

FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.
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BUTTERMILK CAFE®

As a Buttermilk Cafe franchisee, you will operate a restaurant and coffee bar.

The total investment necessary to begin operation of a Buttermilk Cafe franchised business ranges from \$1,081,000 to \$2,345,000. This includes \$112,000 to \$139,000 that must be paid to the franchisor or its Affiliate.

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your franchise agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. **Note, however, that no governmental agency has verified the information contained in this document.**

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Katie Kouvelis at Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., 65 North River Lane, Suite 201, Geneva, Illinois 60134, (630) 277-0582 or info@buttermilkfranchise.com.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don't rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read all of your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or an accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as "A Consumer's Guide to Buying a Franchise," which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at www.ftc.gov for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising.

There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

Issuance Date: April 28, 2026, and as amended July 14, 2026.

How to Use This Franchise Disclosure Document

Here are some questions you may be asking about buying a franchise and tips on how to find more information:

QUESTION	WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION
How much can I earn?	Item 19 may give you information about outlet sales, costs, profits or losses. You should also try to obtain this information from others, like current and former franchisees. You can find their names and contact information in Item 20 or Exhibit B.
How much will I need to invest?	Items 5 and 6 list fees you will be paying to the franchisor or at the franchisor's direction. Item 7 lists the initial investment to open. Item 8 describes the suppliers you must use.
Does the franchisor have the financial ability to provide support to my business?	Item 21 or Exhibit C includes financial statements. Review these statements carefully.
Is the franchise system stable, growing, or shrinking?	Item 20 summarizes the recent history of the number of company-owned and franchised outlets.
Will my business be the only Buttermilk Café business in my area?	Item 12 and the "territory" provisions in the franchise agreement describe whether the franchisor and other franchisees can compete with you.
Does the franchisor have a troubled legal history?	Items 3 and 4 tell you whether the franchisor or its management have been involved in material litigation or bankruptcy proceedings.
What's it like to be a Buttermilk Café franchisee?	Item 20 or Exhibit B lists current and former franchisees. You can contact them to ask about their experiences.
What else should I know?	These questions are only a few things you should look for. Review all 23 Items and all Exhibits in this disclosure document to better understand this franchise opportunity. See the table of contents.

What You Need To Know About Franchising *Generally*

Continuing responsibility to pay fees. You may have to pay royalties and other fees even if you are losing money.

Business model can change. The franchise agreement may allow the franchisor to change its manuals and business model without your consent. These changes may require you to make additional investments in your franchise business or may harm your franchise business.

Supplier restrictions. You may have to buy or lease items from the franchisor or a limited group of suppliers the franchisor designates. These items may be more expensive than similar items you could buy on your own.

Operating restrictions. The franchise agreement may prohibit you from operating a similar business during the term of the franchise. There are usually other restrictions. Some examples may include controlling your location, your access to customers, what you sell, how you market, and your hours of operation.

Competition from franchisor. Even if the franchise agreement grants you a territory, the franchisor may have the right to compete with you in your territory.

Renewal. Your franchise agreement may not permit you to renew. Even if it does, you may have to sign a new agreement with different terms and conditions in order to continue to operate your franchise business.

When your franchise ends. The franchise agreement may prohibit you from operating a similar business after your franchise ends even if you still have obligations to your landlord or other creditors.

Some States Require Registration

Your state may have a franchise law, or other law, that requires franchisors to register before offering or selling franchises in the state. Registration does not mean that the state recommends the franchise or has verified the information in this document. To find out if your state has a registration requirement, or to contact your state, use the agency information in Exhibit A.

Your state also may have laws that require special disclosures or amendments be made to your franchise agreement. If so, you should check the State Specific Addenda. See the Table of Contents for the location of the State Specific Addenda.

Special Risks to Consider About *This* Franchise

Certain states require that the following risk(s) be highlighted:

1. **Out-of-State Dispute Resolution.** The franchise agreement requires you to resolve disputes with the franchisor by mediation, arbitration and/or litigation only in Illinois. Out-of-state mediation, arbitration, or litigation may force you to accept a less favorable settlement for disputes. It may also cost more to mediate, arbitrate, or litigate with the franchisor in Illinois than in your own state.
2. **Financial Condition.** The Franchisor's financial condition as reflected in its financial statements (see Item 21) calls into question the Franchisor's financial ability to provide services and support to you.
3. **Short Operating History.** This Franchisor is at an early stage of development and has a limited operating history. This franchise is likely to be a riskier investment than a franchise with a longer operating history.
4. **Spousal Liability.** Your spouse must sign a document that makes your spouse liable for all financial obligations under the Franchise Agreement, even if your spouse has no ownership interest in the franchise. This Guarantee will place both your and your spouse's marital and personal assets (perhaps including your house) at risk if your franchise fails.

Certain states may require other risks to be highlighted. Check the "State Specific Addenda" (if any) to see whether your state requires other risks to be highlighted.

**ADDENDUM TO BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT**

REQUIRED BY THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN PROHIBITS CERTAIN UNFAIR PROVISIONS THAT ARE SOMETIMES IN FRANCHISE DOCUMENTS. IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS ARE IN THESE FRANCHISE DOCUMENTS, THE PROVISIONS ARE VOID AND CANNOT BE ENFORCED AGAINST YOU.

Each of the following provisions is void and unenforceable if contained in any documents relating to a franchise:

- A. A prohibition on the right of a franchisee to join an association of franchisees.
- B. A requirement that a franchisee assent to a release, assignment, novation, waiver, or estoppel which deprives a franchisee of rights and protections provided in this act. This shall not preclude a franchisee, after entering into a franchise agreement, from settling any and all claims.
- C. A provision that permits a franchisor to terminate a franchise prior to the expiration of its term except for good cause. Good cause shall include the failure of the franchisee to comply with any lawful provision of the franchise agreement and to cure such failure after being given written notice thereof and a reasonable opportunity, which in no event need be more than 30 days, to cure such failure.
- D. A provision that permits a franchisor to refuse to renew a franchise without fairly compensating the franchisee by repurchase or other means for the fair market value at the time of expiration of the franchisee's inventory, supplies, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings. Personalized materials which have no value to the franchisor and inventory, supplies, equipment, fixtures, and furnishings not reasonably required in the conduct of the franchise business are not subject to compensation. This subsection applies only if: (i) the term of the franchise is less than 5 years and (ii) the franchisee is prohibited by the franchise or other agreement from continuing to conduct substantially the same business under another trademark, service mark, trade name, logotype, advertising or other commercial symbol in the same area subsequent to the expiration of the franchise or the franchisee does not receive at least 6 months advance notice of franchisor's intent not to renew the franchise.
- E. A provision that permits the franchisor to refuse to renew a franchise on terms generally available to other franchisees of the same class or type under similar circumstances. This section does not require a renewal provision.
- F. A provision requiring that arbitration or litigation be conducted outside this state. This shall not preclude the franchises from entering into an agreement, at the time of arbitration, to conduct arbitration at a location outside this state.
- G. A provision which permits a franchisor to refuse to permit a transfer of ownership of a franchise, except for good cause. This subdivision does not prevent a franchisor from exercising a right of first refusal to purchase the franchise. Good cause shall include, but is not limited to:
 - i. The failure of the proposed transferee to meet the franchisor's then current reasonable qualifications or standards.
 - ii. The fact that the proposed transferee is competitor of the franchisor or sub- franchisor.
 - iii. The unwillingness of the proposed transferee to agree in writing to comply with all lawful obligations.

- iv. The failure of the franchisee or proposed transferee to pay any sums owing to the franchisor or to cure any default in the franchise agreement existing at the time of the proposed transfer.
- H. A provision that requires the franchisee to resell to the franchisor items that are not uniquely identified with the franchisor. This subdivision does not prohibit a provision that grants to a franchisor a right of first refusal to purchase the assets of a franchise on the same terms and conditions as a bona fide third party willing and able to purchase those assets, nor does this subdivision prohibit a provision that grants the franchisor the right to acquire the assets of a franchise for the market or appraised value of such assets if the franchisee has breached the lawful provisions of the franchise agreement and has failed to cure the breach in the manner provided in subdivision (c).
- I. A provision which permits the franchisor to directly or indirectly convey, assign, or otherwise transfer its obligations to fulfill contractual obligations to the franchise unless provision has been made for providing the required contractual services.

The fact that there is a notice of this offering on file with the attorney general does not constitute approval, recommendation or endorsement by the attorney general.

Any questions regarding the notice should be directed to the Michigan Department of Attorney General, 670 Law Building, Lansing, MI 48913, (517) 373-7117.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

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ITEM 1. THE FRANCHISOR AND ANY PARENTS, PREDECESSORS, AND AFFILIATES

The franchisor is Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. For ease of reference, Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. will be referred to as "we", or "us" in this disclosure document. We will refer to the person who buys the franchise as "you" throughout the disclosure document.

Franchisor Company. Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. is an Illinois corporation formed on February 14, 2023. Our principal business address is 65 North River Lane, Suite 201, Geneva, Illinois 60134. We do business under our company name, Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., and our trademark name, Buttermilk Café. We have no predecessor or parent as defined in the disclosure document guidelines. B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc. is our affiliate ("Affiliate") and is an Illinois corporation with a principal business address of 65 North River Lane, Suite 201, Geneva, Illinois 60134; B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc. operates a commissary kitchen producing items for use by Buttermilk Café restaurants as of February 2024. We have no other affiliate offering franchises in any line of business or providing products or services to franchisees of us. If we have an agent for service of process in your state, we disclose that agent in Exhibit A.

The Business of the Franchise. We franchise a restaurant and coffee bar offering breakfast items, lunch items, and coffee (the "Franchised Business") under the "Buttermilk Café" trade name and trade and service marks (the "Marks") using certain procedures, techniques, business methods, business forms, business policies and a body of knowledge pertaining to the establishment and operation of the Franchised Businesses (the "System"). The franchise offered is for the right to operate a Buttermilk Café restaurant using the Marks and the System at a specific location. You must sign our standard franchise agreement (the "Franchise Agreement") when you purchase a franchise. In addition, you must operate the Franchised Business in accordance with our Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time as a result of experience, changes in the law or changes in the marketplace.

Competition. Your competitors would include home cooking, restaurants in general, and other restaurants selling breakfast items, lunch items, and/or coffee, including other Buttermilk Café restaurants. The market for breakfast items, lunch items, and coffee is competitive and well established. Breakfast items, lunch items, and coffee are not sold primarily to a certain group. Sales are generally not seasonal but are historically slower in September and February.

Operating Units. We began offering franchises for sale in October 2023. We have not offered franchises in other lines of business. We have no other business activities. We have not operated a Buttermilk Café restaurant; however, companies related to us by common ownership and their owners have operated Buttermilk Café restaurants substantially similar to the Franchised Business you will operate since May 2015. We focus on franchising independently owned restaurants offering breakfast items, lunch items, and coffee and providing franchise support to franchisees.

Regulations. In addition to laws and regulations that apply to businesses generally, your Franchised Business is subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations and guidelines governing liquor licensing, health, sanitation, safety and environmental laws that apply to the food service industry. The Food and Drug Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture and food industry organizations, including the National Restaurant Association, have established rules affecting the restaurant business. You must be knowledgeable on federal, state and local health and consumer protection laws and regulations concerning food preparation, handling and storage, "Truth in Menu" concerning menu item names and product labeling, nutritional claims, and access to your Franchised Business by persons with disabilities (under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act). You should also be aware of federal, state and local labor regulations, including minimum age, minimum wage, workers compensation, equal protection and workplace safety laws. You should investigate local zoning rules because they may limit where you can locate your Franchised Business and may affect design features, including the building facade and signs. You should be aware of federal, state and local environmental laws that may affect the disposal of waste materials and the packaging you may use.

The details of state, county and local laws and regulations vary from place to place. You should investigate these laws and regulations.

ITEM 2. BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

President, Secretary, & Director: Katie Kouvelis

Katie Kouvelis has been President, Secretary, and Director of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. since its inception in February 2023. Since August 2022, she has been President, Secretary, and Director of B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc., which has operated a commissary kitchen producing items for use by Buttermilk Café restaurants since February 2024 to the present. From July 2022 to the present, she has been President, Secretary, and Director of BM Downers, Inc., which operates a Buttermilk Café restaurant in Downers Grove, Illinois that opened in May 2025. From December 2018 to the present, she has been President, Secretary, and Director of BM Vernon, Inc., which owns and operates a Buttermilk Café restaurant in Vernon Hills, Illinois. From December 2017 to the present, she has been President, Secretary, and Director of SAK Group Inc. based in Geneva, Illinois, which owns the Buttermilk Café trademark and other System related intellectual property. From May 2016 to the present, she has been President, Secretary, and Director of Buttermilk Naperville, Inc., which owns and operates a Buttermilk Café restaurant in Naperville, Illinois. From February 2015 to the present, she has been President, Secretary, and Director of Biscuit Café, Inc., which owns and operates a Buttermilk Café restaurant in Geneva, Illinois.

Executive Vice President: Spiros (Spiro) Kouvelis

Spiro Kouvelis has been Executive Vice President of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. since its inception in February 2023. Since June 2025, he has been Manager of BM Avondale LLC, which operates a limited menu, cloud kitchen (pickup and delivery only format) of a Buttermilk Café restaurant from the Picnic Digital Food Court in the Avondale neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. Since August 2022, he has been General Manager of B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc., which owns the commissary kitchen producing items for use by Buttermilk Café restaurants. From July 2022 to the present, he has been Vice President and General Manager of BM Downers, Inc., which is constructing and will operate a Buttermilk Café restaurant in Downers Grove, Illinois. From May 2020 to the present, he has been General Manager of BM Vernon, Inc., which owns and operates the Buttermilk Café restaurant in Vernon Hills, Illinois. From January 2018 to the present, he has been General Manager of Buttermilk Naperville, Inc., which owns and operates the Buttermilk Café restaurant in Naperville, Illinois. From February 2015 to the present, he has been General Manager of Biscuit Café, Inc., which owns and operates the Buttermilk Café restaurant in Geneva, Illinois.

Finance Office Manager: Alison Kane

Alison Kane has been Finance Office Manager since September 2024 to the present of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. and serves in the same role for all Buttermilk Café restaurants our affiliates operate located in Geneva, IL, Naperville, IL, Vernon Hills, IL, Downers Grove, IL, and Chicago, IL). Since December 2022 to the present, Ms. Kane has been the owner and Manager of Lillybelle Designs LLC, a retail décor concept. From June 2018 to September 2024 she was Office Manager for Illinois Crafted LLC in Maple Park, Illinois,

Franchise and Operations Consultant: William D. Germanetti

William D. Germanetti has been an independent Franchise and Operations Consultant with primary responsibility for managing franchise sales and managing their franchisees' pre-opening operations, along with responsibility for payroll, financial record keeping and paying bills for Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. since its inception in February 2023 to the present and has been a Business Consultant providing advice on finance, sales and operations for the other Buttermilk Café related companies since May 2017 to the present. Since April 2005 to the present Mr. Germanetti has been a Business Consultant with and President of Impact Business

Coaching, Inc. providing finance, sales and operations advice in Geneva, Illinois.

District Manager & Trainer: Cynthia (“Cindi”) Krause

Cindi Krause has been District Manager & Trainer of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. since its inception in February 2023. From August 2019 to the present, she has been Manager of the Buttermilk Café operating in Naperville, Illinois.

ITEM 3. LITIGATION

United States of America v. Lillian Juarez, Shawn J. Betts, Kevin Goodwin and Spiro Kouvelis, No. 18CR784 filed in the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division on November 15, 2018. Pursuant to a plea agreement Spiro Kouvelis who is Executive Vice President of the franchisor pled guilty to a wire fraud felony offense related to the activities of a Section 8 housing business he formerly owned that was unrelated to the franchise. On September 25, 2019, he was sentenced to twenty-four months of probation including six months of home curfew, four hundred hours of community service, and a \$10,000 fine. The supervision was terminated on September 24, 2021.

Other than this action, no litigation is required to be disclosed in this Item.

ITEM 4. BANKRUPTCY

No bankruptcy is required to be disclosed in this Item.

ITEM 5. INITIAL FEES

The initial franchise fee is \$40,000. It is paid to us as a lump sum upon signing the Franchise Agreement. For the state of Illinois, the payments for all initial franchise fees shall be deferred until Franchisor has met its initial obligations to franchisee and franchisee has commenced doing business; the Illinois Attorney General’s Office imposed this deferral requirement due to our financial condition. The initial franchise fee is not refundable.

The Training Fee for a first franchise is \$45,000. It is paid to us \$22,500 upon signing the franchise agreement and the remaining \$22,500 when the Franchised Business opens for business (but no later than the rent commencement date under the Franchisee’s lease). The Training Fee is not refundable.

The initial franchise fee for an additional franchise is \$30,000. It is paid to us as a lump sum upon signing the franchise agreement. For the state of Illinois, the payments for all initial franchise fees shall be deferred until Franchisor has met its initial obligations to franchisee and franchisee has commenced doing business; the Illinois Attorney General’s Office imposed this deferral requirement due to our financial condition. The initial franchise fee is not refundable.

The Training Fee for an additional franchise is based upon our then-current daily fee for our personnel (currently \$500 per person per day), plus other actual expenses, including without limitation, all travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses. It is paid to us \$15,000 upon signing the Franchise Agreement and the balance upon the completion of the initial training at your location. The Training Fee is not refundable.

We may require you to pay to the Brand Fund five months before the scheduled opening of the Franchised Business \$15,000 to \$30,000 for the opening marketing plan which we will then spend on local advertising, marketing and promotion of the opening of the Franchised Business in accordance with an opening marketing plan we develop. These opening marketing fees are not refundable. See Items 7 and 11 for more

information about the opening marketing plan and fees.

The initial inventory you purchase from us or our Affiliate is between \$12,000 and \$24,000 which you would pay five to ten days before you open for business; the exact amount depends on the capacity of your Franchised Business. These initial inventory costs are not refundable. You will also separately purchase additional inventory from other suppliers.

No initial franchise fees were received in 2025.

There are no other fees or payments you would pay us before you open for business. For the first Buttermilk Café franchise, the total of all of the above initial fees is \$112,000 to \$139,000. None of the fees are refundable.

ITEM 6. OTHER FEES

Type of Fee	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (See Notes 1 and 14)
Royalty Fee	5% of Gross Sales.	Payable weekly.	See Note 12.
Brand Fund Contribution	1% of Gross Sales.	Payable weekly.	See Note 12. We may increase the Brand Fund Contribution to be up to 3% of Gross Sales in our sole discretion.
Local Advertising and Promotions	2% of Gross Sales.	Must be spent quarterly and accounted for by you.	See Note 9. We may increase the Local Advertising and Promotions to be up to 3% of Gross Sales in our sole discretion.
Technology Fee	\$30.	Payable weekly.	We may change the Technology Fee in our sole discretion. You may have additional technology costs.
Ongoing Training	\$500 per day plus cost of travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses.	As incurred.	See Note 2. We may change the Ongoing Training costs and reimbursable expenses in our sole discretion.
Training of Manager or Operating Principal	\$500 per day per person plus travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses if we accept your request to conduct the training at your location.	As incurred.	See Note 3. We may change the Training of Manager or Operating Principal costs and reimbursable expenses in our sole discretion.
Convention or National Business Meeting	Currently not assessed.	As incurred.	We may change the Convention or National Business Meeting costs and reimbursable

Type of Fee	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (See Notes 1 and 14)
			expenses in our sole discretion.
Additional Assistance	Additional assistance is \$500 per day plus cost of travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses.	As incurred.	See Note 4. We may change the Additional Assistance costs and reimbursable expenses in our sole discretion.
Transfer Fee	Different fees apply depending on the identity of the transferee. See Note 5 for more information on the Transfer Fee.	May be due partially in advance and/or at time of transfer.	---
Renewal Fee	10% of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise.	At time of renewal.	---
Audit	Cost of inspection or audit and any travel, lodging, and other expenses; estimated at \$5,000.	As incurred.	Payable only if you fail to furnish reports or records or if the audit reveals you have understated your Gross Sales by more than 2%.
Interest	2% per month.	As incurred.	See Note 13.
Late Fee	The greater of \$200 or the amount stated in the Operations Manual.	As incurred.	Applies to each notification or demand for payment, non-sufficient funds payments by check or electronic transfer, the failure to provide reports and financial statements in a timely manner, or for any other violation of the Franchise Agreement.
Unauthorized Products Fee	The greater of \$250 per day per use, or the amount stated in the Operations Manual.	As incurred.	Due when you sell, offer for sale or use an unauthorized product or service.
Lease Renewal Fee	Reimburse our costs; not anticipated to exceed \$3,500.	As incurred.	See Item 11.
Relocation Fee	50% of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise.	As incurred.	One-half due when we approve that you may look for potential relocation sites, and the remaining one-half shall

Type of Fee	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (See Notes 1 and 14)
			be paid when we accept the new premises location. In addition, for any supervision or assistance by our personnel at your location around when the Franchised Business re-opens to the public, you shall pay us the then current daily fee for our personnel, plus other actual expenses, including all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses.
Ad-Coverage Area Advertising	Currently not assessed.	As incurred.	As a majority of the Buttermilk Café business locations in your ad-coverage area agree to participate. The Ad-Coverage Area Advertising costs may be implemented and/or change at any time. See Note 6 and Item 11.
Regional Advisory Council Assessments	Currently not assessed.	As incurred.	The Regional Advisory Council would choose its own assessments. The Regional Advisory Council Assessments costs may be implemented and/or change at any time.
Software	Currently not assessed.	As incurred.	See Item 11.
Evaluation of Suppliers	Not expected to exceed \$5,000 per request, plus actual expenses.	As incurred.	Applies only if you want us to evaluate unapproved items or suppliers for the Franchised Business.
Mystery Shopper Fee	Likely to be up to \$250 per mystery shop.	As incurred.	To pay the cost of third-party mystery shopper program.
Third-Party Quality Assurance Audit Fee	Likely to be up to \$350 per quality assurance audit.	As incurred.	To pay the cost of the third-party quality assurance audits.
Customer Servicing Fee	\$300, plus reimbursement	As incurred.	To pay the cost incurred

Type of Fee	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (See Notes 1 and 14)
	of all actual costs incurred by us.		by us in servicing and satisfying your customer. The Customer Servicing Fee may change at any time in our sole discretion.
Insurance Reimbursement	Cost of premium plus 15% service charge	As incurred.	See Note 7.
Taxes Reimbursement	Amount of taxes plus 15% administrative fee.	As incurred.	See Note 8.
Referral Fee	\$45,000.	At closing.	See Note 10.
Appointed Management Fee	The greater of \$500 per day or ten percent of Gross Sales for the duration of the management, plus actual expenses including all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses.	As incurred.	Payable during period that our appointed manager manages the Franchised Business upon your default, death or disability. The Management Fee may change at any time in our sole discretion.
Fines for Non-Compliance with the Operations Manual	Greater of \$150 or as stated in the Operations Manual.	As incurred.	---
Costs and Attorneys' Fees	Reimbursement of our actual costs.	As incurred.	Payable upon your failure to comply with the Franchise Agreement.
Indemnification	Reimbursement of our actual costs.	As incurred.	You have to reimburse us if we are held liable for claims arising from your operations.
Liquidated Damages	Agreed calculation of the remaining royalty fees and brand fund contributions due for the balance of the term.	As incurred.	See Note 11.
Additional Attendee(s) at Initial Training	No additional charge for the first 4 people who attend; \$500 per day per additional person attending.	As incurred.	The additional amount due per additional person attending training may change at any time in our sole discretion.
Online Media	Reimbursement of our actual costs.	As incurred.	You must pay all amounts due to us or any designated vendor related to establishing and maintaining the Franchise System

Type of Fee	Amount	Due Date	Remarks (See Notes 1 and 14)
			Website and/or other online media (e.g. establishing its online ordering account(s), booking or reservations platform).
System Modifications	Reimbursement of our actual costs.	As incurred.	If we make changes to the System, you must adapt the Franchised Business to conform to the changes. Examples include new equipment, software, or construction materials. Amounts may be due to us or a third-party supplier.
Inventory	Reimbursement of our actual costs.	As incurred.	You are required to buy certain inventory from us or an Affiliate.

- (1) "Gross Sales" means all sales or revenues, derived directly or indirectly from the Franchised Business, including on-premises and delivery sales (if permitted) and monies derived at or away from the Franchised Business, whether from cash, check, credit and debit card, trade credit or credit transactions, including business interruption insurance proceeds and service charges in lieu of gratuity, but excluding (i) sales taxes collected from customers and paid to the appropriate taxing authority (ii) the amount of all coupons and/or discounts applied/redeemed at the Franchised Business (but only if the coupons and discounts have been previously approved by us as provided in the Franchise Agreement and only if such coupons and discounts have been included in Gross Sales), and (iii) gratuities and tips collected from customers and paid to the appropriate employees. We may use the electronic funds transfer system (e.g. EFT or ACH) for any amounts due and you agree to comply with our Company's payment instructions, and to sign any and all documents and forms necessary to effectuate the automatic bank drafts and payments.
- (2) Ongoing Training. You must participate, if we require, in up to ten days per calendar year of ongoing training in the operations and marketing of the Franchised Business. The ongoing training may or may not take place at an annual convention or business meeting of franchisees which we can also require you to attend for up to four days once per calendar year; the ongoing training days may be in addition to the annual convention or business meeting days. In the event that you request or we determine in our sole discretion that you would benefit from our training a new manager or Operating Principal who replaces the prior manager or Operating Principal, you must make such new manager or Operating Principal available for training and shall remit to us our then-current fee (which we may change at any time in our sole discretion) for new manager or Operating Principal training along with payment by you for either (i) your new manager's or Operating Principal's travel, lodging, meals, and related expenses incurred during the training if the manager or Operating Principal travels to attend the training, or (ii) our representative's travel, lodging, meals, and related expenses incurred during the training if we send a representative to train the manager or Operating Principal at your premises. The fee for ongoing training programs or meetings is \$500 per day (we may change this fee at any time in our sole discretion) and you must pay all your travel and living expenses and the fees and costs for the annual convention or

business meeting of franchisees is \$0 (we may change at any time in our sole discretion), and you must pay all your travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses to attend each. (Franchise Agreement – Sections 5.P and 5.Q.)

- (3) In the event (i) your initial training attendee(s) fails to pass the initial training and an additional attendee attends in their place or (ii) you send another Operating Principal, manager or assistant manager to an initial training course for any reason, including without limitation due to turnover in your ongoing operations, then you must pay us a training fee at our then-current rate, plus any travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses if we accept your request for us to send a representative to conduct the training of another Operating Principal, manager or assistant manager at your location. (Franchise Agreement – Section 4.A.)
- (4) **Additional Assistance.** Upon your written request, or upon our determination the Franchised Business is operating below required standards, we will provide, at our option, additional assistance beyond our standard support, at a cost to you based on our then current fee which is \$500 per day for the respective personnel performing this assistance plus other actual expenses including without limitation all travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses. (Franchise Agreement – Section 4.D.)
- (5) **Transfer Fee.**
If transferring to a new franchisee who does not own any other Buttermilk Café business(es), then 75% of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise, and in such case \$5,000 to be paid nonrefundable when you submit the transfer for approval and the balance is due upon approval of the transfer.

If transferring to another existing Buttermilk Café franchisee, then 50% of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise, and in such case \$5,000 to be paid nonrefundable when you submit the transfer for approval and the balance is due upon approval of the transfer.

If shares or other ownership rights of a business entity are being exchanged between owners of an entity or if new shareholder(s) or other owners of a business entity are to be added and such exchange or addition does not change the majority direct or beneficial owner, then \$1,500.

If you transfer your franchise to your corporation or limited liability company or partnership, we charge for our legal expenses and related costs but no transfer fee is due.

In addition, you must pay any third-party broker fees that are due in connection with the proposed transfer.

In addition, for any supervision or assistance by our personnel at your location around when the Franchised Business re-opens to the public, you shall pay us the then current daily fee for our personnel, plus other actual expenses, including without limitation all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses.
- (6) Amounts contributed to the ad-coverage area advertising and promotions requirement shall be credited towards your requirement for local advertising and promotions.
- (7) If you do not maintain insurance on the Franchised Business as we require, we may, at our option and in addition to our other rights and remedies, obtain the insurance and keep the same in full force and effect on your behalf, and you must reimburse us for all premiums incurred by us in connection with obtaining such insurance plus a 15% service charge.
- (8) In the event you fail to timely pay any tax due required by law, we may make such payment and you must reimburse us for the amount paid plus a 15% administrative fee.

- (9) The expenditures for the local advertising and promotions are paid to your local vendors, and the expenditures are typically non-refundable. All other fees are imposed and collected by us and are non-refundable. Except as described above, all fees are uniformly imposed, although we may reduce, defer, or waive such fees, if and when we determine that it is warranted by a unique or compelling situation.
- (10) At your request, we may, but we have no obligation to refer to you potential buyers of your Franchised Business. If we refer to you the buyer of your Franchised Business or the assets of the Franchised Business or an ownership interest in you or the Franchise Agreement, then you must pay us a referral fee in the amount of \$45,000 at the time of closing such sale regardless of whether the buyer is an existing Buttermilk Café franchisee or not.
- (11) You do not have the right to terminate the Franchise Agreement except as provided in Section 7.A. of the Franchise Agreement or as otherwise agreed by the parties. In the event of any termination of the Franchise Agreement by you that is not in accordance with the terms of Section 7.A., or any termination of the Franchise Agreement by us in accordance with the terms of Section 7.B. prior to its expiration date, such termination may result in lost future revenue and profits to us, harm to the goodwill associated with the Marks, and increased costs to us to re-develop or re-franchise the market in which the Franchised Business is located. Accordingly, in the event that you terminate the Franchise Agreement other than in accordance with the terms of Section 7.A., or if we terminate the Franchise Agreement pursuant to the terms of Section 7.B., then you must pay to us by the effective date of such termination, as liquidated damages, that amount which is calculated by multiplying the average weekly amount of Royalty Fees and Brand Fund Contributions due and payable during the fifty-two weeks prior to the termination (either by you or if you have not been in operation for at least fifty-two weeks as of the date of termination, then based on the average weekly amount of Royalty Fees and Brand Fund Contributions of all Buttermilk Café businesses during the fifty-two week period immediately preceding your termination date) by the number of weeks then remaining in the term of the Franchise Agreement.
- (12) Currently, the week ends on Tuesday, and the Royalty Fee, the Brand Fund contribution and the Technology Fee are due on Thursday, two days after the end of the week.
- (13) The highest interest rate allowed by law in California is 10% annually.
- (14) For any amounts due by you that are a fixed dollar amount (*e.g.* a fee is \$200 per month) or that are calculated in a way that includes a fixed dollar amount (*e.g.* five percent of Gross Sales between \$5,000 - \$50,000 is the amount due by you), we may adjust these dollar amounts proportionately by the amount of the increase in the Consumer Price Index, effective upon notice to you, as provided in the Operations Manual. As used herein, the term "Consumer Price Index" shall mean the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), All-Items, not seasonally adjusted, for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI Core Based Statistical Area (1982-84=100), or the successor of such index, or if no successor index is designated, then such other index as we reasonably shall designate. Regardless of the Consumer Price Index's actual increases, we will not increase any amount due that is a fixed dollar amount in excess of ten percent (10%) per twelve (12) month period, cumulatively, that has passed since the last such increase or original fee implementation.

