2014.
- 26. At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, the above-described dangerous condition had existed for such a period of time, and was of such an obvious nature, that it should have been discovered by defendants in the exercise of due care, and would have been so discovered by a reasonably adequate inspection system maintained and operated by defendants with due care.
  - 27. At all times herein mentioned, and prior thereto, despite the above-

described actual and constructive notice, defendants CITY OF SANTA CLARA, SANTA CLARA STADIUM AUTHORITY and DOES 21 through 40, inclusive, failed to remedy and/or to take steps to protect the public from said dangerous condition.

- 28. As a direct and proximate result of the dangerous condition of public property, plaintiffs sustained serious personal injuries and incurred obligations for medical care and treatment necessitated by those injuries, including, but not limited to, hospitalization services, medications and medical supplies. Plaintiffs will likely incur additional obligations for further medical care necessary to treat those personal injuries. At this time, plaintiffs do not know the reasonable value thereof, but pray that the same may be inserted herein when ascertained.
- 29. As a direct and proximate result of the dangerous condition of public property, plaintiffs were forced to take time off of work and, in turn, lost income. At this time, plaintiffs do not know the reasonable value thereof, but pray that the same may be inserted herein when ascertained.
- 30. As a direct and proximate result of the dangerous condition of public property, plaintiffs suffered non-economic damages, including pain and suffering. At this time, plaintiffs do not know the reasonable value of those damages, but pray that the same may be inserted herein when ascertained.

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray for judgment against defendants; for economic and non-economic damages according to proof; for prejudgment interest according to law; for the costs of suit incurred herein; and for any further relief this Court deems proper.

DATED: September 24, 2015

ABRAMSON SMITH WALDSMITH, LLP

WILLIAM B. SMITH
Attorneys for plaintiffs
KIRAN PATEL and AMISH PATEL