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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA Ocala Division

2018 JUN 22 PM 12: 38

CLERK, US DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FL OCALA FLORIDA

DOMINIC ANTONACCIO, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff.

vs. Collective Action

PERFECT DEED HOMES, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company,

Defendant.	
	,

#### **COMPLAINT**

- 1. Plaintiff, DOMINIC ANTONACCIO (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" and "ANTONACCIO"), is an individual residing in Marion County, Florida.
- 2. Defendant, PERFECT DEED HOMES, LLC (hereinafter referred to "PERFECT DEED HOMES"), is a Florida Limited Liability Company with an office based in Marion County, Florida, within the jurisdiction of this Court, whose primary business at all times material to this Complaint has been building and constructing residential homes throughout Marion County, Florida.
- 3. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and other current and former construction workers employed by PERFECT DEED HOMES, LLC, ("Defendant") similarly situated to Plaintiff for overtime compensation and other relief under the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA"), as amended, 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 4. More specifically, this action is brought to recover from Defendant unpaid overtime compensation, liquidated damages, and the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees of this action under the provisions of the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §216(b), for Plaintiff and the other similarly situated

construction workers employed by Defendant.

- 5. Plaintiff also brings this action, on his behalf only, to recover damages for unlawful retaliation pursuant to §215(a)(3).
  - 6. Jurisdiction is conferred on this Court by 28 U.S.C. §216(b) and 29 U.S.C. §1337.
- 7. All of the events, or a substantial part of the events, giving rise to this action, occurred within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Ocala Division.
- 8. In or around approximately January 2016, Defendant hired Plaintiff as a construction worker on an hourly basis.
- 9. Throughout the course of Plaintiff's employment with Defendant, Defendant compensated Plaintiff on an hourly basis at regular rates between \$15.00 and \$19.00 per hour.
- 10. Plaintiff's primary duties for Defendants were non-exempt in nature, consisting of general construction labor for Defendant at various locations throughout Marion County.
- 11. At all times material to this Complaint, PERFECT DEED HOMES has had two (2) or more employees who have regularly sold, handled, or otherwise worked on goods and/or materials that had been moved in or produced for commerce.
- 12. Based upon information and belief, the annual gross sales volume of PERFECT DEED HOMES has been in excess of \$500,000.00 per annum at all times material to this Complaint.
- 13. At all times material to this Complaint, PERFECT DEED HOMES has been an enterprise engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for commerce as defined by the FLSA, 29 U.S.C. §203(s).
  - 14. The additional persons who may become Plaintiffs in this action are Defendant's

current and former non-exempt, hourly paid construction workers who have worked for Defendant in one or more weeks between January 2016 and the present without being paid time and one-half wages for all of their actual hours worked in excess of Forty (40) hours per week for Defendant.

- 15. Plaintiff regularly worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week in one or more work weeks during his employment with Defendant.
- 16. Likewise, the other non-exempt, hourly construction workers of Defendant who are similarly situated to Plaintiff have regularly worked in excess of Forty (40) hours in one or more work weeks during their employment with Defendant within the three (3) year statute of limitations period between January 2016 and the present.
- 17. However, Defendant has not paid time and one-half wages for all of the actual overtime hours worked by Plaintiff and the other similarly situated construction workers for all of their actual overtime hours worked for Defendants within the three (3) year statute of limitations period between January 2016 and the present.
- 18. Instead, in numerous work weeks between January 2016 and the present, Defendant has willfully failed to comply with the requirements of the FLSA by, paying its employees only the straight time rate for all hours, including overtime hours.
- 19. Based upon information and belief, records of at least some of the hours worked by Plaintiff and the other similarly situated construction workers of Defendant in one or more work weeks within the three (3) year statute of limitations period between January 2016 and the present are in the possession, custody, and/or control of Defendant.
- 20. The complete records concerning the compensation actually paid to Plaintiff and the other similarly situated construction workers of Defendant between January 2016 and the present are in the possession, custody, and/or control of Defendant.

