## STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SECURITIES DIVISION

)

)

)

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING whether there has been a violation of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of Washington by:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Fresh Healthy Vending, LLC; Jolly Backer,

Respondents.

Order No.: S-11-0712-12-CO01 CONSENT ORDER

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the Franchise Investment Protection Act of Washington, RCW 19.100, the Securities Division and Respondents, Fresh Healthy Vending, LLC and Jolly Backer, do hereby enter into this CONSENT ORDER in settlement of the matters alleged herein. Respondents, Fresh Healthy Vending, LLC and Jolly Backer, neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law as stated below.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

### **Respondents**

1. Fresh Healthy Vending, LLC ("FHV"), with a place of business at 9605 Scranton Road, Suite 350, San Diego, California 92121, is a California limited liability company that offers and sells vending machine franchises. On February 8, 2010, Jolly Backer formed FHV, which operated under the name Yum Healthy Vending, LLC until March 16, 2010.

2. Jolly Backer ("Backer"), a California resident, is the former CEO of FHV. Backer holds all common shares of FHV. In February 2000, Backer filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition, which resulted in a discharge on May 8, 2000 and terminated on May 16, 2000.

## **Related Entities**

3. FHV Holdings Corp. ("FHVHC"), previously named YoNaturals Incorporated ("YoNaturals"), with a place of business at 4380 La Jolla Village Drive Suite 230, San Diego, California 92122, is a California corporation that is in the business of selling vending machines and finding locations for the vending machines it sells. On August 20, 2010, YoNaturals changed its name to FHV Holdings Corp. ("FHVHC"). FHVHC is a predecessor of FHV, as described in paragraphs 10-11 below.

4. Mark Trotter ("Trotter"), a California resident, is the president, secretary, and sole shareholder of FHVHC, which holds all preferred shares of FHV. FHV consults Trotter before selling FHV vending machine franchises.

#### CONSENT ORDER

5. Nicholas Yates ("Yates"), a California resident, is an agent of FHV who has directed the sales of FHV vending machine franchises. Yates was a marketing executive and a registered agent for FHVHC. FHV provided Yates with the following email address: marketing@freshvending.com.

#### **Deficient Franchise Disclosure Document**

6. In April 2010, FHV and Backer filed or caused to be filed an application for franchise registration (Securities Division file number 70014569). A franchise disclosure document ("FDD") accompanied the application and was proposed for use in the offer and sale of franchises in the state of Washington.

7. On June 1, 2010, the Securities Division issued a registration permit to FHV which granted the authority to the company to offer and sell franchises in the state of Washington. This permit was renewed on April 1, 2011. This permit expired as of April 1, 2012.

8. The FDD disclosures for FHV identified below are on file with the Securities Division and were unchanged in subsequent registration amendment filings made in October and December 2010, as well as March and August 2011.

#### NASAA Guidelines

9. WAC 460-80-315 provides that, in order to implement the disclosure requirements of RCW 19.100.040 for franchise registrations, the Securities Division has adopted the 2008 Franchise Regulation and Disclosure Guidelines promulgated by the North American Securities Administrators Association ("NASAA guidelines"). The NASAA guidelines mandate certain FDD disclosures for predecessors and for principal officers and other agents of a franchisor who will have management responsibility relating to the franchises offered. Each disclosure mandate corresponds to a numbered item.

# Inaccurate or Incomplete Disclosure Regarding Identifying the Franchisor and Predecessors and Their Business Experience

10. Item 1 of the NASAA guidelines requires a franchisor to disclose the "prior business experience," as well as the "name and principal business address of any predecessors during the 10-year period immediately before the close of the franchisor's most recent fiscal year." The NASAA guidelines define predecessor as "a person from whom the franchisor acquired, directly or indirectly, the major portion of the franchisor's assets."

11. FHVHC is a predecessor of FHV because FHVHC provided FHV with \$5,000,000 of intangible assets, which constituted over 75% of FHV's assets as of December 31, 2010. FHVHC is entitled to the first \$11,000,000 of cumulative net cash flow from FHV operations. FHVHC is also entitled to the greater of \$10,000,000 or 95% of proceeds from a change of control transaction. Among other powers, FHVHC must give its prior written consent before FHV (1) shuts down its business; (2) makes or permits any material change in its business; (3) creates, incurs,

CONSENT ORDER

assumes, or guarantees any indebtedness for borrowed money; or (4) amends, repeals, or supplements its Articles of Formation.

12. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division contained the following disclosure (in Item 1) concerning FHV's parents, predecessors, and affiliates: "We have no parents, predecessors or affiliates."

13. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division were materially deficient in failing to disclose, as required by Item 1 of the NASAA guidelines, that FHVHC was previously known as YoNaturals and is a predecessor of FHV. Consequently, Respondents also failed to disclose the name, business address, and business experience of any predecessors during the 10-year period immediately before the close of the franchisor's most recent fiscal year, as required by Item 1 of the NASAA guidelines.

#### Inaccurate or Incomplete Disclosure Regarding Business Experience Directors and Managers

14. Item 2 of the NASAA guidelines requires a franchisor to "disclose by name and position directors . . . and any other individual who will have management responsibility relating to the sale or operation of franchises offered by [the FDD]." For each of these individuals, Item 2 of the NASAA guidelines also requires the franchisor to disclose "his or her principal positions and employers during the past five years, including each position's starting date, ending date, and location."

15. Backer, as CEO, was a director of FHV. Trotter and Yates, as individuals who directed the sales of FHV franchises, were individuals with management responsibility over franchise operations and sales.

16. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division contained the following disclosure (in Item 2) concerning the business experience of Jolly Backer: "Mr. Backer became our Chief Executive Officer on February 8, 2010. From October 1, 1995 through December 31, 2009, Mr. Backer served as the Director of Sales at Stern Pinball in [Melrose Park, Illinois]." The FDD did not disclose any information regarding Mark Trotter or Nicholas Yates.

17. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division were materially deficient in failing to disclose, as required by Item 2 of the NASAA guidelines, that Trotter was an individual with management responsibility relating to the sale or operation of franchises offered by the FDD. Consequently, Respondents also failed to disclose Trotter's principal positions and employers during the past five years, as required by Item 2 of the NASAA guidelines.

18. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division were materially deficient in failing to disclose, as required by Item 2 of the NASAA guidelines, that Yates was an individual with management responsibility relating to the sale or operation of franchises offered by the FDD. Consequently, CONSENT ORDER

1

Respondents also failed to disclose Yates' principal positions and employers during the past five years, as required by Item 2 of the NASAA guidelines.

#### Inaccurate or Incomplete Disclosure Regarding Litigation History

19. Item 3 of the NASAA guidelines requires a franchisor to disclose whether any individual who will have management responsibility relating to the sale or operation of franchises offered by the FDD (1) is subject to a currently effective injunctive or restrictive order or decree resulting from a pending or concluded action brought by a public agency and relating to a state or federal trade regulation or trade practices law, or (2) has, in the last 10-year period immediately before the disclosure document's issuance date, been held liable in a civil action involving an alleged violation of a franchise law or allegations of fraud, unfair or deceptive practices, or comparable allegations. The NASAA guidelines define "held liable" to mean that, "as a result of claims or counterclaims, the person must pay money or other consideration . . . or must take action adverse to its interests."

20. As Trotter and Yates are franchise sales and operations managers, FHV must disclose their relevant litigation history. Trotter's relevant litigation history includes his being the subject of an action involving the alleged violation of the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003, and the Texas Electronic Mail Solicitation Act, and the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act in connection with sending unsolicited e-mail messages containing false, misleading, or deceptive information. On June 6, 2006, the US District Court for the Western District of Texas entered a Final Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction and Monetary Relief against Mark Trotter. Yates' relevant litigation history includes a February 2006 judgment involving a monetary penalty that was entered against him by the Federal Court of Australia for misleading and deceptive conduct regarding the operation of pre-paid phone card and vending machine distributorships.

21. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division contained the following disclosure (in Item 3) concerning litigation: "No litigation is required to be disclosed in this item."

22. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division were materially deficient in failing to disclose, as required by Item 3 of the NASAA guidelines, that Trotter is subject to an order or decree resulting from a concluded action brought by a public agency and relating to a state or federal trade regulation or trade practices law.

23. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division were materially deficient in failing to disclose, as required by Item 3 of the NASAA guidelines, that Yates has been held liable in a civil action involving an alleged violation of a franchise law or allegations of fraud, unfair or deceptive practices, or comparable allegations.