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ITEM 7. ESTIMATED INITIAL INVESTMENT

YOUR ESTIMATED INITIAL INVESTMENT

Type of Expenditure	Amount	Method of Payment	When Due	To Whom Payment Is To Be Made
Initial Franchise Fee (1)	\$ 40,000 to \$ 40,000	EFT, cash, certified check or as otherwise arranged with us.	Due upon signing the Franchise Agreement.	Us.
Initial Training Fee	\$ 45,000 to \$ 45,000	EFT, cash, certified check or as otherwise arranged with us.	\$22,500 due upon signing the Franchise Agreement and \$22,500 due prior to when you open for business.	Us.
Travel and Living Expenses and Employee Wages During Training (2)	\$ 111,000 to \$ 130,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Airlines, hotels, restaurants, and your employees.
Initial Inventory (3)	\$ 35,000 to \$ 60,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Us or our Affiliate; Other suppliers.
Lease Security Deposit and Utility Deposits	\$ 25,000 to \$ 50,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Landlord.
Rent (Initial 3 months)	\$ 48,000 to \$ 60,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Landlord.
Leasehold Improvements (4)	\$ 200,000 to \$ 600,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Approved suppliers.
POS / Back Office Systems	\$ 15,000 to \$ 20,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Approved suppliers.
Kitchen / Prep Equipment (4)(5)	\$ 150,000 to \$ 600,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Approved suppliers.
Furniture & Fixtures (4)	\$ 250,000 to \$ 400,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Approved suppliers.
Signage (Interior and Exterior)	\$ 40,000 to \$80,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Approved suppliers.
Business Licenses & Permits	\$ 10,000 to \$ 30,000	As Arranged with Providers	Before opening.	Other suppliers.
Design, Architect, & Engineering Fees	\$ 55,000 to \$ 85,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Architect and Approved Suppliers.
Professional Fees (Attorneys, Accountant, etc.)	\$ 7,000 to \$ 15,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Professionals.
Business Insurance	\$ 10,000 to \$ 25,000	As Arranged with Providers.	Before opening.	Approved suppliers.
Grand Opening Marketing	\$ 15,000 to \$ 30,000	EFT, cash, certified check or as otherwise arranged with us.	Within one month before and one month after the opening of your Franchised Business.	The Brand Fund or other approved suppliers.
Additional Funds for First 3 Months (6)	\$ 25,000 to \$ 75,000	As Arranged with Providers.	As incurred.	Third parties.
TOTAL (7) (8)	\$ 1,081,000 to \$ 2,345,000			

Explanatory Notes to Table:

- (1) Initial Franchise Fee. The initial franchise fee is \$40,000.
- (2) The estimated Travel and Living Expenses and Employee Wages During Training range contemplates that up to four people will attend the initial training; the low estimate assumes that you live close to our training location and will not incur much, if any, travel or living expense to attend.
- (3) Inventory. These estimates include the \$12,000 to \$24,000,000 inventory you will purchase from us or an affiliate as well as amounts due to other suppliers for other inventory; the exact amount depends on the capacity of your Franchised Business.
- (4) Note Related to Estimates for Leasehold Improvements, Kitchen / Prep Equipment, and Furniture & Fixtures, the low estimate of these expenses assumes that you have secured a premises that was previously another restaurant (making it a so-called “second generation” restaurant) and that by having been a restaurant already, the premises will provide certain leasehold improvements, kitchen/prep equipment, furniture, and/or fixtures so that you do not incur as much of the costs associated with these expenses as you would if the premises had not previously been a restaurant. Demand for qualified “second generation” restaurant premises is high and therefore acquisition of such a premises may prove challenging, but we have included this because some of our Affiliate locations have been able to operate from such premises
- (5) The low side of the estimated Kitchen / Prep Equipment expense assumes that you will purchase used equipment at a reduced price after having it tested by a qualified technician and determining it is in good working order. The high side of the estimated Kitchen / Prep Equipment expense assumes that you will purchase all new equipment at the new equipment suggested retail price.
- (6) Additional Funds – 3 Months. This category estimates any other required expenses you will incur before operations begin and during the 3-month initial period of operations. The factors and experiences that we considered or relied upon in formulating this amount are the local market for your products and services, the prevailing wage rate, competition, the sales level reached during the initial period, along with your management skill, experience, discipline and business acumen. We relied on our officer’s restaurant experience since 2015 in formulating the amount required for additional funds.
- (7) We do not offer financing for any part of the initial investment. Other than amounts due to us or our affiliate, all of your payments are made via the methods you arrange with the applicable provider or supplier (e.g. via EFT, cash, certified check, etc.).
- (8) Amounts paid to us or the Brand Fund are not refundable. Amounts paid to others may not be refundable.

ITEM 8. RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Required Purchases

Other than the food and beverage inventory that you must purchase from our Affiliate, the B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc. commissary, and the marketing materials that you must purchase from us, you have no obligation to purchase or lease goods, services, supplies, fixtures, equipment, inventory, computer hardware and software, real estate, or comparable items related to establishing or operating the Franchised Business from us, currently. In the future we may require you to make additional such purchases or leases.

Required and Approved Suppliers

You must purchase or lease or use only those accounting firms and software, architecture services and providers, real estate services and providers, construction and general contractor services and providers, financial analysis and management product(s) or service(s), online ordering and/or delivery providers, technology platforms and/or providers, insurance agents and products, merchant processing, gift cards, customer loyalty programs, music provider, audio or visual entertainment provider, membership programs, other service providers, items of equipment, vehicles, inventory, decor, payroll processing, worker time tracking, human resources services, employee scheduling services and providers, social media, (all aspects including without limitation marketing, advertising, activities, and presence), email platform including without limitation email campaigns provider, computer hardware and software (including without limitation for order taking, inventory management, point of sale (POS), reports, general business operations, training, and customer relations management (CRM)), phone and security hardware and software, other technology, food and beverage suppliers, seasonings supplier, packaging, bags, wraps, stickers, graphic design services, interior design services, supplies, promotional and marketing services and printing providers, apparel and signs, or comparable items related to establishing or operating the Franchised Business from required or approved suppliers. Currently, our Affiliate, B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc. is a required supplier and serves as a commissary to supply Buttermilk Café restaurants. Other than B-Milk Scratch Kitchen, Inc., there is no supplier in which an officer of ours owns an interest.

Approval of Alternate Suppliers

To have an alternate supplier approved, you must first notify us in writing, submit sufficient specifications, samples and information, along with our then current fee (which is currently not expected to exceed \$5,000 per request, plus reimbursement of our expenses). Our criteria for approving suppliers is confidential and is not available to franchisees. You may contract only with suppliers whom we have approved. We will notify you of our approval or disapproval within six months of our receiving all requested information. We may revoke our approval of a supplier at any time for any reason.

Specifications

We issue specifications to franchisees. We issue and modify the specifications by updating the confidential Manual. We issue specifications regarding your purchase or lease of goods, services, supplies, fixtures, equipment, inventory, computer hardware and software, technology, real estate and comparable items related to establishing or operating the Franchised Business. Our site location and lease requirements are provided in the Franchisor's Assistance, Advertising, Computer Systems and Training part of this disclosure document.

Revenue from Franchisee Purchases

We and our affiliates may derive revenue or other material consideration from your required purchases or leases. We did not derive any revenue or other material consideration from your required purchases or leases in 2025.

We estimate that your required purchases and leases in compliance with the above specifications of goods, services, supplies, fixtures, equipment, inventory, computer hardware and software, technology, real estate and comparable items will represent 40% of your overall purchases and leases in establishing and operating the Franchised Business.

Cooperatives

We do not have any purchasing or distribution cooperatives.

Negotiated prices

We may negotiate purchase price arrangements with suppliers, including price terms, for the benefit of franchisees.

Material benefits

We do not provide any material benefits (for example, renewal or granting of additional franchises) based on your purchase of particular products or services or use of particular suppliers.

ITEM 9. FRANCHISEE'S OBLIGATIONS

FRANCHISEE'S OBLIGATIONS

This table lists your principal obligations under the franchise and other agreements. It will help you find more detailed information about your obligations in these agreements and in other items of this disclosure document.

Obligation	Section in Agreement	Item in Disclosure Document
a. Site selection and acquisition/lease	Section 5	Items 6 and 11
b. Pre-opening purchases/leases	Section 5	Items 6, 7, 8 and 11
c. Site development and other pre-opening requirements	Section 5	Items 7, 8 and 11
d. Initial and ongoing training	Sections 4 and 5	Items 6 and 11
e. Opening	Section 5	Item 11
f. Fees	Sections 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9	Items 5, 6, 7, 11 and 17
g. Compliance with standards and policies/Operations Manual	Sections 3 and 5	Items 8 and 11
h. Trademarks and proprietary information	Sections 3, 5 and 7	Items 13 and 14
i. Restrictions on products/services offered	Sections 3 and 5	Items 8, 11 and 16
j. Warranty and customer service requirements	Section 5	Items 6 and 8
k. Territorial development and sales quotas	Sections 3 and 5	Items 11 and 12
l. On-going product/service purchases	Section 5	Items 6 and 8
m. Maintenance, appearance and remodeling requirements	Sections 5, 6 and 8	Items 8 and 17
n. Insurance	Section 5	Items 6 and 7
o. Advertising	Section 5	Items 6, 7 and 11
p. Indemnification	Sections 5, 7, 8 and 10	Items 6 and 13
q. Owner's participation/management/staffing	Sections 3 and 5	Item 15

Obligation	Section in Agreement	Item in Disclosure Document
r. Records and reports	Section 5	Item 6
s. Inspections and audits	Section 5	Item 6
t. Transfer	Section 8	Items 6 and 17
u. Renewal	Section 6	Items 6 and 17
v. Post-termination obligations	Section 7	Item 17
w. Non-competition covenants	Sections 5 and 7	Item 17
x. Dispute resolution	Section 9	Item 17

ITEM 10. FINANCING

We do not offer direct or indirect financing. We do not guarantee your note, lease or obligation.

ITEM 11. FRANCHISOR'S ASSISTANCE, ADVERTISING, COMPUTER SYSTEMS, AND TRAINING

Except as listed below, we are not required to provide you with any assistance.

Franchisor's Pre-Opening Obligations. Before you open your Franchised Business, we will:

(1) Use our reasonable best efforts to review a site you have selected in order to evaluate and approve the location of your Franchised Business within thirty days after you provide us the information about the site. Additional sites are considered until our approval is reached or the Franchise Agreement terminates. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.B.)

We generally do not own the premises and lease it to you.

You must obtain our approval of the site location and the lease. The factors which we may (but are not required to) consider for our approval include demographic radius characteristics and growth factors in the area, traffic patterns, ease of access, parking, visibility, allowed signage, competition from other businesses providing similar products and services, the proximity to other businesses, the nature of the businesses in proximity to the proposed site, and other commercial characteristics (including rental obligations and other lease terms for the proposed site) and the size, appearance and other physical characteristics of the proposed site location.

We recommend that the size of the location be between 4,200 to 4,500 square feet excluding storage areas. You may also want outdoor dining space.

We approve or reject locations or leases by a written notice which is delivered to you. We use our reasonable best efforts to deliver this notification to you within thirty days after the location evaluation or lease information is available. Additional sites are considered until our approval is reached or the Franchise Agreement is terminated.

You must lease the premises for your location in the form and manner required by us and deliver a copy of the signed lease to us immediately after its signing.

You must not sign any lease which has not been approved in writing by us. If your business premises is to be leased, you must submit the lease to us for written approval at least fifteen days before it is scheduled to be executed. If you lease your business premises, the lease must include language contained in the Lease Rider which is attached to your Franchise Agreement as Schedule B. The lease must give us, our agents or designees

the right to enter the premises to conduct inspections at any time during regular business hours, the right to receive notices of default directly from the lessor and the right, but not the duty, to assume the lease for all or any part of the term, if you default under the lease, are evicted or if your Franchise Agreement expires or is terminated. You must not lease or sublet all or any part of your business premises to others or use any portion of the premises for any purpose other than conducting business pursuant to your Franchise Agreement without our prior written consent.

(2) Provide an initial training program for the operation of the Franchised Business. (Franchise Agreement - Section 4.A.) (See below.)

(3) Provide pre-opening and opening supervision and assistance by our personnel at your location. (Franchise Agreement – Section 4.B.)

(4) Provide names of approved suppliers and written specifications for your equipment, signs, fixtures, opening inventory and supplies. (Franchise Agreement – Sections 5.C, F. and G.)

Obligations During Operation of the Business. During the operation of your Franchised Business, we will:

(1) Provide you a continuing advisory service by telephone or other digital or electronic means or at our home office concerning the operation of your Franchised Business. (Franchise Agreement - Section 4.C.)

(2) Furnish you, at our option, upon your written request, or upon our determination the Franchised Business is operating below required standards, additional assistance beyond our standard support. (Franchise Agreement - Section 4.D.)

(3) Provide you with access to the advertising and marketing materials we may develop by using the Brand Fund contributions. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.L.)

(4) Loan to you during the term of the Franchise Agreement one copy of our Operations Manual. The Operations Manual contains mandatory and suggested specifications, standards, and operating procedures which we prescribe occasionally for Franchised Businesses, as well as information relative to other obligations you have in the operation of the Franchised Business. The Operations Manual may be modified periodically to reflect changes in the specifications, standards, operating procedures and other obligations in operating Franchised Businesses. You must keep your copy of the Operations Manual current, and the master copy of the Operations Manual maintained by us controls if there is a dispute regarding the contents of the Operations Manual. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.H.) The Operations Manual currently has 383 pages and the table of contents is as follows:

MANUAL

Subject	Number of Pages
Introduction	16
Pre-Opening Procedures	45
Human Resources	98
Daily Operating Procedures	135
Managing a Buttermilk Café	67
Advertising / Marketing	22

Brand Fund Contribution. We will administer an advertising and marketing fund (the "Brand Fund")

for the advertising and marketing programs as we may deem necessary or appropriate. You must contribute to the Brand Fund one percent of the Gross Sales of your Franchised Business, provided such amount due may change as determined by us in our sole discretion. Brand Fund contributions are paid together with the Royalty Fee. The obligation of other franchisees and/or our affiliate restaurants to contribute to the Brand Fund may be a different amount or at a different rate or on a different cadence. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.L.)

We will direct all advertising and marketing programs financed by the Brand Fund, with sole discretion over the creative concepts, materials and endorsements used, and the geographic, market and media placement and allocation. We are not obligated to spend any particular amount in your Protected Area. Currently the source of our marketing and advertising programs is our in-house personnel. The Brand Fund may be used to pay the costs of preparing advertising materials and administering national, regional and local advertising programs and public relations activities including creating direct mail and media materials which may include print, television, radio and billboards, formulating advertising and marketing programs, developing and maintaining website and internet based advertising and marketing programs, intranet development and ongoing operation, toll-free locator services, email systems and services, creation and management of loyalty, membership and gift card program(s), employing advertising agencies, research and development for future potential products or services, events or charitable sponsorships, and providing brochures and other advertising and marketing materials, participating in national or regional trade shows, and other activities that we, in our sole discretion, deem appropriate.

The Brand Fund will be accounted for separately from our other funds and will not be used to defray any of our general operating expenses, except for the marketing and sale of franchises, reasonable salaries, administrative costs and overhead as we may incur in activities reasonably related to the administration of the Brand Fund its advertising and marketing programs (including without limitation conducting market and product/service research, preparing advertising and marketing materials and collecting and accounting for contributions to the Brand Fund, and the marketing, advertising, and sale of franchises. We may spend in any fiscal year an amount greater or less than the aggregate contribution of all Buttermilk Café restaurants to the Brand Fund in that year and the Brand Fund may borrow from us or other lenders to cover deficits of the Brand Fund or cause the Brand Fund to invest any surplus for future use by the Brand Fund. A report of receipts and disbursements of the Brand Fund will be prepared annually by us and will be furnished to you upon written request. Currently the Brand Fund is not audited.

We undertake no obligation to ensure that expenditures by the Brand Fund in or affecting any geographic area are proportionate or equivalent to your contributions to the Brand Fund or that any Buttermilk Café restaurant will benefit directly or in proportion to its contribution to the Brand Fund from the development of advertising and marketing materials or the placement of advertising. We will have the right, in our sole discretion, to suspend contributions to and operation of the Brand Fund for one or more periods that we determine to be appropriate and the right to terminate the Brand Fund upon 30 days written notice to you. All unspent monies on the date of termination will be distributed to us, our affiliates and our franchisees in proportion to their respective contributions to the Brand Fund during the preceding 12-month period. We will have the right to reinstate the Brand Fund upon the same terms and conditions set forth in the Franchise Agreement upon 30 days prior written notice to you. Our Buttermilk Café restaurants will each contribute to the Brand Fund at a rate that may be different than what you contribute and may not contribute at the same time as you do (if at all).

For the year ending December 31, 2025, we neither collected nor spent any Brand Fund contributions for the Buttermilk Café system. (Franchise Agreement – Section 5.L.). Currently we do not use any part of the Brand Fund for advertising that is principally a solicitation for the sale of franchises.

Local Advertising and Promotion; Advertising Councils or Cooperatives. You must spend quarterly for local advertising and promotion of the Franchised Business and the Marks two percent of the Gross Sales of your Franchised Business, provided such amount due may change as determined by us in our sole discretion. Amounts contributed to the ad-coverage area advertising and promotions requirement pursuant to the paragraph below will be credited towards your requirement for local advertising and promotions under this paragraph. At

any time, we may require you to pay the above local advertising and promotions amount to us or to a designated or approved supplier for spending on local advertising and promotions instead of you spending such amounts directly. Before your use of them, samples of all local advertising, promotion and public relations materials not prepared or previously approved by us must be submitted to us for approval, which will not be unreasonably withheld. If you do not receive written disapproval within fourteen days after the date of receipt by us of the materials, we will be deemed to have given approval. You may not use any advertising, promotion or public relations materials that we have disapproved. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.L.)

Provided that a majority of the Buttermilk Café locations in your ad-coverage area agree to participate in the program, you must participate in and contribute your share to additional advertising and promotional programs in your ad-coverage area. The cost of the program will be allocated among the locations in the area and each location's share will be in proportion to its sales during the preceding twelve-month period and/or may be a flat amount. "Ad-coverage area" is defined as the area covered by the advertising medium (television, radio or other media) as recognized in the industry. At the time a program is submitted, we will submit a list of all operating locations within the ad-coverage area.

There are currently no advertising councils or local or regional advertising cooperatives.

Local Grand Opening Advertising and Marketing; Additional Advertising and Marketing Policies. Within one month after the opening of your Franchised Business, you must spend a minimum of \$15,000 on local advertising, marketing and promotion of the opening of the Franchised Business in accordance with an opening marketing plan approved by us. We may require you to pay to the Brand Fund five months before the scheduled opening of the Franchised Business the total amount due for the opening marketing plan (no less than \$15,000) which we will then spend on local advertising, marketing and promotion of the opening of the Franchised Business in accordance with an opening marketing plan we develop. We may require you to provide notice of any Franchise System Website in the local advertising, marketing, and promotional materials that you develop for your Franchised Business in the manner we designate. Except as provided above, or as approved by us in writing, you may not develop, maintain or authorize any website, domain name, URL address, email address, other online presence or other electronic medium that mentions your Franchised Business, links to any Franchise System Website or displays any of the Marks, or engages in any promotional or similar activities, whether directly or indirectly, through or on the internet, or any other similar proprietary or common carrier electronic delivery system. If we approve the use of any such websites, other online presences or electronic mediums, including social networking websites (such as LinkedIn®, Twitter®, Instagram®, Facebook®, or YouTube®) in the operation of your Franchised Business, or the posting of messages relating to your Franchised Business on other websites, you will do so only in accordance with our guidelines. We reserve the right to require our approval of any message you compose for a social networking website or commentary for any other website before you post such message or commentary. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.L.)

Training Program. Before the start of your Franchised Business and following payment of the portion of the Training Fee due prior to training, for up to five people, we will provide: approximately one week of initial training to your majority owner, up to three weeks of initial training for your Operating Principal, and six weeks of initial training for your General Manager, Front of House Manager, and Back of House Manager, all on the operation of a Franchised Business. Although there are no additional fees for this training of the covered persons, you must pay for all travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses which you and any of your employees incur in connection with training. You shall pay our then-current rate per additional person attending the initial training after the first five persons.

You, your Operating Principal, and your managers (General Manager, Kitchen Manager and Front of House Manager) must pass the training program to our satisfaction at least thirty (30) days before operating the Franchised Business. If you, your Operating Principal, and/or your managers do not pass the training program, we can terminate your Franchise Agreement. We will not be liable to return any franchise fee or training fee(s) or pay any costs or expenses you incur if we terminate your Franchise Agreement because you, your Operating

Principal, or your managers do not pass the training program. In the event (i) your initial training attendee(s) fails to pass the initial training and an additional attendee attends in their place or (ii) you send another manager or Operating Principal to an initial training course including without limitation due to turnover in your ongoing operations, then you must pay us our training fee at our then-current rate plus any travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses if we approve your request for us to send a representative to conduct the training of another manager or Operating Principal at your location; this rate is currently \$500 per person per day (plus the expense reimbursement previously described if we approve your request for us to send a representative to conduct the training of another manager or Operating Principal at your location), provided that we may change this rate at any time in our sole discretion subject to the increases being proportionate to the Consumer Price Index and that regardless of the Consumer Price Index, we will not increase any amount due that is a fixed dollar amount in excess of ten percent (10%) per twelve (12) month period, cumulatively, that has passed since the last such increase or original fee implementation.. (Franchise Agreement – Section 4.A. and Section 11.)

We expect that initial training will be conducted for you and your employees within approximately six to twelve months after you sign your Franchise Agreement. We plan to be flexible in scheduling training to accommodate our personnel, you and your personnel. There currently are no fixed (i.e., monthly or bimonthly) training schedules. The training program consists of the following:

TRAINING PROGRAM

Subject	Hours of Classroom Training	Hours of On-the-Job Training	Location for Each Subject
History of a Buttermilk Café	0.5	0	Geneva, Illinois
Use of the Manual	0.5	0	Geneva, Illinois
Tour of Buttermilk Café	1	0	Geneva, Illinois
Pre-Opening Procedures	1	0	Geneva, Illinois
Personnel Issues	1	2	Geneva, Illinois
Advertising	1	2	Geneva, Illinois
Management Procedures	1	40	Geneva, Illinois
Franchise Reporting Requirements	1	6	Geneva, Illinois
Accounting/Record Keeping	1	7	Geneva, Illinois
Customer Service Procedures	1	50	Geneva, Illinois
Front/Back of House Manager Duties	1	100	Geneva, Illinois
Back of House – Prep/Recipe Procedures	1	275	Geneva, Illinois
Inventory Management	1	12	Geneva, Illinois
POS System	1	40	Geneva, Illinois
Cleaning Procedures	1	40	Geneva, Illinois
Safety Procedures	1	6	Geneva, Illinois
Total	15	580	

The training is provided by Katie Kouvelis (who has over 5 years of restaurant experience and has trained Buttermilk Café restaurant personnel for over 5 years), Cyndi Krause (who has over 9 years of restaurant experience and has trained Buttermilk Café restaurant personnel for over 3 years), and Spiro Kouvelis (who has over 10 years of restaurant experience and has trained Buttermilk Café restaurant personnel for over 5 years). The Manual will be used as the principal instructional manual. Although we anticipate all training will be provided in Geneva, Illinois, we may substitute this location for any other location in Illinois upon notice to you.

In addition to the above training, we provide you pre-opening and opening on-the-job supervision and assistance at the premises of your first Franchised Business for fourteen days near the time of the opening of your Franchised Business.

Ongoing Training. You must participate, if we require, in up to ten days per calendar year of ongoing training in the operations and marketing of the Franchised Business. The ongoing training may or may not take place at an annual convention or business meeting of franchisees which we can require you to attend once per calendar year. We or a third party whom we designate may provide the ongoing training. The fee for additional training programs or meetings is currently \$500 per day, plus you pay all your travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses or our representative's travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses incurred related the training if we send a representative to train a manager or Operating Principal at your premises. We may terminate the Franchise Agreement if you, any manager, and/or your Operating Principal have two or more unexcused absences in any twelve-month period from mandatory ongoing training, and does not subsequently attend all required meetings and trainings during the following twelve-months. (Franchise Agreement – Sections 5.P and 5.Q.)

Computer. You must keep your books and business records according to our formats. To facilitate your reporting to us and other communications, you must maintain certain systems in operating the Franchised Business. We require that you use the SpotOn POS restaurant point of sale system with includes management tools integrating point of sale and accounting functions that we have been using since October 2022. The system costs approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the hardware and has additional monthly charges for the software and other costs. We have independent access to the information and data you maintain; and there are no contractual limitations on our right to access the information and data. We are not obligated to repair the computer system. No organization has the contractual right or obligation to provide maintenance, repairs, upgrades or updates. We recommend that you obtain a maintenance contract with a reputable organization for your computer system. You may be required to upgrade or update any computer hardware or software program during the term of the Franchise Agreement. There are no contractual limitations on the frequency or costs associated with this obligation. Upgrades, support and maintenance by third-parties could cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 or more annually. We and/or our affiliates may condition any purchase, lease, or license of any required or recommended software, technology or hardware to you, and/or your use of technology developed, administered or maintained by or for us, on you signing or consenting to a license agreement or similar document that we and our affiliates periodically specify to regulate your use of, and our (or affiliate's) and your respective rights and responsibilities with respect to, the software or technology. We may, or we may require any designated software, technology, or hardware provider to, terminate your access to and use of any software, technology, or hardware if you are delinquent on any payments due to us or our affiliates, suppliers, or vendors or otherwise in default of this Agreement. You shall execute any required license and/or services agreement for any software program we require and including without limitation for changes or increases to fees and/or changes to any aspects of the software may be made effective upon ten (10) days prior notice to you.

Time for Opening. The typical length of time between the signing of the Franchise Agreement and the start of your Franchised Business is twelve months. Some of the factors affecting this length of time include obtaining a satisfactory site, negotiating a lease, your financing arrangements, completion of leasehold improvements, delivery and installation of equipment and signage, weather conditions, employee hiring and training, and your own timetable. You must provide to us a copy of the fully signed lease for your Franchised Business within 6 months after the date of the Franchise Agreement and commence operating the Franchised Business within 14 months after the date of the Franchise Agreement, otherwise we may terminate the Franchise Agreement effective upon notice to you. (Franchise Agreement - Section 5.A.) We will have no obligation to refund any portion of the initial franchise fee, training fee, or any other amounts.

ITEM 12. TERRITORY

You will not receive an exclusive territory. You may face competition from other franchisees, from outlets that we own, or from other channels of distribution or competitive brands we control. Your Franchised Business will operate within your Protected Area from a specific location we approve either at the time you sign your Franchise Agreement or you will select a location to be approved by us and obtain lawful possession of it

through a lease within six months after the date of the Franchise Agreement.

You must focus your efforts on developing the Franchised Business within your assigned Protected Area. We do not offer a prescribed minimum territory or Protected Area. If no description of the Protected Area is specified on Schedule A to the Franchise Agreement, then (a) for a suburban location the Protected Area shall be deemed to consist of the area within three miles of the front door of the Franchised Business location approved by us and developed by you, or (b) for an urban location with one million or more people residing and/or working within the metro area at the time the franchise agreement is executed, then there shall be no protected area. The Protected Area does not prohibit or affect any locations existing before the date of your Franchise Agreement and nothing herein shall prohibit us or another franchisee of ours from catering or delivering food or using a third party to cater or deliver food to customers located within the Protected Area.

If your Franchised Business is located in a Captive Market (as defined in the Franchise Agreement), then there shall be no protected area. We may enfranchise or operate any other Buttermilk Café restaurant anywhere else. We may operate and enfranchise anywhere any business under different trademarks and shall be allowed to conduct anywhere any business using the Marks or System on the Internet or by any other alternate channel of distribution. You do not receive any options, rights of first refusal or similar rights to acquire additional franchises.

We have the right to prescribe from time to time the boundaries and/or specifications that may differ from the Protected Area beyond which the Franchised Business may not offer catering or delivery services and/or use a third-party to provide catering or delivery services and the standards and specifications for catering and delivery in order to preserve the quality and freshness of food products when delivered. Consequently these boundaries and/or specifications may allow another franchisee or a business we license or own to market to, solicit, and/or service customers within the Protected Area (and potentially you to market to, solicit, and/or service customers in another franchisee's protected area if we so authorize).

