## SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, by LETITIA JAMES, Attorney General of the State of New York,

Petitioner,

VERIFIED PETITION

Index No. \_\_\_\_\_

- against -

DAILYPAY, INC.,

Respondent.

Petitioner People of the State of New York, by Letitia James, Attorney General of the State of New York (the "OAG"), as and for her Verified Petition, respectfully avers:

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. Beginning when it was still just a colony, decades before declaring Independence, New York adopted usury legislation to protect its most vulnerable residents from high-cost lending that preys on economic fragility and weakened bargaining positions. In the centuries that followed, strengthened prohibitions on usury have been enacted on multiple occasions, including laws that overrode judicially imposed usury limits and the addition of criminal penalties for usury, among other enhancements. This long and unbroken history reflects a clear declaration of public policy by New York's legislature: lending at usurious rates, even where freely entered into, is financially unhealthy and destructive, and therefore is not permitted within the state of New York.
- 2. Efforts by lenders to circumvent New York public policy are almost as old as the prohibition on high-cost lending itself. New York's highest court "has recognized for more than a century that the economy changes" and that, as these changes occur, new opportunities come about for "lenders to extract unlawful interest rates through novel and increasingly sophisticated

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instruments." *Adar Bays, LLC v. GeneSYS ID, Inc.*, 37 N.Y.3d 320, 342 (2021). Thus, the Court of Appeals instructs: "if the court can see that the real transaction was the loan or forbearance of money at usurious interest, its plain and imperative duty is to so declare." *Id.* Embracing this call to action, New York courts have repeatedly applied usury prohibitions to loansharks, payday lenders, and others who exploit New Yorkers through illegal, abusive lending practices.

3. This action concerns a modern, technology-driven attempt to evade New York's usury laws. In the transactions at issue here, workers obtain small-dollar advances, usually for less than \$100, and pay fees of \$2.99 or \$3.49, reflecting exorbitant and plainly usurious costs of credit. In exchange, workers agree to have their next paycheck deducted to cover all amounts owed before they receive the remaining balance. As collateral, they assign all rights and title to their wages owed and promise to not interfere with repayment. That assigned collateral also is secured by employers' obligations to pay, supported by extensive credit underwriting regarding employers' ability to make payroll. This is secured lending, plain and simple—and usurious lending at that. Such activity contravenes centuries of New York law and policy, and it should be barred.

\* \* \*

4. Respondent DailyPay, Inc. ("DailyPay" or "the Company") is a New York-based payday lender that makes small-dollar, short-term, high-cost loans (each, a "Paycheck Advance") to workers nationwide, including tens of thousands in New York. In a typical transaction, an employee obtains around \$75 from DailyPay eight days before her payday; then, on payday, DailyPay deducts about \$77.99 from her paycheck to recoup amounts lent plus \$2.99, an annualized percentage rate, or APR, of nearly 200%. And the single most common loan—a sevenday, \$20 Paycheck Advance for \$2.99—reflects an APR above 750%. Through transactions like these, DailyPay has extracted tens of millions of dollars in fees from New Yorkers' wages.

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> DailyPay reaches workers by first contracting with their employers, who agree to make the Company their exclusive lender and to tout DailyPay's program as a benefit to their employees. Through these exclusive arrangements, DailyPay obtains real-time payroll data that the Company uses to offer Paycheck Advances in amounts that ensure that it will collect every

> dollar that it lends out and all fees that it charges. The Company also contracts with employers to

send their workers' paychecks directly to DailyPay on payday, from which the Company deducts

all amounts it is owed before passing on any remaining balance to employees.

5.

6. DailyPay partners with employers to promote its Paycheck Advances, which the Company claims will provide workers financial freedom through the ability to obtain pay early supposedly without interest. DailyPay's marketing materials, which contrast its program with payday lending, tell employees to enroll and download the app for free. DailyPay also promotes employees' ability to get money when needed, such as to cover unexpected expenses or bills, and

regularly touts the Company's on-demand Paycheck Advances without mentioning fees.

DailyPay is what has come to be known as an "earned wage access" provider. The Company purports to offer hourly workers who are paid on fixed schedules "early access" to wages that have been "earned" during the pay period but not yet paid. Though terms may vary, these lenders all share certain characteristics: (i) they lend based on real-time payroll data or algorithmic estimates of future deposits; (ii) they charge transaction fees, charge more for loans with terms that begin immediately, or extract tips; and (iii) they carry on as though they are not making loans and not collecting interest because they say that they will not sue or engage in debt collection.

These claims are false, DailyPay's Paycheck Advances are loans, and its fees are 8. interest. Though DailyPay promises that it will not sue or engage in debt collection, the Company has no need to do so. When an employee obtains a Paycheck Advance, she assigns wages to the

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Company sufficient to repay her loan and all fees. DailyPay then employs layers of protection—

extensive credit underwriting, direct recourse against employers, and employees' obligations to

assist in collection—to ensure a collections rate above 99.99%. Even the Company's promise not

to sue is illusory, as its loan agreements impose obligations on employees to repay DailyPay when

employers pay workers directly or make payroll errors. Employees who fail to make these

payments are in breach of their loan agreements, relieving DailyPay of its "no recourse" promise.

Meanwhile, workers who obtain Paycheck Advances are saddled with outsized fees that do not

correspond to DailyPay's expenses and impose costs that are nearly always greater than 50% APR,

including tens of thousands of Paycheck Advances with APRs in excess of 500%.

9. DailyPay's business model also is fundamentally abusive. The engine that drives

DailyPay's revenue and makes the Company profitable is its cultivation of a subset of employees

who are utterly dependent on the ability to regularly and repeatedly obtain Paycheck Advances for

fees, thereby depleting their future paychecks and making them dependent on access to more loans.

DailyPay touts employees' addiction to potential investors, proclaiming that it will be able to

consistently extract hundreds of dollars in wages on average each year from hourly workers. And

the Company facilitates destructive lending by: (i) obscuring risks of dependency while promising

financial freedom; (ii) leaning on exclusive relationships with trusted employers to promote the

Paycheck Advance program as a benefit to their employees; and (iii) taking advantage of its right

of first access to workers' paychecks to ensure its own repayment while being indifferent to the

harm that paycheck depletion causes to employees' overall financial wellbeing.

10. The facts summarized above and set forth in this Petition are based on: the OAG's

review of advertisements, agreements, and produced documents, as well as other publicly available

materials, cited as "Ex." to refer to exhibits to the accompanying Affirmation of Christopher L.

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This is a copy of a pleading filed electronically pursuant to New York State court rules (22 NYCRR §202.5-b(d)(3)(i)) which, at the time of its printout from the court system's electronic website, had not yet been reviewed and approved by the County Clerk. Because court rules (22 NYCRR §202.5[d]) authorize the County Clerk to reject filings for various reasons, readers should be aware that documents bearing this legend may not have been 4 of 39 accepted for filing by the County Clerk.

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Filburn ("Filburn Aff."); the sworn testimony of Jane Levine, DailyPay's former chief compliance officer who was designated to provide testimony (cited to throughout as the "Levine Tr."), Filburn Aff. Ex. 2; and data analyses performed on transaction-level data for New York employees from October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2024 (the "Data Period") memorialized in the Affidavit of Akram

Hasanov (cited to throughout as the "Hasanov Aff."), Filburn Aff. Ex. 1.

