	Deputy Commissioner THERESA LEETS Assistant Chief Counsel EKTAA NIJJAR (State Bar No. 323969) Counsel Department of Financial Protection and Innovation 320 West 4th Street, Suite 750 Los Angeles, California 90013 Telephone: (213) 576-7589 Facsimile: (213) 220-			
	Attorneys for Complainant			
	BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION			
	OF THE STATE	OF CALIFORNIA		
	In the Matter of: THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION, Complainant, v. GASKET GUY FRANCHISE COMPANY, LLC. doing business as GASKET GUY Respondents.	CONSENT ORDER		
	This Consent Order is entered into between	en the Commissioner of Financial Protection and		
	Innovation (Commissioner) and Gasket Guy Franchise Company, LLC. (Gasket Guy), doing			
	business as Gasket Guy (collectively the Parties), and is made with respect to the following facts:			
		I.		
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Recitals

A. The Commissioner is the head of the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (Department) and is responsible for administering and enforcing the Franchise Investment Law (FIL) (Corp. Code, § 31000 et seq.),¹ and registering the offer and sale of franchises

1 All further statutory references are to the Corporations Code unless otherwise indicated.

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in California. To register a franchise, a franchisor must file an application that includes a Franchise Disclosure Document (FDD) with the Department for review, in accordance with sections 31111 and 31114. The FIL requires franchisors to disclose certain material information that is intended to provide prospective franchisees with facts upon which to make an informed decision to purchase a franchise, as stated in section 31101.

- B. At all relevant times, Gasket Guy is a Delaware Limited Liability Company with a principal place of business 3001 McCall Dr., Atlanta, GA 30340. Gasket Guy engages in the offer and sale of franchises specializing in the sale and installation of gaskets for refrigeration doors units, freezer doors, oven doors, hardware and cutting boards.
- C. Pursuant to section 31110, it is unlawful for any person to offer or sell a franchise in this state unless the offer has been registered with the Commissioner or is exempt from registration by the FIL.
- D. BWGaskets, Inc. (BWGaskets) was the original owner and licensor of the "Gasket Guy" system between the approximate years of 2004 to 2013.
- E. Around 2013, BWGaskets sold substantially all its assets to Gasket Guy, LLC (GG LLC).
- F. In May 2020, Gasket Guy Franchising, LLC (Predecessor) was formed and was the franchisor of the "Gasket Guy" franchise system until February 2022. In February 2022, Predecessor sold its assets to Gasket Guy's parent company.
- G. Gasket Guy was formed on March 13, 2022, and acquired franchise-related assets on May 23, 2022.
- H. On December 21, 2023, Gasket Guy filed an initial application for registration of the offer and sale of Gasket Guy franchises in California.
- T. The Department discovered that Gasket Guy sold five license agreements from 2005-2017 in California. These signed license agreements were found to be franchises sold without an effective registration or exemption in California pursuant to the FIL.
- J. The Commissioner finds that Gasket Guy offered franchises in California without registration or exemption in violation of Corporations Code section 31110.

K. N set forth herein,

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in recitals A thro

K. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and the terms and conditions set forth herein, the Parties agree as follows:

II.

Terms and Conditions

- 1. <u>Purpose.</u> This Consent Order resolves the issues before the Commissioner, described in recitals A through G above, in a manner that avoids the expense of a hearing and other possible court proceedings, protects consumers, is in the public interest, and is consistent with the purposes and provisions of the FIL.
- 2. <u>Desist and Refrain Order.</u> Pursuant to Corporations Code sections 31402 and 31406, Gasket Guy, is hereby ordered to desist and refrain from the violations set forth herein, in violation of Corporations Code section 31110, and from any violations of the FIL. The issuance of this Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of investors, and is consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the Franchise Investment Law.
- 3. Penalties. Gasket Guy shall pay an administrative penalty of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) (Penalties) no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Effective Date of this Consent Order. The Penalties must be made payable in the form of a cashier's check or Automated Clearing House deposit to the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and transmitted to the attention of Accounting Legal, at the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, 2101 Arena Boulevard, Sacramento, California 95834. Notice of payment must be concurrently sent via email to Ektaa Nijjar at ektaa.nijjar@dfpi.ca.gov. Failure to pay Penalties in accordance with the above referenced Penalties payment installments shall be deemed to be a material breach of this Consent Order.
- 4. <u>Waiver of Hearing Rights.</u> Gasket Guy acknowledges that the Commissioner is ready, willing, and able to proceed with the filing of an administrative enforcement action on the charges contained in this Consent Order. Gasket Guy hereby waives the right to any hearings, and to any reconsideration, appeal, or other right to review which may be afforded pursuant to the FIL, the California Administrative Procedure Act (APA), the California Code of Civil Procedure (CCP), or any other provision of law. Gasket Guy further expressly waives any requirement for the filing of

any action pursuant to Government Code section 11415.60, subdivision (b). By waiving such rights, Gasket Guy effectively consents to this Consent Order and all of its terms becoming final.