### COUNT I OVERTIME VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

- 21. Plaintiff, DOMINIC ANTONACCIO, readopts and realleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 20 above.
- 22. Plaintiff is entitled to be paid time and one-half of his applicable regular rate of pay for each hour he worked for Defendant in excess of forty (40) hours per work week during the three (3) year statute of limitations period between approximately January 2016 and the present.
- 23. All similarly situated construction workers of Defendant are also entitled to be paid time and one-half of their applicable regular rates of pay for each and every overtime hour they worked for Defendant but were not properly compensated for working on Defendant's behalf during any work weeks within the three (3) year statute of limitations period between January 2016 and the present.
- 24. Defendant has knowingly and willfully failed to pay Plaintiff and the other construction workers similarly situated to him at time and one-half of their applicable regular rates of pay for all hours worked for Defendants in excess of forty (40) per week between January 2016 and the present.
- 25. At all times material to this Complaint, PERFECT DEED HOMES had actual notice and personal knowledge that their compensation practices did not provide Plaintiff and Defendant's other non-exempt construction workers with time and one-half wages for all of their actual overtime hours worked between January 2016 and the present based upon, *inter alia*: (a) it facilitating the creation, oversight, and administration of Defendant's unlawful compensation practices that intentionally did not compensate Plaintiff and other non-exempt construction workers for the full extent of their actual overtime hours worked for the benefit of Defendant; and (b) Plaintiff's and other employees' complaints to PERFECT DEED HOMES about its failure to

pay time and one-half wages for all of the actual hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week for Defendant;

- 26. By reason of the said intentional, willful and unlawful acts of Defendant, all Plaintiffs (the named Plaintiff and those construction workers similarly situated to him) have suffered damages plus incurring costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.
- 27. Defendant did not have a good faith basis for its failure to pay time and one-half wages for all of the actual hours worked by Plaintiff and the other similarly situated construction workers for Defendant, as a result of which Plaintiff and those construction workers similarly situated to him are entitled to the recovery of liquidated damages from Defendant pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
- 28. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel to represent him in this action, and pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §216(b), Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendant all reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of Defendant's violations of the FLSA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DOMINIC ANTONACCIO, and any current or former employees similarly situated to him who join this action as Opt-In Plaintiffs, demand judgment, against Defendant, PERFECT DEED HOMES, LLC, for the payment of all unpaid overtime compensation, liquidated damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, and for all proper relief including prejudgment interest.

### COUNT II Retaliation (as to ANTONACCIO Only)

- 28. The allegations in paragraphs 1-28 are incorporated by reference herein.
- 29. On June 19, 2018, Plaintiff advised Defendant through one of its managing members, Bradley Steiner that he wanted to be paid overtime compensation for his past overtime hours worked.

- 30. In response, Mr. Steiner terminated Plaintiff's employment immediately on the spot.
- 31. As a direct result of Plaintiff's protected conduct in advising Mr. Steiner that he wanted to be compensated for his past overtime, Defendant subsequently terminated the Plaintiff.
- 32. Defendant's actions as more particularly described above were directly related to and in response to Plaintiff's complaint about not receiving overtime pay.
- 33. Plaintiff's complaint about his pay constitutes statutorily protected conduct under Section 15(a)(3) of the FLSA.
- 34. Defendant's adverse treatment of Plaintiff was a direct result of Plaintiff's opposition to Defendant's pay practices.
- 35. The conduct more specifically alleged above violated Plaintiff's rights against retaliation for opposing unlawful employment actions, which retaliation is proscribed by the FLSA.
- 36. Plaintiff is entitled pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), to recover from PERFECT DEED HOMES, LLC:
  - a. All lost wages that are due, including pre-judgment interest;
  - b. As liquidated damages, an amount equal to lost wages
  - c. The costs of this action, and;
  - d. A reasonable attorney's fee.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DOMINIC ANTONACCIO prays that this court will grant judgment against PERECT DEED HOMES, LLC:

a. awarding Plaintiff all lost wages found by the court to be due to him, including pre-judgment interest;

- b. awarding Plaintiff payment of liquidated damages in an amount equal to the lost wages due to him;
  - c. awarding Plaintiff his costs, including a reasonable attorney's fee; and
  - d. granting such other and further relief as is just.

#### **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: June 20, 2018 Plantation, Florida

Respectfully submitted,

s/Robert S. Norell

Robert S. Norell, Esq. (Fla. Bar No. 996777)

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Plantation, Florida 33317 Telephone: (954) 617-6017 Facsimile: (954) 617-6018

Counsel for DOMINIC ANTONACCIO

JS 44 (Rev. 06/17)

### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the

purpose of initiating the civil d	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	TIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	OF THIS FO	PRM.)					
<ul> <li>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS     Dominic Antonaccio</li> <li>(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Marion     (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)</li> <li>(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)</li> <li>Robert S. Norell, P.A. 300 NW 70th Avenue Suite 305, Plantati 33317, (954) 617-6017</li> </ul>				DEFENDANT	ΓS				
				Perfect Deed Homes, LLC					
				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Marion (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.  Attorneys (If Known)					
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## **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Perfect Deed Homes Hit with Wage and Hour, Retaliation Lawsuit in Florida</u>