11. As established herein, DailyPay has continued to engage in repeated and persistent fraud and illegality in violation of New York's Executive Law § 63(12), General Business Law ("GBL") §§ 349 and 350, General Obligations Law § 5-501, Penal Law § 190.40, Personal Property Law § 46-F, and the Consumer Financial Protection Act, 12 U.S.C. § 5531 *et seq*.

### PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- 12. Petitioner Letitia James is the Attorney General of the State of New York. She is responsible for enforcing New York's laws, including Executive Law § 63(12).
- 13. Respondent DailyPay is a Delaware corporation (Ex. 7) with its principal place of business located at 55 Water Street, New York, New York 10041 (Ex. 39).
- 14. Petitioner brings this special proceeding on behalf of the People of the State of New York under the authority granted in Executive Law § 63(12), which authorizes the Attorney General to bring a proceeding for injunctive and other equitable relief "[w]henever any person shall engage in repeated fraudulent or illegal acts or otherwise demonstrate persistent fraud or illegality in the carrying on, conducting or transaction of business."
- 15. Venue is properly set in New York County because Petitioner is resident in New York County and has selected New York County, because Petitioner is a public authority whose facilities involved in the action are located in New York County, and because Respondent's principal place of business is in New York County. *See* CPLR §§ 503, 505, 509.

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**FACTS** 

16. DailyPay is an app-based lender that makes Paycheck Advances to employees whose employers have enrolled in the Company's program. (Ex. 40; Levine Tr. 17:4–10.).)

- 17. DailyPay targets employees who earn hourly wages and are paid on fixed cycles such as every two weeks or monthly, promoting Paycheck Advances as providing "wages" that employees have "earned" during the pay period but not yet received. (Ex. 40.)
- 18. Companies that have contracted with DailyPay to provide its Paycheck Advance program to employees include fast food chains such as Burger King and McDonald's, retailers such as Kroger and Target, and healthcare providers such as HCA and United Healthcare (Ex. 17, at 2189; Levine Tr. 201:20–24), many of whom pay wages at or near minimum wage.
- 19. DailyPay facilitates Paycheck Advances through an app-based platform that allows employees to obtain funds via electronic transfer from DailyPay to their bank accounts in amounts up to what DailyPay permits based on its analysis of payroll data. (Ex. 31; Ex. 40.)
- 20. The fee structure employed by DailyPay varies by employer. (Levine Tr. 159:13–60:5.) The Company today employs the following dual fee structure: DailyPay (i) changes \$0.00 to \$1.99 for Paycheck Advances with loan terms, meaning the period between payment of the Paycheck Advance and repayment on the next payday, that begin in 24 to 48 hours; and (ii) charges up to \$3.99 for Paycheck Advances with terms that begin immediately with immediate disbursement. (Ex. 5, § 2, at 0463). For employees of certain employers, this means that a fee is mandatory whether the employee chooses a Paycheck Advance with a term that begins in 24 to 48 hours or a Paycheck Advance with a term that begins immediately. (*See generally* Ex. 36.)
- 21. DailyPay collects the Paycheck Advances it sends employees, along with all associated fees, by requiring employers to route employees' direct deposits to a bank account held

by DailyPay. (Ex. 31.) Once the Company deducts everything it is owed by the employee, DailyPay deposits remaining amounts in employees' bank accounts. (Ex. 31.)

## I. DailyPay Solicits Employers to Enter into Agreements that Facilitate DailyPay's Marketing and Offering of Paycheck Advances to Employees

- 22. To offer Paycheck Advances to employees, DailyPay solicits employers to enroll in its Paycheck Advance program (Levine Tr. 17:11–18:6; 28:18–29:4), after which DailyPay works with employers to market its Paycheck Advance program to employees. (Ex. 40.)
  - A. DailyPay Entices Employers to Enter into Master Services Agreements by Claiming that DailyPay Will Benefit Employers and their Employees
- 23. DailyPay's marketing of its Paycheck Advance program targets potential new employers. The Company's website, for example, promises that the program "can help you recruit more employees, increase employee engagement, and improve retention." (Ex. 38.)
- 24. DailyPay also circulates a newsletter-like document that markets its Paycheck Advance program to chief financial officers and other senior executives at prospective employers, touting the supposed benefits of the program. (Ex. 32; Levine Tr. 25:5–27:9.)
- 25. According to the newsletter, the program "will provide tremendous benefits to the employer reduced turnover, increased employee productivity and engagement, and seamless integration across the tech stack all for a price tag of \$0 to the business." (Ex. 32, at 0207.)
- 26. That same newsletter also warns employers to be wary of DailyPay's competitors who purport to offer free short-term advances to employees who sign up for paycards by pointing to a study that an employee who uses a paycard "typically pays an average of \$300/year in cardholder fees" through paycard fees. (Ex. 32, at 0207–0211.)
- 27. In other employer-facing ads, DailyPay similarly claims that its program will keep employees "engaged and working more efficiently than ever before.' (Ex. 30, at 0157.) And

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DailyPay's employer "Quickstart Guide" touts the Company's "life-changing" Paycheck Advance program that will result in "[r]educed absenteeism" among employees. (Ex. 21.)

28. In addition to benefits that DailyPay promises to employers, the Company also touts supposed benefits to employees. DailyPay tells employers that the Paycheck Advance program will help employees "pay bills on time, meet unexpected expenses and avoid racking up overdraft and late fees or resorting to having to take out predatory payday loans." (Ex. 32, at 0207.) The result, according to the Company, will be a "new financial system that ensures that money is always in the right place at the right time for everyone." (Ex. 30, at 0156.)

- 29. DailyPay similarly represents to prospective employers that their "employees will benefit" from the Paycheck Advance program "by having greater financial stability in their lives." (Ex. 32, at 0212.) The Company also claims that nearly all "transfers are used to pay bills and avoid late fees" and that nearly all employes "will receive over half of their paycheck on payday." (Ex. 30, at 0156.) And DailyPay ultimately promises employers that its program "creates permanent and positive changes in financial behavior." (Ex. 30, at 0156.)
- 30. Many of DailyPay's claims regarding its Paycheck Advance program rely on a single, 2021 survey conducted by the Aite Group. DailyPay paid for that survey to be conducted. (Ex. 12, at 0283.) The Company also worked closely with the Aite Group to design the survey (e.g., Ex. 12; Ex. 14), while DailyPay management both discussed preliminary conclusions with the Aite Group immediately after the survey (e.g., Ex. 15), and reviewed preliminary drafts of the final report for red flags before distribution (e.g., Ex. 16). Employees who agreed to participate in the survey were promised an opportunity to win \$100. (Ex. 11, at 0257.)
- 31. The Aite Group's conclusions were based on a single survey of about 1,000 users (Ex. 11, at 0257), a miniscule slice of the more than 2 million users today. Key conclusions were

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based on even fewer responses—findings regarding payday loan use, for example, were based on just over 200 users' responses—a *de minimis* fraction of its user base. (Ex. 11, at 0265.) And only 24 employees who participated in the survey were from New York. (Filburn Aff. ¶ 12.) The Aite Group also acknowledged that the earned wage access market was "in its early stages" and that further "efforts to understand usage and outcomes" was needed. (Ex. 11, at 0273.)