We have used and reserve the right to use other channels of distribution, such as the Internet, catalog sales, telemarketing, or other direct marketing, to make sales within the Protected Area using the principal trademarks. We have not used but reserve the right to use other channels of distribution, such as the Internet, catalog sales, telemarketing, or other direct marketing, to make sales within your territory of products or services under trademarks different from the ones the franchisees will use under the Franchise Agreement. There is no compensation that we must pay for soliciting or accepting orders from inside your territory. Except as we may permit from time to time in our sole discretion, both inside and outside the Protected Area, you are prohibited from selling products or services by the Internet or by mail order or catalog. Except as we may permit from time to time in our sole discretion, you do not have the right to use other channels of distribution, such as the Internet, catalog sales, telemarketing, or other direct marketing, to make sales. Except as we may permit from time to time in our sole discretion, you are prohibited from selling any products or components of the products or services at wholesale.

Neither the franchisor nor any affiliate operates, franchises, or currently has plans to operate or franchise a business under a different trademark which sells or will sell goods or services similar to those the franchisee will offer.

If you want to relocate your Franchised Business, you must notify us in writing and pay us a relocation fee equal to fifty percent of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise, one-half due when we approve that you may look for potential relocation sites, and the remaining one-half shall be paid when we approve the new premises location. In addition, for any supervision or assistance by our personnel at your location around when the Franchised Business re-opens to the public, you shall pay us the then-current daily fee for our personnel, plus other actual expenses, including without limitation all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses. We reserve the right to refuse to approve a proposed relocation if we believe that the proposed relocation is for any reason not acceptable to us. Our judgment may be based on factors such as the proximity

to existing or proposed locations owned by other franchisees or us, the suitability of the proposed facilities, compliance with our then-current franchise location requirements, the competitiveness within the marketplace or other factors.

There are no other circumstances that permit us to modify your territorial rights.

ITEM 13. TRADEMARKS

Buttermilk Cafe Trademark. The principal trademark we license to you is "Buttermilk Cafe". This trademark is owned by our Affiliate, SAK Group Inc., and the trademark is licensed to us for a perpetual term. Our Affiliate, SAK Group, Inc., registered the trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") on October 22, 2019, on the Principal Register under Registration Number 5,888,072. Our Affiliate, SAK Group, Inc., is responsible to file any future affidavit(s) and/or renewal(s) that it may deem appropriate for the "Buttermilk Cafe" trademark, and it filed a Combined Declaration of Use and Incontestability under Sections 8 & 15 on October 20, 2025, which received a Notice of Acceptance under Sections 8 & 15 on January 22, 2026.

The "Buttermilk Cafe" federal trademark registration in connection with restaurant services is for a limited geographic area comprising Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming pursuant to Concurrent Use No. 94002883. The concurrent use registration is with Buttermilk Kitchen LLC (Registration No. 4406269 and Application Serial No. 88230028) that retains the rights to use "Buttermilk Kitchen" in all other U.S. states than those previously listed. We cannot reliably prohibit others from using "Buttermilk Cafe" outside of the previously listed states where our registration applies.

Other than this, there are no currently effective material determinations of the USPTO, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, or any state trademark administrator or court. There is no pending infringement, opposition or cancellation action, nor any pending material federal or state court litigation regarding the franchisor's use or ownership rights in the trademark. Other than the previously described concurrent use agreement, there are no agreements which significantly limit our right to use or license the use of the principal trademark in any manner material to the franchise.

Infringements. You must immediately notify us of any apparent infringement of or challenge to your use of any Mark, or claim by any person of any rights in any Mark, and you may not communicate with any person other than us and our counsel in connection with any infringement, challenge or claim. We and our affiliates will have sole discretion to take action as we deem appropriate and the right to exclusively control any litigation or USPTO or other proceeding arising out of any such infringement, challenge or claim or otherwise relating to any Mark and you must sign any and all instruments and documents, render assistance and actions as may, in the opinion of our or our affiliates' counsel, be necessary or advisable to protect and maintain our interests in any litigation or USPTO or other proceeding or to otherwise protect and maintain our interests in the Marks.

We will indemnify you against, and reimburse you for, all damages for which you are held liable in any proceeding in which your use of any Mark, pursuant to and in compliance with the Franchise Agreement, is held to constitute trademark infringement, unfair competition or dilution, and for all costs reasonably incurred by you in the defense of any claim brought against you or in any proceeding in which you are named as a party, provided that you have timely notified us of the claim or proceeding and have otherwise complied with the Franchise Agreement. We, in our discretion, will be entitled to defend any proceeding arising out of your use of any Mark pursuant to the Franchise Agreement, and, if we undertake the defense of the proceeding, we will have no obligation to indemnify or reimburse you for any fees or disbursements of counsel you retain.

If it becomes advisable at any time in our sole discretion for us and/or you to modify or discontinue use of any Mark, and/or use one or more additional or substitute trade or service marks, you must comply with our instructions within a reasonable time after notice by us and our sole liability and obligation in any event will be to reimburse you for your out-of-pocket costs of complying with this obligation.

We are aware of the following unauthorized uses of our Buttermilk Cafe trademark that may be deemed infringing and that could materially affect your use of the Buttermilk Café trademark: (1) We are actively pursuing the following unauthorized users to have them cease and desist from such use: “Buttermilk Biscuit Company” branded restaurant in Delphi, Indiana, which has used our primary trademark for an unknown length of time; and (2) We anticipate pursuing the following unauthorized users to have them cease and desist from such use: a “Buttermilk Café” branded restaurant in Independence, Iowa. Other than as provided above, we do not actually know of either superior prior rights or infringing uses that could materially affect your use of our principal trademark.

ITEM 14. PATENTS, COPYRIGHTS, AND PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

No patents or registered copyrights are material to the franchise. We and our affiliates claim copyright protection of our Operations Manual and related materials although these materials have not been registered with the United States Registrar of Copyrights. The Operations Manual and related materials are considered proprietary and confidential and are considered the property of us and our affiliates and may be used by you only as provided in the Franchise Agreement. You may not use our confidential information in any unauthorized manner and must take reasonable steps to prevent its disclosure to others.

You will be entitled to use of the copyrighted and proprietary materials during the term of the franchise. There are no currently effective material determinations of the USPTO, the United States Copyright Office, or a court regarding the copyrighted materials. There are no agreements that significantly limit our rights to use or license the use of the copyrighted or proprietary materials. There is no provision in the Franchise Agreement specifically obligating us to protect your rights to use of the proprietary or copyrighted materials, but we will respond to this information as we deem appropriate. There are no infringing uses known to us which would materially affect your use of the proprietary and/or copyrighted materials.

ITEM 15. OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTUAL OPERATION OF THE FRANCHISE BUSINESS

You must designate an “Operating Principal” who shall devote full time and best efforts to the Franchised Business and the Operating Principal shall have full authority regarding all operational decisions about the Franchised Business and to communicate on your behalf with us. You may be the Operating Principal or you may designate an Operating Principal other than yourself (i) who has successfully completed all training we require including payment for such training at the then-current rate, and (ii) who owns and maintains at least five percent (5%) ownership of the Franchised Business, and (iii) whom we have pre-approved to be the Operating Principal. In the event the Franchised Business loses its Operating Principal for any reason, a new Operating Principal must be obtained and designated within thirty days of the date of separation of the immediately prior Operating Principal. The Franchised Business shall at all times be under the continuous, direct, on-premises supervision of you, the Operating Principal or your designated manager(s) who has attended and passed the training program.

You, your owners, shareholders, members, partners, your spouse, and the spouse of any owner, shareholder, member or partner must sign the Franchise Agreement personally, meaning each will be jointly and severally, personally bound by and personally liable for the breach of every provision of the Franchise Agreement, including without limitation the confidentiality and non-competition provisions. If an entity operates the Franchised Business or is the Franchisee entity at any point, each owner of such entity and each such owner’s

spouse shall be deemed to personally guarantee all obligations of the Franchise Agreement; all such owners and spouses must execute a guaranty and assumption of obligations concurrently with when Franchisee is an entity and continuously thereafter, provided however that the lack of execution shall not mean that the owners and spouses are not guarantors.

You may not delegate or subcontract to any other party, or otherwise use resources outside the Franchised Business, to fulfill your obligations to us or to any customer. We anticipate your workers must be regular “W-2” employees, not independent contractors.

ITEM 16. RESTRICTIONS ON WHAT THE FRANCHISEE MAY SELL

You must offer and sell only those goods and services which we have approved. You must also offer all goods and services that we designate. All goods and services provided by you must be presented in accordance with our System Standards. We have the right to change the types of authorized goods or services. There are no specific limitations in the Franchise Agreement on this right. We may set days and hours of operation and required days and times for product and service preparation that may change from time to time and we may set minimum and maximum prices for products and services offered or sold by the Franchised Business, to the extent legally permissible; other than this, we do not impose any restrictions or conditions that limit your access to customers.

ITEM 17. RENEWAL, TERMINATION, TRANSFER, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

THE FRANCHISE RELATIONSHIP

This table lists certain important provisions of the franchise and related agreements. You should read these provisions in the agreements attached to this disclosure document.

Provision	Section in franchise or other agreement	Summary
a. Length of the franchise term	Section 6	10 years
b. Renewal or extension of the term	Section 6	If you have substantially complied with the Franchise Agreement, you can renew for two additional 5-year terms.
c. Requirements for franchisee to renew or extend	Section 6	Written notice of intent to renew, sign new franchise agreement and release, pay renewal fee, refurbish or remodel the premises, and replace furnishings and equipment to be in compliance with our then current standards. If you seek to renew your franchise at the expiration of the initial term or any renewal term, you may be asked to sign a new franchise agreement that contains terms and conditions materially different from those in your previous franchise agreement, such as different fee requirements and territorial rights.
d. Termination by franchisee	Section 7.A	If we breach a material provision of

Provision	Section in franchise or other agreement	Summary
		the Franchise Agreement, and do not cure within a reasonable time, which in no event will be less than 90 days, after your notice to us, you may terminate 10 days after delivery of notice of termination.
e. Termination by franchisor without cause	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
f. Termination by franchisor with cause	Section 7	We can terminate only if you commit any one of several listed violations.
g. "Cause" defined – curable defaults	Sections 7.B and 7.C	You have 10 days to cure for non-payment of sums to us, affiliates, suppliers, lessors or landlords; 30 days for failure to submit reports or financial data; 30 days for all other curable breaches of the Franchise Agreement or the Operations Manual or other operational memoranda or use of bad faith in carrying out terms of these franchise provisions.
h. "Cause" defined – non-curable defaults	Section 5.J.7. Sections 7.B and 7.C	Non-curable defaults: failure by you, your managers or Operating Principal to pass the training program; failure to provide us a copy of your fully signed lease within 6 months after the date of the Franchise Agreement; failure to commence operating the Franchised Business within 14 months after the date of the Franchise Agreement; insolvency; abandonment; termination of lease; under reporting Gross Sales twice in a two year period; conviction of a felony; impairment of Marks or System; loss of business license; unsafe business operation; unauthorized transfer; unexcused absences from mandatory training twice in a twelve-month period; breach of other agreements with us or our affiliates; repeated non-sufficient funds payments by check or electronic transfer or defaults even if cured; and repeated unfair handling of customer complaints.
i. Franchisee's obligations on termination/non-renewal	Section 5.0; Section 7.E; and Section 11.E	Pay amounts owed; return the Operations Manual and any Software Program and return or destroy all other materials; stop using Marks,

		System and confidential information; de-identify yourself from us; cancel assumed names; return to us any signs utilizing the Marks; provide us or our designee with the names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, copies of agreements and any other data of all customers; assign to us your telephone and facsimile numbers, and email and internet addresses, websites, domain names, social media sites and search engine identifiers; assign your lease to us, at our option; grant to us a security interest; pay all actual, liquidated and consequential damages; and adhere to non-disparagement and non-competition provisions. (also see r, below).
j. Assignment of contract by franchisor	Section 8.A	No restriction on our right to assign.
k. "Transfer" by franchisee – defined	Section 8.B	Includes any type of transfer of the Franchise Agreement or assets or any ownership change.
l. Franchisor approval of transfer by franchisee	Section 8.B	We have the right to approve all transfers but will not unreasonably withhold approval.
m. Conditions for franchisor approval of transfer	Section 8.B	Transferee qualifies; all amounts due are paid in full; you are not in default; the transferee complies with training requirements; transferee has received required disclosure documents; then current form of franchise agreement signed; transferee assumes remaining obligations under your agreements; transfer fee paid; referral fee paid, if due; assets have been refurbished, remodeled or replaced; lessor consent to lease assignment, if necessary; general releases signed; guaranty of performance may be required; right of first refusal declined by us; and subordination to our interests of any amounts due by transferee to you and/or any of your principals. (also see r below).
n. Franchisor's right of first refusal to acquire franchisee's business	Section 8.D	We can match any offer for your business, except broker's fees are excluded. Cash may be substituted for any form of payment proposed.
o. Franchisor's option to	Section 7.F	Option to purchase some or all

purchase franchisee's business		equipment, supplies, inventory, advertising materials and any items with our logo, for cash at fully depreciated book value (also expressly agreed to exclude any value for goodwill), exercisable up to 90 days after termination or expiration.
p. Death or disability of franchisee	Section 8.E	You must assign franchise to an approved buyer within 180 days. All transfer provisions and management fees of section 8 of the Franchise Agreement apply.
q. Non-competition covenants during the term of the franchise	Section 5.K	No restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then current standard Buttermilk Café's menu, nor an organization franchising a similar business. Not solicit or employ any current or former employee or independent contractor of us or any other Buttermilk Café restaurant at any time during the twelve-month period immediately prior thereto.
r. Non-competition covenants after the franchise is terminated or expires	Section 7.G	No restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then current standard Buttermilk Café menu for 3 years within 7 miles of your former Buttermilk Café restaurant location, or within 7 miles of any other Buttermilk Café restaurant. No organization franchising a similar business for 3 years. No solicitation or acceptance of business from former customers for 3 years. No solicitation or employment of any current or former employee or independent contractor of you, us or any other Buttermilk Café restaurant at any time during the twelve-month period immediately prior thereto for 3 years.
s. Modification of the agreement	Sections 11.D and 5.H	Modification by written agreement signed by you and us. The Operations Manual can be revised and modified by us.
t. Integration/merger clause	Section 11.D	Only the terms of the Franchise Agreement (including System Standards in the Operations Manual) are binding (subject to state and

		federal law). Any statements or promises not in the Franchise Agreement and this disclosure document should not be relied upon and may not be enforceable. Nothing in this or in any related agreement, however, is intended to disclaim the representations we made in the franchise disclosure document that we furnished to you.
u. Dispute resolution by arbitration or mediation	Section 9	Except for certain claims, all parties must make a good faith effort to resolve disputes by non-binding mediation conducted in the Chicago, Illinois metropolitan area (or, if our headquarters is no longer in the Chicago, Illinois metropolitan area, then in such county where our headquarters is located). Otherwise, except for certain claims, all disputes must be arbitrated in the city where our headquarters is located when the proceedings are conducted.
v. Choice of forum	Section 9.H	Court litigation must be in any state or federal court of general jurisdiction over DuPage County, Illinois (or if our headquarters is no longer in Du Page County, Illinois, then in such county where our headquarters is located when the proceedings are conducted). (subject to applicable state law).
w. Choice of law	Section 9.H	Except for the Federal Arbitration Act and other federal law, Illinois law applies (subject to applicable state law).

ITEM 18. PUBLIC FIGURES

We do not use any public figure to promote our franchise.

ITEM 19. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPRESENTATIONS

The FTC's Franchise Rule permits a franchisor to provide information about the actual or potential financial performance of its franchised and/or franchisor-owned outlets, if there is a reasonable basis for the information, and if the information is included in the disclosure document. Financial performance information that differs from that included in Item 19 may be given only if: (1) a franchisor provides the actual records of an existing outlet you are considering buying; or (2) a franchisor supplements the information provided in this Item 19, for example, by providing information about possible performance at a particular location or under particular circumstances.

BACKGROUND, DEFINITIONS, ASSUMPTIONS AND DIFFERENTIATING FACTORS:

This financial performance representation discloses the historical performance of three Company-Owned Outlets (Buttermilk Café restaurants) that have operated for at least one full calendar year as of December 31, 2025. The figures below cover the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. There were no Franchisee-Owned businesses open during any of these calendar years. During these periods no Buttermilk Café has closed after being open.

The requirement to have operated for at least one full calendar year as of December 31, 2025 in order to be included in this financial performance representation means that the Company-Owned Outlet restaurant in Downers Grove, Illinois that opened in May 2025 is not included in this financial performance representation. We also have not included data related to our Company-Owned Outlet Buttermilk Café cloud kitchen in Chicago, Illinois because its delivery-only business format it is not similar to the franchise we offer.

The term “Gross Sales” means all sales or revenues, derived directly or indirectly from the business, including on-premises sales and delivery sales and monies derived at or away from each business, whether from cash, check, credit and debit card, trade credit or credit transactions, including without limitation business interruption insurance proceeds and service charges in lieu of gratuity, but excluding (i) sales taxes collected from customers and paid to the appropriate taxing authority, (ii) the amount of all coupons and/or discounts applied (but only if the coupons and discounts have been previously approved by us as provided in the Franchise Agreement and only if such coupons and discounts have been included in Gross Sales), and (iii) gratuities and tips collected from customers and paid to the appropriate employees.

“Company-Owned store” or “Company-Owned Outlet” means a store owned by us or companies related to us by common ownership or their owners. The Geneva, Illinois Company-Owned Outlet opened in 2015, the Naperville, Illinois Company-Owned Outlet opened in 2018, and the Vernon Hills Company-Owned Outlet opened in 2020.

Many differentiating factors affect the ability of a store to generate sales, profits and success. These include without limitation your drive and perseverance, your availability of working capital, your being a start-up business, your geography, size and type of building in which your store is located, competition, advertising effectiveness, the quality and pricing of your product and service offerings, vendor pricing, labor costs, your ability to generate customers, customer loyalty, employment conditions in the market and pandemics. It is likely that you will have different financial factors too, such as, different economies of scale and shared management and marketing as compared to our operating the Company-owned stores, royalty fees, brand fund contributions, marketing fees, depreciation of leasehold improvements and equipment, financing, amortization of the initial franchise fee and organizational costs and interest costs, your group purchasing ability, real estate leasing knowledge, owner’s salary, taxes and legal and accounting professional fees. Other possible differentiating factors in operations of various stores would include without limitation differing rent and related expenses for which you are obligated, economic conditions in your market, competition from other businesses offering the same, similar or competitive services and products, different leasehold improvement or financing costs, different levels of employee wages, fringe benefits and other costs, and different costs on a local basis of obtaining products and supplies.

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Buttermilk Café Company-Owned Outlets
Gross Sales

Calendar Year	Geneva, IL Gross Sales	Naperville, IL Gross Sales	Vernon Hills, IL Gross Sales
2021	\$2,788,683	\$3,405,028	\$2,927,587
2022	\$2,975,528	\$3,613,055 ^Ω	\$3,802,089
2023	\$2,997,982	\$3,822,435	\$3,729,592
2024	\$3,024,685	\$3,895,216	\$3,783,436
2025	\$2,937,639	\$3,674,646	\$3,902,816

^Ω A fire caused a closure of the Naperville, IL restaurant for 3.5 weeks in 2022, reducing this restaurant's sales.

The coronavirus pandemic reduced our Gross Sales in 2020 and 2021.

We do not know of any characteristics of any store that may differ materially from those of the store you may open.

Some stores have sold this amount. Your individual results may differ. There is no assurance that you'll sell as much.

Written substantiation for the financial performance representation will be made available to the prospective franchisee upon reasonable request.

Other than the preceding financial performance representation, Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. does not make any financial performance representations. We also do not authorize our employees or representatives to make any such representations either orally or in writing. If you are purchasing an existing outlet, however, we may provide you with the actual records of that outlet. If you receive any other financial performance information or projections of your future income, you should report it to the franchisor's management by contacting Katie Kouvelis at Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., 65 North River Lane, Suite 201, Geneva, Illinois 60134, (630) 277-0582, the Federal Trade Commission, and the appropriate state regulatory agencies.

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ITEM 20. OUTLETS AND FRANCHISEE INFORMATION**Table No. 1****Systemwide Outlet Summary
For Years 2023 to 2025**

Outlet Type	Year	Outlets at the Start of the Year	Outlets at the End of the Year	Net Change
Franchised	2023	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0
	2025	0	0	0
Company- Owned	2023	3	3	0
	2024	3	3	0
	2025	3	5	+2
Total Outlets	2023	3	3	0
	2024	3	3	0
	2025	3	5	+2

Table No. 2**Transfers of Outlets from Franchisees to New Owners
(other than the Franchisor or an Affiliate)
For Years 2023 to 2025**

State	Year	Number of Transfers
Illinois	2023	0
	2024	0
	2025	0
Total	2023	0
	2024	0
	2025	0

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Table No. 3

**Status of Franchise Outlets
For Years 2023 to 2025**

State	Year	Outlets at Start of Year	Outlets Opened	Termina- tions	Non- Renewals	Reacquired by Franchisor	Ceased Operations - Other Reasons	Outlets at the End of the Year
Illinois	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table No. 4

**Status of Company and Affiliate-Owned Outlets
For Years 2023 to 2025**

State	Year	Outlets at Start of the Year	Outlets Opened	Outlets Reacquired From Franchisees	Outlets Closed	Outlets Sold to Franchisees	Outlets at End of the Year
Illinois	2023	3	0	0	0	0	3
	2024	3	0	0	0	0	3
	2025	3	2	0	0	0	5
Totals	2023	3	0	0	0	0	3
	2024	3	0	0	0	0	3
	2025	3	2	0	0	0	5

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Table No. 5

**Projected Openings
As of December 31, 2025**

State	Franchise Agreements Signed But Outlet Not Opened	Projected New Franchised Outlets in the Next Fiscal Year	Projected New Company- Owned Outlets in the Next Fiscal Year
Illinois	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1

The exhibits in Exhibit B provide franchisee information. Exhibit B-1 lists the names of all of our operating franchisees and the addresses and telephone numbers of their Franchised Businesses as of December 31, 2025. Exhibit B-2 lists the franchisees who have signed Franchise Agreements for Franchised Businesses which are not yet operational as of December 31, 2025. There is no franchisee who had an outlet terminated, cancelled, not renewed, or otherwise voluntarily or involuntarily ceased to do business under a Franchise Agreement during the most recently completed fiscal year, or who has not communicated with us within ten weeks of the issuance of this disclosure document. If you buy this franchise, your contact information may be disclosed to other buyers when you leave the franchise system.

During the last three fiscal years, we have not signed any confidentiality clauses with current or former franchisees which would restrict them from speaking openly with you about their experience with us. We do not restrict your communications with the Federal Trade Commission or any other state or federal law enforcer about potential law violations. There is no trademark-specific franchisee organization associated with the franchise system which the franchisor has created, sponsored or endorsed. There is no independent trademark-specific franchisee organization which has asked to be included in the disclosure document.

ITEM 21. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Exhibit C contains our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, our audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and our audited opening balance sheet dated April 30, 2023. We have not been in business for three years or more and cannot include all the financial statements required by the FTC Franchise Rule. Our fiscal year ends on each December 31st.

ITEM 22. CONTRACTS

Exhibit D contains the Franchise Agreement with State Specific Addenda.
Exhibit E contains the General Release.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

ITEM 23. RECEIPTS

Exhibit G contains detachable documents acknowledging your receipt of the disclosure document. The receipt is signed by all prospective franchisees and their spouses.

EXHIBIT A

LIST OF STATE ADMINISTRATORS AND AGENTS FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS

LIST OF STATE ADMINISTRATORS

CALIFORNIA Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation Department of Financial Protection and Innovation 2101 Arena Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95834 (916) 445-7205 Toll Free: (866) 275-2677	MICHIGAN Department of the Attorney General Corporate Oversight / Consumer Protection Division Attn: Franchise Section 525 W. Ottawa Street G. Mennen Williams Building, 5th Floor Lansing, MI 48913 (517) 373-7117
CONNECTICUT The Banking Commissioner The Department of Banking Securities and Business Investment Division 260 Constitution Plaza Hartford, CT 06103-1800 (860) 240-8299	MINNESOTA Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 7th Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 (651) 539-1500
ILLINOIS Illinois Office of the Attorney General Franchise Bureau 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 (217) 782-4465	NEW YORK New York Secretary of State New York Department of State One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., 6th Fl. Albany, New York 12231-0001 (518) 473-2492
INDIANA Secretary of State - Franchise Section 302 West Washington, Room E-111 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317) 232-6681	NORTH DAKOTA North Dakota Securities Department 600 Boulevard Avenue State Capitol Fifth Floor, Dept. 414 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0510 (701) 328-4712
MARYLAND Maryland Securities Commissioner 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2020 (410) 576-6360	RHODE ISLAND Department of Labor and Regulation, Securities Division Bldg. 69, First Floor John O. Pastore Center 1511 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, Rhode Island 02920 (401) 462-9527
SOUTH DAKOTA Department of Labor and Regulation Director of Division of Securities 124 S. Euclid Ave. Pierre, South Dakota 57501 (605) 773-3563	WASHINGTON Director of Department of Financial Institutions Securities Division – 3rd Floor P.O. Box 41200 Olympia, WA 98504-1200
VIRGINIA Clerk of the State Corporation Commission 1300 East Main Street, 1st Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219	WISCONSIN Office of the Commissioner of Securities 345 West Washington Avenue, Fourth Floor Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 261-9555

AGENTS FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS

CALIFORNIA Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation Department of Financial Protection and Innovation 2101 Arena Boulevard Sacramento, CA 95834 (916) 445-7205; Toll Free: (866) 275-2677 email Ask.DFPI@dfpi.ca.gov	MARYLAND Maryland Securities Commissioner 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2020 (410) 576-6360
CONNECTICUT The Banking Commissioner, The Department of Banking Securities and Business Investment Division 260 Constitution Plaza Hartford, CT 06103-1800 (860) 240-8299	MICHIGAN Consumer Protection Division Attn: Franchise Section 525 W. Ottawa Street G. Mennen Williams Building, 1st Floor Lansing, MI 48933 (517) 373-7117
ILLINOIS Illinois Office of the Attorney General Franchise Bureau 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 (217) 782-4465	MINNESOTA Minnesota Department of Commerce 85 7th Place East, Suite 280 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101 (651) 539-1500
INDIANA Secretary of State Franchise Section 302 West Washington, Room E-111 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 (317) 232-6681	NEW YORK New York Secretary of State NY Dept. of State, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, 6th Floor Albany, New York 12231-0001 (518) 473-2492
NORTH DAKOTA North Dakota Securities Department 600 Boulevard Avenue State Capitol Fifth Floor, Dept. 414 Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0510; (701) 328-4712	VIRGINIA Clerk of the State Corporation Commission 1300 East Main Street, 1st Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219
RHODE ISLAND Department of Labor and Regulation Securities Division, Bldg. 69, First Floor, John O. Pastore Center - 1511 Pontiac Avenue Cranston, Rhode Island 02920 (401) 462-9527	WASHINGTON Director of Department of Financial Institutions - Securities Division 150 Isreal Road S.W., Tumwater, Washington 98501
SOUTH DAKOTA Department of Labor and Regulation Director of Division of Securities 124 S. Euclid Ave. Pierre, South Dakota 57501 (605) 773-3563	WISCONSIN Office of the Commissioner of Securities 345 West Washington Avenue, Fourth Floor Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 261-9555

EXHIBIT B
FRANCHISEE INFORMATION

As of December 31, 2025

EXHIBIT B-1: OPERATING FRANCHISES

None

EXHIBIT B-2: FRANCHISES NOT YET OPERATING

Daniel & Emmeline Shamoon
200 Skokie Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091
(773) 410-6191

Exhibit C

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:	DECEMBER 31, 2025
	DECEMBER 31, 2024
	DECEMBER 31, 2023



BUTTERMILK

..... *cafe*

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024



BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Stockholder
Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.
Geneva, IL

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statements of operations, stockholder's equity, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Company and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Kezar & Dunlavy

St. George, Utah
April 20, 2026

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
BALANCE SHEETS
As of December 31, 2025 and 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,736	\$ 29,594
Accounts receivable	96,567	20,072
Other assets	3,200	3,200
Total current assets	<u>117,503</u>	<u>52,866</u>
Non-current assets		
Intangible assets, net	11,660	18,332
Total non-current assets	<u>11,660</u>	<u>18,332</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 129,163</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 71,198</u></u>
Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 31,309	\$ 7,049
Deferred revenue	22,500	22,500
Total current liabilities	<u>53,809</u>	<u>29,549</u>
Total liabilities	<u>53,809</u>	<u>29,549</u>
Stockholder's equity		
Common stock, \$1.00 par value, 10,00 shares authorized, 1,000 shares issued and outstanding	1,000	1,000
Additional paid-in capital	10,000	10,000
Retained earnings	64,354	30,649
Total stockholder's equity	<u>75,354</u>	<u>41,649</u>
Total liabilities and member's equity	<u><u>\$ 129,163</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 71,198</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating revenue		
Royalty fees	\$ 303,328	\$ 189,179
National advertising fund fees	60,666	37,836
Total operating revenue	<u>363,994</u>	<u>227,015</u>
Operating expenses		
General and administrative	293,566	98,419
Advertising and marketing	27,824	16,388
Professional fees	8,899	24,116
Total operating expenses	<u>330,289</u>	<u>138,923</u>
Net income	<u>\$ 33,705</u>	<u>\$ 88,092</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY
For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	Common Stock		Additional Paid-in Capital	Retained Earnings	Total
	Shares	Amount			
Balances as of January 1, 2024	1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 53,952	\$ 64,952
Dividends	-	-	-	(111,395)	(111,395)
Net income	-	-	-	88,092	88,092
Balances as of December 31, 2024	1,000	1,000	10,000	30,649	41,649
Net income	-	-	-	33,705	33,705
Balances as of December 31, 2025	1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 64,354	\$ 75,354

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2025 and 2024

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net income	\$ 33,705	\$ 88,092
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash from operating activities:		
Amortization	6,672	1,668
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(76,495)	10,213
Other assets	-	11,145
Accounts payable	24,260	(2,528)
Deferred revenue	-	22,500
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(11,858)</u>	<u>131,090</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Investment in intangible assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Shareholder dividends	<u>-</u>	<u>(111,395)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(111,395)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	(11,858)	(305)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	29,594	29,899
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	<u>\$ 17,736</u>	<u>\$ 29,594</u>
Supplemental disclosures of cash flow		
Cash paid for interest and taxes	\$ -	\$ -

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are integral part of these financial statements

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025 and 2024

(1) Nature of Business and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Nature of Business

Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. (the “Company”) was incorporated on February 14, 2023 in the state of Illinois for the purpose of conducting franchise sales, marketing, and management of the Buttermilk Café franchise system.