- 5. <u>Failure to Comply with Desist and Refrain Order or Cure Breach.</u> Gasket Guy agrees that if they fail to comply with the Desist and Refrain Order in this Consent Order, or fails to timely cure any breach to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner may, in addition to all other available remedies it may invoke under the FIL, summarily suspend, revoke, or deny its FIL registration (if applicable). Gasket Guy stipulates to the finality of any such FIL registration suspensions, revocations, or denials that the Commissioner may order. Gasket Guy waives any notice and hearing rights to contest such summary suspensions, revocations, or denials which may be afforded under the FIL, the APA, the CCP, or any other provision of law in connection therewith.
- 6. <u>Information Willfully Withheld or Misrepresented.</u> This Consent Order may be revoked, and the Commissioner may pursue any and all remedies available under law against Gasket Guy if the Commissioner discovers that Gasket Guy knowingly or willfully withheld or misrepresented information used for and relied upon in this Consent Order.
- 7. Future Actions by Commissioner. If Gasket Guy fails to comply with any terms of the Consent Order, the Commissioner may institute proceedings for any and all violations otherwise resolved under this Consent Order. The Commissioner reserves the right to bring any future actions against Gasket Guy, or any of their partners, owners, officers, shareholders, directors, employees or successors for any and all unknown violations of the FIL or any other law under the Commissioner's jurisdiction.
- 8. <u>Assisting Other Agencies.</u> Nothing in this Consent Order limits the Commissioner's ability to assist any other government agency (whether city, county, state, or federal) with any administrative, civil or criminal action brought by that agency against Gasket Guy or any other entity or person based upon any of the activities alleged in this matter or otherwise.
- 9. <u>Headings</u>. The headings to the paragraphs of this Consent Order are inserted for convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation of the provisions hereof.

- 10. <u>Binding.</u> This Consent Order is binding on all heirs, assigns, and/or successors in interest.
- 11. Reliance. Each of the Parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this Consent Order, it has relied solely on the statements set forth herein and the advice of its own counsel. Each of the Parties further represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this Consent Order, it has placed no reliance on any statement, representation, or promise of any other party, or any other person or entity not expressly set forth herein, or upon the failure of any party or any other person or entity to make any statement, representation, or disclosure of anything whatsoever. The Parties have included this clause: (1) to preclude any claim that any party was in any way fraudulently induced to execute this Consent Order; and (2) to preclude the introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or contradict the terms of this Consent Order.
- 12. <u>Waiver, Amendments, and Modifications.</u> No waiver, amendment, or modification of this Consent Order will be valid or binding unless it is in writing and signed by each of the Parties. The waiver of any provision of this Consent Order will not be deemed a waiver of any other provision. No waiver by either party of any breach of, or of compliance with, any condition or provision of this Consent Order by the other party will be considered a waiver of any other condition or provision or of the same condition or provision at another time.
- 13. <u>Full Integration.</u> This Consent Order is the final written expression and the complete and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and covenant between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, negotiations, representations, understandings, and discussions between and among the Parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity with respect to the subject matter covered hereby.
- 14. <u>Governing Law.</u> This Consent Order will be governed by and construed in accordance with California law. Each of the Parties hereto consents to the jurisdiction of such court, and hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the defense of an inconvenient forum to the maintenance of such action or proceeding in such court.

15. <u>Counterparts.</u> This Consent Order may be executed in one or more separate				
counterparts, each of which when so executed, shall be deemed an original. Such counterparts shall				
together constitute a single document.				
16. <u>Effect Upon Future Proceedings.</u> If Gasket Guy applies for any license, registration,				
permit, or qualification under the Commissioner's current or future jurisdiction, or is the subject of				
any future action by the Commissioner to enforce this Consent Order, then the subject matter hereof				
shall be admitted for the purpose of such application(s) or enforcement proceeding(s).				
17. <u>Voluntary Agreement.</u> Gasket Guy enters into this Consent Order voluntarily and				

without coercion and acknowledge that no promises, threats or assurances have been made by the Commissioner or any officer, or agent thereof, about this Consent Order. The Parties each represent and acknowledge that he, she or it is executing this Consent Order completely voluntarily and without any duress or undue influence of any kind from any source.

18. <u>Notice.</u> Any notice required under this Consent Order shall be provided to each party at the following addresses:

To Respondents:

Eli M Bensignor, Esq.
80 South 8th St.
3100 IDS Center
Minneapolis, MN 55402
eli.bensignor@lathropgpm.com

To the Commissioner: Ektaa Nijjar, Counsel

Department of Financial Protection and

Innovation

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 750 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Ektaa.nijjar@dfpi.ca.gov

- 19. <u>Signatures.</u> A fax, scanned, or electronic mail signature shall be deemed the same as an original signature.
- 20. <u>Public Record.</u> Gasket Guy hereby acknowledges that this Consent Order is and will be a matter of public record.

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	21. <u>Effective Date.</u> This Consent Order shall become final and effective when signed become fin		
	all Parties and delivered by the Commissioner's agent via e-mail to Gasket Guy's agent, Eli M.		
	Bensignor at eli.bensignor@lathropgpm.com.		
	22. <u>Authority to Sign.</u> Each signatory hereto covenants that he/she possesses all		
necessary capacity and authority to sign and enter into this Consent Order and undertake the			
obligations set forth herein.			
	Dated: 1/28/	2025	KHALIL MOHSENI Acting Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation
			By: COLLEEN MONAHAN Deputy Commissioner
	Dated: 1/21/	2025	GASKET GUY FRANCHISE COMPANY, LLC
			By: SEAN DILLON Chief Operating Officer
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