- B. DailyPay Markets to Employees, through their Employers, the Ability to Immediately Obtain Fee- and Interest-Free Paycheck Advances
- 32. Employers who ultimately agree to make DailyPay's Paycheck Advance program available to their employees enter into DailyPay's form Master Services Agreement ("MSA"). (Ex. 6; Levine Tr. 52:16–20; 56:25–57:14.) The MSAs require that DailyPay be the exclusive provider of Paycheck Advances to employers' employees. (Ex. 6, ¶ 7(b), at 0230.)
- 33. Under their MSAs, participating employers agree to use "commercially reasonable efforts to promote" DailyPay's Paycheck Advance program to their employees, including by identifying the program as "a benefit" offered by the employer, distributing marketing materials created by DailyPay to the employer's employees, and taking steps to ensure that DailyPay's own advertising and communications sent by email do not get routed to employees' spam or junk email folders. (Ex. 6, ¶ 2(a)(ii), at 0223–24; Levine Tr. 66:9–67:22; *id.* at 108:25–09:10.)
- 34. The "Quickstart" guide provided by DailyPay, for example, tells employers to help roll out the program by displaying "posters in break rooms" and handing out "FAQ cards to employees at the beginning of shifts or during team huddles." (Ex. 21.)
- 35. DailyPay licenses its marketing materials to participating employers to promote the Paycheck Advance program. (Ex. 6, ¶ 1(a), at 0223.) Through DailyPay materials, employers tell their employees that "[w]e've partnered with DailyPay to give you more control over your pay!" (Ex. 29, at 0135.) The communications describe the benefits as "no more waiting for payday, no

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more late fees, and no more interest charges!" and informs employees that they should "[k]eep an eye out for a customized Welcome Email directly from DailyPay." (Ex. 29, at 0136.)

- 36. Employers also are provided posters and flyers announcing "DailyPay Coming Soon!" that can be posted in the workplace, along with QR codes that employees can scan to "get a head start and download the free app." (Ex. 18; Levine Tr. 107:5–10.) Other ads displayed in the workplace provide workers with website links to get started with DailyPay. (Ex. 19.)
- 37. DailyPay's employee-facing marketing materials also stress the partnership between the Company and the employer. For example, DailyPay's welcome email to potential new users states that DailyPay and the employer "have teamed up so you can control when you get paid." (Ex. 27.) Another DailyPay employee message states that "DailyPay and [Employer Name] have teamed up so you can get paid before payday," describing the Paycheck Advance program as "a new [Employer Name] benefit." (Ex. 28.) And another ad states that DailyPay's Paycheck Advance program is offered "in partnership with your employer.' (Ex. 26.)
- 38. DailyPay's employee-facing ads frequently portray the Company's Paycheck Advance program as being free or no cost. For example, one employee-facing ad points employees to DailyPay's "free app" and tells employees to get "started for free today" in order to obtain money "in the right place, at the right time!" (Ex. 20.) DailyPay ads also expressly contrast its Paycheck Advance program with traditional payday loans (Ex. 23):

Take a loan in between pay days 

Get your pay in between pay days 
dailypay.

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39. In addition to the supposedly free or no-cost nature of its Paycheck Advance program, DailyPay also markets the ability for employees to obtain immediate funds through its program. DailyPay's electronic ads to workers, for example, contain links with the words: "Get paid today." (Ex. 24; *see also* Ex. 22 ("Get paid on the SAME DAYS you work").)

- 40. Ads for Paycheck Advances posted in the workplace likewise declare: "Access your pay when you need it!" (Ex. 18.) One such poster also includes a screenshot of the DailyPay app that identifies various amounts available for transfer but says nothing about any associated fees. (Ex. 18.) That poster also declares: "Money in the right place, at the right time." (Ex. 18.)
- 41. DailyPay similarly markets the ability for a worker to access earnings "when you need it." (Ex. 28.) For example, one ad asks "HAVE TO FUND ANOTHER GROCERY RUN???" and then tells the reader that DailyPay will be able to "save the day." (Ex. 25.)
- 42. The combination of DailyPay's marketing of a no cost program and the immediate availability of funds creates a false impression that immediate advances are free. In one flyer provided to employers to share with employees, DailyPay touts the ability to "access your pay ondemand" and declares that employees can get started "for free" (Ex. 19):



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43. Template communications that DailyPay provides to employers to use when launching the program similarly tell employees they can "[t]ransfer your earnings instantly when

they need it," without any reference to costs. (Ex. 29; Levine Tr. 111:6–12:20.)

- 44. And welcome communications to newly enrolled employees highlight the ability to "instantly" transfer funds to bank accounts, stressing the ability to "[a]ccess your money when you need it" without any acknowledgment of the associated costs. (Ex. 27.)
- 45. DailyPay's form communications for employers to send to their employees also suggest that the program will allow an employee to "[a]ccess your pay instantly" without mention of fees or costs. (Ex. 29; *see* Ex. 32 ("Instantly transfer your earned pay.").)
- 46. And in an electronic ad, DailyPay shows a user obtaining a \$100 Paycheck Advance, clicking the "Now" delivery option, and indicating that the reason was to pay a phone bill—all without ever showing any fee incurred. (Filburn Aff. ¶ 10; Exs. 33, 34, 35.)

## II. <u>DailyPay Profits from its High-Cost, Short-Term Paycheck Advances to Employees</u>

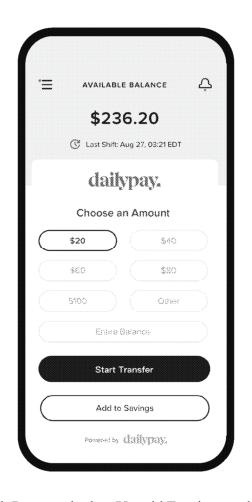
- 47. Employees who enroll in the DailyPay program are presented "Program Terms." (Ex. 3, at 0214.) The Program Terms provide that, by using DailyPay's app to access Paycheck Advances, the employee agrees to be bound by the Program Terms. (Ex. 3, at 0214.) Employees do not physically or electronically sign the Program Terms. (Levine Tr. 140:21–41:13.)
- 48. Employees access Paycheck Advances primarily through DailyPay's mobile app. (Ex. 3, at 0214.) Under DailyPay's Program Terms, an employee's "Unpaid Earnings" are equal to her right to payment for regular pay that will be owed to her but has not yet been paid. (Ex. 3, § 10, at 0220.) When accessing the DailyPay app, a worker sees her available balance, which is equivalent to the portion of the worker's Unpaid Earnings that DailyPay, in its sole discretion, will make available as a Paycheck Advance (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215), as follows (Ex. 18):

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- 49. To enable DailyPay to calculate Unpaid Earnings and determine available balances in real time, employees who sign up for the Paycheck Advance program consent to their employers sharing payroll data with DailyPay. (Ex. 3, § 3, at 0216.) Employers agree to provide this payroll data to DailyPay in their MSAs. (Ex. 6,  $\P$  2(a)(v)–(ix), at 0224–25; Levine Tr. 15:4–22.)
- 50. On October 1, 2020, the beginning of the Data Period, the Paycheck Advances resulted in fees based on fee schedules that varied by employer. (See Ex. 36.) As of today, DailyPay's Program Terms specify that when employees request Paycheck Advances they will be provided the option to (i) receive a Paycheck Advance the next business day for a fee of \$0.00 to \$1.99, depending on the fee structure of the employer, or (ii) receive a Paycheck Advance immediately for a fee of up to \$3.99. (Ex. 5, § 2, at 0463; see Ex. 17, at 2191.)

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51. The fees for Paycheck Advances with terms that begin immediately do not reflect the costs of real-time payments. The Clearing House's per-transaction cost for a real-time payment is \$0.045. (Ex. 44.) And DailyPay's own investor materials emphasize that its "Transaction Costs" are decreasing as a result of "the shift to Real Time Payments (RTP)." (Ex. 17, at 2227.) Indeed, while the Company generated nearly \$100 million more in fee revenue in its most recent fiscal year—an increase of more than 73% over the prior year—the transaction costs of the Company, which are defined as "everything directly related to settlements and security costs" such as "instant transaction" and "next-day ACH" costs, increased by less than 1%. (Ex. 17, at 2228.)

