STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS **SECURITIES DIVISION**

IN THE MATTER OF DETERMINING Whether there has been a violation of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of

Washington by:

David Lopez, Dental Fix Rx, LLC,

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Respondents.

Order No.: S-19-2776-20-CO01

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to the Franchise Investment Protection Act of Washington, RCW 19.100, the Securities Division and Respondents David Lopez and Dental Fix Rx, LLC do hereby enter into this Consent Order in settlement of the matters alleged herein. Respondents David Lopez and Dental Fix Rx, LLC neither admit nor deny the Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law as stated below.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Respondents

- Dental Fix Rx, LLC (Dental Fix) is a Florida entity formed on June 28, 2009, with its principal 1. place of business in Davie, Florida. Dental Fix franchises its mobile dental equipment repair concept to franchisees nationwide.
- 2. David Lopez (Lopez) is a resident of Davie, Florida. Lopez was the chief executive officer and is a co-founder of Dental Fix. Lopez was the chief executive officer of Froots Franchising Companies, Inc. (Froots) another franchisor, from December 2001 to February 2010. In 2009, Froots entered into a consent order with the Virginia Division of Securities and Retail Franchising for failing to register its franchise offering and failing to provide a financial disclosure document (FDD) to prospective franchisees.

CONSENT ORDER

Conduct

- 3. Dental Fix has been registered with the Securities Division to offer and sell franchises in Washington since August 17, 2010. Dental Fix sold a franchise to a Washington resident in July 2014.
- 4. As part of its franchise offering, Dental Fix engaged a franchise broker through a franchise broker network. Dental Fix agreed to pay the franchise broker network the higher of 40% of all franchise fees paid to it by the franchisor or \$20,000.00, plus a \$1,000.00 marketing and administrative fee, for all franchise sales facilitated by the franchise broker. Dental Fix also signed a separate representation agreement with the franchise broker to act as an advisor and receive compensation for selling Dental Fix's franchise offering. The Dental Fix franchise broker was held out as the "director of sales" for Dental Fix, and communicated about Dental Fix's franchise offering using a Dental Fix email address.
- 5. The Washington resident first received information about Dental Fix at a franchise seminar hosted by the Small Business Association. The Washington resident corresponded with the franchise broker to receive more information, and traveled to Dental Fix headquarters for an on-site visit to learn more about the franchise prior to buying. During this sales process, Dental Fix made financial performance representations to the Washington resident outside of those contained in the FDD.
- 6. As part of registering their franchises to offer and sell in Washington, franchisors file the FDD with the Securities Division. Franchisors have the option to make financial performance representations in the FDD to potential franchisees. Franchisors must have a reasonable basis and written substantiation for these claims, and must present the information in a way so that their representations are not misleading.
- 7. Alternatively, a franchisor can elect not to include financial performance representations in the FDD, but it cannot then make financial performance representations to prospective franchisees except for providing the actual operating results of a particular franchise to potential purchasers of that franchise.
 - 8. Dental Fix elected to not provide financial performance representations in its FDD.

360-902-8760

9. Despite this election, Dental Fix made financial performance representations related to the hourly rate franchisees could charge, the frequency of service calls franchisees would schedule, and the gross revenue franchisees could potentially make. Dental Fix represented to the Washington resident that he could bill \$200.00 an hour for his services, and that Dental Fix would schedule five to six service calls

for him a day. Dental Fix directed the Washington resident to an article and posted another article on its

website where Lopez made similar claims.

