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#### PROPOSED COUNSEL TO THE **DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION**

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS **DALLAS DIVISION**

	§ §	
In re:	§	Chapter 11
FRESH ACQUISITIONS, LLC, et al., 1	§ §	Case No. 21-30721 (SGJ)
Debtors.	§ §	(Joint Administration Requested)

**DEBTORS' EMERGENCY MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN** ORDER (I) EXTENDING TIME TO FILE SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, SCHEDULES OF CURRENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURES, SCHEDULES OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES, AND STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

The above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") respectfully state as follows in support of this motion (this "Motion"):

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of each Debtor's taxpayer identification number are as follows: Alamo Fresh Payroll, LLC (1590); Fresh Acquisitions, LLC (2795); Alamo Ovation, LLC (9002); Buffets LLC (2294); Hometown Buffet, Inc. (3002); Tahoe Joe's Inc. (7129); OCB Restaurant Company, LLC (7607); OCB Purchasing, Co. (7610); Ryan's Restaurant Group, LLC (7895); Fire Mountain Restaurants, LLC (8003); Food Management Partners, Inc. (7374); FMP SA Management Group, LLC (3031); FMP-Fresh Payroll, LLC (8962); FMP-Ovation Payroll, LLC (1728); and Alamo Buffets Payroll, LLC (0998). The Debtors' principal offices are located at 2338 N. Loop 1604 W., Suite 350, San Antonio TX, 78248, United States.

#### **Relief Requested**

1. The Debtors seek entry of an order substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**: (a) extending the deadline by which the Debtors must file their schedules of assets and liabilities, schedules of current income and expenditures, schedules of executory contracts and unexpired leases, and statements of financial affairs (collectively, the "Schedules and Statements") by 21 days, for a total of 35 days from the Petition Date (as defined herein), without prejudice to the Debtors' ability to request additional extensions for cause shown; and (b) granting related relief.

# **Jurisdiction and Venue**

- 2. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Court") has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334. This matter is a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).
  - 3. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 4. The bases for the relief requested herein are sections 105(a) and 521 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), rules 1007(c), 6003, and 9006(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and rules 1007-1 and 9013-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas (the "Local Rules").

#### **Background**

5. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Debtors were a significant operator of buffet-style restaurants in the United States with approximately 90 stores operating in 27 states. The Debtors' concepts include six buffet restaurant chains and a full service steakhouse, operating under the names Furr's Fresh Buffet®, Old Country Buffet®, Country Buffet®, HomeTown® Buffet, Ryan's®, Fire Mountain®, and Tahoe Joe's Famous Steakhouse®, respectively. Much

like its competitors in the all-you-can-eat (AYCE) and dine-in restaurant businesses, the Debtors' recent history has been impacted by the uncertainty, unexpected challenges, and ever changing landscape resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic. A more detailed history of the Debtors' operations are discussed in the *Declaration of Mark Shapiro*, *Chief Restructuring Officer*, in *Support of Chapter 11 Petition and First Day Motion* (the "First Day Declaration"), filed contemporaneously herewith and incorporated herein.<sup>2</sup>

6. On April 20, 2021 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are operating their businesses and managing their properties as debtors-in-possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No party has requested the appointment of a trustee or examiner in these chapter 11 cases, and no official committees have been appointed.

# **Basis for Relief**

7. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Rules 1007(c) and 9006(b), the Court has authority to extend the time required for filing of the Schedules and Statements "for cause shown." See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(c); Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9006(b). Showing "cause" merely requires that a debtor "demonstrate some justification for the issuance of the order" and bankruptcy courts will normally grant such extensions "in the absence of bad faith or prejudice to the adverse party." See, e.g., Bryant v. Smith, 165 B.R. 176, 182 (W.D. Va. 1994) (discussing the standard for granting extensions under Bankruptcy Rule 1007) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). Moreover, section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code empowers the Court to "issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of" the Bankruptcy Code, and thus the extension of time for cause shown is within this Court's equitable powers. Absent the

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the First Day Declaration.

relief requested herein, the Debtors must file the Schedules and Statements within 14 days of the Petition Date.

- 16. The Debtors submit that ample cause exists to grant the relief requested herein. To prepare their Schedules and Statements, the Debtors and their advisors will have to compile information from books, records, and documents relating to a myriad of claims, assets, and contracts for multiple Debtor entities. Accordingly, collection of the necessary information will require a significant expenditure of time and effort on the part of the Debtors and their limited employees. Additionally, because numerous invoices related to prepetition goods and services have not yet been received and entered into the Debtors' accounting system, it may be some time before the Debtors have access to all of the information required to prepare the Schedules and Statements.
- 17. In the days leading up to the Petition Date, the Debtors' primary focus has been preparing for these chapter 11 cases, including negotiating debtor in possession financing. Focusing the attention of key personnel and advisors on critical operational and chapter 11 compliance issues during the early days of these chapter 11 cases will facilitate the Debtors' smooth transition into chapter 11, thereby maximizing value for their estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest.
  - 18. Given the substantial burdens already imposed on the Debtors' management by the commencement of these chapter 11 cases, the competing demands upon the Debtors' employees to collect information, and the time and attention the Debtors must devote to the sale process, the Debtors submit that good cause exists to extend the current deadline by 21 days, until 35 days after the Petition Date. The requested extension will enhance the accuracy of the Statements and Schedules when filed and help avoid the potential necessity of substantial subsequent

amendments. The Debtors request such an extension without prejudice to their rights to seek further extensions or waivers from the Court. Moreover, an extension will not harm creditors or other parties in interest because, even under the extended deadline, the Debtors will file the Schedules and Statements in advance of any deadline for filing proofs of claim in these chapter 11 cases.

19. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that a 21-day extension of time to file the Schedules and Statements, without prejudice to their ability to request additional extensions, is appropriate and warranted under the circumstances. Courts in this district routinely grant relief similar to the relief requested herein. *See e.g., In re Tuesday Morning Corp.*, No. 20-31476 (HDH) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. May 28, 2020) (granting debtors a total of 33 days from the petition date to file schedules and statements of financial affairs); *In re The LaSalle Group, Inc.*, No. 19-31484 (SGJ) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. May 20, 2019) (granting debtors a total of 28 days from the petition date to file schedules and statements of financial affairs); *In re PHI, Inc.*, No. 19-30923 (HDH) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Mar. 20, 2019) (granting debtors a total of 33 days from the petition date to file schedules and statements of financial affairs); *In re SAS Healthcare, Inc.*, No. 19-40401 (MXM) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Feb. 14, 2019) (granting debtors a total of 22 days from the petition date to file schedules and statements of financial affairs); *In re Erickson Inc.*, Case No. 16-34393 (HDH) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Nov. 10, 2016) (granting debtors a total of 44 days from the petition date to file schedules and statements of financial affairs).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Because of the voluminous nature of the orders cited herein, such orders have not been attached to this Motion. Copies of these orders are available upon request to the Debtors' proposed counsel.

#### **Notice**

12. The Debtors will provide notice of this Motion to the following parties or their counsel: (a) the Office of the U.S. Trustee for the Northern District of Texas; (b) the holders of the 30 largest unsecured claims against the Debtors (on a consolidated basis); (c) counsel to Arizona Bank & Trust; (d) counsel to the proposed DIP Lender; (e) the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas; (e) the Internal Revenue Service; (f) the state attorneys general for states in which the Debtors conduct business; and (g) any party that has requested notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. In light of the nature of the relief requested, the Debtors submit that no other or further notice is needed.

# **No Prior Request**

13. No prior request for the relief sought in this Motion has been made to this or any other court.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the relief requested herein and such other relief as the Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of April, 2021.

#### **GRAY REED**

By: /s/ Jason S. Brookner

Jason S. Brookner

Texas Bar No. 24033684

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Texas Bar No. 24060067

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# PROPOSED COUNSEL TO THE DEBTORS AND DEBTORS IN POSSESSION

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on April 20, 2021, I caused a copy of the foregoing document to be served by the Electronic Case Filing System for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas.

/s/Jason Brookner

Jason Brookner

# Exhibit A

**Proposed Order** 

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

	§	Re: Docket No
Debtors.	\$ \$ 8	(Joint Administration Requested)
FRESH ACQUISITIONS, LLC, et al., 1	§ 8	Case No. 21-30721 (SGJ)
In re:	§ §	Chapter 11
_	<u> </u>	

ORDER (I) EXTENDING TIME TO FILE SCHEDULES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, SCHEDULES OF CURRENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURES, SCHEDULES OF EXECUTORY CONTRACTS AND UNEXPIRED LEASES, AND STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

Upon the motion (the "<u>Motion</u>")<sup>2</sup> of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") for entry of an order (this "<u>Order</u>") (a) extending the time period to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of each Debtor's taxpayer identification number are as follows: Alamo Fresh Payroll, LLC (1590); Fresh Acquisitions, LLC (2795); Alamo Ovation, LLC (9002); Buffets LLC (2294); Hometown Buffet, Inc. (3002); Tahoe Joe's Inc. (7129); OCB Restaurant Company, LLC (7607); OCB Purchasing, Co. (7610); Ryan's Restaurant Group, LLC (7895); Fire Mountain Restaurants, LLC (8003); Food Management Partners, Inc. (7374); FMP SA Management Group, LLC (3031); FMP-Fresh Payroll, LLC (8962); FMP-Ovation Payroll, LLC (1728); and Alamo Buffets Payroll, LLC (0998). The Debtors' principal offices are located at 2338 N. Loop 1604 W., Suite 350, San Antonio TX, 78248, United States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

file their Schedules and Statements and (b) granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and upon the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2), and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing"); and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
- 2. The time within which the Debtors must file their Schedules and Statements is extended by an additional 21 days beyond the original deadline of 14 days after the Petition Date for a total of 35 days after the Petition Date, without prejudice to the Debtors' right to seek additional extensions. The extended deadline to file Schedules and Statements is May 25, 2021.
- 3. All time periods set forth in this Order shall be calculated in accordance with Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a).
- 4. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

- 5. Notwithstanding any Bankruptcy Rule to the contrary, the terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 6. The Debtors are authorized to take all reasonable actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 7. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

### END OF ORDER ###

#### Submitted by:

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Texas Bar No. 24060067
Amber M. Carson
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