- 52. DailyPay's Program Terms define an employee's requested Paycheck Advance, inclusive of fees, as "Daily Earnings." (Ex. 3, §§ 2 & 10, at 0215 & 0220.) And the funds that the Company sends to an employee is the "Amount Provided." (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215.) For example, if an employee requests a \$50 Paycheck Advance for a \$2.99 fee, the Daily Earnings is \$50 and the Amount Provided is the \$47.01 (\$50, less the \$2.99 fee) that DailyPay sends.
- 53. When an employee requests a Paycheck Advance from DailyPay, she assigns "all right, title, and interest in and to the related Daily Earnings"—in effect, an assignment of an amount equal to the sum of the Paycheck Advance and fee—to DailyPay. (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215.) As the Company explains its business to investors: "DailyPay acquires [a] wage receivable from the employee against the payment of a fixed fee." (Ex. 17, at 2192; Levine Tr. 190:24–91:11.)
- 54. The median DailyPay transaction for New York employees during the Data Period was a \$77.07 Paycheck Advance that incurred a \$2.99 fee. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 25.) Across the entire Data Period, the most common Paycheck Advance was for \$25 to \$50 and carried a \$2.99 fee, representing more than 1.1 million transactions, or nearly one in every nine. (*Id.* ¶ 28.)

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55. DailyPay's short-term, high-cost Paycheck Advance program generates substantial revenue for the Company. During the Data Period, DailyPay made more than 9.8 million Paycheck Advances to more than 130,000 New York workers. (Hasanov Aff. ¶¶ 13, 16.) DailyPay collected fees on roughly nine out of every ten Paycheck Advances (*id.* ¶ 15), for total fee revenue in excess

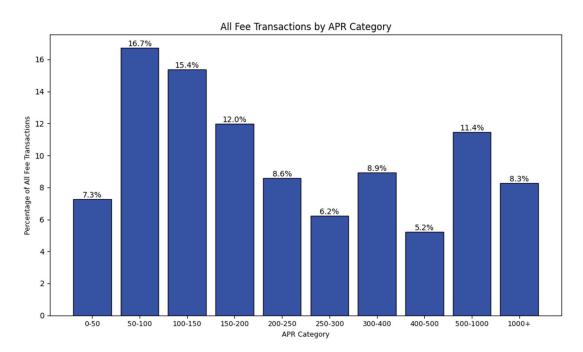
of \$27 million (id. ¶ 13), all collected from the wages of New York workers.

- 56. DailyPay is rapidly growing: Less than 11,000 New York workers obtained Paycheck Advances in the first six months of the Data Period, while more than 50,000 obtained Paycheck Advances in later periods. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 17.) And in the first eighteen months of the Data Period, DailyPay collected less than \$3.4 million in fees, while in the last nine months alone the Company collected more than \$9 million in fees. (*Id.* ¶ 14.)
- 57. Beyond New York, in January of last year DailyPay told prospective investors in its most recent fundraising round that the Company had reached annual recurring revenues of more than \$235 million, with more than 1.2 million active users (Ex. 17, at 2184.) DailyPay also represented that it projects an additional \$1 million of revenue is added to the Company's bottom line for every 20,000 additional onboarded eligible workers. (Ex. 17, at 2184–2186.)
- 58. DailyPay's Paycheck Advance program imposes an extraordinarily high cost of credit on New York workers. The median transaction described above has a median term—the number of days between which the employee received a Paycheck Advance was received and the employer sent the next paycheck to DailyPay—of 8 days. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 25.) For such a transaction, the \$2.99 fee that is paid by an employee to obtain a roughly \$75 median Paycheck Advances reflects an annualized percentage rate, or APR, in excess of 193%. (*Id.*)

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59. DailyPay's most-common Paycheck Advance is for \$20, its most-common fee is \$2.99, and the single most-common term is 7 days. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 26.) Employees pay a cost of credit of more than 750% APR on Paycheck Advances with such terms. (*Id.* ¶ 26.)

60. Over the entire Data Period, New York workers paid a median APR of 193.47% and an average APR of 398.59% on Paycheck Advances that they obtained from DailyPay. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 27.) More than 1,100,000 Paycheck Advances were for between \$25 and \$50 and for fees of \$2.99 or \$3.49, and the median APR paid by employees on these short-term loans was above 400%. (*Id.* ¶ 28.) And across all Paycheck Advances on which fees were assessed during the Data Period, roughly 93% had APRs greater than 50%, as illustrated below:



(*Id.* ¶ 29 & Ex. B.) As the chart reflects, more fee-based Paycheck Advances had APRs above 1,000% than below 50%. (*Id.* Ex. B.) Workers, meanwhile, paid APRs in excess of 500% on nearly one out of every five Payday Advances made during the Data Pariod. (*Id.* ¶ 30.)

61. An overwhelming majority of Paycheck Advances made by DailyPay during the period exceed key New York limitations. In particular, 8,700,148 Paycheck Advances had APRs

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above 16%, constituting nearly 99.5% of all fee-based Paycheck Advances and resulting in DailyPay's collection of \$24,366,911.52 in fees. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 31.)

- 62. Similarly, more than 99.3% of fee-based Paycheck Advances had APRs in excess of 18%, imposing \$24,327,908.32 in fees. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 32.)
- 63. Finally, more than 99.3% of all fee-based Paycheck Advances had APRs in excess of 25%, from which DailyPay collected \$24,089,752.42 in fees. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 33.)

# III. DailyPay Ensures that It Will Obtain Repayment of its Paycheck Advances using a Specified Flow of Funds, its User Agreements, and its Assessments of Credit Risk

- 64. Despite the extraordinarily high cost of credit imposed by its short-term lending program, DailyPay collects on virtually all amounts it is owed.
- 65. For one, using real-time access to payroll data, DailyPay unilaterally determines the maximum Paycheck Advance that an employee may obtain (Ex. 3, §§ 2 & 3 at 0215–16), thereby ensuring that the Paycheck Advances and fees owed will be less than the paycheck DailyPay receives. The Company employs a real-time algorithm to dynamically adjust for factors that could affect its ability to collect on its Paycheck Advances, such as "the impacts of any taxes, benefits, and garnishments for each unique employee." (Ex. 17, at 2203–05.)
- 66. Further, if inaccurate payroll data causes DailyPay to make Paycheck Advances in excess of an employee's actual pay amount received when pay day arrives, employers must reimburse DailyPay for any shortfall. (Ex. 6, ¶2(a)(ix), at 0224–25.)
- 67. DailyPay also obtains legal protections for amounts it is owed. When an employee obtains a Paycheck Advance and assigns to DailyPay her wages in an amount equal to the Paycheck Advance plus fee, she simultaneously agrees that DailyPay "can stand in [her] shoes and receive payment for the Daily Earnings" from her employer. (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215.) DailyPay calls this right to receive the employee's assigned wages "non-recourse" but that remains true only if

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the employee has not breached the Program Terms (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215), such as by failing to make payments to DailyPay in the event an employer routes pay to the employee.

68. When enrolling in DailyPay's program, an employee is obligated to arrange for her employer to direct deposit her pay to a DailyPay bank account. (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215.) When taking an advance, the worker agrees that she "will not take any action" such as "redirecting payments" that has an "adverse effect on [DailyPay's] ability to collect." (Ex. 3, § 4, at 0215.)