The Company uses the accrual basis of accounting, and their accounting period is the 12-month period ending December 31 of each year. The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

(b) Accounting Standards Codification

The Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) has issued the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) that became the single official source of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), other than guidance issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), superseding existing FASB, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Emerging Issues Task Force and related literature. All other literature is not considered authoritative. The ASC does not change GAAP; it introduces a new structure that is organized in an accessible online research system.

(c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(d) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash equivalents include all highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less at the date of purchase.

(e) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable represents amounts due from franchisees for initial franchise fees and ongoing royalties. These receivables are carried at original invoice amount less an estimate made for doubtful receivables based on a review of outstanding amounts. When determining the allowance for doubtful receivable, the Company has adopted ASC 326, *Financial Instruments—Credit Losses*. This standard requires that management utilize the Current Expected Credit Losses (“CECL”) model to recognize the appropriate allowance for doubtful receivables. This model requires entities to estimate and recognize expected credit losses over the life of the financial instrument. For trade receivables, management has elected to apply a simplified approach, based on historical loss experience and adjustments for current and forecasted economic conditions. Management regularly evaluates individual customer receivables, considering their financial condition, credit history and current economic conditions. Accounts receivable are written off when deemed uncollectible. Recoveries of accounts receivable previously written off are recorded as income when received. For the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024, management determined no allowance for doubtful accounts receivable was necessary.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025 and 2024

(f) Leasing

The Company adopted ASC 842, *Leases* upon inception. The Company has made an accounting policy election not to recognize right-of-use assets and lease liabilities that arise from any of its short-term leases. All leases with a term of 12 months or less at commencement, for which the Company is not reasonably certain to exercise available renewal options that would extend the lease term past 12 months, will be recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

(g) Intangible Assets

Intangible assets consist of website development costs, with a useful life of three years.

Impairment testing is performed by comparing the fair value of the trademarks to their carrying amount. If the carrying amount exceeds the fair value, an impairment loss is recognized in accordance with ASC 350-30-35. The Company evaluates factors such as market conditions, financial performance, and legal or regulatory changes that may impact the trademarks' fair value. Additionally, in accordance with ASC 275-10, *Risks and Uncertainties*, the Company considers significant judgments and estimates involved in determining the useful life and impairment of intangible assets. The Company has recorded no impairment loss for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024.

(h) Revenue Recognition

The Company has adopted ASC 606, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. ASC 606 provides that revenues are to be recognized when control of promised goods or services is transferred to a customer in an amount that reflects the considerations expected to be received for those goods or services. In implementing ASC 606, the Company evaluated all revenue sources using the five-step approach: identify the contract, identify the performance obligations, determine the transaction price, allocate the transaction price, and recognize revenue. For each franchised location, the Company enters into a formal franchise agreement that clearly outlines the various components of the transaction price and the Company's performance obligations.

The Company's revenues consist of initial franchise fees and royalty fees based on a percentage of gross revenues.

Royalty and national advertising fees

Upon evaluation of the five-step process, the Company has determined that royalty and marketing fees are to be recognized in the same period as the underlying sales.

Initial franchise fees

The Company is required to allocate the transaction price associated with initial franchise fees between the franchise license and associated performance obligations. In identifying the associated performance obligations, the Company has elected to adopt the practical expedient for private company franchisors outlined in ASC 952-606, *Franchisors—Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. In addition, the practical expedient allows franchisors to account for pre-opening services as a single distinct performance obligation, which the Company has elected to adopt. These pre-opening services include the following (which the Company may or may not provide all of):

- Assistance in the selection of a site
- Assistance in obtaining facilities and preparing the facilities for their intended use, including related financing, architectural, and engineering services, and lease negotiation
- Training of the franchisee's personnel or the franchisee
- Preparation and distribution of manuals and similar material concerning operations, administration, and record keeping
- Bookkeeping, information technology, and advisory services, including setting up the franchisee's records and advising the franchisee about income, real estate, and other taxes about local regulations affecting the franchisee's business

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025 and 2024

- Inspection, testing, and other quality control programs

In determining the allocation of transaction price (the initial franchise fee) to either the license or to the pre-opening services, the Company has determined that the standalone selling price of its pre-opening services exceeds the initial franchise fee received; as such, the Company allocates the entire initial franchise fees to those pre-opening services. The franchise fees are then recognized as revenue when those pre-opening services have been completed (which generally occurs upon commencement of the associated franchised location's operations).

(i) Income Taxes

The Company has elected to be treated as Subchapter S Corporation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code for income tax purposes. Accordingly, taxable income and losses of the Company are reported on the income tax returns of its stockholder and no provision for federal or state income taxes has been recorded in the accompanying balance sheet.

The Company follows the guidance under ASC 740, *Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes*. ASC 740 prescribes a more-likely-than-not measurement methodology to reflect the financial statement impact of uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the tax return. If taxing authorities were to disallow any tax positions taken by the Company, the additional income taxes, if any, would be imposed on the stockholder rather than the Company. Accordingly, there would be no effect on the Company's financial statements.

The Company's income tax returns are subject to examination by taxing authorities for a period of three years from the date they are filed. As of December 31, 2025, the 2024 and 2023 tax years were subject to examination.

(j) Advertising Costs

The Company expenses advertising costs as incurred. Advertising expenses for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024 were \$27,824 and \$16,388, respectively.

(k) Financial Instruments

For certain of the Company's financial instruments, including cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, pre-paid expenses, and accounts payable the carrying amounts approximate fair value due to their short maturities. The amounts shown for notes payable also approximate fair value because current interest rates and terms offered to the Company for similar debt are substantially the same.

(l) Concentration of Risk

The Company maintains its cash in bank deposit accounts that at times may exceed federally insured limits. The Company has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Company believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risks on cash or cash equivalents.

(m) Reclassification

Certain amounts in the prior period financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the presentation of the current period financial statements. These reclassifications had no effect on the previously reported results of operations.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2025 and 2024

(2) Intangible Assets

As of December 31, 2025 and 2024, the Company had the following intangible assets:

	2025	2024
Website development costs	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Less: accumulated amortization	(8,340)	(1,668)
	<u>\$ 11,660</u>	<u>\$ 18,332</u>

Amortization expense for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024 was \$6,672 and \$1,668, respectively. Amortization for the coming periods is estimated as follows:

Year ended December 31,	
2026	\$ 6,672
2027	4,988
	<u>\$ 11,660</u>

(3) Deferred Revenue

The Company's franchise agreements generally provide for payment of initial fees as well as continuing royalties, marketing, and other fees. Under the franchise agreement, franchisees are granted the right to operate a location using the Buttermilk Café system for a period of ten years. Under the Company's revenue recognition policy, franchise fees and any corresponding commissions are recognized upon provision of all pre-opening services, which is generally the date the franchisee begins operations. For any franchisees that have not yet begun operations as of year-end, the Company defers both the revenues and related direct costs of obtaining the contracts such as commissions. All locations that are expected to begin operations within the following year are categorized as current, while all others are classified as non-current.

The following table represents the activity of the Company's deferred revenue for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024:

	2025	2024
Beginning deferred revenue	\$ 22,500	\$ -
Additions	-	22,500
Revenue recognized from beginning deferred revenue	-	-
Revenue recognized from contracts executed in the current year	-	-
Ending deferred revenue	<u>\$ 22,500</u>	<u>\$ 22,500</u>

(4) Commitments and Contingencies

The Company may be subject to various claims, legal actions and complaints arising in the ordinary course of business. In accounting for legal matters and other contingencies, the Company follows the guidance in ASC 450, *Contingencies*, under which loss contingencies are accounted for based upon the likelihood of incurrence of a liability. If a loss contingency is "probable" and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated, it is accrued. If a loss contingency is "probable" but the amount of loss cannot be reasonably estimated, disclosure is made. If a loss contingency is "reasonably possible," disclosure is made, including the potential range of loss, if determinable. Loss contingencies that are "remote" are neither accounted for nor disclosed.

In the opinion of management, all matters are of such kind, or involving such amounts of unfavorable disposition, if any, would not have a material effect on the financial position of the Company.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2025 and 2024

(5) Subsequent Events

Management has reviewed and evaluated subsequent events through April 20, 2026, the date on which the financial statements were issued.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

APRIL 30, 2023

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
APRIL 30, 2023

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MICHAEL GOLOJUCH, JR. AND ASSOCIATES, LIMITED

1310 PEMBROOK CIRCLE

ROSELLE, IL 60172

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of

Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.

Geneva, IL

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. (an Illinois S Corporation), which comprise the balance sheet as of April 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. as of April 30, 2023, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. and to meet our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion, on the effectiveness of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

Michael Dolajush, Jr. C. P. A.

Roselle, Illinois

May 6, 2023

Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.
Balance Sheet
April 30, 2023

Assets

Current Assets:

Cash	\$ 11,000
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Total Current Assets	11,000
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Total Assets	\$ 11,000
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Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity

Current Liabilities:

Notes Payable - B Vernon, Inc.	\$ 10,000
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Notes Payable - SAK Group, Inc.	1,327
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Total Current Liabilities	11,327
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Stockholder's Equity:

Common stock, \$1.00 par value, 10,000 shares authorized, 1,000 shares issued and outstanding	1,000
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Accumulated deficit	(1,327)
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Total Stockholder's Equity	(327)
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Total Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity	\$ 11,000
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

April 30, 2023

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Planned Operations

Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. (the Company) was organized on February 14, 2023 in the state of Illinois to sell “Buttermilk Cafe” franchises in the United States. The Company is a start-up business whose principal operations will be a franchisor of full-service restaurants serving breakfast and lunch. Major sources of revenue will include franchise fees, local advertising and promotions, and royalty fees. Franchise development fees have been disbursed in the start-up phase. The completion of these latter stages will be subject to the Company’s receiving additional funding in the future.

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Revenue is recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when the obligation is incurred.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For financial statement purposes, the Company considers all highly liquid instruments with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that may affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Notes Payable

The Company received loan proceeds of \$10,000 from an unrelated party as of April 30, 2023. The promissory note of \$10,000 is payable upon demand at an interest rate of 7% per annum.

The Company received proceeds of \$1,327 and can borrow an additional \$98,673 from a promissory note totaling \$100,000. The note bears interest at 7% per annum and payable upon demand or five years from the date of the note which is April 1, 2023. Demand shall not be made within the first twelve months of this note.

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements
April 30, 2023

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES – continued

Income Taxes

The Company, with the consent of its stockholders, has elected under the Internal Revenue Code to be an S corporation. In lieu of corporate income taxes, the stockholders of an S corporation are taxed on their proportionate share of the company's taxable income. Therefore, no provision or liability for federal income taxes has been included in the financial statements.

The Company's business tax returns are subject to examination by federal and state tax jurisdictions, generally for three years after the date they were filed.

Subsequent Events

Management has evaluated subsequent events through May 6, 2023, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

Management's Evaluation of Going Concern

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, management performed an evaluation to determine if adverse conditions or events considered in the aggregate raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for the one-year period from the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Management's evaluation did not identify any conditions or events that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for the period from May 6, 2023 to May 6, 2024.

EXHIBIT D

BUTTERMILK CAFÉ FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

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SCHEDULE A - OPERATING PRINCIPAL, PROTECTED AREA, AND FRANCHISE LOCATION

SCHEDULE B - LEASE RIDER

STATE SPECIFIC ADDENDA

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

This Agreement ("Agreement") is made as of the date noted on Schedule A between Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., an Illinois corporation located at 65 North River Lane, Suite 201, Geneva, Illinois 60134 (hereinafter called the "Company") and the party(ies) listed on Schedule A (hereinafter called the "Franchisee"), for one Buttermilk Cafe® restaurant to be located in the state listed on Schedule A

RECITALS

A. The Company franchises a restaurant and coffee bar (the "Franchised Business") under the "Buttermilk Café" trade name and trade and service mark (the "Marks") using certain procedures, techniques, business methods, business forms, business policies and a body of knowledge pertaining to the establishment and operation of the Franchised Businesses (the "System"). The Franchisee acknowledges that Franchisee does not presently know these procedures, techniques, business methods or business policies, nor does the Franchisee have these business forms or access to the Company's body of knowledge.

B. The Franchisee intends to enter the Franchised Business and desires access to the Company's System pertaining to the operation of the Franchised Business. In addition, the Franchisee desires access to information pertaining to new developments and techniques in the Company's Franchised Business.

C. The Franchisee desires to participate in the use of the Marks in connection with one Franchised Business location to be located solely at a site approved by the Company and the Franchisee.

D. The Franchisee understands that information received from the Company or from any of its officers, managers, members, employees, agents or franchisees is confidential and has been developed with a great deal of effort and expense. The Franchisee acknowledges that the information is being made available to Franchisee so that Franchisee may more effectively establish and operate a Franchised Business.

E. The Company has granted, and will continue to grant, to others access to its System.

F. The Company has licensed, and will continue to license, others to use the Marks in connection with the operation of Franchised Businesses.

AGREEMENT

Acknowledging the above recitals, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Fees. Check either A or B below:

☐

A. First Franchise.

1. Franchise Fee. For a first franchise for Franchisee, Franchisee shall pay to Company a Franchise Fee of \$40,000 which shall not be refunded in any event. The Franchise Fee is due upon the signing of this Agreement. For Illinois franchisees, the Company shall defer collection of the Franchise Fee until Franchisee commenced its business operations; the Illinois Attorney General's Office imposed this deferral requirement due to Company's financial

condition.

2. Training Fee. For a first franchise for Franchisee, Franchisee shall pay to Company a Training Fee of \$45,000 which shall not be refunded in any event. The Training Fee is due \$22,500 upon the signing of this Agreement and another \$22,500 due prior to when the Franchised Business opens for business (but no later than the rent commencement date under Franchisee's lease).



B. Additional Franchise.

1. Franchise Fee. For an additional franchise for Franchisee, Franchisee shall pay to Company a Franchise Fee of \$30,000 which shall not be refunded in any event. The Franchise Fee is due upon the signing of this Agreement. For Illinois franchisees, the Company shall defer collection of the Franchise Fee until Franchisee commenced its business operations; the Illinois Attorney General's Office imposed this deferral requirement due to Company's financial condition.

2. Training Fee. For an additional franchise for Franchisee, Franchisee shall pay to Company a Training Fee based upon the Company's then current daily fee for the Company's personnel, plus other reasonable expenses, including without limitation, all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses. The Training Fee is due \$15,000 upon signing of this Agreement and the balance shall be paid upon the completion of the initial training at Franchisee's location. The Training Fee shall not be refunded in any event.

2. Royalty Fee. The Franchisee shall also pay to the Company, weekly or more frequently as the Company may designate, a Royalty Fee equal to five percent (5%) of the Gross Sales from the Franchised Business which Franchisee operates throughout the term of this Agreement. "Gross Sales" means all sales or revenues, derived directly or indirectly from the Franchisee's Franchised Business, including on-premises and delivery sales and monies derived at or away from the Franchised Business, whether from cash, check, credit and debit card, trade credit or credit transactions, including without limitation business interruption insurance proceeds and service charges in lieu of gratuity, but excluding (i) sales taxes collected from customers and paid to the appropriate taxing authority, (ii) the amount of all coupons and/or discounts applied/redeemed at the Franchised Business (but only if the coupons and discounts have been previously approved by the Company as provided in this Agreement and only if such coupons and discounts have been included in Gross Sales), and (iii) gratuities and tips collected from customers and paid to the appropriate employees. Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, if a law or other regulation prohibits or restrains Franchisee from paying the Royalty Fee or other amounts due under this Agreement since they are based upon the sale of alcohol, then the percentage rate for calculating the Royalty Fee or other amounts will be increased and the definition of Gross Sales will be changed to exclude the sale of alcohol, such that the Royalty Fee and other amounts paid are equal to the amounts that Franchisee would have paid if the sale of alcohol were included in the definition of Gross Sales. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Company reserves the right to require that any revenue associated with the sale or purchase of a gift card or gift certificate shall not be recognized when the sale or purchase occurs, but rather only when such gift card or gift certificate is redeemed and funds are applied; accordingly Company may require Franchisee to use a third-party to administer the gift card and gift certificate program and the Royalty Fee would be due by the franchisee associated with the gift card or gift certificate redemption if this policy is implemented by Company.

3. Grant. The Company hereby grants to the Franchisee:

A. Access to the System pertaining to the operation of the Franchised Business;

B. Access to information pertaining to new developments and techniques in the Franchised Business; and

C. A limited non-exclusive license to use of the Company's rights in and to the Marks according to this Agreement and the Company's Operations Manual in connection with the operation of one Franchised Business to be located at a site approved by the Company and the Franchisee. Except as the Company may permit from time to time in its sole discretion, the Company and Franchisee agree that Franchisee shall not sell products or services by alternate channels of distribution such as by the Internet or by mail order or catalog, nor shall Franchisee sell any products or components of the products or services at wholesale.

D. Franchisee shall at all times faithfully, honestly and diligently perform Franchisee's obligations under this Agreement, continuously exert Franchisee's best efforts to promote and enhance the Franchised Business and not engage in any other business or activity that conflicts with Franchisee's obligations to operate the Franchised Business in compliance with this Agreement. Franchisee shall focus Franchisee's marketing efforts on developing the Marks and System within the Protected Area described in Schedule A to this Agreement. If no description of the Protected Area is specified on Schedule A, then (a) for a suburban location the Protected Area shall be deemed to consist of the area within three miles of the front door of the Franchised Business location approved by the Company and developed by the Franchisee pursuant to Section 5 of this Agreement or (b) for an urban location with one million or more people residing and/or working within the metro area at the time this Agreement is executed there shall be no protected area. The Protected Area does not prohibit or affect any locations existing before the date of this Agreement. Franchisee must designate an "Operating Principal," who shall devote full time and best efforts to the Franchised Business and the Operating Principal shall have full authority to bind Franchisee regarding all operational decisions about the Franchised Business and to communicate on behalf of Franchisee with the Company. Franchisee may be the Operating Principal or Franchisee may designate an Operating Principal other than Franchisee (i) who has successfully completed all training Company requires including payment for such training at the rates established in this Agreement, (ii) who owns and maintains at least five percent (5%) ownership of the Franchised Business, and (iii) whom Company has pre-approved to be the Operating Principal. In the event the Franchised Business loses its Operating Principal for any reason, a new Operating Principal must be obtained and designated within thirty (30) days of the date of separation of the immediately prior Operating Principal. The Franchised Business shall at all times be under the continuous, direct, on-premises supervision of Franchisee, Operating Principal or Franchisee's designated manager who has attended and passed the training program.

E. Company will not, so long as this Agreement is in force and effect and Franchisee is not in default under any of the terms hereof, enfranchise or operate any other Buttermilk Café business within the Protected Area; provided that nothing herein shall prohibit Company or another franchisee of Company from catering or delivering or using a third party to cater or deliver food to customers located within the Protected Area. Company may enfranchise or operate any other Buttermilk Café restaurant anywhere else. Company shall be allowed to

operate and enfranchise anywhere any business under different trademarks and shall be allowed to conduct anywhere any business using the Marks or System on the Internet or by any other alternate channel of distribution.

F. Notwithstanding the above provisions, enclosed shopping centers, institutions (such as hospitals), large employers with food on-site, highway toll plazas, airports, train stations, parks (including amusement or theme parks), sports stadiums and arenas, convention centers and other facilities or venues where events are scheduled, government buildings, Native American reservations, public transportation centers, casinos, supermarkets, college campuses, military bases, department stores, business parks, shopping centers with at least 400,000 square feet of leasable space and any facility that could be considered a captive market (all of the preceding referred to collectively as "Captive Markets") shall be excluded from Franchisee's Protected Area. The Company retains the right to open a Buttermilk Café business at any of these Captive Market facilities or venues wherever the facility or venue is located, in order to service the facility or venue, or grant licenses for others to do so. In the event the Company decides to open a Buttermilk Café business at any of these Captive Market facilities or venues, or grant a license for others to do so, the catering, delivery and service area of the Franchised Business shall be automatically adjusted to exclude such facility or venue. Notwithstanding the above provisions, if Franchisee's Franchised Business is located in a Captive Market, then there shall be no protected area.

G. Notwithstanding the above provisions, Franchisee expressly acknowledges and agrees that the Company and its affiliates retain, the right, in its sole discretion, to acquire, be acquired by, merge, affiliate with or engage in any transaction with other businesses (whether similar, competitive, or not), with facilities located anywhere, and including arrangements in which (i) other facilities are (or are not) converted to the Buttermilk Café brand or other format (including using the System and/or Marks) and/or (ii) the Company and/or any of the Company's affiliates are acquired, and/or company-owned, franchised or other businesses are converted to another format, maintained under the System or otherwise. All Franchised Businesses owned by Franchisee will fully participate in any such conversion, at Franchisee's expense; provided, however, Franchisee shall have a period of twelve (12) months to complete the conversion for a Franchised Business, and the Company will contribute a pro-rated amount up to \$5,000, based upon the remaining term of the Franchise Agreement, toward the costs and expense of replacing exterior and interior signage at the Franchised Business.

4. Company Obligations. The Company agrees to:

A. Provide an initial training program for the operation of the Franchised Business for up to five(5) people including Franchisee, Operating Principal, General Manager, Kitchen Manager, and Front of House Manager; Franchisee shall pay Company's then-current rate per additional person attending the initial training after the first five (5) persons. The Franchisee and the Franchisee's Operating Principal and managers, presently and in the future, must attend and pass the training program to Company's satisfaction at least thirty (30) days before operating Franchisee's Franchised Business. The Franchisee shall pay all travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses incurred by the Franchisee and the Franchisee's Operating Principal and manager(s), if any, in attending the initial training program. If the Company determines, in its sole discretion, that Franchisee, its Operating Principal, and/or its manager(s) does not pass the training program, the Company shall have the right to terminate this Agreement, effective upon delivery of written notice thereof to Franchisee. Company will not be liable to return any franchise fee, training fee(s),

any other amounts, or pay any costs or expenses Franchisee incurs if Company terminates this Agreement because Franchisee, its Operating Principal, and/or its manager(s) does not pass the training program. In the event (i) Franchisee's initial training attendee(s) fail to pass the initial training and an additional attendee attends in their place or (ii) Franchisee sends another Operating Principal, manager or assistant manager to an initial training course, for any reason, including without limitation due to turnover in Franchisee's ongoing operations, then Franchisee shall pay the Company a training fee at Company's then-current rate plus any travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses if Company approves Franchisee's request for Company to send a representative to conduct the training of another manager or assistant manager or Operating Principal at Franchisee's location.

B. Provide pre-opening and opening supervision and assistance by Company's personnel at Franchisee's location.

C. Provide a continuing advisory service by telephone, or other digital or electronic means or at Company's home office concerning the operation of Franchisee's Franchised Business.

D. Provide, at Company's option, additional assistance upon the written request of the Franchisee, or upon Company's determination the Franchised Business is operating below required standards, at a cost to the Franchisee based on the Company's then current fee for the Company's personnel performing such assistance, plus other reasonable expenses, including without limitation, all travel, lodging, meals, and other expenses.

E. Franchisee acknowledges and agrees that any duty, right, or obligation imposed on the Company by this Agreement may be performed or received by any designee, employee, agent or contractor, as Company may direct.

5. Franchisee Obligations. The Franchisee agrees to:

A. **Commence Operation.** Commence operating the Franchised Business within 14 months after the date of this Agreement. If Franchisee has either (i) not provided Company with a copy of the fully executed lease for the Franchised Business within 6 months after the date of this Agreement or (ii) not commenced operating the Franchised Business within 14 months after the date of this Agreement, the Company may terminate the Franchise Agreement effective upon notice to Franchisee.. Franchisee acknowledges and agrees that Franchisee is responsible for obtaining a location for the Franchised Business acceptable to the Company. If Franchisee has not located and the Company has not approved a location for the Franchised Business as of the date of this Agreement, Franchisee agrees that, within six (6) months after the date of this Agreement, Franchisee will select a location to be approved by the Company and obtain lawful possession of it through a lease. Upon approval of the location for the Franchised Business, the Company will, in accordance with its standard practices, complete Schedule A to this Agreement describing the location. The Company's acceptance or approval of any location is not a representation or warranty of any kind, express or implied, as to the success or profitability of the Franchised Business. The Company does not guarantee the sales, profits or success of the Franchised Business.

B. **Lease the Premises.** Lease the premises of the Franchised Business in the form and manner prescribed by the Company and deliver a copy of the executed lease to the

Company immediately after its execution. The Franchisee agrees not to execute any lease which has not been approved in writing by the Company. If the Franchisee's business premises is to be leased, the lease shall be submitted to the Company for written approval at least fifteen days before it is scheduled to be executed. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. If the Franchisee leases the Franchisee's business premises, the lease must include language contained in the Lease Rider which is attached hereto as Schedule B. The lease shall give the Company, its agents or designees the right to enter the Premises to conduct inspections at any time during regular business hours, the right to receive notices of default directly from the lessor and the right, but not the duty, to assume the lease for all or any part of the term, if the Franchisee defaults under the lease, is evicted or if this Agreement expires or is terminated. The Franchisee further agrees it shall not lease or sublet all or any part of the Franchisee's business premises to others or use any portion of the premises for any purpose other than conducting business pursuant to this Agreement without the Company's prior written consent. If the Franchisee wants to relocate the Franchised Business, the Franchisee must notify Company in writing and pay to the Company its relocation fee of 50% of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise, and which shall be paid one-half when the Company approves that Franchisee may look for potential relocation sites, and the remaining one-half shall be paid when the Company approves the new premises location. In addition, for any supervision or assistance by Company's personnel at Franchisee's location around when the Franchised Business re-opens to the public, Franchisee shall pay Company the then current daily fee for the Company's personnel, plus other reasonable expenses, including without limitation, all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses. Company reserves the right to refuse to approve a proposed relocation if Company believes that the proposed relocation is for any reason not acceptable to Company. Company's judgment may be based on factors such as the proximity to existing or proposed locations owned by other franchisees or Company, the suitability of the proposed facilities, compliance with Company's then current franchise location requirements, the competitiveness within the marketplace or other factors. Company's approval of the location and the lease does not constitute a guaranty or a representation of the likelihood of success of the location or the viability of the lease terms. Franchisee is encouraged to employ the services of a real estate attorney for legal advice regarding the terms of the lease.

C. Construct the Franchised Business. Franchisee shall promptly after obtaining possession of the site for the Franchised Business: (i) cause to be prepared and submit for approval by Company a site survey and any modifications to Company's basic plans and specifications (not for construction) for the Franchised Business (including requirements for dimensions, exterior design, materials, interior design and layout, equipment, fixtures, furniture, signs and decorating) required for the development of the Franchised Business at the site leased or purchased therefore, provided that Franchisee may modify Company's basic plans and specifications only to the extent required to comply with all applicable ordinances, building codes and permit requirements and with prior notification to and approval by Company (such approval shall not be construed as a guaranty, representation, or warranty concerning the likelihood of success of such location); (ii) obtain all required zoning changes, building, utility, health, sanitation and sign permits and licenses and any other required permits and licenses; (iii) purchase or lease equipment, fixtures, furniture and signs provided herein; (iv) complete the construction and/or remodeling, equipment, furniture and sign installation and decorating of the Franchised Business in full and strict compliance with plans and specifications theretofore approved by Company and all applicable ordinances, building codes and permit requirements; (v) obtain all customary contractors' sworn statements and partial and final waivers of lien for construction, remodeling, decorating and installation services; (vi) purchase in accordance with the Company's specifications and requirements, an initial inventory of products and supplies required for the

Franchised Business; (vii) establish filing, accounting and inventory control systems conforming to the requirements presented by the Company; and (viii) otherwise complete development of and have the Franchised Business ready to open and commence the conduct of its business in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. The Franchisee agrees it will not open the Franchised Business for business without the Company's prior written approval. Within one hundred twenty (120) days of Franchisee's opening the Franchised Business to the public, Franchisee agrees to submit information, in the format prescribed by the Company, regarding all of its costs incurred to construct and open the Franchised Business and all costs and expenses incurred during the first three (3) months after it opened to the public.

D. Lease Renewal. Prior to renewal of the lease, Company must review and approve the lease renewal. Company's approval of the lease renewal shall be conditioned upon the inclusion of terms in the lease acceptable to Company, including but not limited to those provisions required to be included in a lease for a location as specified in this Agreement. Company's approval of the lease renewal does not constitute a guaranty or a representation of the likelihood of success of the location or of the viability of the lease terms. Franchisee is encouraged to employ the services of a real estate attorney for legal advice regarding the terms of the lease. As a condition to approving the lease renewal, Franchisee may be required to remodel, modernize, and redecorate the premises of the Franchised Business at Franchisee's cost so that the Franchised Business reflects the then-current image intended to be portrayed by Franchised Businesses. Upon receiving a request for a lease renewal, Company shall furnish Franchisee with a written notice of any deficiencies or other matters which require correction and a schedule for corrections by Franchisee relating to the image, appearance, decoration, furnishings, equipment and stocking of the Franchised Business and a schedule for effecting upgrading or modifications in order to bring the Franchised Business in compliance with the Company's then-current standards. The fee for Company's services in connection with the lease renewal and the process for evaluating the necessary upgrades is based upon the costs incurred by the Company and is due and payable to Company upon the execution of the lease renewal by the landlord for the Franchised Business premises.

