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Order Number S-10-212-10-CO01

CONSENT ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **SECURITIES DIVISION**

HALLOWEEN EXPRESS, LLC;

Washington by:

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation

of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of

Respondent.

Pursuant to the Franchise Investment Protection Act of Washington, RCW 19.100, the Securities Division of the Department of Financial Institutions ("Securities Division") and Respondent, Halloween Express, LLC (Halloween Express), do hereby enter into this CONSENT ORDER in settlement of the matters alleged herein. Respondent, Halloween Express, LLC, neither admits nor denies the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law stated below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

I. Respondent

Halloween Express, LLC is a Kentucky limited liability company based in Owenton, Kentucky that is in the business of selling costumes and franchising costume stores.

II. Nature of the Offering

In 2006, Halloween Express sold a franchise to a California and Idaho resident to operate a Halloween Express costume store in Boise, Idaho. For a \$10,000 initial franchise fee, the California and Idaho residents received a license to use the Halloween Express marks and utilize the "Halloween Express Program" for a retail costume store. The purchasers also were obligated to pay an ongoing royalty of 5% of

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CONSENT ORDER

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **Securities Division** PO Box 9033 Olympia, WA 98507-9033 360-902-8760

gross sales to the company. In 2007, Halloween Express amended its agreement with the purchasers to allow them to operate a Halloween Express store in Spokane, Washington. Halloween Express provided the purchasers with location assistance and training for the operation of a store. Halloween Express also provided the purchasers with standards and specifications for the store and merchandise. Halloween Express assisted the purchasers with promotion and marketing of their business which was subsequently located in California.

In 2009, Halloween Express, LLC offered and sold a franchise to a Washington resident who had previously managed Halloween Express stores for approximately six years. The Washington resident spoke with a company representative about purchasing a franchise. The Washington resident paid an initial \$5,000 franchise fee and an ongoing royalty fee of 5% of gross sales. The Washington resident received a license to use the Halloween Express marks and utilize the "Halloween Express Program" for a retail costume store. The purchaser received an exclusive territory for King County, ongoing support, including a mandatory point of sale system, and vendor discounts. Halloween Express provided the purchaser assistance with marketing and promotion. Halloween Express also provided assistance in locating and negotiating a lease for a store.

III. Failure To Deliver Offering Circular

Respondent Halloween Express, LLC did not provide the purchasers of the Spokane franchise location with a disclosure document or offering circular as required by RCW 19.100.080 that contained the information about the franchise required by RCW 19.100.040.

CONSENT ORDER

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IV. Registration Status

Respondent Halloween Express, LLC is not currently registered to offer or sell franchises in the state of Washington and has not previously been so registered. On May 3, 2010, Halloween Express, LLC filed a franchise registration application which is currently under review.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

I.

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

II.

The offer and/or sale of said franchises were in violation of RCW 19.100.020 because no registration for such offer and/or sale is on file with the Securities Administrator.

III.

The offer and/or sale of said franchise was made in violation of RCW 19.100.080 because Respondent did not provide prospective purchasers with a disclosure document or offering circular required under RCW 19.100.040 prior to the sale of the franchise.

CONSENT ORDER

Based upon the foregoing:

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondent Halloween Express, LLC and its agents and employees each shall cease and desist from offering or selling franchises in violation of RCW 19.100.020, the registration section of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of the State of Washington.

CONSENT ORDER

3 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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1	Approved by:	Presented by:
3	An Elm	Martin Cordell
4 5	SUZANNE SARASON Chief of Enforcement	MARTIN CORDELL Financial Legal Examiner
6	Reviewed by:	
7 8	15/5	
9	ROBERT KONDRAT	_
.0	Financial Legal Examiner Supervisor	
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