- 69. Employers also separately agree in their MSAs to make all payroll payments owed to employees who use the Paycheck Advance program directly to DailyPay. (Ex. 6,  $\P$  2(a)(x), at 0225.) Thus, on payday, employers deposit workers' entire pay in a DailyPay bank account. (Ex. 31.) DailyPay then collects all Paycheck Advances and fees that it is owed from workers' paychecks before passing any remaining amounts to them. (Ex. 3, § 2, at 0215.)
- 70. Because DailyPay collects all amounts it lends and fees from employers directly rather than from workers, the credit risk that the Company faces is, in its own words, "the risk that employers don't make payroll." (Ex. 17, at 2197.) As the Company tells investors: "DailyPay does not take consumer credit risk but is instead underwriting the employer." (Ex. 17, at 2191.)
- 71. To guard against the credit risk that employers don't make payroll, DailyPay maintains a Credit Review Policy that requires a thorough assessment of prospective and current employers' creditworthiness. (Ex. 13; *see* Levine Tr. 82:9–15 ("The credit review is to evaluate the risk involved in . . . contracting with the employer, and effectively that the employer is going to make payroll."); *id.* at 92:22–93:2 ("Q. And ultimately what the credit review committee is assessing is, I think, as you put it earlier, the risk that the employer won't be able to make payroll? A. That's the -- would be the biggest risk.").) As part of this underwriting, employers that are not

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public companies must provide to DailyPay on an ongoing basis annual audited financial information and quarterly unaudited financial information. (Ex. 6,  $\P$  2(a)(xix), at 0226.)

- 72. When underwriting a potential employer, DailyPay first determines the number of employees who will be eligible for the Paycheck Advance program. (Ex. 13, at 0484; Levine Tr. 88:5–16.) New employers with more than 3,000 eligible employees are subjected to a full review, while all other new employers go through a "low touch" process. (Ex. 13, at 0484.)
- 73. For potential new employers subject to its low touch process, DailyPay reviews two data analytics metrics from Dun & Bradstreet ("D&B"): Viability Score and Failure Score. (Ex. 13, at 0484.) D&B is a professional services firm that conducts data analytics and modeling on businesses and produces and sells reports of the results of its work. (Ex. 41.)
- 74. D&B's Viability Score "is a multi-dimensional rating that delivers a comprehensive assessment of a company's . . . viability," including predicting "the likelihood that a company will go out of business, become inactive, or file for bankruptcy over the next 12 months." (Ex. 43.)
- 75. D&B's Failure Score, according to its public descriptions, "predicts the likelihood that a business will, in the next 12 months, seek legal relief from its creditors or cease business operations without paying all its creditors in full." (Ex. 42.)
- 76. DailyPay accepts new employers through its low touch process where employers score moderate or better on both D&B's Viability Score and its Failure Score. (Ex. 13, at 0484.) If a new employer does not meet these thresholds, they are subject to a full review under the Credit Review Policy, as are all potential new employers of greater size. (Ex. 13, at 0484.)
- 77. DailyPay's full review of potential new employers involves a committee process. DailyPay's Senior Committee, comprised of its Vice President of Capital Markets, its Chief Financial Officer, its Chief Operating Officer, and its Vise President of Finance, reviews all

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potential new employers with more than 5,000 potentially eligible employees, while its Junior Committee, comprised of its Director of Capital Markets, Senior Director of Capital Markets, and

Controller, reviews smaller potential new employers. (Ex. 13, at 0485.)

78. Under its Credit Review Policy, DailyPay's credit committees determine whether

to accept new employers based on a review of the employers' external credit ratings, liquidity,

profitability, cash flows, leverage, and other commercial factors, such as reputation, press

coverage, and management team. (Ex. 13, at 0484.) The committees also have the option to offer

"credit enhancements" for potential new employers. (Ex. 13, at 0485.)

79. DailyPay's credit review onboarding is also responsive to market conditions. For

example, during the first 15 months of the Covid-19 pandemic, the credit committees determined

that affected employers in sectors such as travel, amusement parks, and hospitality, would undergo

a full review rather than a low touch review regardless of size. (Ex. 13, at 0486.)

80. After a new employer to the Paycheck Advance program "is credit approved and

onboarded, DailyPay utilizes an ongoing credit monitoring process to account for potential

changes in the credit quality of the [employer] over time." (Ex. 13, at 0487.)

81. For employers approved after a full review, a DailyPay employee is required to

contact the employer annually to obtain updated credit metrics and financial information and then

prepare a report for the credit committees. (Ex. 13, at 0488–89.)

82. The committees then determine whether to re-approve the employer, re-approve the

employer with required "credit enhancements," such as quarterly rather than annual reviews,

letters of credit, or personal guarantees, or deny the employer entirely. (Ex. 13, at 0489.) For

employers approved after the low touch process, DailyPay re-runs the low touch process each year

to ensure that the employers continue to score above the required thresholds. (Ex. 13, at 0489.)

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83. Finally, if DailyPay determines that an employer is subject to "a deteriorating credit profile" outside the annual review process, the Credit Review Policy provides that its credit committee can take corrective actions, including reducing the size of Paycheck Advances available to employees or suspending Paycheck Advances altogether. (Ex. 13, at 0491; *see also* Levine Tr. 103:24–04:6 ("It could be the company is deemed such a credit risk that the service has to be suspended . . . the credit committee could recommend that.").)

- 84. If, notwithstanding these credit risk assessments, employers fail to fund payroll in a manner that prevents DailyPay from collecting amounts it lends and fees, the result is a "Negative Balance." (Ex. 6, at Ex. A, ¶ 1(p), at 0236.) Under the MSAs, employers must reimburse to DailyPay any Negative Balance below \$10,000 within thirty days and any Negative Balance above \$10,000 within two days. (Ex. 6, ¶ 2(a)(xvii), at 0225–26.) Failure to make these contractual payments can result in legal action taken by DailyPay. (Ex. 6, ¶ 10(b), at 0231.)
- 85. Beyond its rights vis-à-vis employers, DailyPay's Program Terms impose obligations on employees to ensure its collection of all Paycheck Advances and fees.
- 86. For one, employees promise to "take all actions, including the execution of documents requested by [DailyPay], to preserve and protect [its] right, title, and interest to any Daily Earnings." (Ex. 3, § 4, at 0217; Ex. 5, § 5, at 0474.)
- 87. Employees also promise as part of the Company's Program Terms to "not take any action or make any omission" that has "an adverse effect on our ability to collect on or retain any Daily Earnings." (Ex. 3, § 4, at 0217; Ex. 5, § 5, at 0474–75.)
- 88. Finally, employees make an affirmative representation to DailyPay, each time they seek a Paycheck Advance that they have not sold, pledged, or encumbered the amounts that they are seeking to borrow. (Ex. 3, § 5, at 0218; Ex. 5, § 6, at 0475.)