E. Remodel the Premises. Franchisee shall be required to periodically make reasonable capital expenditures to re-equip, remodel, modernize and redecorate the premises of the Franchised Business so that the Franchised Business will reflect the then-current image intended to be portrayed by Franchised Businesses. All remodeling, modernization, or redecoration of the premises of the Franchised Business and all re-equipping and replacing of vehicles, equipment, signs or other assets of the Franchised Business must be done in accordance with the standards and specifications as prescribed by Company from time to time and with the prior written approval of Company. All replacements must conform to Company's then-current quality standards and specifications and must be approved by Company in writing.

F. Conduct the Franchised Business According to System Standards. Conduct the Franchised Business offering only such services and products as Company authorizes from time to time. During the development and operation of the Franchised Business, Franchisee agrees to follow Company's specifications, standards, methods and operating procedures (the "System Standards"). Franchisee agrees to develop and operate the Franchised Business in accordance with each and every System Standard, as periodically modified or supplemented by the Company. System Standards may govern all aspects of the development and operation of the Franchised Business including, without limitation, the following: (1) performance, quality and other relevant characteristics of the services and products offered by the Franchised Business; (2)

use of the Marks and protection of confidential information; (3) types of authorized equipment, vehicles, supplies and products; (4) designated and approved suppliers including, without limitation, Company or its affiliates for the purchase of services and/or equipment and the Company's proprietary products; (5) minimum hours of operation and required days and times for product and service preparation that may change from time to time; (6) participation in market research and testing and product and service development programs prescribed by Company; (7) qualifications, training, appearance and attitude of the Franchised Business' employees; (8) use and retention of standard forms; (9) use of standard formats; (10) use of computer hardware and software; (11) adoption of technological developments or advances; (12) the addition or deletion of new products and/or services; and (13) minimum and maximum prices for products and services offered or sold by the Franchised Business, to the extent legally permissible. All products shall be sold only in the weights, sizes, forms and packaging approved by the Company. Franchisee shall bear all costs and expenses pertaining to the development, operation, and maintenance of the Franchised Business and Franchisee's compliance with the System Standards as periodically modified or supplemented by Company. Franchisee acknowledges and agrees that it will be required to continuously update, upgrade, and/or add to its equipment, technology, hardware, and software at its sole cost and expense as Company may direct, advise, or require from time to time. Franchisee may not delegate or subcontract to any other party, or otherwise use resources outside the Franchised Business, to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement or to any customer. Company anticipates that Franchisee's workers must be regular W-2 employees, not independent contractors. Franchisee may not engage in any community fundraisers or community events (whether non-profit or for profit) that use the "Buttermilk Cafe" brand, Marks, or premises without the prior written consent of Company.

G. Operating and Maintaining the Franchised Business. Operate and maintain the Franchised Business in accordance with Company's specifications and procedures contained in the Operations Manual. All costs and expenses pertaining to operating and maintaining the Franchised Business shall be borne solely by the Franchisee. The Franchisee agrees to use only those accounting firms and software, architecture services and providers, real estate services and providers, construction and general contractor services and providers, financial analysis and management product(s) or service(s), online ordering and/or delivery providers, technology platforms and/or providers, insurance agents and products, merchant processing, gift cards, customer loyalty programs, music provider, audio or visual entertainment provider, membership programs, other service providers, items of equipment, vehicles, inventory, decor, payroll processing, worker time tracking, human resources services, employee scheduling services and providers, social media, (all aspects including without limitation marketing, advertising, activities, and presence), email platform including without limitation email campaigns provider, computer hardware and software, (including without limitation for order taking, inventory management, point of sale (POS), reports, general business operations, training, customer relations management (CRM)), phone and security hardware and software, other technology, food and beverage suppliers, seasonings supplier, packaging, bags, wraps, stickers, graphic design services, interior design services, supplies, promotional and marketing services and printing providers, apparel and signs that the Company has approved for a Franchised Business as meeting its specifications and standards for appearance, function, trade dress, design, quality and performance and to purchase or lease them only from the Company, its affiliates or suppliers approved by the Company. If the Franchisee proposes to purchase, lease, or otherwise use any accounting firm or software, architecture services and providers, real estate services and providers, construction and general contractor services and providers, financial analysis and management product(s) or service(s), online ordering and/or delivery provider, technology platform and/or

provider, insurance agent or product, merchant processing, gift cards, customer loyalty programs, music provider, audio or visual entertainment provider, membership programs, other service providers, equipment, vehicles, inventory, decor, payroll processing, worker time tracking, human resources services, employee scheduling services and providers, social media, (all aspects including without limitation marketing, advertising, activities, and presence), email platform including without limitation email campaigns provider, computer hardware and software (including without limitation for order taking, inventory management, point of sale (POS), reports, general business operations, training, and customer relations management (CRM)), phone and security hardware and software, other technology, food and beverage suppliers, seasonings supplier, packaging, bags, wraps, stickers, graphic design services, interior design services, supplies, promotional and marketing and printing services providers, apparel or sign which is not then approved by the Company or from a supplier not then approved by the Company, the Franchisee shall first notify the Company in writing and shall submit to the Company sufficient specifications, photographs, drawings, samples, and information, along with the Company's then current fee for each person which the Company provides for this determination plus reasonable expenses, for a determination by the Company of whether such proposed supplier and/or goods or services complies with its specifications and standards relating to among other factors quality, price, consistency, reliability, financial capability, and customer relations, which determination shall be made and communicated in writing to the Franchisee within six months of receiving all requested information; the maximum fee would be \$5,000. If Company or any of its affiliates commences operating a commissary to supply Buttermilk Café restaurants, Franchisee shall purchase what is offered for sale. Franchisee acknowledges, agrees and accepts that Company and its affiliates may be making a profit on Franchisee's purchases when Franchisee purchases any goods or services from the Company or its affiliates or a designated supplier or an approved supplier. The Franchisee shall maintain the Franchised Business, equipment, vehicles, and furnishings in good repair, attractive appearance, and sound operating condition. The Franchisee, at Franchisee's expense, shall do the repairs, re-equipping, and remodeling requested by Company. The Franchisee shall make no material replacements of or alterations to the vehicles, equipment, signs or other assets of the Franchised Business without prior written approval by the Company.

H. Operate in Compliance with Law and Manual. Operate the Franchised Business in compliance with applicable laws and governmental regulations, including without limitation, government regulations relating to occupational hazards, preparation and sale of food, serving of alcohol, health, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance, and the withholding and payment of federal and state income taxes, social security taxes and sales and service taxes. The Franchisee will obtain at Franchisee's expense, and keep in force, any permits, licenses or other consents required for the leasing, construction or operation of the Franchised Business. In addition, the Franchisee shall operate the Franchised Business in accordance with the Company's Operations Manual which may be amended from time to time as a result of experience, changes in the law or changes in the marketplace. The Franchisee agrees to conform to such amendments, and to make all reasonable expenditures necessitated by the amendments, within the time periods reasonably established by the Company. The Operations Manual as amended is intended to further the purposes of this Agreement and is specifically incorporated into this Agreement such that it shall constitute provisions of this Agreement as if fully set forth herein. Company shall loan Franchisee one copy of the Company's Operations Manual either as a hard paper copy or an electronic copy. The Franchisee must keep its copy of the Operations Manual current, and the master copy of the Operations Manual maintained by the Company controls if there is a dispute regarding the contents of the Operations Manual. Franchisee shall not copy any part of the Operations Manual, permit any part of it to be copied, or disclose it to anyone not having

a need to know its contents for purposes of operating the Franchised Business without Company's permission. The Franchisee shall refrain from conducting any business or selling any services or products other than those approved by the Company. The Franchisee shall use Franchisee's best efforts to promote and enhance the Franchised Business for the full term of this Agreement. The Company may operate for the benefit of franchisees who are in compliance with the System Standards a system of fines which Franchisee would pay for violations of some policies of the Operations Manual. For example, if the Franchisee's employees do not wear the proper attire, then the Franchisee would pay a fine. The system of fines would be described and updated in the Operations Manual. The Company reserves the right to utilize the electronic funds transfer system to implement the operational fine system.

I. Purchase and Maintain Insurance. Purchase and maintain at all times during the term of this Agreement at Franchisee's sole expense such insurance coverage as Company may, in its sole discretion, prescribe from time to time including, but not limited to, workers' compensation, comprehensive public liability and property damage, dram shop liquor liability, vehicle liability, cyber risk, business interruption and general and umbrella coverages. Such insurance coverage shall be maintained under one or more policies of insurance of the types and containing such terms and conditions and minimum liability protection in such amounts, as are specified from time to time by Company and issued by insurance carriers and insurance agents approved by Company. Company may from time to time increase the minimum amount of coverage required under any policy, and require different or additional kinds of insurance to reflect inflation, identification of new risks, changes in law or standards of liability, higher damage awards or other relevant changes in circumstances. All insurance policies required hereunder shall name Company (and its affiliates, officers, directors, managers, shareholders, members and employees) as additional insureds, shall contain a waiver by the insurance carrier of all subrogation rights against Company (and the above additional insureds) and shall provide that Company will receive thirty (30) days advance written notice of termination, expiration or cancellation or modification of any such policy. Prior to Franchisee's commencement of operations, and annually thereafter, Franchisee shall furnish to Company a copy of the certificate, or other evidence of the insurance, renewal, or extension of each such insurance policy, together with evidence of payment of premiums, evidencing the required limits. If Franchisee does not maintain such insurance as required, the Company may, at its option and in addition to its other rights and remedies hereunder, but shall not be obligated to, obtain such insurance and keep the same in full force and effect on Franchisee's behalf, and Franchisee shall reimburse the Company for all premiums incurred by the Company in connection with obtaining such insurance plus a fifteen percent service charge. In addition, the Franchisee shall defend, indemnify and save the Company harmless from any liability or claim of any type that arises in connection with the operation of the Franchised Business.

J. Use the Accounting and Records System. Use the bookkeeping, accounting, and record keeping system, software, services, and vendors, prescribed by the Company and submit to the Company such periodic reports, forms, and records as specified, and in the manner and at the time specified, in the Operations Manual. To ensure uniform financial statements are submitted by Franchisee, the Franchisee agrees to use the Company's standard chart of accounts, balance sheet format, and profit and loss report format for tracking income and expense items for the Franchised Business, and the Company may also require Franchisee to provide Company or a designee continuous direct, recurring access to its bookkeeping, accounting, and record keeping statements, system, technology, and/or software upon notice from the Company. For a period of five years from their date of preparation, the Franchisee will keep on file at the Franchisee's principal office and make available to the Company all such records,

including, without limitation, the following: receipts, invoices, payroll records, check stubs, bank deposit receipts, sales tax records and returns, business and personal tax returns, and such journals and transactions which properly summarize the transactions of the Franchised Business. The Franchisee hereby grants permission to the Company to examine all records of any supplier pertaining to Franchisee's purchases.

1. The Franchisee shall furnish to the Company the following reports among others: (i) by the second day after the end of the business week (currently ending Tuesday), a telephonic or other electronic report (as the Company designates) of the Gross Sales of the Franchised Business for the preceding week; (ii) by the fifth day after the end of the business week, a written report of the Gross Sales of the Franchised Business for the preceding week; (iii) by the fifteenth day after each calendar month, a profit and loss statement for the preceding calendar month and a year-to-date profit and loss statement and balance sheet; and (iv) within seventy-five days after the end of each calendar year, a calendar year end balance sheet and an annual profit and loss statement for the calendar year reflecting all year-end adjustments. The Franchisee must verify and sign all reports submitted to the Company. If the Franchisee fails to report Franchisee's Gross Sales on a timely basis, the Company may estimate Franchisee's Gross Sales; the Company may then deposit any unpaid Royalty Fee, brand fund contribution or other amount due by use of the electronic funds transfer system. The Franchisee authorizes the Company to utilize the Franchisee's name, business address and telephone number, home address and telephone number, revenues, expenses, profits and/or any other data supplied by Franchisee in such manner and for such purposes as the Company may desire, including but not limited to, operations reports, advertising reports, other business reports and in any publication, disclosure document, or advertisement related to the sale of franchised businesses or related entities by Company, anywhere, at any time, without specific compensation therefore.

2. The Company may require the Franchisee to utilize a computer system, including a customer order processing and inventory control system and/or cash register and credit/debit card system, customer relations management (CRM) system, the Software Program, and/or software, payment and invoicing, and business management software and other hardware and software systems that are fully compatible with any programs or system that the Company, in its discretion, employs from time to time. All Gross Sales and sales related information shall be recorded on such equipment. The Company shall have full access to all of Franchisee's data, system and related information by means of direct access whether in person or by telephone/modem or other electronic means.

3. The Franchisee shall allow the Company's representatives to enter, without prior notice, Franchisee's business premises during business hours to inspect and audit Franchisee's business operations, records, and reports. In the event any such inspection or audit shall disclose an understatement of the Gross Sales of the Franchised Business for any period, the Franchisee shall pay to the Company within ten days after receipt of the inspection or audit report, the royalty fee, brand fund contribution, and other fees plus interest and late fees due on the amount of the understatement. Further, in the event such audit is made necessary by the failure of the Franchisee to furnish reports, financial statements, tax returns or schedules as herein required, or if an understatement of Gross Sales for any period is determined by any such inspection or audit to be greater than two percent, the Franchisee shall reimburse the Company for the cost of such inspection or audit including without limitation the charges of attorneys and independent accountants and the travel expenses, room and board, and compensation of employees or agents of the Company and the Company shall have the right to require the Franchisee to furnish, at the

Franchisee's sole cost and expense, audited financial statements thereafter. In addition, the Franchisee shall pay for all costs, as specified above, of the inspection and audit if Franchisee's books and records are not produced at the time of the inspection and audit, provided that the Company notified the Franchisee at least five days prior to the scheduled inspection and audit date. The Company shall have the right to review the operation and administration of the Franchised Business by quality control testing, periodic field reviews and such other tests, reviews and inspections and other reasonable actions deemed desirable by the Company.

4. The Franchisee acknowledges that to assure compliance with this Agreement, Company shall have the unrestricted right to enter the Franchised Business to examine the operations and facilities including, but not limited to, testing, sampling, inspecting and observing the rendering of the services and products sold by Franchisee in order to ascertain compliance or noncompliance with this Agreement. Franchisee shall be under an affirmative duty to cooperate with Company or its duly authorized representatives in any such inspection by rendering any assistance as may be reasonably requested. Company shall have the right to observe, photograph, record and video tape the Franchisee's business operations for such consecutive or intermittent periods as Company deems necessary. Company shall have the right to interview personnel and customers of the Franchised Business.

5. The Company shall have the right to implement a third-party mystery shopper program at the Franchised Business. The Company may require the Franchisee to pay the cost of the program to the third-party mystery shopper firm directly or to remit the monies to the Company which will then pay the third-party mystery shopper firm.

6. The Company may contract with third-party firms to perform periodic quality assurance audits of the Franchised Business. The Company may require the Franchisee to pay the cost of the quality assurance audits to the quality assurance firm directly or to remit the monies to the Company which will then pay the quality assurance firm.

7. Franchisee acknowledges that the quality of customer service, and every detail of appearance and demeanor of Franchisee and its employees, is material to this Agreement and the relationship created hereby. Therefore, Franchisee shall endeavor to maintain high standards of quality and service in the operation of the Franchised Business. Franchisee shall at all times give prompt, courteous and efficient service to customers of the Franchised Business. The Franchised Business shall in all dealings with its customers, vendors and the general public adhere to the highest standards of honesty, fair dealing and ethical conduct. If Company deems that Franchisee did not fairly handle a customer complaint, Company has the right to intervene and satisfy the customer. Company has the right to terminate this Agreement for repeated violation of this Section. Franchisee must respond within forty-eight (48) hours to each and every customer complaint and must offer a full refund as a way to resolve any customer complaint. Franchisee shall pay to Company the Company's then-current customer resolution fee and reimburse Company for all costs incurred by Company in servicing a customer of the Franchised Business pursuant to this Section.

8. Upon the occurrence of a Crisis Management Event, Franchisee agrees to immediately inform Company of such event and to cooperate fully with Company and with the appropriate authorities with respect to the investigation of the Crisis Management Event. In an effort to mitigate possible damages to the Marks and the System, Franchisee must cooperate fully with Company with respect to managing statements and other responses to the Crisis

Management Event. “Crisis Management Event” means any event that occurs at or about the Franchised Business premises or in connection with the operation of the Franchised Business that has or may cause harm or injury to customers or employees, such as food contamination, food spoilage/poisoning, food tampering/sabotage, contagious diseases, natural disasters, terrorist acts, shootings or other acts of violence, data breaches, real or threatened, or any other circumstance which may materially and adversely affect the System or the goodwill symbolized by the Marks.

K. Refrain from Owning Conflicting or Competing Interests. Not be directly or indirectly associated as an employee, proprietor, stockholder, partner, member, agent, officer, or director, consultant, representative, manager, spouse, parent, sibling or in any other capacity with, or operate, engage, own, invest in, or participate in any other restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then-current standard Buttermilk Café menu, during the term of this Agreement, except as a duly licensed Buttermilk Café franchisee. Franchisee shall not own, engage or participate in any other business, directly or indirectly, during the term of this Agreement, which franchises or otherwise grants to others the right to operate a restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then-current standard Buttermilk Café menu. Franchisee shall operate the Franchised Business in a manner which maximizes Franchisee’s Gross Sales consistent with sound marketing and business practices, and Franchisee shall not engage in any business practice which reduces Franchisee’s Gross Sales. Franchisee shall not solicit or employ or contract with any person who is a current or former employee or independent contractor of Company or any other Buttermilk Café restaurant at any time during the twelve-month period immediately prior thereto.

L. Contribute to the Brand Fund. Contribute to the brand fund (the “Brand Fund”) for such advertising and marketing programs as the Company in its sole discretion from time to time deems appropriate. The Company shall direct all advertising and marketing programs financed by the Brand Fund, with sole discretion over the creative concepts, materials and endorsements used therein, and the geographic, market and media placement and allocation thereof. Company is not obligated to spend any particular amount in Franchisee’s Protected Area. Franchisee agrees to contribute to the Brand Fund up to three percent (3%) of Franchisee’s Gross Sales, as herein defined, such amount to be determined by the Company. Brand Fund contributions shall be paid together with the Royalty Fee due hereunder.

1. Franchisee agrees that the Brand Fund may be used to pay the costs of preparing advertising materials and administering national, regional and local advertising programs and public relations activities. These programs and activities may include, without limitation, creating direct mail and media materials, formulating advertising and marketing programs, developing and maintaining website and internet-based advertising and marketing programs, intranet development and ongoing operation, toll-free locator services, email systems and services, creation and management of loyalty, membership and gift card program(s), employing advertising agencies to assist therewith, research and development for future potential products or services, events or charitable sponsorships, and providing brochures and other advertising and marketing materials for Buttermilk Cafe restaurants, and participating in any national or regional trade shows that Company, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate. Through the Brand Fund, the Company may furnish Franchisee with approved advertising and marketing materials on the same terms and conditions as such materials are furnished to other Buttermilk Cafe restaurants. The Brand Fund shall be accounted for separately from the other funds of the Company and shall not be used to defray the Company’s general operating expenses, except for such reasonable salaries, administrative costs and overhead as the Company may incur in activities

reasonably related to the administration of the Brand Fund and its advertising and marketing programs (including, without limitation, conducting market and product/service research, preparing advertising and marketing materials and collecting and accounting for contributions to the Brand Fund and the marketing, advertising, and sale of franchises). The Company shall be authorized to spend in any fiscal year an amount greater or less than the aggregate contribution of all Buttermilk Cafe restaurants to the Brand Fund in that year; and the Brand Fund may borrow from the Company or other lenders to cover deficits of the Brand Fund or cause the Brand Fund to invest any surplus for future use by the Brand Fund. A report of the receipts and disbursements of the Brand Fund, which may be audited, shall be prepared annually and shall be made available to Franchisee upon written request. The cost of preparing the report shall be paid by the Brand Fund. Franchisee understands and acknowledges that the Brand Fund is intended to maximize general public recognition and patronage of the Marks and Buttermilk Cafe restaurants for the benefit of all Buttermilk Cafe restaurants and that the Company undertakes no obligation in administering the Brand Fund to ensure that expenditures which are proportionate or equivalent to Franchisee's contributions are made for the market area of the Franchised Business or that any Buttermilk Cafe restaurant benefits directly or pro rata from the conduct of marketing programs or the placement of advertising. Except as expressly provided in this Section, the Company assumes no direct or indirect liability or obligation to Franchisee with respect to the maintenance, direction or administration of the Brand Fund.

2. The Company shall also be allowed to cause the Brand Fund to be incorporated or operated through an entity separate from the Company at such time as the Company deems appropriate; such entity shall have the same rights and duties as the Company does pursuant to this Section. Upon thirty days prior written notice to Franchisee, the Company shall have the right, in its sole discretion, (i) to suspend contributions to and operation of the Brand Fund for one or more periods that Company determines to be appropriate or (ii) to terminate the Brand Fund. The Company shall distribute all unspent monies of the Brand Fund which was terminated to the Company, its affiliates and franchisees in proportion to their respective contributions to the Brand Fund during the preceding twelve-month period. The Company shall have the right to reinstate the Brand Fund upon the same terms and conditions as set forth in this Agreement, upon thirty days prior written notice to Franchisee.

3. Franchisee shall spend within one month after the opening of the Franchised Business a minimum of \$15,000 on local advertising, marketing and promotion of the opening of the Franchised Business in accordance with an opening marketing plan approved by the Company. These grand opening expenditures are in addition to the Brand Fund contributions specified above. Company may require Franchisee to pay to the Brand Fund five months before the scheduled opening of the Franchised Business the total amount due for the opening marketing plan (no less than \$15,000) which the Company will then spend on local advertising, marketing and promotion of the opening of the Franchised Business in accordance with an opening marketing plan developed by the Company.

4. Provided that a majority of the Buttermilk Cafe locations in Franchisee's ad-coverage area agree to participate in the program, Franchisee shall participate in and contribute its share to additional advertising and promotional programs in Franchisee's ad-coverage area. The cost of the program shall be allocated among the locations in such area and each location's share shall be in proportion to its sales during the preceding twelve (12) month period and/or may be a flat amount. "Ad-coverage area" shall be defined as the area covered by the advertising medium (television, radio or other media) as recognized in the industry. At the

time a program is submitted, Company shall submit a list of all operating locations within the ad-coverage area.

5. In addition to Franchisee's obligations to pay into the Brand Fund and to pay for the grand opening expenditures, as set forth above, Franchisee agrees to expend quarterly on local advertising and promotions of the Franchised Business and the Marks in each fiscal year of the Company at least two percent (2%) of Franchisee's Gross Sales, as herein defined; Company can change this amount to be up to and including three percent (3%) of Franchisee's Gross Sales. Amounts contributed to the ad-coverage area advertising and promotions requirement pursuant to the prior paragraph shall be credited towards Franchisee's requirement for local advertising and promotions under this paragraph. Expenditures in any fiscal year in excess of such minimum advertising requirement shall not be credited against minimum advertising requirements for any other fiscal year. The Company shall have the right to review Franchisee's books and records from time to time to determine Franchisee's expenditures for such required advertising and promotion, and Franchisee shall submit an accounting of its expenditures for such required advertising and promotion within fifteen (15) days of the end of each calendar quarter. If the Company determines that Franchisee has not spent the requisite amount, the Company may require Franchisee to pay such unexpended amounts to the Brand Fund. At any time, Company may require Franchisee to pay the above local advertising and promotions amount to the Company or to a designated or approved supplier for spending on local advertising and promotions instead of Franchisee spending such amounts directly.

6. For purposes of the foregoing minimum advertising requirements, advertising expenditures shall include contributions to Company-approved advertising cooperatives, and amounts expended for advertising media such as television, radio, newspaper, billboards, magazines, posters, direct mail, social media marketing if approved by the Company, program booklet advertising, collateral promotional and novelty items, advertising on public vehicles, and, if not provided by the Company, the cost of producing approved materials necessary to participate in these media, including advertising agency commissions related to the production of such advertising. Advertising expenditures shall not include payments for items which the Company, in its reasonable judgment, deems inappropriate for meeting the minimum advertising requirements, including, without limitation, payments in connection with permanent on-premises signs, lighting, purchasing or maintaining vehicles, even though such vehicles may display the Marks, and other payments.

7. Prior to their use by Franchisee, samples of all local advertising, promotion and public relations materials not prepared or previously approved by the Company shall be submitted to the Company for approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. If written disapproval is not received by Franchisee within fourteen (14) days from the date of receipt by the Company of such materials, the Company shall be deemed to have given the required approval. Franchisee shall not use any advertising, promotion or public relations materials that the Company has disapproved.

8. Company may establish, acquire, or host any website(s) to advertise, market, and promote Buttermilk Cafe restaurants, the products and services that they offer and sell, and/or a Buttermilk Cafe franchise opportunity (each a "Franchise System Website"). Company may (but is not required to) provide Franchisee with a webpage on a Franchise System Website that references Franchisee's Franchised Business for informational purposes only. If Company provides Franchisee with a webpage on a Franchise System Website, Franchisee must:

(i) provide Company the information and materials Company requests to develop, update, and modify Franchisee's webpage; (ii) notify Company whenever any information on Franchisee's webpage is not accurate; and (iii) if, from time to time, Company gives Franchisee permission to modify Franchisee's webpage, notify Company whenever Franchisee changes the content of Franchisee's webpage about what was changed and when. Company will own all intellectual property and other rights in all Franchise System Websites, including Franchisee's webpage and all information it contains (including the domain name, any associated URL or email address, any website analytical data, and any personal or business data that visitors supply). We may permit you to sell products and/or services through the Franchise System Website from time to time in our sole discretion. Franchisee agrees to pay all amounts due to Company or any designated vendor related to establishing and maintaining its Franchise System Website and/or other online media (*e.g.* establishing its online ordering, booking, or reservations platform).

Company may use Brand Fund assets to develop, maintain and update any Franchise System Website. Company periodically may update and modify any Franchise System Website (including Franchisee's webpage). Franchisee acknowledges that Company has final approval rights over all information on any Franchise System Website (including Franchisee's webpage). Company may implement and periodically modify system standards relating to any Franchise System Website.

Even if Company provides Franchisee a webpage on a Franchise System Website, Company will only maintain this webpage while Franchisee is in full compliance with this Agreement and all system standards which Company implements (including without limitation those relating to Franchise System Websites). If Franchisee is in default of any obligation under this Agreement or Company's system standards, then Company may temporarily remove Franchisee's webpage from any Franchise System Website (or all Franchise System Websites) until Franchisee fully cures the default. Company will permanently remove Franchisee's webpage from all Franchise System Websites upon this Agreement's expiration or termination.

Company may require Franchisee to provide notice of any Franchise System Website in the advertising, marketing, and promotional materials that Franchisee develops for Franchisee's Franchised Business in the manner Company designates. Company reserves the sole right to sell the products and services sold in connection with the Buttermilk Cafe Marks on the internet through Franchise System Websites; Company may permit Franchisee to sell products and services through the Franchise System Websites from time to time in its sole discretion. Franchisee agrees that Franchisee will not sell any Buttermilk Cafe products or services to customers on a website through the internet or through any alternative channels of distribution without the Company's prior written consent, which Franchisee acknowledges and agrees Company may withdraw at any time.

Company reserves the right to require Franchisee to obtain from Company and use an email address associated with Company's registered domain name. If Company requires Franchisee to obtain and use such an email address, Franchisee must do so according to Company's then-current terms and conditions.

Except as provided above, or as approved by Company in writing, Franchisee may not develop, maintain or authorize any website, domain name, URL address, email address, other online presence or other electronic medium that mentions Franchisee's Franchised Business, links to any Franchise System Website or displays any of the Marks, or engage in any promotional or

similar activities, whether directly or indirectly, through or on the internet, or any other similar proprietary or common carrier electronic delivery system. If Company approves the use of any such websites, other online presences or electronic mediums, including social networking websites (such as LinkedIn®, Twitter®, Instagram®, Facebook®, or YouTube®) in the operation of Franchisee's Franchised Business, or the posting of messages relating to Franchisee's Franchised Business on other websites, Franchisee will do so only in accordance with Company's guidelines, which may include without limitation that Company shall receive access credentials (username and password or similar that provide the ability to author, delete, and respond to any posts or messages) to such social networking websites, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary, Company shall be the sole owner of all such posts, messages, content, etc. Company reserves the right to require Company's pre-approval of any message Franchisee composes for a social networking website or commentary for any other website before Franchisee posts such message or commentary. Company reserves the right to manage and implement all social media content and messages related to the Franchised Business and may do so itself or through a designated third-party.

M. Use the Marks Properly. Use the Marks as the sole identification of the Franchised Business, provided that Franchisee shall identify himself as the independent owner thereof in the manner prescribed by the Company. Franchisee shall not use any Marks as part of any company or trade name or with any prefix, suffix or other modifying words, terms, designs or symbols, or in any modified form, nor may Franchisee use any Marks in connection with the sale of any unauthorized service or product or in any other manner not expressly authorized in writing by the Company. Franchisee shall pay to Company an unauthorized products fee that is the greater of \$250 per day per use, or the amount stated in the Operations Manual, when Franchisee sells, offers for sale or uses an unauthorized product or service. Franchisee agrees to display the Marks in the manner prescribed by the Company on or in connection with signs, posters, displays, service contracts, stationery and other forms Company designates. Further, Franchisee agrees to give such notices of trademark or service mark registrations and copyrights as the Company specifies and to obtain such fictitious or assumed name registrations as may be required under applicable law. All bank accounts, licenses, permits or other similar documents shall contain the actual name of the person or entity owning the Franchised Business and may contain "d/b/a Buttermilk Cafe". Any sign face bearing the Marks shall remain the property of the Company even though the Franchisee may have paid a third party to make the sign faces.

