

**SIG RCRS D MF 2023 Venture LLC v 318-322 E. 126
LLC**

2025 NY Slip Op 34441(U)

November 18, 2025

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 850136/2025

Judge: Francis A. Kahn III

Cases posted with a "30000" identifier, i.e., 2013 NY Slip Op 30001(U), are republished from various New York State and local government sources, including the New York State Unified Court System's eCourts Service.

This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

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

PRESENT: HON. FRANCIS A. KAHN, III PART 32

Justice

-----X

INDEX NO. 850136/2025

SIG RCRS D MF 2023 VENTURE LLC,

MOTION DATE _____

Plaintiff,

MOTION SEQ. NO. 002

- v -

318-322 EAST 126 LLC, DOUGLAS PETERSON, NEW
YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
JOHN AND JANE DOES 1-50, ABC LLC 1-50, XYZ CORP.
1-50

**DECISION + ORDER ON
MOTION**

Defendant.

-----X

The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 002) 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 59, 64, 65

were read on this motion to/for

JUDGMENT - DEFAULT

Upon the foregoing documents the motion is determined as follows:

In this commercial mortgage foreclosure action, Plaintiff moves for, *inter alia*, a default judgment against the non-appearing parties, appointment of a referee to compute and to amend the caption. Defendants 318-322 East 126 LLC and Douglas Peterson oppose the motion. Plaintiff established *prima facie* its entitlement to a default judgment by submitting proof, via an affidavit from one of its authorized officers which, along with the supporting documentation, demonstrated the mortgage, the unpaid note, proof of service on each Defendant as well as their failure to timely appear or answer (*see* CPLR §3215[f]; *SRMOF II 2012-I Trust v Tella*, 139 AD3d 599, 600 [1st Dept 2016]; *U.S. Bank Natl. Assn. v Wolnerman*, 135 AD3d 850 [2d Dept 2016]; *see also Deutsche Bank Natl. Trust Co. v Silverman*, 178 AD3d 898 [2d Dept 2019]).

“To defeat a facially adequate CPLR 3215 motion, a defendant must show either that there was no default, or that it has a reasonable excuse for its delay and a potentially meritorious defense” (*Deutsche Bank Natl. Trust Co. v Silverman*, 178 AD3d 898, 901 [2d Dept 2020], *citing US Bank N.A. v Dorestant*, 131 AD3d 467, 470 [2d Dept 2015]; *see also* CPLR §5015[a][1]; *Bear Stern-Asset-Backed Sec. I Trust 2006 v Ceesay*, 180 AD3d 504 [1st Dept 2020]). Similarly, where an extension of time to answer is sought under CPLR 3012[d], a court, upon such terms as may be just (*see Emigrant Bank v Rosabianca*, 156 AD3d 468, 472 [1st Dept 2017]), upon showing “a reasonable excuse for the delay and demonstrate a potentially meritorious defense to the action” (*Bank of N.Y. Mellon v Tedesco*, 174 AD3d 490, 491 [2d Dept 2019]). When exercising its discretion in determining a motion under this section “a court should consider such relevant factors as the extent of the delay, prejudice or lack of prejudice to the opposing party as well as the strong public policy in favor of resolving cases on the merits (*Orwell Bldg. Corp. v Bessaha*, 5 AD3d 573, 574 [2d Dept 2004][internal citations omitted]).

In opposition, Defendants arguments failed to raise any cognizable excuse. The assertion by counsel that Defendants are endeavoring to refinance the is not a defense herein. Equity will only intervene in a foreclosure action in a rare case where there is an element of fraud, exploitive overreaching or unconscionable conduct demonstrated (*see Key International Mfg., Inc. v. Stillman*, 103 AD2d 475, 477 [2d Dept 1985]). Further, “[s]ympathy for the defendants cannot be permitted to undermine the stability of contractual obligations” (*L & L Assoc. Holding Corp. v Seventh Day Church of God of the Apostolic Faith*, 188 AD3d 1180, 1181 [2d Dept 2020]; *see also Pentagon Fed. Credit Union v Popovic*, 217 AD3d 480 [1st Dept 2023]).

The branch of Plaintiff’s motion to amend the caption is granted (*see generally* CPLR §3025; *JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. v Laszio*, 169 AD3d 885, 887 [2d Dept 2019]).