#### Inaccurate or Incomplete Disclosure Regarding Bankruptcy History

24. Item 4 of the NASAA guidelines requires a franchisor to disclose whether any officer has filed as a debtor or obtained a discharge of debts during the last 10-year period immediately before the date of the disclosure document.

25. Backer's debts were discharged in a Chapter 7 bankruptcy action on May 8, 2000. The action terminated on May 16, 2000. The first two versions of the FDD filed with the state of Washington had an issuance date of April 12, 2010 and May 12, 2010, within 10 years of Backer's bankruptcy discharge.

26. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division contained the following disclosure (in Item 4) concerning bankruptcy: "No bankruptcy information is required to be disclosed in this item."

27. The versions of the FDD that Respondents filed or caused to be filed with the Division were materially deficient in failing to disclose, as required by Item 4 of the NASAA guidelines, that Backer filed for bankruptcy which ended in a discharge within 10 years of the date of the FDD.

#### **Nature of the Offering**

28. Between May 2010 and September 2011, FHV solicited approximately 200 Washington residents to become FHV franchisees. FHV solicited at least six Washington residents before the Securities Division first issued FHV a registration permit on June 1, 2010.

29. FHV has offered and sold at least one franchise in the state of Washington. FHV represented to at least one Washington franchisee that Backer bought YoNaturals, that FHV had taken over YoNaturals' franchisees, and that Yates and Trotter were not involved with FHV.

#### **Omissions and Misrepresentations**

30. Respondents made material omissions by failing to disclose information pursuant to the NASAA guidelines as described in the "Deficient Franchise Disclosure Document" section above.

31. Respondents misrepresented the relationship of FHVHC, Trotter, and Yates to at least one franchisee who would not otherwise have become a franchisee but for the misrepresentation.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact, the following Conclusions of Law are made:

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The offer or sale of franchises as described above constitutes the offer and/or sale of a franchise as defined in RCW 19.100.010(4) and RCW 19.100.010(16).

CONSENT ORDER

2. The offer and/or sale of said franchises were in violation of RCW 19.100.080 because Respondents failed to provide prospective purchasers with an FDD that contained all material information about the franchise as required by RCW 19.100.040 and WAC 460-80-315.

3. The offer and/or sale of said franchises were in violation of RCW 19.100.170(1) because Respondents made untrue statements of material facts and/or willfully omitted material facts required to be stated in an application, notice, or report filed with the Securities Division.

4. The offer and/or sale of said franchises were in violation of RCW 19.100.170(2) because Respondents, in a written communication to prospective franchisees, made untrue statements of material facts and/or omitted material facts necessary in order to make the statements made in light of the circumstances under which they were made not misleading.

#### **CONSENT ORDER**

Based upon the foregoing and finding it in the public interest:

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents, their agents and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 19.100.080, the disclosure document section of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of the state of Washington.

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents, their agents and employees shall each cease and desist from violating RCW 19.100.170, the anti-fraud section of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of the state of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents shall reimburse the Securities Division \$5,000 for its costs of investigation payable prior to the Securities Division's entry of this Consent Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that the Securities Division has jurisdiction to enter this Consent Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Respondents enter into this Consent Order freely and voluntarily and with full understanding of its terms and significance.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that in consideration of the foregoing, Respondents waive their right to a hearing and to judicial review of this matter.

## WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

CONSENT ORDER

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

	Signed this24th day of	2012
1	Signed by:	
2	Fresh Healthy Vending, LLC	Signed by:
3		
4	By/s/ Jolly Backer, CEO	
5		By/s/ Jolly Backer, Individually
6		Jony Dacker, marriadany
7	Approved for Entry by:	Approved for Entry by:
8	By/s/ Gary Duvall, Attorney for Respondents	By/s/ Barry Kurtz, Attorney for Respondents
9	WSBA No. 7617	CA Bar No. 57544
10		
11	SIGNED and ENTERED this <u>5th</u> day of	June2012.
12	0101(22 and 21(12)(22 and <u></u>	
13		Million A Seat
14		William M. Beatty
15		Securities Administrator
16		
17	Approved by:	Presented by:
18	An Elm	Drew Stillum
TO	Suzanne Sarason	Drew Stillman
19	Chief of Enforcement	Enforcement Attorney
20	Reviewed by:	
21		
22	Jack McClellan	
23	Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor	
24		
25		
-	CONSENT ORDER	7 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION Securities Division PO Box 903 Olympia WA 98507-903 360-902-876