J. Lawrence McCormley 1 State Bar No. 005005 TIFFANY & BOSCO 2 FIFTH FLOOR VIAD TOWER 3 1850 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85004-4546 4 TELEPHONE: (602) 255-6000 FACSIMILE: (602) 255-0103 5 Attorneys For Smirnco, Inc. 6 7 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 8 DISTRICT OF DELAWARE 9 10 In re: 11 FLEMING COMPANIES, INC., et al, 12 Debtor. 13 14 15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Case No. 03-10945 (MFW) (Jointly Administered)

Chapter 11 Proceedings

SECOND LIMITED OBJECTION OF SMIRNCO, INC. TO **DEBTOR'S (i) MOTION TO** ASSUME AND ASSIGN **EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND (ii) MOTION TO REJECT EXECUTORY LEASES AND EXECUTORY CONTRACTS**

Creditor Smirnco, Inc. ("Smirnco"), an Arizona corporation, through counsel undersigned, objects to the Debtor's motion as set forth in that certain Notice dated July 17, 2003, and Supplemental Notice dated July 19, 2003, re: Potential Assumption and Assignment of Certain Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases in Connection with Sale Motion (the "Motion"), and any other Notice regarding the assumption and assignment of executory contracts and unexpired leases (the "Notices") as they relate to the Debtor's business and contractual relationships with Smirnco. In addition, Smirnco objects to Debtor's Motion to Reject Certain Executory Contracts and Unexpired Leases (Motion to

1
 2
 3

4

678

9 10

11 12

14

15

13

16

1718

19

2021

222324

26

25

Reject) to the extent it relates to the Debtor's business and contractual relationships with Smirnco.

Objecting Creditor, Smirnco, was the owner and operator of seven retail grocery locations in the Phoenix metropolitan area, six of which were acquired from the Debtor. As a material and unified part of each such transaction, Smirnco became a subtenant of the Debtor in connection with the real estate leases for each location. In connection with each sublease location, the Debtor undertook contractual obligations, including without limitation, those described in a document entitled "Standby Facility Agreement," by which Debtor agreed to supply wholesale groceries and foods for Smirnco's use, to each of Smirnco's retail grocery operations. In relation to several specific locations (Stores #3, 4 and 5), the Debtor also provided a subsidy of the lease payment due to the Master Landlord of the respective space.

In connection with each of the retail locations operated by Smirnco, the Debtor defaulted in its obligation to supply food under the Facility Standby Agreements. As a direct result of the Debtor's defaults, four of the six locations (Stores #3, 4, 5 and 6) have been closed and are no longer in business.

It appears from the text of the Debtor's Motions that the Debtor is assuming and

Fleming Store # Smirnco Store # **Address** #2 4410 W. Union Hills Drive, Suite 1, Glendale, AZ 85308 unknown unknown #3 3434 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85053 710 E. Union Hills Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85024 #4 unknown unknown #5 15472 N. 99th Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351 unknown #6 Tatum and Catus, Phoenix, AZ unknown #7 1845 N. Scottsdale Road, Tempe, AZ 85281-1563

assigning certain executory contracts and leases to various assignees, as well as rejecting certain leases and abandoning the Debtor's interest in personalty onsite or related to said rejected leases. However, in the most recent Motion to Reject, and related notices, the Debtor has used a coded reference ("Debtor's Lease Identification Codes") to identify each lease and location which purports to be the subject of the Motion to Reject. Despite written and telephonic attempts to contact the Debtor's counsel to obtain a cross-referenced list of Smirnco's leases and the applicable Debtor's Lease Identification Codes, Smirnco has not received from the Debtor, and is not in possession of, information sufficient to establish whether the Debtor seeks to reject the Smirnco lease locations or to identify the status of Smirnco's six leases with the Debtor. As a result, Smirnco cannot accurately or adequately respond to the Debtor's Motion to Reject without appropriate and complete identification of the locations which Debtor may seek to assume and assign, or reject.

In addition, although the Motion to Reject, and related notices, recite that the Debtor will abandon any interest in personal property on the leased premises or relating to rejected leases, the Motion does not specify or otherwise expressly address the abandonment of any interest the Debtor or its estate may claim in personal property of the subtenant/creditors, such as Smirnco, which have possession of the leased premises. Without an express rejection and abandonment of any such interest, the subtenant/creditors, including Smirnco and others similarly situated, will be unable to exercise their rights of ownership of personalty at each lease location because the removal and/or disposition of such property could potentially violate the Debtor's automatic stay or lead to competing claims between the subtenant creditors, master landlords, the Debtor, encumbrance holders, and potentially others. To permit the abandonment of the Debtor's interest in sublease locations without addressing what, if any, interest the Debtor asserts

that it will, or intends, to retain in such personalty, is not in the best interest of the estate, its general creditors, master landlords of lease locations which the Debtor intends to reject, or subtenants of those spaces. As a result, the rejection of a lease location in the possession of a subtenant (such as Smirnco) should be denied or alternatively, the rejection should expressly include the rejection and abandonment of any interest the Debtor has or may claim in personalty belonging to the subtenant.

For the reasons set forth herein, Smirnco respectfully requests this Court deny the Debtor's motion to assume and assign the real estate subleases and Facility Standby Agreement(s) to which Smirnco is a party. In addition, Smirnco requests this Court deny the Debtor's motion to reject the leases and contracts to which Smirnco is a party, unless said rejections include a rejection and abandonment of personalty belonging to a subtenant and located at a rejected lease location.

DATED this 3rd day of September, 2003.

TIFFANY & BOSCO, P.A.

By: /s/JLM #005005

J. Lawrence McCormley
Fifth Floor Viad Tower
1850 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4546
Attorneys for Smirnco, Inc.

1 2	Copy of the foregoing mailed via overnight delivery this 3rd day of September, 2003, to:
3	
4	Fleming Companies, Inc. Attn: Contracts Department
5	1945 Lakepointe Drive Lewisville, TX 75057
6	Shirley S. Cho
7	Kirkland & Ellis, LLP 777 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, CA 90017
8	Geoffrey Richards
9	Kirkland & Ellis, LLP 200 East Randolph Drive
10	Chicago, IL 60601
11	Laura Davis Jones
12	Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young Jones & Weintraub, P.C.
13	919 North Market Street, 16 th Floor Wilmington, DE 19801
14	Andrew DeNatale
15	White & Case
16	1155 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036
17	Dennis Dunne
18	Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, LLP One Chase Manhatan Plaza
19	New York, NY 10005
20	Robert S. Hertzberg Pepper Hamilton, LLP
21	36 th Floor 100 Renaissance Center
22	Detroit MI 48243-1157
23	
24	/s/Rhonda Glazebrook
25	227022-2/11775-001

26