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89. DailyPay also has the ability to collect directly from employees, despite its promise of non-recourse. For example, if an employer pays an employee directly rather than sending the pay to DailyPay, the employee is obligated to immediately notify DailyPay and "hold the amount in trust for our benefit." (Ex. 3, § 4, at 0217; Ex. 5, § 5, at 0474.) Failure by an employee to adhere to these obligations triggered DailyPay's rights under the Program Terms as follows:

- 90. Until May 1, 2023, DailyPay was authorized to debit an employee's bank account to obtain repayment of the Paycheck Advances and fees. (Ex. 3, § 4, at 0217.) And if there is any dispute between an employee and her employer, the employee was obligated to resolve the dispute, to obtain disputed wages, and to immediately send payment to DailyPay to satisfy any outstanding Paycheck Advances; if she did not, DailyPay was authorized to debit her bank account to collect payment. (Ex. 3, § 6, at 0218–19.) The Program Terms also provided a blanket authorization to debit a bank account to address errors, fraud, and other breaches of the Program Terms. (Ex. 3, § 7, at 0219.) And the Company maintained a general right of setoff. (Ex. 3, § 9, at 0219.)
- 91. DailyPay updated its Program Terms on May 1, 2023 to remove workers' debit authorizations. (*See generally* Ex. 4.) However, workers remain obligated (i) to hold amounts sent to them but owed to DailyPay in trust (Ex. 4, § 5, at 0474), (ii) to resolve disputes with employers and (iii), if unable to do so, to "immediately send [DailyPay] payment" within three days. (Ex. 4, § 7, at 0476.) Further, DailyPay retains the right to request that employees grant debit authorizations to resolve errors or fraud and, if employees decline to do so, DailyPay will settle disputed amounts against employees' next paychecks. (Ex. 4, § 8, at 0477.)
- 92. The result of the substantial credit protections that DailyPay maintains is unsurprising: Across the Data Period, DailyPay successfully collected on between 99.92% and 99.99% of the Paycheck Advances made and fees assessed. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 18.)

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IV. DailyPay Traps Employees in Cycles of Dependency Resulting in Repeated Use of High-Cost Paycheck Advances Without Regard to Employees' Financial Wellbeing

93. To be profitable in the long run, DailyPay requires employees to obtain Paycheck

Advances and pay fees to the Company both frequently and continuously over time. (See generally

Ex. 17.) No matter how large in scale in terms of the number of employees enrolled, DailyPay

cannot reliably generate profits if every employee accesses just one Paycheck Advance each month

to pay for a single unexpected expense or to cover some emergency shortfall.

94. DailyPay's product, however, provides a ready engine to drive this need for more

loans: As an employee obtains a Paycheck Advance, the amount that she receives on pay day is

reduced by the amount of the Paycheck Advance, plus fees. (Ex. 40). The result is that employees

are more likely to need to obtain another Paycheck Advance (and pay another fee) in their next

pay cycle to make up shortfalls that occurs on payday. This creates a cycle of dependency in which

the act of obtaining a Paycheck Advance creates a need, in the next pay cycle, for additional funds,

thereby prompting another Paycheck Advance. (See Ex. 37 ("Repeat usage is high and the share

of workers using [Paycheck Advance] products each month is increasing.").)

95. The result is an increasingly dependent user base. In the first six months of the Data

Period, more than half of all employees averaged less than two Paycheck Advances per week. In

the final nine months, more than 20,000 New York workers—more than 55% of all workers who

obtained Paycheck Advances—obtained two or more each week. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 40.)

96. DailyPay itself acknowledges the importance of repeat use. In describing its annual

revenue per-employee to investors, DailyPay finds that average per-employee use of the Paycheck

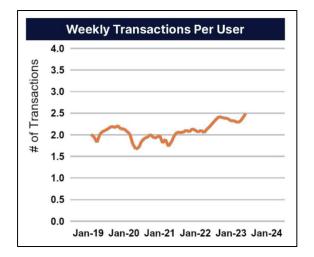
Advance is two times each week. (Ex. 17, at 2192.) This average-use figure has been remarkably

consistent throughout the last several years, as shown below (Ex. 17, at 2225):

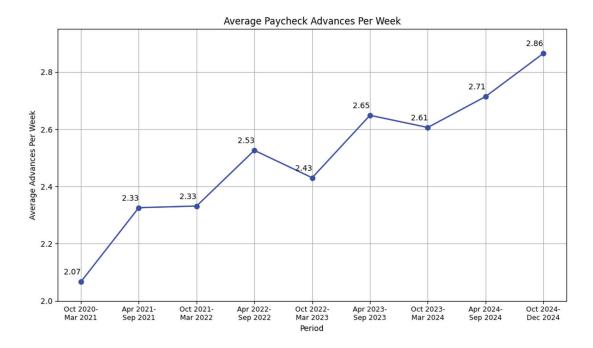
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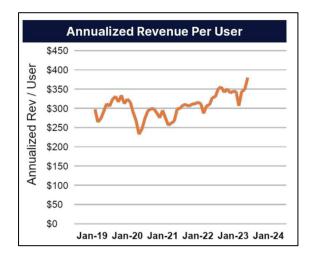


97. The projections DailyPay provided to investors are consistent with this reality: employees enrolled in the Paycheck Advance program have steadily increased the average number of Paycheck Advances they obtain each week from 2.07 to 2.86 (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 16 & Ex. A):



98. Repetitive use is durable: Once a worker begins to obtain multiple Paycheck Advances each pay period, she generally continues to do so in the future. For example, when presenting future revenue for potential investors at the outset of 2024, DailyPay projected that 90% of its revenue for 2024 would come from already-enrolled or soon-to-be-enrolled employees, while

75% of its revenue for 2025 would come from these same employees. (Ex. 17, at 2220.) Elsewhere, DailyPay touts its ability to retain more than 96% of existing employees and revenue year over year. (Ex. 17, at 2226.) DailyPay's average revenue per employee has remained remarkably consistent throughout the last several years, as shown below (Ex. 17, at 2225):

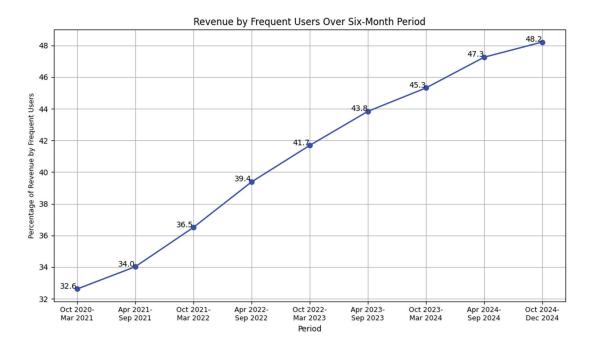


- 99. DailyPay refers to employees' pattern of durable, repetitive use of the Company's Paycheck Advance program as its "Powerful Business Model." (Ex. 17, at 2192.)
- additional \$1 million in annual recurring revenue by adding 20,000 additional eligible workers (who may or may not enroll in DailyPay) as follows: *first*, about 16% of those workers will enroll and eventually become active users; *second*, those active users will eventually request two or more Paycheck Advances every week; *third*, DailyPay will generate \$3 of revenue for each Paycheck Advance, or \$300 annually, from each active user. (Ex. 17, at 2192.)
- 101. The Company's business model is so durable, due to the dependency it creates, that DailyPay projects revenue several years out relying solely on its ability to collect about \$370 on average for each active user over the next several years. (Ex. 17, at 2223–24.)
- 102. The aggregate statistics DailyPay uses for its projections hide a far direr economic stress. Roughly half of employees who enroll in the Paycheck Advance program fall prey to this

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pernicious cycle of use. (Hasanov Aff. ¶¶ 39–41.) DailyPay's profitability and business model are centered on these employees who obtain Paycheck Advances more than twice a week—or much more often—whom the Company refers to as its "long-term upside." (Ex. 17, at 2216.)