10. Additionally, Dental Fix made a gross revenue claim to the Washington resident through an individual represented by Dental Fix to the resident to be an independent Dental Fix franchisee. This franchisee was a franchisee, but was paid a biweekly salary by Dental Fix during the period in which he made the financial performance representation to the Washington resident. Additionally, this franchisee was the "Vice President for Technical Management" for Dental Fix until approximately 2011. Dental Fix had also previously presented this franchisee specifically to the Washington resident as a franchisee to talk to during his due diligence investigation. Part of the Washington resident's on-site visit included a "ridealong" with this Dental Fix employee. This Dental Fix franchisee informed the Washington resident that his monthly average revenues were \$36,000.00 a month, and that his revenues in his highest-earning month

11. Beyond constituting an unauthorized financial performance representation, Dental Fix did not qualify the representation by the Dental Fix franchisee to the Washington resident by including information about his previous experience in the industry or that his territory was different than that assigned to the average franchisee.

12. The Washington resident decided to buy a Dental Fix franchise and signed his franchise agreement shortly after his on-site visit. He did not learn of the Dental Fix franchisee's full affiliation with Dental Fix until sometime in 2015.

CONSENT ORDER

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13. Dental Fix compensated the franchise broker network and the franchise broker \$21,000.00 for this sale. Neither were registered as franchise brokers in Washington at the time of this sale.

14. Dental Fix and Lopez failed to disclose the Virginia enforcement action against Lopez's previous franchise operation in the FDD given to the Washington resident. The same FDD discussed Lopez's role at Froots as part of his business experience.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The offer and sale described above constitutes the offer and sale of a franchise as defined in RCW 19.100.010(6), RCW 19.100.010(12), and RCW 19.100.010(17).
- 2. The offer and sale of said franchises was in violation of RCW 19.100.140 because Respondent Dental Fix used unregistered franchise brokers to offer and sell a franchise in the state.
- 3. The offer and sale of said franchises was in violation of RCW 19.100.170(1) because Respondent Dental Fix made untrue statements of material fact or omitted material facts to the Division in its franchise registration application.
- 4. The offer and sale of said franchises was in violation of RCW 19.100.170(2) because Respondent Dental Fix made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts necessary to make the statements, in light of the circumstances in which they were made, not misleading.

CONSENT ORDER

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

IT IS AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents Dental Fix and Lopez, and their agents and employees, shall each cease and desist from offering or selling franchises in violation of RCW 19.100.140, the franchise broker registration section of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of Washington.

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IT IS FURTHER AGREED AND ORDERED that Respondents Dental Fix and Lopez, and their agents and employees, shall each cease and desist from any violation of RCW 19.100.170, the violations section of the Franchise Investment Protection Act of Washington.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Respondents Dental Fix and Lopez shall be liable for and shall pay investigative costs of \$5,156.25 prior to the entry of this Consent Order.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Respondent Dental Fix shall send a copy of this Order, along with an offer of rescission ("Offer"), to the franchisee who purchased a franchise in Washington, prior to the entry of this Order. The Washington franchisee will have thirty (30) days to accept the Offer. If the Washington franchisee accepts the Offer, Respondent Dental Fix will pay the \$30,000 initial franchise fee to the Washington franchisee within sixty (60) days of such acceptance, with \$15,000 being paid within thirty (30) days and the remaining \$15,000 prior to the expiration of the sixty (60) days. Nothing in this Order shall preclude any franchisee from pursuing any other remedy to which the franchisee may be entitled.

IT IS FURTHER AGREED that Respondent Dental Fix shall provide the Securities Division proof it sent a copy of this Order and Offer to the Washington franchisee, prior to the entry of this Order.

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

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

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

WILLFUL VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

1	Signed this15th day of _	<u>April</u>	, 2021.
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4	Signed by:		Approved as to form by:
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6	Dental Fix Rx, LLC		
7	By/s/		/s/_ Kaari Gagnon, Attorney for Respondent
8	David Lopez Chief Executive Officer		Kaari Gagnon, Attorney for Respondent Florida Bar Association No. 46106
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10	Signed by:		
11	/s/		
12	David Lopez Individually		
13	SIGNED and ENTERED this _	<u>3rd</u> day	y of <u>June</u> , 2021.
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CONSENT ORDER

Patrick Stickney Financial Legal Examiner

CONSENT ORDER