1. Franchisee shall immediately notify the Company in writing of any apparent infringement of or challenge to Franchisee's use of any Marks, or claim by any person of any rights in any Marks or any similar trade name, trademark or service mark of which Franchisee becomes aware. Franchisee shall not communicate with any person other than the Company and its counsel in connection with any such infringement, challenge or claim. The Company and its affiliates shall have sole discretion to take such action as they deem appropriate and the right to exclusively control any litigation, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office proceeding or other administrative proceeding arising out of any such infringement, challenge or claim or otherwise relating to any Marks. Franchisee agrees to execute any and all instruments and documents, render such assistance and do such acts and things as may, in the opinion of the Company's counsel, or the counsel of the Company's affiliates, be necessary or advisable to protect and maintain the interests of the Company and its affiliates in any such litigation, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office proceeding or other administrative proceeding or to otherwise protect and maintain the interests of the Company and its affiliates in the Marks. The Company agrees to indemnify Franchisee against, and to reimburse Franchisee for, all damages for which

Franchisee is held liable in any proceeding in which Franchisee's use of any Marks, pursuant to and in compliance with this Agreement, is held to constitute trademark infringement, unfair competition or dilution, and for all costs reasonably incurred by Franchisee in the defense of any such claim brought against Franchisee or in any such proceeding in which Franchisee is named as a party, provided that Franchisee has timely notified the Company of such claim or proceeding and has otherwise complied with this Agreement and that the Company shall have the right to defend any such claim. If the Company does undertake to defend such claim, then the Company shall have no obligation to indemnify or reimburse Franchisee for any fees or disbursements of counsel Franchisee retains.

2. If it becomes advisable at any time, in the Company's sole discretion, for the Company and/or Franchisee to modify or discontinue use of any Marks, and/or use one or more additional or substitute trademarks or service marks, Franchisee agrees to comply therewith a reasonable time after notice thereof by the Company (agreed not to exceed sixty (60) days), and the sole liability and obligation of the Company and its affiliates in any such event shall be to reimburse Franchisee for the out-of-pocket costs of complying with this obligation.

3. Franchisee acknowledges the Company's prior rights in and to the Marks and that Franchisee's right to use the Marks is derived solely from this Agreement and is limited to the conduct of Franchisee's business pursuant to and in compliance with this Agreement and all applicable specifications, standards and operating procedures prescribed by the Company from time to time during the term of this Agreement. Any unauthorized use of the Marks by Franchisee shall constitute an infringement of the rights of the Company in and to the Marks. Franchisee agrees that all usage of the Marks by Franchisee and any goodwill established thereby shall inure to the exclusive benefit of the Company, and Franchisee acknowledges that this Agreement does not confer any goodwill or other interest in the Marks upon Franchisee. All provisions of this Agreement applicable to the Marks shall apply to any additional trademarks, service marks, logo forms and commercial symbols hereafter authorized for use by and licensed to Franchisee pursuant to this Agreement.

4. Any improvements or additions to the System, website or any other documents or information pertaining to or relating to the System or the Franchised Business, or any new trade names, trade and service marks (whether claimed under common law or from federal or state agencies), logos, or commercial symbols related to the Franchised Business or any advertising and promotional ideas or inventions related to the Franchised Business (collectively, the "Improvements") conceived or developed or used by Franchisee shall become Company's property. Franchisee agrees to assign and does hereby assign to Company, all right, title and interest in and to the Improvements, including the right to grant sublicenses to any such Improvement. Franchisee shall fully disclose the Improvements to Company, without disclosure of the Improvements to others, and shall obtain Company's written approval prior to using such Improvements. Any such Improvement may be used by Company and all of Company's other businesses without any obligation to Franchisee for royalties or other fees. Company may, at Company's discretion, apply for and own copyrights, patents, trade names, trademarks and service marks relating to any such Improvement and Franchisee shall cooperate with Company in securing such rights. Company may also consider such Improvements as Company's property and trade secrets. In return, Company shall, in accordance with the other terms of this Agreement, authorize Franchisee to utilize any Improvement that may be developed by other franchisees and is authorized generally for use by other franchisees. All Improvements created by Franchisee or any other person or entity retained or employed by Franchisee are Company's property, and

Company shall be entitled to use and license others to use such Improvements unencumbered by moral rights. If any of the Improvements are copyrightable materials, they shall be works made for hire within the meaning of the United States Copyright Act and, to the extent the copyrightable materials are not works made for hire or rights in the copyrightable materials do not automatically accrue to Company, Franchisee irrevocably assigns and agrees to assign to Company, and Company's successors and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest in perpetuity throughout the world in and to any and all rights, including all copyrights and related rights, in such copyrighted materials, which Franchisee and the author of such copyrighted materials warrant and represent as being created by and wholly original with the author. Where applicable, Franchisee agrees to obtain any other assignments of rights in the Improvements from another person or entity necessary to ensure Company's right in the Improvements as required in this Section.

5. Company shall be entitled to use and publish in printed and digital publications and on websites the name, likeness and voice of Franchisee and its Agents for purposes of promoting the franchise, the Franchisee, the Company and its services and products, including all photos and audio and video recordings of Franchisee and its Agents, and Franchisee hereby irrevocably consents thereto. Franchisee acknowledges that Company will own all right, title and interest, to the extent allowed by law, in all rights of integrity, disclosure and publication and any other rights that may be known as or referred to as "moral rights," "artist's rights," "publicity rights" or the like associated with such photos and audio and video recordings, and assigns and transfers unto Company the full and exclusive right, title and interest to such rights. Franchisee agrees and irrevocably authorizes Company to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute any photograph or audio or video of Franchisee for any lawful purpose. Franchisee agrees and waives any rights to royalties or any other compensation related to Company's use of any photograph, audio or video of Franchisee. Franchisee agrees to hold harmless and forever discharges Company from all claims, demands, and causes of action which Franchisee may have in connection with this authorization. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "Agents" means Franchisee's principals, directors, officers, shareholders, members, managers and employees.

N. **Methods of Payment and Data Security.** Maintain, at all times, credit-card relationships with the credit and debit card issuers or sponsors, check or credit verification services, gift card providers, financial-center services, merchant service providers, and electronic-funds-transfer systems (together, "Credit Card Vendors") that Company may periodically designate as mandatory. The term "Credit Card Vendors" includes, among other things, companies that provide services for electronic payment, such as near field communication vendors (for example, "Apple Pay" and "Google Pay"). Franchisee agrees not to use any Credit Card Vendor for which Company has not given Franchisee Company's prior written approval or as to which Company has revoked Company's earlier approval. Company has the right to modify Company's requirements and designate additional approved or required methods of payment and vendors for processing such payments, and to revoke Company's approval of any service provider. Franchisee must also accept checks and other methods of payment which Company specifies. Company may require Franchisee to obtain such services through Company or Company's affiliates.

Franchisee must at all times ensure that Franchisee is in compliance with the applicable regulations and requirements issued by the credit card processing companies and banking industries. Franchisee agrees to comply with the then-current Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards as those standards may be revised and modified by the PCI Security Standards Council, LLC (see www.pcisecuritystandards.org), or any successor organization or standards that

Company may reasonably specify. Among other things, Franchisee agrees to implement the enhancements, security requirements, and other standards that the PCI Security Standards Council (or its successor) requires of a merchant that accepts payment by credit and/or debit cards.

O. Make Prompt Payment of All Amounts Due. Make prompt payment of all amounts due to the Company and its affiliates and to suppliers, vendors, lessors, utilities and any landlord of the Franchised Business. Royalty Fees, Brand Fund contributions, and any other amounts Franchisee owes to the Company or its affiliates shall bear interest, compounded from the date due until fully paid, at the rate of two percent per month; provided however, that in the event such rate exceeds the maximum rate allowable by applicable law, such amounts will bear interest at such maximum rate. Franchisee shall also pay the Company and its affiliates a late fee of the greater of \$200 or the amount stated in the Operations Manual for every notification or demand for payment, or for non-sufficient funds payments by check or electronic transfer, or for failure to timely provide required reports and financial statements, or for any other violation of this Agreement. Franchisee acknowledges that the interest and late fee do not constitute the Company's agreement to accept payments after they are due and are in addition to any other remedy available to the Company, including without limitation default and termination of this Agreement. Time is of the essence of this Agreement. The Company may require, currently or in the future, all Royalty Fees, Brand Fund contributions, ad-coverage area contributions, training fees, and any other amounts which Franchisee owes to the Company or its affiliates to be paid by or through an electronic depository transfer account as further described in the Operations Manual. Payments for all amounts shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Operations Manual. The Company shall have sole discretion to apply any payments made by Franchisee to any of Franchisee's amounts due to the Company or its affiliates, including, without limitation, any amounts Franchisee may owe as Brand Fund contributions or other advertising fees. Franchisee agrees that Franchisee will not, for any reason whatsoever, including without limitation on grounds of the alleged nonperformance by the Company or its affiliates of any obligations hereunder, set off against or withhold payment of any Royalty Fee, Brand Fund contribution, or any other amounts due to the Company or its affiliates.

1. To secure Franchisee's performance under this Agreement, Franchisee hereby grants to Company a security interest in and to all of Franchisee's tangible and intangible property used to operate the Franchised Business including without limitation all Franchisee's equipment, accounts, deposit accounts, inventory, investment property, general intangibles, and money. Company shall record appropriate financing statements to protect and perfect its rights as a secured party. Except with Company's prior written consent, which it shall not unreasonably withhold, Franchisee will not grant any person or business entity a security interest in Franchisee's tangible or intangible assets of the Franchised Business. Company agrees to subordinate its security interest if requested by a lender providing financing to Franchisee provided that such lender: (i) agrees to provide Company with written notice in the case of Franchisee's default at the same time that the lender serves Franchisee with such notice of default; (ii) provides Company the right, but not the obligation, to cure the default under the loan or financing agreement; (iii) notifies Company if the lender assigns its interest in the loan or financing to a third party, who the lender must require to take subject to these restrictions; (iv) provides Company with a copy of the loan or financing documents which may not be materially modified at any time without Company's prior written consent so that Company may confirm that any changes do not materially impair its rights provided this section; and (v) does not take a primary security interest in Company's Marks or intellectual property or any equipment or materials bearing the Company's Marks or intellectual property. It will be Franchisee's obligation to ensure

that any loan or financing arrangements contain the above conditions and no such failure will constitute a waiver of Company's rights in this section.

P. Ongoing Training. Shall participate, if Company requires, in up to ten days per calendar year of ongoing training in the operations and marketing of the Franchised Business at Franchisee's expense. The ongoing training would be at a location which the Company selects. The ongoing training may or may not take place at an annual convention of franchisees. The Company or a third party whom the Company designates may provide the ongoing training. In the event that Franchisee requests or the Company determines in its sole discretion that Franchisee would benefit from the Company training a new manager or Operating Principal who replaces the prior manager or Operating Principal, Franchisee shall make such new manager or Operating Principal available for training and shall remit to the Company its then-current fee for new manager or Operating Principal training along with payment by Franchisee for either (i) its new manager's or Operating Principal's travel, lodging, meals, and related expenses incurred during the training if the manager or Operating Principal travels to attend the training, or (ii) Company's representative's travel, lodging, meals, and related expenses incurred during the training if the Company sends a representative to train the manager or Operating Principal at your premises. Company may terminate this Agreement if Franchisee, any manager, and/or Operating Principal have two or more unexcused absences in any twelve-month period from mandatory ongoing training required by the Company, and does not subsequently attend all Company required meetings and trainings during the following twelve-months.

Q. Convention. Shall attend, if Company requires, a national business meeting or convention of franchisees for up to four days once per calendar year at Franchisee's expense. Franchisee shall pay to Company the then-current fees and costs for attending the convention or national business meeting. The convention would be at a location which the Company selects.

R. Advisory Council. Franchisee shall participate actively in a Regional Advisory Franchisee Council ("Council") and participate in all Council programs, for Franchisee's particular Council, approved by Company. Such Council may be formed by Company, in its sole discretion, at any time that more than one franchisee conducts a Franchised Business in any given region, the boundaries of which will be determined by Company in its sole discretion. The purposes of the Council(s) include, but are not limited to, exchanging ideas and problem-solving methods, advising Company on expenditures for system-wide marketing, public relations and advertising, and coordinating franchisee efforts. Franchisee shall pay all assessments levied by the Council, and Company has the right to enforce this obligation. Amounts and expenditures may vary from time to time due to variations in Council participation and costs as determined by a particular Council and as approved by Company.

S. Software Program. If Company or any affiliate develops and custom designs or designates or requires a software program and/or hardware system or other technology for conducting accounting, inventory, customer relations management (CRM), and payment and/or invoicing, business management, payroll software, inventory, and/or point-of-sale functions and/or other activities related to the Franchised Business (hereinafter "Software Program"), Franchisee agrees to implement the Software Program into the Franchised Business, and to comply with all specifications and standards prescribed by Company regarding the Software Program as provided from time to time in the Company manuals including remitting payment of all amounts for such Software Program at the then-current rates for such Software Program

whether to Company, an affiliate, or a third-party as Company may so direct. At such time as Company requires the implementation of such Software Program, Franchisee shall only utilize the Software Program as prescribed by Company. At such time as Company requires the implementation of such Software Program, Franchisee shall be required to purchase, lease or license the designated Software Program, to purchase or lease specified computer hardware compatible with Company's Software Program requirements and contract for on-going service, maintenance and support for such hardware and Software Program at terms designated by Company or its suppliers. Company and/or its affiliates may condition any purchase, lease, or license of any required or recommended Software Program to Franchisee, and/or Franchisee's use of technology developed, administered or maintained by or for Company, on Franchisee signing or consenting to a license agreement or similar document that Company and its affiliates periodically specify to regulate Franchisee's use of, and Company's (or affiliate's) and Franchisee's respective rights and responsibilities with respect to, the software or technology. Company itself may, or Company may require any designated Software Program provider to, terminate Franchisee's access to and use of any Software Program if Franchisee is delinquent on any payments due to Company or its affiliates, suppliers, or vendors or otherwise in default of this Agreement. Franchisee shall execute any required license and/or services agreement for such Software Program and acknowledges and agrees that future modifications to such license or services agreement (including without limitation changes or increases to fees and/or changes to any aspects of the software) may be made effective upon ten (10) days prior notice to Franchisee.

1. COMPANY HEREBY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, AS TO ANY ASPECT OF THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM, ANY OTHER SOFTWARE AND ANY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT MADE AVAILABLE TO FRANCHISEE BY COMPANY OR SUGGESTED OR REQUIRED TO BE USED BY FRANCHISEE PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, THEIR OPERATION OR THE SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED BY COMPANY HEREUNDER, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, DESIGN, CONDITION, CAPACITY, PERFORMANCE, TITLE, AND NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY RIGHTS. IT IS SPECIFICALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM, ANY OTHER SOFTWARE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ANY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY COMPANY TO FRANCHISEE PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE MADE AVAILABLE ON AN AS-IS BASIS. IN NO EVENT SHALL COMPANY BE LIABLE (WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, TORT OR OTHERWISE) TO FRANCHISEE, THIRD PARTIES OR ANY OTHER PERSON CLAIMING THROUGH OR UNDER FRANCHISEE, FOR ANY DAMAGES OR EXPENSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF PROFITS, LOSS OF REVENUES, LOSS OF SAVINGS, LOSS OF USE, LOSS OR CORRUPTION OF DATA OR ANY INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, PUNITIVE OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY USE, OR INABILITY TO USE, THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM, ANY OTHER SOFTWARE AND ANY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY COMPANY TO FRANCHISEE PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, WHETHER CAUSED BY DEFECT, NEGLIGENCE, BREACH OF WARRANTY, DELAY IN DELIVERY OR OTHERWISE, EVEN IF COMPANY HAD BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES OR EXPENSES. FURTHER, NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY SHALL ARISE OR FLOW OUT OF COMPANY'S OR COMPANY'S DESIGNATED SUPPLIER'S RENDERING OF TECHNICAL OR OTHER ADVICE OR

SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM, ANY OTHER SOFTWARE AND ANY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY COMPANY TO FRANCHISEE PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT. FRANCHISEE EXCLUSIVELY BEARS FULL AND COMPLETE LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS USE AND RELIANCE ON THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM, ANY OTHER SOFTWARE AND ANY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY COMPANY TO FRANCHISEE PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, EVEN IF SUCH USE WERE TO PRODUCE INCORRECT INFORMATION OR ERRONEOUS RESULTS. IN NO EVENT SHALL COMPANY'S TOTAL LIABILITY FOR FRANCHISEE'S USE OF THE SOFTWARE PROGRAM, ANY OTHER SOFTWARE AND ANY COMPUTER EQUIPMENT MADE AVAILABLE BY COMPANY TO FRANCHISEE PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT EXCEED TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS.

T. Approved Products, Distributors and Suppliers. The reputation and goodwill of Franchised Businesses is based upon, and can be maintained only by, the sale of distinctive, high quality food products and beverages and the presentation, packaging, service and delivery of such products and services in an efficient and appealing manner. Company has or will develop various food products, ingredients, spices, seasonings, coatings, batters, mixes, preparation methods, cooking methods, systems, equipment, and methods, materials and supplies, beverages and product mixes which will be prepared by or for Company according to Company's secret recipes and formulas. Company has or will develop standards and specifications for other food products, ingredients, spices, seasonings, coatings, batters, mixes, preparation methods, cooking methods, systems, equipment, and methods, materials and supplies, beverages, materials and supplies incorporated in or used in the preparation, cooking, serving, packaging and delivery of prepared food products and services authorized for sale at the Franchised Businesses. Company has and will periodically approve suppliers and distributors of the foregoing products and/or services, as well as future products and/or services, that meet its standards and requirements, including, without limitation, standards and requirements relating to product quality, inventory, prices, consistency, reliability, financial capability, delivery services, labor relations and customer relations. Franchisee agrees that the Franchised Business will: (1) purchase Company's seasonings, product mixes and other products developed by Company pursuant to a secret recipe or formula, only from Company or a third party licensed by Company to prepare and sell such products, if so directed; and (2) purchase from distributors and other suppliers approved by Company all other goods, food products, ingredients, spices, seasonings, coatings, batters, mixes, beverages, materials and supplies used in the preparation of the food products, and equipment, menus, forms, paper and plastic products, packaging or other materials that meet Company's standards and specifications for the same, if so directed. Company may from time to time modify the list of approved brands and/or suppliers, and Franchisee shall not, after receipt in writing of such modification, reorder any brand from any supplier which is no longer approved. Company may approve a single distributor or other supplier for any product and may approve a distributor or other supplier only as to certain products. Company may concentrate purchases with one or more distributors or suppliers to obtain lower prices and/or the best advertising support and/or services for any group of locations franchised or operated by Company. Approval of a distributor or other supplier may be conditioned on requirements relating to the frequency of delivery, standards of service, including prompt attention to complaints, or other criteria, and concentration of purchases, as set forth above, and may be temporary pending a further evaluation of such distributor or other supplier by Company. Franchisee shall notify Company and submit to Company along with the Company's then-current fee for each person which the Company provides

for this determination plus reasonable expenses, not to exceed \$5,000, such information, specifications, and samples as Company requests if the Franchised Business proposes to purchase any products or services (including without limitation any food products, ingredients, spices, seasonings, coatings, batters, mixes, systems, equipment, and methods, materials, and supplies, beverages, menus, equipment, forms, paper or plastic products, packaging, utensils, or other materials) from a distributor or other supplier who has not been previously approved by Company. Company shall notify Franchisee within six months of Company's receiving all requested information whether the Franchised Business is authorized to purchase such products from such distributor or other supplier. Company may impose reasonable inspection and supervision fees on approved suppliers.

U. Technology Services. Franchisee shall pay to Company its then current Technology Fee, such amount to be determined by the Company. The Technology Fee shall be paid together with the Royalty Fee due hereunder or as otherwise specified in the Operations Manual from time to time. The Technology Fee is currently used to provide Franchisee with technology related services including without limitation website maintenance and email address costs. Company may increase the amount of the Technology Fee as necessary to compensate for the ongoing technology related services and benefits provided to Franchisee. In addition to the services provided by the Technology Fee, Franchisee agrees to pay the providers of other required or recommended technology services and products on time and according to the terms provided by such suppliers.

V. Customer Information. Franchisee may only use Customer Information (as defined below) to the extent necessary to perform Franchisee's obligations under this Agreement during the term hereof and subject to such restrictions as Company may from time to time impose and in compliance with all data privacy, security and other applicable laws. "Customer Information" means any contact information (including name, address, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses), sales and payment history, and all other information about any customer, including any information deemed "personal information" under applicable law. As used in this Agreement, the term "customer" refers to any person or entity (i) included on any marketing or customer lists Franchisee develops or uses; (ii) who has purchased or purchases services or products at or from the Franchised Business; or (iii) whom Franchisee has solicited to purchase any services or products at or from the Franchised Business. Company owns all Customer Information and may use the Customer Information as Company deems appropriate, including sharing it with Company's affiliates.

Without limiting the foregoing, Franchisee agrees to comply with applicable law in connection with Franchisee's collection, storage and Franchisee's use and Company's use of such Customer Information, including, if required under applicable law, obtaining consents from customers to Company's and its affiliates' use of the Customer Information. Franchisee must comply with all laws and regulations relating to data protection, privacy and security, including data breach response requirements ("Privacy Laws"), as well as data privacy and security policies, procedures and other requirements Company may periodically establish. Franchisee must notify Company immediately of any suspected data breach at or in connection with the Franchised Business or the business operated at the Franchisee's premises. Franchisee must fully cooperate with Company and its counsel in determining the most effective way to meet Company's standards and policies pertaining to Privacy Laws within the bounds of applicable law. Franchisee is responsible for any financial losses it incurs or remedial actions that it must take as a result of breach of security or unauthorized access to Customer Information in Franchisee's control or

possession.

If the California Consumer Privacy Act (“CCPA”), Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.100, et seq., or any federal or state privacy law applies to the Franchised Business or the business operated at Franchisee’s premises, whenever and to the extent Franchisee operates as a “Service Provider” under the CCPA or in a similar capacity under any federal or state privacy law, Franchisee represents, warrants, and covenants that: (1) Franchisee will not sell, make available or otherwise disclose any Customer Information to any third party for valuable consideration; (2) Franchisee will retain, use, or disclose Customer Information only for the specific purpose of performing the services specified in this Agreement, and not any commercial or noncommercial purpose other than providing the services specified in this Agreement; (3) Franchisee will not retain, use, or disclose Customer Information outside of the direct business relationship between Franchisee and Company; (4) Franchisee will delete any Customer Information upon Company’s request unless Franchisee can prove that such request is subject to an exception under applicable law; and (5) If Franchisee receives a Customer Information data request directly from a California resident under the CCPA (e.g. a request to delete Customer Information), Franchisee shall inform Company of that request within one business day and cooperate with Company to ensure that the consumer receives an appropriate and timely acknowledgement and response. Typically, an acknowledgement is required within 10 calendar days and a final response is required within 45 calendar days. Franchisee certifies that it understands the restrictions in subparts (1) – (5) of this section and will comply with them. Franchisee also acknowledges and agrees that Company may modify the restrictions by written notice to Franchisee, including adding other similar privacy restrictions that may be required under other state or federal privacy laws.

W. Catering and Delivery Service. Franchisee agrees that the Franchised Business shall offer catering and delivery services only as Company authorizes and requires, including without limitation through third-party providers of catering and/or delivery services. Company shall have the right to prescribe from time to time the boundaries beyond which the Franchised Business may not offer catering or delivery services and the standards and specifications for catering and delivery in order to preserve the quality and freshness of food products when delivered; these boundaries and/or specifications may differ from the Protected Area and consequently may allow another franchisee or a business the Company licenses or owns to market to, solicit, and/or service customers within the Protected Area (and potentially Franchisee to market to, solicit, and/or service customers in another franchisee’s protected area if Company so authorizes). If Franchisee seeks Company’s authorization to offer catering services, Company’s consent may be conditioned a review of Franchisee’s catering readiness (conducted in Company’s sole discretion) that may require, without limitation, Franchisee to (1) purchase additional equipment and catering delivery vehicle(s) with which to provide catering services, and (2) appoint a designed catering manager, in order to be found ready and be authorized to offer catering services.

6. Term. Commencing upon the date of this Agreement, the term of this Agreement is ten (10) years, unless terminated prior thereto pursuant to the provisions hereof. Franchisee may, at Franchisee’s option, renew this franchise term for two additional five (5) year terms subject to the following conditions which must be met prior to each renewal: (i) Franchisee shall have delivered to the Company written notice of Franchisee’s desire to exercise Franchisee’s option to renew at least six (6) months, but no more than twelve (12) months prior to the expiration of the term of this Agreement; (ii) Franchisee shall have during the entire term of this Agreement substantially complied with all of its provisions and the provisions of any other agreement between

Franchisee and the Company and/or its affiliates; (iii) the Company and Franchisee (and Franchisee's shareholders or partners or members, if Franchisee is a corporation or partnership or limited liability company) shall execute the form of franchise agreement and such ancillary agreements as are then customarily used by Company in the grant of franchises (with appropriate modifications to reflect the fact that the agreement relates to the grant of a renewal franchise); (iv) Franchisee shall refurbish and remodel the premises of the Franchise Business and replace the vehicles and equipment of the Franchised Business to be in compliance with the then current standards and specifications utilized in the granting of franchises; and (v) Franchisee (and Franchisee's shareholders or partners or members, if Franchisee is a corporation or partnership or limited liability company) shall execute general releases, in form satisfactory to Company, of any and all claims against the Company and its affiliates, and their officers, directors, managers, shareholders, members, employees and agents. The franchise agreement and ancillary agreements at the time of renewal may contain materially different terms from those contained in this Agreement. Franchisee shall pay to Company a renewal fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise. Failure by Franchisee (and Franchisee's shareholders or partners or members, if Franchisee is a corporation or partnership or limited liability company) to sign such agreement(s) and releases within thirty (30) days after delivery thereof to Franchisee shall be deemed an election by Franchisee not to renew. If Franchisee, for any reason, abandons, surrenders, or suffers revocation or non-renewal of all or part of Franchisee's rights and privileges under this Agreement, then all such rights and privileges shall revert to the Company.

If Franchisee does not sign a new franchise agreement prior to the expiration of this Agreement and continues to accept the benefits of this Agreement after the expiration of this Agreement, then at Company's option, this Agreement may be treated either as (i) expired as of the date of expiration with Franchisee's then operating without a franchise to do so and in violation of Company's rights; or (ii) continued on a month-to-month basis ("Interim Period") until one party provides the other with written notice of such party's intent to terminate the Interim Period, in which case the Interim Period will terminate thirty days after receipt of the notice to terminate the Interim Period. In the latter case, all obligations of Franchisee shall remain in full force and effect during the Interim Period as if this Agreement had not expired, and all obligations and restrictions imposed on Franchisee upon expiration of this Agreement shall be deemed to take effect upon termination of the Interim Period.

7. Termination.

A. Termination by Franchisee. If Franchisee is in substantial compliance with this Agreement and the Company materially breaches this Agreement and fails to cure such breach within a reasonable time, which in no event shall be less than ninety (90) days, after written notice thereof is delivered to the Company, Franchisee may terminate this Agreement. Such termination shall be effective ten (10) days after delivery to the Company of notice that such breach has not been cured and Franchisee elects to terminate this Agreement. Except as described in this Section, Franchisee has no right to terminate this Agreement.

B. Termination by Company. In addition to the other provisions of this Agreement allowing termination, the Company may terminate this Agreement effective upon delivery of notice of termination to Franchisee in the following circumstances:

1. Franchisee becomes insolvent; makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors; files a voluntary petition in bankruptcy; files any pleading seeking any reorganization, liquidation or dissolution under any law; admits or fails to contest the material allegations of any such pleading filed against Franchisee; is adjudicated a bankrupt; a receiver is appointed for a substantial part of Franchisee's assets; or the claims of creditors of Franchisee or the Franchised Business are abated or subject to a moratorium under any law;

2. If Franchisee and/or its manager(s) or its Operating Principal fails to pass the training program for franchisees, or if Franchisee fails to provide Company with a copy of the fully executed lease for the Franchised Business within 6 months after the date of this Agreement, or if Franchisee fails to commence operating the Franchised Business within 14 months after the date of this Agreement, or if Franchisee abandons, surrenders or transfers control of the operation of the Franchised Business without the Company's prior written consent;

3. If Franchisee loses possession of the Franchised Business premises, or fails to make rental payments when due, or suffers termination of the lease;

4. If Franchisee submits to the Company on two or more separate occasions at any time during any two-year period during the term of this Agreement a report, financial statement, tax return, schedule or other information or supporting record which understates the Gross Sales of the Franchised Business for any period by more than two percent;

5. If Franchisee is convicted of or pleads guilty to or no contest to a felony or other crime which substantially impairs the goodwill associated with the Marks or the System or engages in any misconduct which affects the reputation of the Franchised Business or the goodwill associated with the Marks or the System, as determined by the Company;

6. If Franchisee loses any permit or license which is a prerequisite to the operation of the Franchised Business, or if Franchisee operates the Franchised Business in a manner that presents a health or safety hazard to customers, employees, or the public;

7. If Franchisee makes a transfer or assignment of this Agreement, the assets of the Franchised Business, or Franchisee's ownership interest, which is not authorized as provided in the transferability section of this Agreement;

8. If Franchisee has received three or more notices of default during any twelve-month period, whether or not such defaults were cured;

9. If Franchisee delivers to Company three or more non-sufficient funds payments by check or electronic transfer within any twelve-month period, whether or not such checks or electronic transfers were subsequently paid;

10. If Franchisee fails to pay any amount owed to the Company or its affiliates or to Franchisee's suppliers, providers, lessors, landlords, or vendors, when the same is due and payable and does not correct such failure within ten days after written notice of such failure to comply is delivered to the Franchisee;

11. If Franchisee fails to submit reports or financial data which Company requires under this Agreement, when the same are due and does not correct such failure within thirty days after written notice of such failure to comply is delivered to Franchisee; or

12. If Franchisee fails to perform any of the terms and conditions in this Agreement not otherwise covered in Section 7.B. Paragraphs 1 through 11 above, or in the Operations Manual, or in other operational memoranda issued by the Company, or use bad faith in carrying out terms of these franchise provisions and does not correct such failure within thirty days after written notice of such failure to comply is delivered to Franchisee.