- 103. During the Data Period, 75 to 80 percent of the Company's revenue was extracted from workers who obtained Paycheck Advances at least twice per week. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 42.)
- 104. The burden of these fees falls more heavily on employees who use the program to obtain Paycheck Advances every other day, or more, on average. These users have steadily grown from one in every six workers to more than one in every four (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 45) who incur hundreds in fees annually and paid nearly half of all fees in recent periods (*id.* ¶ 46 & Ex. E):



Because dependent employees who obtain Paycheck Advances every other day or more frequently end up obtaining Paycheck Advances shortly before payday, their cost of credit is higher than for all workers using DailyPay, jumping above a median APR of 225%. (*Id.* ¶ 43.)

105. As the number of dependent workers has grown, so too has the number of Paycheck Advances obtained within a few days of the last one. Across the Data Period, about 75% of all

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Paycheck Advances are taken out within four days of a worker's last one, while nearly three in every five Paycheck Advances are obtained by workers whose prior loan was taken out within two days or less. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 48.) This repeat use is costly: the median APR employees pay on

106. The effect on financial wellbeing is predictably harmful. A full-time, \$15-per-hour worker can be projected to receive about \$1,000 on payday. But if she obtains a median-level Paycheck Advance twice weekly—\$75 for a \$2.99 fee—then by pay day she will receive less than

\$700, leaving her hundreds of dollars short when managing large-dollar recurring expenses such

as the mortgage or rent and car payment. And a highly dependent worker obtaining Paycheck

Advances every other day can easily see her previous \$1,000 paycheck cut in half.

subsequent Paycheck Advances range from 219.15% to more than 450%. (*Id.* ¶ 49.)

107. Similarly, the costs imposed by the DailyPay program are disproportionate to any benefit received. A worker who takes one \$77.99 Paycheck Advance for a \$2.99 fee receives \$75 immediately and then receives \$77.99 less on pay day. During the next pay cycle, the worker requests a \$80.98 Paycheck Advance to make up for that lost \$77.99. But this new Paycheck

Advance is not providing new funds—it is filling a hole left by the prior Paycheck Advance. And

the fee incurred for this and each subsequent Paycheck Advance, which can amount to \$100 or

more, is solely attributable to the one-time benefit received from the first Paycheck Advance.

108. The financial behavior DailyPay's lending model encourages is unsustainable. For the ten percent of users with the highest average frequency of Paycheck Advances during the Data

Period, the median size of their Paycheck Advances was \$50, the median fee of their Paycheck

Advances was \$2.99, and the median term was 9 days. (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 44.) Through this financial

activity, these workers are effectively taking out a new, 240% APR loan 5.7 times each week (id),

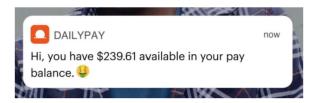
with DailyPay extracting hundreds of dollars in wages from such workers annually.

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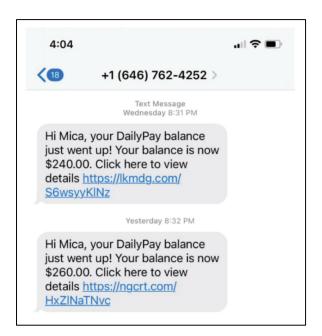
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109. Yet while these cycles of dependency have the potential to wreak financial havoc on individual employees' lives, DailyPay has structured its business model to make the Company utterly indifferent to any such negative outcomes. (*See* Ex. 17, at 2191 ("DailyPay does not take consumer credit risk").) Instead, DailyPay contractually guarantees its own repayment through its MSAs with employers that obligate those employers to send the paychecks of financially distressed employees directly to DailyPay, ensuring that the Company is able to collect the amounts it lends and all fees first (Ex. 6,  $\P$  2(a)(x), at 0225), in priority over workers' needs.

110. Through balance updates, DailyPay encourages repeat use. In particular, whenever an employer updates its payroll records to reflect additional hours worked, DailyPay sends notice that a worker has "new earnings in your Daily Pay account!" and provides up-to-date available balance data. (Ex. 10.) For example, employees receive push notifications on their phone:



(Ex. 8.) The result is a repeated prompt to trigger frequent use:

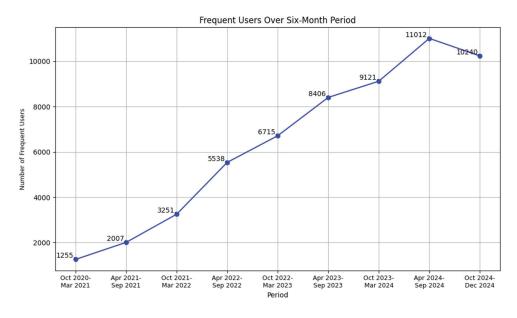


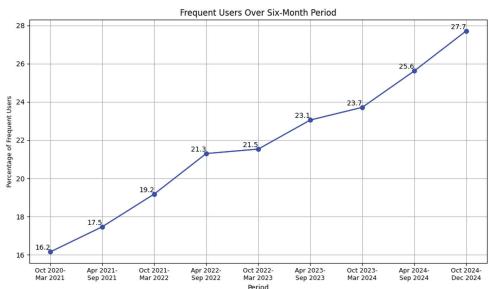
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(Ex. 9.) Rather than discouraging frequent use (and fees), DailyPay encourages harmful behavior, telling employees they "deserve to be paid every day." (Ex. 8.) And DailyPay ads derisively chide those who are still "waiting 2 WEEKS for their paycheck???" (Ex. 22.)

As a result, DailyPay is steadily growing its number of workers who are dependent on Paycheck Advances. As shown below, both the absolute number of workers who obtain Paycheck Advances more than every-other-day, and the percentage of such workers that make up all enrolled employees, has been and is steadily growing (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 45 & Exs. C, D):

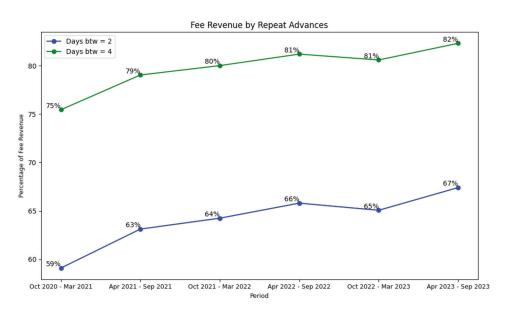




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112. Similarly, the number of Paycheck Advances that workers obtained within days of their last loans is steadily growing, with Paycheck Advances that workers obtain within two days of their last ones now generating two-thirds of all fees for DailyPay (Hasanov Aff. ¶ 50 & Ex. F):



## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (N.Y. P.P.L. § 46-F – Wage Assignment)

- 113. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 114. New York's Personal Property Law § 46-F prohibits any entity from directly or indirectly receiving or accepting, for the making of any advance of money for earnings assigned, a sum greater than eighteen percent annually, whether as a bonus, interest, or otherwise.
- 115. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through its making of Paycheck Advances and directly or indirectly accepting and receiving payment in excess of eighteen percent annually for earnings assigned.

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116. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (N.Y. G.O.L. § 5-501 – Civil Usury)

- 117. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 118. New York's General Obligations Law § 5-501 prohibits any entity from directly or indirectly charging, taking, or receiving any money as interest on a loan at a rate exceeding sixteen percent annually, as determined by New York's Banking Law § 14-A.
- 119. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through its making of Paycheck Advances and directly or indirectly charging, taking, and receiving interest in amounts that exceed sixteen percent annually.
- 120. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (N.Y. Penal Law § 190.40 – Criminal Usury)

- 121. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 122. New York's Penal Law § 190.40 makes it a Class E felony for any entity to take or receiving money as interest on a loan at a rate exceeding twenty-five percent annually.