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that Plaintiff’s motion for a default judgment against the non-appearing parties is granted; and it is further

ORDERED that **Allison Furman, Esq., 260 Madison Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, New York 10016, 212-684-9400** is hereby appointed Referee in accordance with RPAPL § 1321 to compute the amount due to Plaintiff and to examine whether the property identified in the notice of pendency can be sold in parcels; and it is further

ORDERED that in the discretion of the Referee, a hearing may be held, and testimony taken; and it is further

ORDERED that by accepting this appointment the Referee certifies that he is in compliance with Part 36 of the Rules of the Chief Judge (22 NYCRR Part 36), including, but not limited to §36.2 (c) (“Disqualifications from appointment”), and §36.2 (d) (“Limitations on appointments based upon compensation”), and, if the Referee is disqualified from receiving an appointment pursuant to the provisions of that Rule, the Referee shall immediately notify the Appointing Judge; and it is further

ORDERED that, pursuant to CPLR 8003(a), and in the discretion of the court, a fee of \$350 shall be paid to the Referee for the computation of the amount due and upon the filing of his report and the Referee shall not request or accept additional compensation for the computation unless it has been fixed by the court in accordance with CPLR 8003(b); and it is further

ORDERED that the Referee is prohibited from accepting or retaining any funds for himself or paying funds to himself without compliance with Part 36 of the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Referee holds a hearing, the Referee may seek additional compensation at the Referee’s usual and customary hourly rate; and it is further

ORDERED that Plaintiff shall forward all necessary documents to the Referee and to Defendants who have appeared in this case within 30 days of the date of this order and shall *promptly* respond to every inquiry made by the referee (promptly means within two business days); and it is further

ORDERED that if Defendant(s) have objections, they must submit them to the referee within 14 days of the mailing of plaintiff's submissions; and include these objections to the Court if opposing the motion for a judgment of foreclosure and sale; and it is further

ORDERED that failure to submit objections to the referee may be deemed a waiver of objections before the Court on an application for a judgment of foreclosure and sale; and it is further

ORDERED, that "John Does" be removed as a party defendant in this action and that the caption of this action be amended to reflect the removal of "John Doe" as a party defendant; and it is further

ORDERED the caption is amended as follows:

SUPREME COURT STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

-----X
SIG RCRS D MF 2023 VENTURE LLC,

Plaintiff,

-against-

318-322 East 126 LLC; DOUGLAS PETERSON;
NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION,

Defendants.
-----X

and it is further,

ORDERED that Plaintiff must bring a motion for a judgment of foreclosure and sale within 45 days of receipt of the referee's report; and it is further

ORDERED that if Plaintiff fails to meet these deadlines, then the Court may *sua sponte* vacate this order and direct Plaintiff to move again for an order of reference and the Court may *sua sponte* toll interest depending on whether the delays are due to Plaintiff's failure to move this litigation forward; and it further

ORDERED that counsel for Plaintiff shall serve a copy of this order with notice of entry upon the County Clerk (60 Centre Street, Room 141B) and the General Clerk's Office (60 Centre Street, Room 119), who are directed to mark the court's records to reflect the parties being removed pursuant hereto; and it is further

ORDERED that such service upon the County Clerk and the Clerk of the General Clerk's Office shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the *Protocol on Courthouse and County Clerk Procedures for Electronically Filed Cases* (accessible at the "E-Filing" page on the court's website at the address (www.nycourts.gov/supctmanh)); and it is further

ORDERED that Plaintiff shall serve a copy of this Order with notice of entry on all parties and persons entitled to notice, including the Referee appointed herein.

All parties are to appear for a virtual conference via Microsoft Teams on **March 25, 2026, at 10:20 a.m.** If a motion for judgment of foreclosure and sale has been filed Plaintiff may contact the Part Clerk (SFC-Part32-Clerk@nycourts.gov) in writing to request that the conference be cancelled. If a motion has not been made, then a conference is required to explore the reasons for the delay.

11/18/2025
DATE

CHECK ONE:

CASE DISPOSED

GRANTED

DENIED

APPLICATION:

SETTLE ORDER

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:

INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN

NON-FINAL DISPOSITION

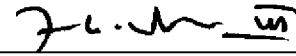
GRANTED IN PART

OTHER

SUBMIT ORDER

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

REFERENCE



FRANCIS KAHN, III, A.J.S.C.

**HON. FRANCIS A. KAHN III
J.S.C.**