Upon the occurrence of any of the above events of default which would allow the Company to terminate this Agreement (which termination Company may or may not choose to do), Company may authorize its suppliers to (and may itself) withhold shipment or other provision to the Franchisee of the Company's proprietary equipment, Software Program(s), products and services and approved equipment, products and services until such time as Franchisee has cured the event of default.

C. Cross Default. Any default by Franchisee of any other agreement between the Company and Franchisee shall be deemed a default under this Agreement, and any default by Franchisee of this Agreement shall be deemed a default under any and all other agreements between Company and Franchisee. If the nature of such default under any other agreement would have permitted the Company to terminate this Agreement had said default occurred hereunder, the Company shall have the right to terminate this Agreement as if such default has occurred hereunder. For purposes of this Section, an agreement between the Company or an affiliate of the Company and Franchisee or Franchisee's partner, shareholder, member, manager, executive officer or affiliate shall be deemed an agreement between the Company and Franchisee.

D. Appointment of Manager. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 7.B. and 7.C. above, in the event that Franchisee does not comply with any provision of this Agreement, the Company may, at its sole option, assign a manager to the Franchised Business on a daily basis, whose function will be to ensure compliance by Franchisee, Franchisee's employees and agents with the provisions of this Agreement, including without limitation, adherence to the standards, methods, procedures and specifications of the System and the rights and duties upon termination or expiration of this Agreement. Franchisee shall pay the Company for the services and expenses of such manager at such reasonable rate as may be established by the Company, which currently is the greater of five hundred dollars per day or ten percent of the Franchised Business' Gross Sales for the duration of the management, plus reimbursement of other reasonable expenses, including without limitation, all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses. Franchisee agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company and its agents and employees who may act hereunder.

E. Rights and Duties Upon Termination or Expiration. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, all of Franchisee's rights hereunder shall terminate. Franchisee shall forthwith discontinue use of the Marks, the System, and all trade names, trademarks, service marks, trade dress, signs, colors, structures, interior and exterior decor, business methods, confidential information, printed goods and forms of advertising indicative of the Franchised Business and return the Operations Manual and the Software Program to the Company. Franchisee shall pay all amounts including without limitation all actual, liquidated and consequential damages due the Company or its affiliates, cancel Franchisee's assumed name registration, return to the

Company any signs utilizing the Marks, and not represent that Franchisee formerly did business under the Marks. Franchisee shall provide the Company with the names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, copies of the agreements and any other data of Franchisee's customers during the preceding three years. Franchisee shall promptly notify the telephone company and all listing agencies of the termination or expiration of Franchisee's right to use any telephone number and any regular, classified or other telephone directory listings associated with the Marks and to authorize transfer of same to or at the direction of the Company. Franchisee acknowledges that as between the Company and Franchisee, the Company has the sole rights to and interest in all e-mail and internet addresses, websites, domain names, social media sites and search engine identifiers, and all telephone and facsimile numbers and directory listings associated with the Marks, and Franchisee authorizes the Company, and hereby appoints the Company and any officer of the Company as Franchisee's attorney-in-fact, to direct the telephone company, internet service providers, domain name registrars, social media hosts and all listing agencies to transfer same to the Company or at its direction, should Franchisee fail or refuse to do so, and the telephone company, internet service providers, domain name registrars, social media hosts and all listing agencies may accept such direction or this Agreement as conclusive of the exclusive rights of the Company in such e-mail and internet addresses, websites, domain names, social media sites and search engine identifiers, and all telephone and facsimile numbers and directory listings and its authority to direct their transfer. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, the Franchisee shall, at the Company's option, and without paying compensation to the Franchisee, assign to the Company, or to the Company's designee, the Franchisee's interest in any lease then in effect for the Franchise's business premises. The Company shall notify the Franchisee of its intent to exercise this option and the identity of the designee within thirty days after termination or expiration of this Agreement. Franchisee shall furnish to the Company within thirty days after the effective date of the termination or expiration evidence satisfactory to the Company of Franchisee's compliance with the foregoing obligations.

F. Option to Purchase Assets. Upon the termination or expiration of this Agreement, the Company shall have a ninety day option to purchase from Franchisee some or all of the equipment, supplies, inventory, advertising materials and any items with Company's Marks for cash at fully depreciated book value (also expressly agreed to exclude any value for goodwill). The Company has an unrestricted right to assign this option to a third party.

G. Covenant Not to Compete. In the event of termination or expiration of this Agreement, Franchisee shall not, for a period of three (3) years after the later of (i) the date of the termination or expiration or (ii) the date on which Franchisee ceases to conduct the business conducted pursuant to this Agreement, be directly or indirectly associated as an employee, proprietor, stockholder, partner, member, agent, officer, director, consultant, representative, manager, spouse, parent, sibling or in any other capacity with, or operate, engage, own, invest in, or participate in, (1) any restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then-current standard Buttermilk Cafe menu within seven (7) miles of Franchisee's former restaurant location or (2) any restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then current Buttermilk Cafe menu within seven (7) miles of any other Buttermilk Cafe restaurant or (3) any entity which franchises or otherwise grants to others the right to operate any restaurant featuring breakfast items, lunch items, coffee beans, coffee, or the other items on the then current Buttermilk Cafe menu. In addition, in the event of the termination or expiration of the Agreement, Franchisee shall not for the three-year period as defined above (i) solicit or accept business from any former customers of the Franchised Business or (ii) solicit or employ or contract with any person who is a current or former employee or

independent contractor of Franchisee, Company or any other Buttermilk Cafe restaurant at any time during the twelve months immediately prior thereto. The three-year period referred to above shall be tolled during any period of Franchisee's noncompliance with the terms of this Agreement. In the event the duration, scope and/or geographic area set forth in this paragraph and Agreement are held to be unreasonable and therefore unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, then the duration, scope and/or geographic area of the foregoing restrictions and agreements shall remain in full force and effect as to such maximum duration, scope and/or geographic area as the court shall allow.

H. Confidential Information. Franchisee acknowledges that if Franchisee discloses any aspect of the System or the Operations Manual or the System Standards or any other aspect of the franchise system that it could substantially harm the Company, Franchisee and other franchisees, and that such information is proprietary and confidential and a Trade Secret of Company. Franchisee agrees to secure, keep secret, and lock away the Operations Manual and any other System confidential materials. Franchisee agrees that Franchisee will maintain the absolute confidentiality of all, and not disclose any, such information during and after the term of this Agreement and that Franchisee will not use any such information in any other business or in any manner not specifically authorized or approved in writing by the Company. Franchisee agrees to require all of Franchisee's personnel to sign a confidentiality and non-competition agreement in the form prescribed by the Company.

"Trade Secret" as used herein shall also include the definition of "trade secret" adopted in Illinois law and in the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 ("DTSA") as may be amended from time to time. Pursuant to the DTSA's required notification of immunity for qualified whistleblowers, the following notice is provided:

This notice is pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1833 et al. and is intended to inform you as the Franchisee of the protections afforded to you by the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (DTSA), S. 1890, 114th Cong. § 2 (2016). While it is a violation of this Agreement and Federal law to disclose trade secrets or any confidential information in violation of a nondisclosure agreement, confidentiality agreement, and/or any other agreement between Franchisee and the Company, the DTSA was intended to provide protections for whistleblowers in the event they need to disclose information defined as a Trade Secret under 18 U.S.C. §1839.

The DTSA provides that an individual shall not be held criminally or civilly liable under any Federal or State trade secret law for the disclosure of a trade secret that (A) is made (i) in confidence to a Federal, State, or local government official, either directly or indirectly, or to an attorney; and (ii) solely for the purpose of reporting or investigating a suspected violation of law; or (B) is made in a complaint or other document filed in a lawsuit or other proceeding, if such filing is made under seal. 18 U.S.C. §1833(b)(1). Furthermore, an individual who files a lawsuit for retaliation by an employer for reporting a suspected violation of law may disclose the trade secret to the attorney of the individual and use the trade secret information in the court proceeding, if the individual (A) files any document containing the trade secret under seal; and (B) does not disclose the trade secret, except pursuant to court order. 18 U.S.C. §1833(b)(2). Any such reporting of a suspected violation of law must be done in accordance with the Company's policies, as may be adopted, modified, or rescinded from time to time.

I. Non-Disparagement. Franchisee hereby agrees not to take any action or make any statement the effect of which would be to directly or indirectly materially impair

Company's goodwill or Company's rights to its intellectual property or the goodwill of its affiliates, or be materially detrimental to Company, its affiliates or its franchisees, including, but not limited to any action or statement intended, directly or indirectly, to benefit any of Company's competitors. This provision survives forever.

J. Continuing Obligations. All obligations of the Company and Franchisee which expressly or by their nature survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect subsequent to and notwithstanding the expiration or termination of this Agreement and until they are satisfied in full or by their nature expire.

8. Transferability of Interest.

A. Transfer by the Company. The Company shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to transfer or assign this Agreement and all or any part of its rights or obligations to any person or legal entity, and any designated assignee of Company shall become solely responsible for all obligations of Company under this Agreement from the date of assignment. Franchisee shall execute such documents consenting to such a transfer as Company shall request.

B. Transfer by Franchisee. Franchisee understands and acknowledges that the rights and duties set forth in this Agreement are personal to Franchisee, and that Company has granted this franchise in reliance on Franchisee's business skill, financial capacity, and personal character. Accordingly, neither Franchisee nor any immediate or remote successor to any part of Franchisee's interest in this Agreement, nor any individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other legal entity which directly or indirectly owns any interest in Franchisee or in the Franchised Business shall sell, assign, transfer, convey, pledge, encumber, merge, or give (collectively "transfer") away any direct or indirect interest in this Agreement, in Franchisee, or in all or substantially all of the assets of the Franchised Business without the prior written consent, as set forth below, of Company. Any purported assignment or transfer not having the written consent of Company required by this Section shall be null and void and shall constitute a material breach of this Agreement, for which Company may immediately terminate without opportunity to cure pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Company shall not unreasonably withhold its written approval of an assignment or transfer, provided: (1) Franchisee has properly offered the Company the opportunity to exercise the right of first refusal as provided in the right of first refusal section of this Agreement, and the Company declined to exercise it; (2) The assignee or transferee has sufficient business experience, aptitude, financial resources, meets the Company's then applicable standards for franchisees; is of good moral character; will comply with the Company's standard training requirements; has received the required disclosure documents in accordance with law; and executes the then current form of franchise agreement and other agreements (which may contain materially different terms than those set forth herein) being used by the Company; (3) Upon Company's request, the assignee or transferee agrees in a form approved by the Company to be personally bound jointly and severally by all the provisions of this Agreement and assume and guarantee all of Franchisee's obligations hereunder and all other agreements between Franchisee and the Company or its affiliates to the same extent as if they had been original parties to the original agreements; (4) Upon Company's request, Franchisee shall enter into an agreement with the Company, in a form satisfactory to Company, guaranteeing full payment and performance of the obligations of Franchisee's transferee; (5) All of Franchisee's money obligations owed to the Company, its affiliates, and the Brand Fund are fully paid and Franchisee is not otherwise in default under this Agreement; (6) The assets of the Franchised Business must be refurbished, remodeled or replaced in order to be in compliance with the then current standards and

specification utilized in the granting of franchises; (7) The lessor has consented to the assignment of the lease for the Franchised Business premises to the assignee or transferee if the lease requires such a consent; (8) Franchisee pays the Company a transfer fee in an amount equal to (i) one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) (subject to increases in the Consumer Price Index, as provided in Section 11 of this Agreement and the Operations Manual) if shares or other ownership rights of a business entity are being exchanged between existing owners of the entity, or if new shareholder(s) or other owners of a business entity are to be added, and such exchange or addition does not change the majority direct or beneficial owner; (ii) half of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise if Franchisee is transferring to another existing Buttermilk Cafe franchisee, and in such case, \$5,000 of the total amount due to Company shall be paid to Company when Franchisee submits the transfer for approval and such \$5,000 payment is non-refundable for any reason, and the balance is due upon Company's approval of the transfer; or (iii) three-fourths of the then-current initial franchise fee for a non-discounted first franchise if Franchisee is transferring to a new franchisee who does not own any other Buttermilk Cafe business(es), and in such case, \$5,000 of the total amount due to Company shall be paid to Company when Franchisee submits the transfer for approval and such \$5,000 payment is non-refundable for any reason, and the balance is due upon Company's approval of the transfer; (9) Franchisee shall pay any and all third-party broker fees that are due in connection with the proposed transfer regardless of whether the buyer is an existing Buttermilk Cafe franchisee or not; (10) In addition, for any supervision or assistance by Company's personnel at Franchisee's location around when the Franchised Business re-opens to the public, Franchisee shall pay Company the then current daily fee for the Company's personnel, plus other reasonable expenses, including without limitation, all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses; (11) Franchisee (and each of Franchisee's shareholders or partners or members, if Franchisee is a corporation or a partnership or limited liability company) shall execute general releases of all claims against the Company, its affiliates, and their officers, directors, managers, shareholders, members, employees and agents; and (12) If Franchisee or any principal finances any part of the consideration due by the transferee to Franchisee or any principal, then all such obligations of the transferee to Franchisee and/or its principal (including without limitation under any notes, agreements or security interests) will be subordinate to the transferee's obligations to Franchisor.

(i) At Franchisee's request, Company may, but has no obligation to, refer to Franchisee potential buyers of Franchisee's Franchised Business. If Company refers to Franchisee the buyer of Franchisee's Franchised Business or the assets of the Franchised Business or an ownership interest in Franchisee or this Agreement, Franchisee shall pay Company a referral fee in the amount of \$45,000 at the time of closing such sale regardless of whether the buyer is an existing Buttermilk Cafe franchisee or not.

C. Assignment to Partnership, Corporation or Limited Liability Company. If Franchisee is in full compliance with this Agreement, the Company shall not unreasonably withhold its consent to a transfer of this Agreement and the assets of the Franchised Business to a partnership or corporation or limited liability company, provided: (1) the partnership or corporation or limited liability company name does not include the words "Buttermilk Cafe" or the word "Butter" or the word "Milk" or the word "BMilk" or the word "B-Milk" or the word "BM" and its activities are confined exclusively to operating Franchisee's Franchised Business; (2) Franchisee owns and controls all of the general partnership interests, stock, membership interests, or the equity and voting power, and provided that, in a form approved by the Company, the partnership or corporation or limited liability company assumes all of Franchisee's obligations hereunder and the partners or shareholders or members agree to be personally bound jointly and

severally by all the provisions of this Agreement and assume and guarantee all of Franchisee's obligations hereunder and all other agreements to the same extent as if they had been parties to the original agreements; (3) any subsequent transfer or issuance of partnerships interests or of shares of the corporation or membership interests in the limited liability company shall be subject to Company's consent and agreement; (4) the partnership's Partnership Agreement and each partnership interest certificate, or the corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and each stock certificate, or the limited liability company's Articles of Organization and Operating Agreement and each membership certificate shall clearly indicate that any transfer of partnership interests, shares of stock or membership interests is restricted and may be transferred subject to Company's consent and agreement only in accordance with the terms of this Agreement; and (5) Franchisee shall pay to the Company all legal expenses and other charges incurred by the Company in connection with such transfer.

D. Right of First Refusal. If Franchisee shall at any time determine to sell Franchisee's rights under this Agreement, or the assets of the Franchised Business, or Franchisee's ownership interest, in whole or part, Franchisee shall obtain a bona fide, executed written offer from a responsible and fully disclosed purchaser and shall submit an exact copy of such offer to the Company. The Company or its designee shall, for a period of thirty days from the date of delivery of such offer to the Company, have the right, exercisable by written notice to Franchisee, to purchase the interest for the price and on the terms and conditions contained in the offer, provided that any brokers', agents', or finders' fees shall be deducted from the purchase price and the Company or its designee may substitute cash for any form of payment proposed in such offer. If the Company or its designee does not exercise this right of first refusal, Franchisee may, subject to the same conditions for transfers contained in this Agreement, complete the sale to such purchaser on the terms of the bona fide offer. If the sale to such purchaser is not completed within one hundred twenty days after delivery of such offer to the Company, or if there is a material change in the terms of the sale, the Company or its designee shall again have the right of first refusal herein provided.

E. Death or Disability. Upon the death or permanent disability of Franchisee (or Franchisee's managing shareholder, partner, or member, if Franchisee is a corporation, partnership or limited liability company), the executor, administrator, conservator, or other personal representative of such person shall transfer his interest to the heirs or beneficiaries of such person or to a third party approved by the Company within a period of one hundred eighty (180) days, so long as arrangements satisfactory to the Company are made for the continued active management of the Franchised Business. Such transfers, including without limitation, transfers by devise or inheritance or trust provisions, shall be subject to the same conditions for transfers contained in this Agreement. Franchisee shall be deemed to have a "permanent disability" if Franchisee's ability to operate or oversee the operation of the Franchised Business on a regular basis is for any reason curtailed for a continuous period of six months. In addition to the foregoing, in order to prevent any interruption of the Franchised Business and to protect the goodwill associated with the Marks and System, if Franchisee dies or becomes disabled so that Franchisee is not able to operate or oversee the operation of the Franchised Business on a regular basis, the Company may at its option operate the Franchised Business on Franchisee's behalf for so long as the Company deems necessary under the circumstances. All revenues received from the operation of the Franchised Business during such period of operation by the Company shall be kept in a separate account by the Company and the expenses of the Franchised Business including, without limitation, reasonable compensation (currently, the greater of five hundred dollars per day or ten percent of the Franchised Business' Gross Sales for the duration of the management) and expenses

of the Company and its agents and employees in operating the Franchised Business (including without limitation all travel, lodging, meals and other expenses), shall be charged to such account. Franchisee agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company and its agents and employees who may act hereunder.

9. ENFORCEMENT.

A. INJUNCTIONS. THE COMPANY SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENFORCE BY JUDICIAL PROCESS ANY RIGHTS IT MAY HAVE AND PURSUANT TO THE COVENANT NOT TO COMPETE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT. FURTHER, THE COMPANY SHALL BE ENTITLED WITHOUT BOND TO THE ENTRY OF TEMPORARY, PRELIMINARY, AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS AND ORDERS OF SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY OTHER RELATED AGREEMENT RELATING TO FRANCHISEE'S USE OF THE MARKS, FRANCHISEE'S OBLIGATIONS UPON TERMINATION OR EXPIRATION OF THIS AGREEMENT AND ASSIGNMENTS OR ATTEMPTED ASSIGNMENTS OF THE FRANCHISE AND FRANCHISEE'S OWNERSHIP INTEREST. IF THE COMPANY SECURES ANY SUCH INJUNCTION OR ORDER OF SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE, FRANCHISEE AGREES TO PAY TO THE COMPANY AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE AGGREGATE OF COMPANY'S COSTS OF OBTAINING SUCH RELIEF, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND EXPENSES AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, AND ANY DAMAGES INCURRED BY THE COMPANY AS A RESULT OF THE BREACH OF ANY SUCH PROVISION.

B. MANDATORY MEDIATION. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 9.C. BELOW, PRIOR TO THE INITIATION OF LITIGATION OR ARBITRATION BY EITHER PARTY PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES MUST MAKE A GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO RESOLVE ANY CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN THEM BY NON-BINDING MEDIATION EITHER THROUGH A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE MEDIATOR OR THROUGH AN ESTABLISHED MEDIATION SERVICE SELECTED BY COMPANY (IN EITHER CASE, "MEDIATOR"). MEDIATION SHALL TAKE PLACE IN THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN AREA (OR, IF COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS IS NO LONGER IN THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, METROPOLITAN AREA, THEN IN SUCH COUNTY WHERE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED WHEN THE MEDIATION OCCURS). PRIOR TO MEDIATION, EACH PARTY INVOLVED IN MEDIATION SHALL SIGN THE STANDARD CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT REASONABLY REQUIRED BY MEDIATOR OR A CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT REASONABLY REQUIRED BY COMPANY IF THE MEDIATOR DOES NOT HAVE A STANDARD CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT. NO LITIGATION OR ARBITRATION PROCEEDING MAY BE COMMENCED UNTIL THE EARLIER OF THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE SELECTION OF THE MEDIATOR, OR THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT BY BOTH PARTIES THAT MEDIATION HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL, OR IF THE NOTIFIED PARTY FAILS TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTING PARTY WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DELIVERY OF NOTICE REQUESTING MEDIATION. THE PARTIES WILL SHARE EQUALLY ALL FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE MEDIATOR, AND EACH PARTY SHALL BEAR ITS OWN COSTS OTHERWISE. EACH PARTY HEREBY AGREES THAT ALL STATEMENTS MADE

IN THE COURSE OF MEDIATION SHALL BE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL, AND SHALL NOT BE DISCLOSED TO OR SHARED WITH ANY THIRD PARTIES, OTHER THAN THE MEDIATOR. EACH PARTY ALSO AGREES THAT ANY DOCUMENTS OR DATA SPECIFICALLY PREPARED FOR USE IN GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS AND/OR MEDIATION SHALL NOT BE DISCLOSED TO OR SHARED WITH ANY THIRD PARTY EXCEPT THOSE PARTIES WHOSE PRESENCE IS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE MEDIATION PROCESS. THE PARTIES AGREE NOT TO MAKE COPIES OF ANY SUCH DOCUMENTS, AND TO RETURN THEM TO THE OTHER PARTY UPON THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEDIATION. EACH PARTY AGREES AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NO STATEMENTS MADE IN, OR EVIDENCE SPECIFICALLY PREPARED FOR, MEDIATION SHALL BE ADMISSIBLE FOR ANY PURPOSE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS.

C. EXCEPTIONS TO MANDATORY MEDIATION. NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 9.B ABOVE, COMPANY SHALL HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO MEDIATE BEFORE COMMENCING LITIGATION OR ARBITRATION IN THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

1. IN THE EVENT COMPANY SEEKS THE ENTRY OF TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS AND ORDERS OF SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION TO: (1) ENFORCE THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT RELATING TO FRANCHISEE'S USE OF THE MARKS AND/OR FRANCHISEE'S NON-DISCLOSURE AND NON-COMPETITION OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT; (2) PROHIBIT ANY ACT OR OMISSION BY FRANCHISEE OR FRANCHISEE'S EMPLOYEES THAT CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF ANY APPLICABLE LAW, ORDINANCE OR REGULATION, CONSTITUTES A DANGER TO THE PUBLIC, OR MAY IMPAIR THE GOODWILL ASSOCIATED WITH THE MARKS OR CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM TO COMPANY OR THE BUTTERMILK CAFE FRANCHISES. FRANCHISEE AGREES TO WAIVE ANY CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES IN THE EVENT THERE IS A LATER DETERMINATION THAT AN INJUNCTION OR SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE ORDER WAS ISSUED IMPROPERLY;

2. IN THE EVENT COMPANY IS COMMENCING A PROCEEDING TO ENFORCE FRANCHISEE'S OBLIGATIONS TO PAY COMPANY UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND TO SEEK COLLECTION OF SUCH FEES DUE AND OWING TO COMPANY, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS; OR

3. IN THE EVENT FRANCHISEE HAS ABANDONED THE FRANCHISED BUSINESS OR HAS LOST FRANCHISEE'S RIGHT TO POSSESS THE PREMISES SO THAT THE FRANCHISED BUSINESS IS NO LONGER OPERATING.

D. ARBITRATION. EXCEPT INsofar AS THE COMPANY AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 9.A. ABOVE ELECTS TO ENFORCE THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY OTHER RELATED AGREEMENT, ALL CONTROVERSIES, DISPUTES, OR CLAIMS ARISING BETWEEN THE COMPANY, ITS AFFILIATES, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, MANAGERS, AGENTS, SHAREHOLDERS, MEMBERS, EMPLOYEES AND ATTORNEYS (IN THEIR REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY) AND FRANCHISEE (FRANCHISEE'S OWNERS, GUARANTORS,

AFFILIATES AND EMPLOYEES, IF APPLICABLE) ARISING OUT OF OR RELATED TO: (1) THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY PROVISION THEREOF OR ANY RELATED AGREEMENT; (2) THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES HERETO; (3) THE VALIDITY OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY RELATED AGREEMENT, OR ANY PROVISION THEREOF; OR (4) ANY SPECIFICATION, STANDARD, OR OPERATING PROCEDURE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OR OPERATION OF THE FRANCHISE SHALL BE SUBMITTED FOR CONFIDENTIAL ARBITRATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS OFFICE OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION ON DEMAND OF EITHER PARTY. SUCH ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN THE CITY WHERE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED WHEN THE PROCEEDINGS ARE CONDUCTED AND, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS AGREEMENT, WILL BE HEARD BY THREE (3) ARBITRATORS EACH QUALIFIED BY HAVING AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS EXPERIENCE IN FRANCHISING AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE THEN CURRENT COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION RULES OF THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION. EACH PARTY SHALL SELECT ONE QUALIFIED ARBITRATOR, AND THE TWO SO DESIGNATED SHALL SELECT A THIRD QUALIFIED ARBITRATOR. IF EITHER PARTY SHALL FAIL TO DESIGNATE A QUALIFIED ARBITRATOR WITHIN SEVEN (7) DAYS AFTER ARBITRATION IS REQUESTED, OR IF THE TWO QUALIFIED ARBITRATORS SHALL FAIL TO SELECT A THIRD QUALIFIED ARBITRATOR WITHIN FOURTEEN (14) DAYS AFTER ARBITRATION IS REQUESTED, THEN A QUALIFIED ARBITRATOR SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION UPON APPLICATION OF EITHER PARTY.

EXCEPT AS LIMITED BY THIS AGREEMENT, THE ARBITRATORS SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO AWARD OR INCLUDE IN THE AWARD ANY RELIEF WHICH THEY DEEM PROPER IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, MONEY DAMAGES (WITH INTEREST ON UNPAID AMOUNTS FROM DATE DUE), SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE, INJUNCTIVE RELIEF, ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT, PROVIDED THAT THE ARBITRATORS WILL NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECLARE ANY MARK GENERIC OR OTHERWISE INVALID OR TO AWARD EXEMPLARY OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES. THE AWARD AND DECISION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE ARBITRATORS SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE AND BINDING UPON ALL PARTIES HERETO AND JUDGMENT UPON THE AWARD MAY BE ENTERED IN ANY COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION, AND EACH PARTY HERETO WAIVES ANY RIGHT TO CONTEST THE VALIDITY OR ENFORCEABILITY OF SUCH AWARD.

THE PARTIES FURTHER AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE PROVISIONS OF ANY APPLICABLE LIMITATION ON THE PERIOD OF TIME IN WHICH CLAIMS MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER APPLICABLE LAW OR THIS AGREEMENT, WHICHEVER EXPIRES EARLIER. THE PARTIES FURTHER AGREE THAT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH ARBITRATION PROCEEDING EACH SHALL FILE ANY COMPULSORY COUNTERCLAIM (AS DEFINED BY RULE 13 OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE) WITHIN THE SAME PROCEEDING AS THE CLAIM TO WHICH IT RELATES WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE FILING OF THE CLAIM TO WHICH IT RELATES. ANY SUCH CLAIM WHICH

IS NOT SUBMITTED OR FILED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. THIS PROVISION SHALL CONTINUE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT SUBSEQUENT TO AND NOTWITHSTANDING EXPIRATION OR TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT.

THE COMPANY AND FRANCHISEE AGREE THAT ARBITRATION SHALL BE CONDUCTED ON AN INDIVIDUAL, NOT CLASS-WIDE BASIS, AND THAT AN ARBITRATION PROCEEDING BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND ITS AFFILIATES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS, MEMBERS, MANAGERS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES AND FRANCHISEE (AND/OR FRANCHISEE'S OWNERS, GUARANTORS, AFFILIATES AND EMPLOYEES, IF APPLICABLE) MAY NOT BE CONSOLIDATED WITH ANY OTHER ARBITRATION PROCEEDING BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND ITS AFFILIATES AND ANY OTHER PERSON, NOR SHALL THE ARBITRATOR OR COURT BE EMPOWERED TO ORDER SUCH CONSOLIDATION.

E. COSTS AND ATTORNEYS FEES. IF A CLAIM FOR AMOUNTS OWED BY FRANCHISEE TO THE COMPANY OR ITS AFFILIATES IS ASSERTED IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING BEFORE A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION OR AN ARBITRATOR, OR IF THE COMPANY OR FRANCHISEE IS REQUIRED TO ENFORCE THIS AGREEMENT IN A JUDICIAL OR ARBITRATION PROCEEDING, THE PARTY PREVAILING IN SUCH PROCEEDING SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECOVER FROM THE OTHER ITS COSTS AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ARBITRATION FEES, COURT COSTS, FEES FOR IN-HOUSE OR OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS AND PARALEGALS, MANAGEMENT PREPARATION TIME, WITNESS FEES, COLLECTION AGENCY FEES, ACCOUNTING FEES AND ARBITRATOR FEES, WHETHER INCURRED PRIOR TO, IN PREPARATION FOR OR IN CONTEMPLATION OF THE FILING OF SUCH PROCEEDING. IF THE COMPANY IS REQUIRED TO ENGAGE A COLLECTION AGENCY OR LEGAL COUNSEL IN CONNECTION WITH ANY FAILURE BY FRANCHISEE TO PAY WHEN DUE AMOUNTS DUE THE COMPANY, OR TO SUBMIT WHEN DUE ANY REPORTS, INFORMATION, OR SUPPORTING RECORDS, OR IN CONNECTION WITH ANY FAILURE TO OTHERWISE COMPLY WITH THIS AGREEMENT, FRANCHISEE SHALL REIMBURSE THE COMPANY FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE LISTED COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY IT.

F. WAIVER OF PUNITIVE DAMAGES AND JURY TRIAL. THE COMPANY AND FRANCHISEE HEREBY WAIVE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, ANY RIGHT TO OR CLAIM FOR ANY PUNITIVE OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES AGAINST THE OTHER AND AGREE THAT IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM EACH SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE RECOVERY OF ANY (I) ACTUAL DAMAGES SUSTAINED BY IT AND (II) TRADEMARK LAW TREBLE DAMAGES. THE COMPANY AND FRANCHISEE IRREVOCABLY WAIVE TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY ACTION, PROCEEDING OR COUNTERCLAIM, WHETHER AT LAW OR IN EQUITY, BROUGHT BY EITHER OF THEM.