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123. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through its making of Paycheck Advances and directly or indirectly charging, taking, and receiving interest in amounts that exceed twenty-five percent annually.

124. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (N.Y. G.B.L. § 350 – False Advertising)

- 125. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 126. New York's GBL § 350 prohibits false advertising in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce, or furnishing of any service, in the state of New York.
- 127. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through false advertising of "no interest" or "interest free" Paycheck Advances when DailyPay assessed and collected usurious interest on the Paycheck Advances. The false advertisements were likely to mislead a reasonable consumer, in violation of GBL § 350.
- 128. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

# FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Fraud)

129. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent fraudulent conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.

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130. Executive Law § 63(12) broadly defines fraud to include "any device, scheme or artifice to defraud and any deception, misrepresentation, concealment, suppression, false pretense, false promise or unconscionable contractual provisions."

- 131. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent fraud through its marketing and offering of Paycheck Advances in a manner that had the capacity or tendency to deceive and that created an atmosphere conducive to fraud by:
- a. having falsely represented to employers and employees in marketing materials and that the DailyPay program was "no interest" or "interest free";
- b. having created inaccurate impressions that consumers can obtain funds immediately through Paycheck Advances without incurring costs; and
- c. having promoted Paycheck Advances as improving financial health and wellbeing without a factual basis and while projecting future dependency.
- 132. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent fraud in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (N.Y. G.B.L. § 349 – Deceptive Practices)

- 133. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 134. New York's GBL § 349(a) prohibits deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce in the state of New York.
- 135. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through deceptive marketing and offering of Paycheck Advances in a manner that was likely to mislead a reasonable consumer, in violation of GBL § 349 by:

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a. having falsely represented to employers and employees in marketing materials and that the DailyPay program was "no interest" or "interest free";

- b. having created inaccurate impressions that consumers can obtain funds immediately through Paycheck Advances without incurring costs; and
- c. having promoted Paycheck Advances as improving financial health and wellbeing without a factual basis and while projecting future dependency.
- 136. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

# SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (12 U.S.C. § 5531 – Deceptive Acts or Practices)

- 137. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 138. The Consumer Financial Protection Act, 12 U.S.C. § 5531, prohibits a covered person from engaging in deceptive acts or practices in connection with any transaction for a consumer financial product or in the offering of a consumer financial product.
- 139. DailyPay is a covered person, 12 U.S.C. § 5481(6), as DailyPay engages in the offering or providing of a consumer financial product or service.
- 140. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through deceptive marketing and offering of Paycheck Advances in a manner that was likely to mislead a reasonable consumer, in violation of 12 U.S.C. § 5531 by:
- a. having falsely represented to employers and employees in marketing materials and that the DailyPay program was "no interest" or "interest free";

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b. having created inaccurate impressions that consumers can obtain funds immediately through Paycheck Advances without incurring costs; and

- c. having promoted Paycheck Advances as improving financial health and wellbeing without a factual basis and while projecting future dependency.
- 141. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION Executive Law § 63(12) (Illegality) (12 U.S.C. § 5531 – Abusive Acts or Practices)

- 142. New York's Executive Law § 63(12) authorizes the OAG to seek injunctive and other relief when any individual or entity engages in repeated and persistent illegal conduct in the carrying on, conducting, or transacting of business in the state of New York.
- 143. The Consumer Financial Protection Act, 12 U.S.C. § 5531, prohibits a covered person from engaging in abusive acts or practices in connection with any transaction for a consumer financial product or in the offering of a consumer financial product.
- 144. DailyPay is a covered person, 12 U.S.C. § 5481(6), as DailyPay engages in the offering or providing of a consumer financial product or service.
- 145. Employers likewise are covered persons, 12 U.S.C. §§ 5481(6)(B), (15)(A)(i), (26)(A), as they broker financial products or services and provide services to DailyPay.
- 146. As set forth in the preceding paragraphs, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality through abusive acts and practices in connection with its offering Paycheck advances, including acts and practices that: (i) materially interfere with employees' ability to understand the terms and conditions of obtaining Paycheck Advances; (ii) take unreasonable advantage of employees' inability to protect their own interests in the selection of Paycheck

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Advances; and (iii) take unreasonable advantage of employees' reasonable reliance on their employers in connection with their selection and use of Paycheck Advances.

147. By reason of the conduct set forth herein, DailyPay has engaged in repeated and persistent illegality in violation of Executive Law § 63(12).

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Petitioner the People of the State of New York respectfully request that the Court grant the Verified Petition in all respects by issuing an order and judgment:

- a. permanently enjoining Respondent from violating Executive Law § 63(12), General Business Law ("GBL") §§ 349 and 350, General Obligations Law § 5-501, Penal Law § 190.40, Personal Property Law § 46-F, and the federal Consumer Financial Protection Act, 12 U.S.C. § 5531 *et seq.*, and from engaging in the fraudulent, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices described herein, including by enjoining Respondent from offering Paycheck Advances that incur fees above the rates prescribed by New York law and requiring clear and conspicuous disclosure of all fees in equal prominence in Respondent's advertising of its Paycheck Advance program;
- b. ordering Respondent to provide an accounting of all consumers who paid costs in excess of that permitted under General Obligations Law § 5-501, Penal Law § 190.40, Personal Property Law § 46-F, in connection with advances that were obtained from Respondent from the end of the Data Period to the date of the Court's order and judgment;
- c. ordering Respondent to provide restitution and damages to all affected consumers from the beginning of the Data Period to the date of the Court's order and judgment, whether known or unknown;

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d. ordering Respondent to disgorge all profits resulting from the fraudulent and illegal acts or practices described herein;

- e. ordering Respondent to pay a civil penalty in the sum of \$5,000 to the State of New York for each violation of GBL Article 22-A, G.B.L. § 350-d;
- f. imposing appropriate civil money penalties against Respondent as authorized by 12 U.S.C. § 5565(c);
- g. awarding costs under CPLR 8303(a)(6) and 12 U.S.C. § 5565(c); and
- h. granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

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UNASSIGNED

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Dated: April 14, 2025 New York, New York

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney General of the State of New York LETITIA JAMES

Christopher L. Filburn 28 Liberty Street, 20th Floor Bureau of Consumer Frauds & Assistant Attorney General Protection

Email: christopher.filburn@ag.ny.gov Tel.: 212.416.8303 New York, New York 10005

Of counsel:

Bureau Chief Jane M. Azia

Deputy Bureau Chief Laura J. Levine

of the State of New York Counsel for Petitioner People

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### VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK ):ss.: COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

CHRISTOPHER L. FILBURN, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am an Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection. I am duly authorized to make this verification.

I have read the foregoing Verified Petition and know the contents thereof, which are to my knowledge true, except as to matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true. The grounds for my beliefs as to all matters stated upon information and belief are investigatory materials contained in the files of the Bureau of Consumer Frauds and Protection in the New York State Office of the Attorney General.

The reason this verification is not made by Petitioner is because Petitioner is a body politic, and Letitia James, the Attorney General, is the Petitioner's duly authorized representative.

> CHRISTOPHER L. FILBURN Assistant Attorney General

Sworn to before me this 14th day of April, 2025

> KRISTIN LILIANA MANZUR Notary Public, State of New York Qualified in Richmond County No. 01MA6318068 Commission Expires January 20, 20.2.7

NOTARY PUBLIC