G. LIMITATION OF CLAIMS. EXCEPT FOR CLAIMS ARISING FROM UNDERREPORTING OF GROSS SALES BY FRANCHISEE OR NONPAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED BY FRANCHISEE TO THE COMPANY OR ITS AFFILIATES

PURSUANT TO THIS AGREEMENT, ANY AND ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT OR THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE COMPANY AND FRANCHISEE IN CONNECTION WITH FRANCHISEE'S OPERATION OF THE BUSINESS SHALL BE BARRED UNLESS AN ACTION OR PROCEEDING IS COMMENCED WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE OCCURRENCE OF THE FACTS GIVING RISE TO SUCH CLAIMS.

H. GOVERNING LAW/CONSENT TO JURISDICTION. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT GOVERNED BY THE UNITED STATES TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946 (LANHAM ACT, 15 U.S.C. SECTION 1051 ET. SEQ.) AND EXCEPT THAT ALL ISSUES RELATING TO ARBITRABILITY OR THE ENFORCEMENT OR INTERPRETATION OF THE AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE SET FORTH ABOVE IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE UNITED STATES ARBITRATION ACT (9 U.S.C. SECTION 1 ET. SEQ.) AND THE FEDERAL COMMON LAW RELATING TO ARBITRATION, THIS AGREEMENT AND THE FRANCHISE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE INTERNAL LAWS OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS (WITHOUT REFERENCE TO ITS CHOICE OF LAW AND CONFLICT OF LAW RULES), EXCEPT THAT ANY LAW REGULATING THE SALE OF FRANCHISES OR GOVERNING THE RELATIONSHIP OF A FRANCHISOR AND ITS FRANCHISEE SHALL NOT APPLY UNLESS ITS JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENTS ARE MET INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THIS PARAGRAPH. FRANCHISEE AGREES THAT THE COMPANY MAY INSTITUTE ANY ACTION AGAINST FRANCHISEE ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT (WHICH IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE ARBITRATED HEREUNDER OR AS TO WHICH ARBITRATION IS WAIVED) IN ANY STATE OR FEDERAL COURT OF GENERAL JURISDICTION OVER DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS (OR, IF COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS IS NO LONGER IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THEN IN SUCH COUNTY WHERE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED WHEN THE PROCEEDINGS ARE CONDUCTED), AND FRANCHISEE IRREVOCABLY SUBMITS TO THE JURISDICTION OF SUCH COURTS AND WAIVES ANY OBJECTION FRANCHISEE MAY HAVE TO EITHER THE JURISDICTION OR VENUE OF SUCH COURT.

I. WAIVER OF CONSUMER RIGHTS. FRANCHISEE HEREBY WAIVES ANY RIGHTS FRANCHISEE MAY HAVE UNDER THE TEXAS DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT, SECTION 17.41, ET SEQ., BUSINESS AND COMMERCE CODE, AND UNDER ANY OTHER SIMILAR LAW OF TEXAS OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION THAT GIVES CONSUMERS SPECIAL RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS.

10. Independent Contractor. The Company and Franchisee are independent contractors. This Agreement does not create a fiduciary relationship between the Company and Franchisee.

A. Franchisee is not and shall not represent himself to be the agent, joint venturer, partner or employee of the Company, or to be related to the Company other than as its independent franchisee. The Company is not a joint employer of the Franchisee's employees. Franchisee shall conspicuously identify himself at the Franchised Business and on the vehicles of the Franchised Business and in all dealings with suppliers and customers, as the owner of the Franchised Business. No representations shall be made or acts taken by Franchisee which could

establish any apparent relationship of agency, joint venture, partnership or employment, and the Company shall not be bound in any manner whatsoever by any agreements, warranties or representations made by Franchisee to any other person nor with respect to any other action of Franchisee.

B. The Company shall have no liability for any sales, use, excise, income, property, employment or other taxes levied upon the Franchised Business or its assets or in connection with the sales made or business conducted by the Franchised Business. All royalty fees, brand fund contributions and other charges referred to in this Agreement are quoted exclusive of any value added, sales or other tax chargeable thereon, and Franchisee shall pay any such tax as required by law. The Company shall not be obligated or liable for any injury or death of any person or damage to any property caused by Franchisee's action, failure to act, negligence or willful conduct, nor for any liability of Franchisee. In the event Franchisee fails to timely pay any tax due as required by law, Company may at its option make such payment and Franchisee shall reimburse Company for the amount paid plus fifteen percent as an administrative fee.

C. Franchisee shall defend, indemnify and save the Company and its affiliates and their shareholders, members, managers, directors, officers, employees and agents harmless from all fines, taxes, suits, proceedings, claims, demands or actions of any nature or kind whatsoever, directly or indirectly arising out of, or in any manner whatsoever associated or connected with Franchisee's operation of the Franchised Business and against any and all damages, costs, expenses and fees (including without limitation, attorneys', accountants', and experts' fees, costs of investigation and proof of facts, court costs, other litigation expenses and travel and living expenses) incurred by or on behalf of any of the foregoing in the investigation or defense of any and all such fines, taxes, suits, proceedings, claims, demands or actions. The Company shall have the option to defend any such claim against it. This indemnity shall continue in full force and effect subsequent to and notwithstanding the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

11. General Provisions.

A. This Agreement shall be binding upon the parties and their respective executors, administrators, heirs, assigns and successors in interest. All notices, requests, demands, and other communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when tendered for delivery if delivered by hand, or one day after the date of deposit if deposited with a commercial delivery service which guarantees next day delivery, or two days after deposit if mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, addressed to the appropriate party at their respective addresses above or at such other place as the party entitled to notice may designate by notice given in the same manner to the other. Time is of the essence of this Agreement and all provisions shall be so interpreted. If any applicable law or rule requires a greater prior notice of the termination of or election not to renew this Agreement, or the taking of some other action than is required under this Agreement, the prior notice or other requirements required by this law or rule shall be substituted for the requirements of this Agreement. The obligations and authorizations hereunder shall be joint and several. The invalidity of any provision of this Agreement shall not impair the validity of any other provision. If any provision of this Agreement is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, that provision will be deemed severable and this Agreement may be enforced with that provision severed or as modified by the court. In the case of any questions of ambiguity relating to any provisions contained herein, there shall not be any construction against the drafter

of the document. The preamble and recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into and made a contractual part of the covenants of this Agreement. The exhibits and schedules referred to in this Agreement are attached hereto, made a part hereof, and are incorporated herein by reference.

B. The headings and captions in this Agreement are inserted for convenience only and shall not constitute a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation of any provision of this Agreement. Whenever required by context, the masculine pronouns shall include the feminine and neuter genders and the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. No waiver of or failure to enforce any of the provisions, terms, conditions, or obligations herein by any party shall be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach of such provision, term, condition, or obligation of this Agreement or of any other provision, term, condition, or obligation hereunder, whether the same or different nature. Subsequent acceptance by the Company of the payments due it hereunder shall not be deemed to be a waiver by the Company of a preceding breach by Franchisee. If there develops a custom or practice which is at variance with the terms of this Agreement, the Company will not be deemed to have waived its right to demand exact compliance with any of the terms of this Agreement at a later time. Franchisee acknowledges that the Company has, and will in the future enter into license or franchise agreements with third parties pursuant to which such third parties are licensed to use the Marks and otherwise receive the benefits of the System (the "Other Agreements"). Franchisee acknowledges that the provisions of the Other Agreements have or may vary substantially from those contained in this Agreement. No action taken by Company with respect to any one or more of the Other Agreements or any party thereto shall create a course of conduct which may be relied upon or asserted by Franchisee under this Agreement as a modification to this Agreement or otherwise. Company shall not bear any liability whatsoever to Franchisee under this Agreement by reason of Company's failure to waive any of the provisions of this Agreement, or to give a consent or approval hereunder even though Company may have waived such provisions or similar provisions or given similar consents or approvals under any one or more of the Other Agreements. The rights of the Company and Franchisee hereunder are cumulative and no exercise or enforcement by the Company or Franchisee of any right or remedy hereunder shall preclude the exercise or enforcement by the Company or Franchisee of any other right or remedy hereunder or which the Company or Franchisee are entitled by law to enforce. No implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing shall be used to alter the express terms of this Agreement. The parties agree to do or cause to be done all acts or things necessary to implement and carry into effect this Agreement to its full extent.

C. If by virtue of the community property laws of any state, Franchisee's spouse is deemed to have any property interest in this Agreement, Franchisee's ownership interest, or the Franchised Business, the Company will have the right to require Franchisee's spouse to consent and join in all of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, any related agreements and any amendments thereto.

D. This Agreement contains the sole and only agreement between the parties as to the matters, privileges, rights, titles, interests, duties, obligations, and performances herein set forth; provided, however, that nothing in this Agreement or any related agreement is intended to disclaim any representation made in the Franchise Disclosure Document provided to Franchisee. All prior negotiations, verbal or written, being integrated herein and hereby, and same shall only be changed, altered, modified, amended, supplemented or novated by a writing signed by all the parties hereto. This Agreement may be executed in more than one counterpart, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Further, the parties agree that this Agreement may be executed by electronic signature, which shall

be considered as an original signature for all purposes and shall have the same force and effect as an original signature. Without limitation, in addition to electronically produced signatures, “electronic signatures” shall include faxed versions of an original signature or electronically scanned and transmitted versions (e.g. via pdf) of an original signature.

E. The parties acknowledge and agree that Franchisee does not have the right to terminate this Agreement except as provided in Section 7.A. or as otherwise agreed by the parties. Franchisee further acknowledges and agrees that, in the event of any termination of this Agreement by Franchisee that is not in accordance with the terms of Section 7.A., or any termination of this Agreement by Company in accordance with the terms of Section 7.B. prior to its expiration date, such termination may result in lost future revenue and profits to Company, harm to the goodwill associated with the Marks, and increased costs to Company to re-develop or re-franchise the market in which the Franchised Business is located. Accordingly, in the event that Franchisee terminates this Agreement other than in accordance with the terms of Section 7.A., or if Company terminates this Agreement pursuant to the terms of Section 7.B., then Franchisee shall pay to Company by the effective date of such termination, as liquidated damages, that amount which is calculated by multiplying the average weekly amount of Royalty Fees and Brand Fund Contributions due and payable during the fifty-two weeks prior to the termination (either by Franchisee or if Franchisee has not been in operation for at least fifty-two weeks as of the date of termination, then based on the average weekly amount of Royalty Fees and Brand Fund Contributions of all Buttermilk Cafe businesses during the fifty-two week period immediately preceding Franchisee’s termination date) by the number of weeks then remaining in the term of this Agreement. The parties hereby acknowledge and agree that the actual damages that would be incurred by Company in the event of any breach or early termination of this Agreement would be difficult to calculate and that the liquidated damages provided for in this Agreement are fair and reasonable under the circumstances and are not a penalty. The parties further acknowledge and agree that the liquidated damages specified in this paragraph are only intended to compensate Company for the early termination of this Agreement and Company’s loss of revenue resulting therefrom, but not for any other breach of this Agreement by Franchisee or any other damages incurred by Company, and all remedies applicable thereto remain available to Company.

F. Each party to this Agreement states that he has no legal claims against the Company or any of its affiliates and releases the Company and its affiliates and their respective officers, directors, managers, members, agents and employees from any damage, expense, claim or actions of the past.

G. Franchisee and its owners agree to comply, and to assist Company to the fullest extent possible in its efforts to comply with Anti-Terrorism Laws (defined below). In connection with that compliance, Franchisee and its owners certify, represent, and warrant that none of Franchisee’s property or interests is subject to being blocked under, and that Franchisee and its owners otherwise are not in violation of, any of the Anti-Terrorism Laws. “Anti-Terrorism Laws” mean Executive Order 13224 issued by the President of the United States, the USA PATRIOT Act, and all other present and future federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, policies, lists, and other requirements of any governmental authority addressing or in any way relating to terrorist acts and acts of war. Any violation of the Anti-Terrorism Laws by Franchisee or its owners, or any blocking of Franchisee or its owners’ assets under the Anti-Terrorism Laws, shall constitute good cause for immediate termination of this Agreement.

H. The terms and conditions of the State Specific Addenda attached hereto are incorporated herein.

I. Franchisee and Company acknowledge and agree that for any amounts due hereunder that are a fixed dollar amount (e.g. a fee is \$200 per month or \$3,000 per occurrence) or that are calculated in a way that includes a fixed dollar amount (e.g. five percent of Gross Sales between \$5,000 - \$50,000 is the amount due by Franchisee), Company may adjust these dollar amounts proportionately by the amount of the increase in the Consumer Price Index, effective upon notice to Franchisee, as provided in the Operations Manual. As used herein, the term "Consumer Price Index" shall mean the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), All-Items, not seasonally adjusted, for the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-N-WI Core Based Statistical Area (1982-84=100), or the successor of such index, or if no successor index is designated, then such other index as Company reasonably shall designate. Regardless of the Consumer Price Index's actual increases, Company will not increase any amount due that is a fixed dollar amount in excess of ten percent (10%) per twelve (12) month period, cumulatively, that has passed since the last such increase or original fee implementation.

12. Acknowledgments.

A. Franchisee acknowledges that in all of Franchisee's dealings with Company, the officers, directors, managers, members, employees and agents of Company act only in a representative capacity, not in an individual capacity. Franchisee further acknowledges that this Agreement and all business dealings between Franchisee and such persons as a result of this Agreement are solely between Franchisee and Company. Franchisee acknowledges that Company reserves the right, without accountability to Franchisee, to receive and retain commissions, rebates, allowances and other similar amounts received by Company from any supplier who has been approved by Company from time to time in connection with the supply of goods, fixtures, furnishings, equipment, signs, supplies, and other products or services for the Franchised Business. Franchisee acknowledges that the covenants not to compete set forth in this Agreement are fair, reasonable and will not impose any undue hardship on Franchisee, since Franchisee has other considerable skills, experience and education which afford Franchisee the opportunity to derive income from other endeavors.

B. No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

(Remainder of Page Intentionally Blank; Continued on Following Page)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed on the date first above written.

**BUTTERMILK
FRANCHISE
GROUP, INC.**

FRANCHISEE

FRANCHISEE

By:
X_____
Katie Kouvelis, President

By:
X_____
Print Name:

By:
X_____
Print Name:

FRANCHISE NUMBER _____

BUTTERMILK CAFE®

DATE EXECUTED _____

SCHEDULE A
FRANCHISEE INFORMATION

As provided in the above franchise agreement, the following information is now available and is hereby specified for inclusion in the franchise agreement.

1. **Franchisee Names and Addresses:** The name of each member of the “Franchisee” is:

Individual Name:	Spouse or Legal Partner Name:	Complete Home (Permanent) Address:
Individual Name:	Spouse or Legal Partner Name	Complete Home (Permanent) Address:
Individual Name:	Spouse or Legal Partner Name	Complete Home (Permanent) Address:

**Note: No corporations or LLCs or other entities allowed as the franchisee – only natural individuals.*

3. **State in Which Franchisee Will Operate the Franchised Business:** _____

4. **Operating Principal:** The name of the Operating Principal designated by Franchisee is:

(Complete Once Known)

6. **Protected Area.** The Protected Area is _____

_____.

The centers of the respective streets (freeways, expressways, turnpikes, political boundaries) and other dividers shall be considered the boundaries. If political boundaries are used to describe the area, the political limits are those represented on the map provided by the Franchisee for this Franchise Agreement. Changes of political limits will have no effect on the boundaries as set forth in this description or on the referenced map. If Schedule A is not completed or if no description of the Protected Area is completed in the space provided above, then the provisions regarding protected area as described in the Franchise Agreement shall apply.

2. Location Approved by Company from which to Operate the Franchised Business.

(Complete once a location is secured, typically after signing the Franchise Agreement. Include date and initials if adding after signing FA.)

**BUTTERMILK
FRANCHISE
GROUP, INC.**

FRANCHISEE

FRANCHISEE

By:

X

Katie Kouvelis, President

By:

X

Print Name:

By:

X

Print Name:

SCHEDULE B
LEASE RIDER

This Lease Rider is executed as of this _____ day of _____, 20____, by and between _____ (the "Tenant") and _____ ("Landlord") as a Rider to the lease (as amended, renewed, and/or extended from time to time, the "Lease") for the Premises located at _____, in the City of _____, State of _____ (the "Premises"), dated as of _____.

WHEREAS, the Tenant's principals, _____ and _____, have executed a franchise agreement (the "Franchise Agreement") with Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., an Illinois corporation (the "Franchisor"), for the operation of a Buttermilk Cafe restaurant at the Premises, and as a requirement thereof, the Lease for the Premises must include the provisions contained in this Rider; and

WHEREAS, Landlord, Franchisor and the Tenant agree that the terms contained herein shall supersede any terms to the contrary set forth in the Lease;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants set forth herein, the execution and delivery of the Lease, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Landlord, Franchisor and the Tenant hereby agree as follows:

1. The Premises may be used only for the operation of a Buttermilk Cafe restaurant.
2. Landlord shall deliver to the Franchisor a copy of any notice of default or termination of the Lease at the same time such notice is delivered to the Tenant, but no later than thirty (30) days before a termination of the Lease would become effective.
3. The Franchisor shall have the right, but not the obligation, upon giving prior written notice of its election to the Tenant and Landlord, to enter the Premises to cure any breach of the Lease, and if so stated in the notice, to also succeed to the Tenant's rights, title, and interests thereunder.
4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Lease, and subject to Paragraph 1 of this Rider, the Tenant shall have the absolute right to sublet, assign or otherwise transfer its interest in the Lease to the Franchisor or its affiliate, or to a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate, without Landlord's approval, written or otherwise, without any increase in rent (except as provided in the Lease), without a material change in any other terms of the Lease, and without execution of any additional guaranty of the obligations under the assigned Lease.
5. Subject to Paragraph 1 of this Rider, the Tenant shall, if requested by the Franchisor, assign to the Franchisor (or its affiliate or to a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate), and Landlord hereby irrevocably and unconditionally consents to such assignment, all of the Tenant's rights, title, and interest to and under the Lease upon (i) any termination of the Lease or the Franchise Agreement or (ii) if no subsequent Franchise Agreement is executed; but no such assignment shall be effective unless: (a) the Franchise Agreement is terminated or expires without execution of a renewal Franchise Agreement; and (b) the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge

or consolidate), notifies the Tenant and Landlord in writing that it assumes the Tenant's obligations under the Lease.

6. In addition to any prior written consent of the Landlord that may be required by the terms of the Lease: (a) the Lease may not be modified, amended, renewed or extended in any manner or assigned by the Tenant without the Franchisor's prior written consent; (b) the Premises may not be altered or modified in any way without the Franchisor's prior written consent; and (c) the Premises may not be sublet, subdivided or used for any purpose other than for the operation of a Buttermilk Cafe restaurant without the Franchisor's prior written consent.

7. The Tenant and Landlord acknowledge and agree that the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) shall have no liability or obligation whatsoever under the Lease unless and until the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) assumes the Lease in writing pursuant to Paragraphs 3, 4 or 5 above. The Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) shall assume all of the Tenant's obligations under the Lease from and after the date of assignment, but shall have no obligation to pay any delinquent rent or to cure any other default under the Lease that occurred or existed prior to the date of the assignment.

8. If the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) assumes the Lease, as above provided, the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) may further assign or sublet the Lease to another person or entity to operate the Buttermilk Cafe restaurant at the Premises, subject to Landlord's prior written consent which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No such consent shall be required if the Lease is assigned or sublet to another Buttermilk Cafe restaurant franchisee. The Franchisor (or its affiliate or the company with which the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) shall be fully released from any and all liability to Landlord in the event that the Lease is assigned or sublet to another Buttermilk Cafe restaurant franchisee. Landlord agrees to execute such further documentation to confirm its consent to the assignments permitted under this Rider as the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) may request.

9. If the Franchise Agreement expires or is terminated during the Term of the Lease, Landlord shall be able to exercise its right to terminate the Lease and/or to exercise its other remedies under the Lease, unless the Lease is assumed by the Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) within thirty (30) days of the termination or expiration of the Franchise Agreement.

10. If the Lease expires or is terminated for any reason, the Franchisor may, upon prior written notice to Landlord, enter the Premises and remove any signs or other articles bearing any trade names, logos, trade-marks that are part of the System and de-identify the leased Premises as a Buttermilk Cafe restaurant (including, without limitation, removing any Buttermilk Cafe restaurant trade dress features and/or fixtures), without legal process and without being guilty of trespass.

11. Landlord and the Franchisor may rely upon any notice from either of them regarding the status of the Lease or of the Franchise Agreement; they shall have no duty to perform any independent investigation to verify the Tenant's rights under the Lease or the Franchise Agreement; and, the Tenant agrees to indemnify and hold the Franchisor (and its affiliates and company with which the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) harmless from any and all claims,

expenses and attorneys' fees arising out of the Lease and the reliance upon the Franchisor's or Landlord's representations regarding the Tenant's status, the status of the Franchisor or the status of the Franchise Agreement.

12. Landlord shall make available to the Franchisor all information which it collects or produces related to sales of the Buttermilk Cafe restaurant and the way in which the Buttermilk Cafe restaurant is operated. The Tenant consents to Landlord providing all such information to the Franchisor.

13. Copies of any and all notices required or permitted hereby or by the Lease shall also be sent to the Franchisor at: Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc., 65 North River Lane, Suite 201, Geneva, Illinois 60134, Attn: President or such other address as the Franchisor shall specify by written notice to Landlord. Any and all notices to Landlord shall be to the address contained in the Lease or such other address as the Landlord shall specify by written notice to Franchisor.

14. Landlord and Tenant acknowledge that Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate) is an intended third party beneficiary of the Lease and shall be entitled to enforce any provisions set forth herein benefiting Franchisor (or its affiliate or a company with which the Tenant or the Franchisor may merge or consolidate), subject to the conditions set forth in this Rider.

15. Under the Franchise Agreement, any lease or any modification or renewal of the Lease for the Premises of the Buttermilk Cafe restaurant is subject to the Franchisor's approval.

[See signatures on the following page.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties have executed this Lease Rider.

LANDLORD:

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

FRANCHISOR:

BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE GROUP, INC.

By: _____

Name: Katie Kouvelis

Title: President

Date: _____

TENANT:

By: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

RECEIPT OF FRANCHISE-RELATED DOCUMENTS

BUTTERMILK CAFE FRANCHISE SYSTEM

The undersigned does hereby acknowledge receipt of the following documents, in form for execution, relating to a Buttermilk Cafe franchise of Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc.

THE PROPOSED FRANCHISEE **MUST INITIAL ON THE**
LINE NEXT TO THE FOLLOWING APPLICABLE
DOCUMENT(S):

X _____ X _____ [☒] Franchise Agreement with
State Specific Addenda (if applicable)

X _____ X _____ [☐] Other, Specify _____. (IF ANY)

I further acknowledge that it is my responsibility to review all such documents personally or to have my attorney review such documents so that I am fully familiar with the transaction contemplated by these documents prior to the execution of any document.

A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION RULE REQUIRES THAT WE PROVIDE FRANCHISEE WITH THE FRANCHISE-RELATED DOCUMENTS NOTED ABOVE AT LEAST SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE THEY ARE TO BE EXECUTED. PLEASE DO NOT SIGN OR RETURN THESE DOCUMENTS UNTIL SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS HAVE ELAPSED FROM THE DATE OF THIS RECEIPT.

Signed: X _____

Signed: X _____

Print Name: _____

Print Name: _____

Date Received: X _____

Date Received: X _____

STATE SPECIFIC ADDENDA TO FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT AND FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Some administrators of franchise registration states may require us to enter into an addendum to the Buttermilk Cafe Franchise Disclosure Document and/or franchise agreement describing certain state laws or regulations which may supersede the Franchise Disclosure Document or franchise agreement. If you are in a registration state which requires an addendum, it will appear below.

The following modifications are made to the Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. Franchise Disclosure Document and may supersede, to the extent required by valid applicable state law, certain portions of the Franchise Agreement.

ILLINOIS

Payment of the Initial Fee will be deferred until Franchisor has met its initial obligations to franchisee, and franchisee has commenced doing business. This financial assurance requirement was imposed by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General due to Franchisor's financial condition.

Item 17 of the Franchise Disclosure Document and sections of the Franchise Agreement are amended as follows:

Your rights upon termination and non-renewal of a Franchise Agreement are set forth in sections 19 and 20 of the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act.

Section 4 of the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act provides that any provision in a franchise agreement that designates jurisdiction or venue outside the State of Illinois is void. However, a franchise agreement may provide for arbitration in a venue outside of Illinois.

Illinois law governs the agreements between the parties to this franchise.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

In conformance with section 41 of the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act, any condition, stipulation or provision purporting to bind any person acquiring any franchise to waive compliance with the Illinois Franchise Disclosure Act **or any other law of Illinois** is void.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Franchisor and Franchisee are parties to that certain Franchise Agreement (the "Franchise Agreement") that has been signed at the same time as the signing of this State Specific Addendum ("Addendum"). This Addendum is made part of the Franchise Agreement.

It is agreed that the applicable foregoing State Specific Addendum(a), if any, supersedes any inconsistent portion of the Franchise Agreement and of the Franchise Disclosure Document, but only to the extent they are then valid

requirements of an applicable and enforceable state law, and for only so long as such state law remains in effect.

Date Signed: _____

**BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE
GROUP, INC.**

FRANCHISEE

FRANCHISEE

By: X _____

By: X _____

By: X _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

INDIANA

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law, Chapter 135 of the Wisconsin Statutes supersedes any provisions of the Franchise Contract or Agreement if such provisions are in conflict with that law.

No statement, questionnaire, or acknowledgment signed or agreed to by a franchisee in connection with the commencement of the franchise relationship shall have the effect of (i) waiving any claims under any applicable state franchise law, including fraud in the inducement, or (ii) disclaiming reliance on any statement made by any franchisor, franchise seller, or other person acting on behalf of the franchisor. This provision supersedes any other term of any document executed in connection with the franchise.

REMAINDER OF PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

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It is agreed that the applicable foregoing State Specific Addendum(a), if any, supersedes any inconsistent portion of the Franchise Agreement and of the Franchise Disclosure Document, but only to the extent they are then valid requirements of an applicable and enforceable state law, and for only so long as such state law remains in effect.

Date Signed: _____

**BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE
GROUP, INC.**

By: X _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

FRANCHISEE

By: X _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

FRANCHISEE

By: X _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

GENERAL RELEASE

The Franchisee, jointly and severally, for Franchisee and each and all of Franchisee's officers, directors, shareholders, members, employees, agents, successors and assigns does hereby remise, release, forever discharge, and covenant not to sue Franchisor and its respective representatives, officers, directors, shareholders, members, employees, agents, attorneys, affiliated entities, successors and assigns from any actions, causes of action, claims, demands, statutes, arbitrations, expenses, damages and liabilities, whether at law or in equity, existing or arising prior to the date hereof, known as well as unknown, which the Franchisee has ever had.

Notwithstanding any terms of this General Release to the contrary, this General Release hereby expressly excludes claims arising from representations in the Franchise Disclosure Document and its exhibits and amendments.

Date: _____

**BUTTERMILK FRANCHISE
GROUP, INC.**

FRANCHISEE

FRANCHISEE

By: X _____

By: X _____

By: X _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

BUTTERMILK CAFE**State Effective Dates**

The following states have franchise laws that require that the Franchise Disclosure Document be registered or filed with the state, or be exempt from registration: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

This document is effective and may be used in the following states, where the document is filed, registered or exempt from registration, as of the Effective Date stated below:

State	Effective Date
Illinois	July 8, 2026, as amended July 15, 2026
Indiana	
Michigan	
Wisconsin	

Other states may require registration, filing, or exemption of a franchise under other laws, such as those that regulate the offer and sale of business opportunities or seller-assisted marketing plans.

EXHIBIT G

RECEIPT

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of the franchise agreement and other information in plain language. Read this disclosure document and all agreements carefully.

If Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. offers you a franchise, it must provide this disclosure document to you 14 calendar days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make a payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale.

New York and Rhode Island require that we give you this disclosure document at the earlier of the first personal meeting or 10 business days before the execution of the franchise or other agreement or the payment of any consideration that relates to the franchise relationship.

Michigan, Oregon and Wisconsin require that we give you this disclosure document at least 10 business days before the execution of any binding franchise or other agreement or the payment of any consideration, whichever occurs first.

If Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. does not deliver this disclosure document on time or if it contains a false or misleading statement, or a material omission, a violation of federal law and state law may have occurred and should be reported to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 and the state agency identified on Exhibit A.

The franchisor is Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. located at 65 North River Lane, Suite 201 Geneva, Illinois 60134. Its telephone number is (630) 277-0582.

Issuance Date: April 28, 2026, as amended July 14, 2026.

The name, principal business address and telephone number of each franchise seller offering the franchise: Katie Kouvelis, Spilios (Spiro) Kouvelis, and William D. Germanetti, Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. located at 65 North River Lane, Suite 201 Geneva, Illinois 60134 (630) 277-0582; and

[Any broker or other franchise seller involved in a particular franchise transaction must be disclosed here before the disclosure document is given to the prospective franchisee.]

Buttermilk Franchise Group, Inc. authorizes the respective state agencies identified in Exhibit A to receive service of process for it in the particular state.

I have received a disclosure document dated April 28, 2026, as amended July 14, 2026, that included the following Exhibits:

- Exhibit A State Administrators; Agents for Service of Process
- Exhibit B Franchisee Information
- Exhibit C Financial Statements
- Exhibit D Franchise Agreement with State Specific Addenda
- Exhibit E General Release
- Exhibit F State Effective Dates
- Exhibit G Receipts

_____ Date	_____ Signature	_____ Printed Name
_____ Date	_____ Signature	_____ Printed Name

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_____ Date	_____ Signature	_____ Printed Name
_____ Date	_____ Signature	_____ Printed Name