STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION JOHN O. PASTORE CENTER 1511 PONTIAC AVENUE CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02920

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IN THE MATTER OF:	:
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KWENCH JUICE FRANCHISING, INC.	:
CHRISTOS GREGORIS	:
	:
RESPONDENTS.	:
	:

DBR No. 16SC007

CONSENT AGREEMENT

The Director ("Director") of the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation ("Department") enters into this Consent Agreement ("Agreement") under Section 18 of the Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act (the "Act"), R.I. Gen. Laws § 19-28.1-1, *et seq.*, with regard to the above-referenced Respondent. The Director issued an Order to Cease and Desist; Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing; and Notice of Intent to Impose Administrative Assessment under R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 19-28.1-18, 19-28.1-19, and 19-28.1-25, on October 31, 2016.

The parties have agreed to resolve this matter without instituting further administrative proceedings.

1. Respondent Kwench Juice Franchising, Inc. ("Kwench") is a foreign corporation with principal offices at 8 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, MA.

2. Respondent Christos Gregoris is president of Kwench.

Kwench is not registered as a franchise or franchisor pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 19 28.1-1, *et seq.*, nor has it been registered as such in the past.

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4. During a period of time prior to October 31, 2016, it came to the attention of the Securities Division of the Department that the Respondents had placed at least one sign in a retail business location in Providence, Rhode Island that stated "Kwench Juice Café, Franchise Available" and had placed certain advertisements on the internet which appeared to be offering a franchise opportunity to the public in the State of Rhode Island.

5. R.I. Gen. Laws § 19-28.1-5 provides that it is unlawful for any person to offer or sell a franchise unless the offer is registered or is exempt from registration under § 19-28.1-6.

6. R.I. Gen. Laws § 19-28.1-18(c) provides that when it appears to the Director that any

person has violated a provision of the Act, the Director may:

- (i) Issue an order directing the person to cease and desist from continuing the act or practice;
- (ii) Bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction to enjoin the act or practice and to enforce compliance with the Act; or
- (iii) Bring an action on behalf of the state in any court of competent jurisdiction against any officer, director, trustee, manager or agent of the franchisor or against a franchisor to recover a penalty in a sum not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per violation of the Act.
- 7. In an effort to effect a timely and amicable resolution of the issues raised in this

Consent Agreement, the Respondent agrees that:

- A) Unless and until it is duly registered under the Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act, at no time shall he advertise Kwench Juice or any other corporate entity on any internet website, in writing, or by posting physical signage which offer or appear to offer franchising opportunities for members of the public in the State of Rhode Island; and
- B) Any notice or advertisement placed on any internet website must include a written disclaimer, in a font the same size or larger than other text, that the Respondent is not registered in the State of Rhode Island to offer franchise opportunities.

The Respondent agrees to the foregoing without making an admission that he intentionally violated any Rhode Island Franchise Investment Act, and it is agreed that at no time did Respondent have the intention to defraud the Department or the public.

In making its offer to the Respondent to settle this complaint without further administrative action, the Department has considered the mitigating factors contained in the statements of the Respondent, as well as considering the public interest in the conservation of Department resources.

Maria D'Alessandro, Esq. Deputy Director Commercial Licensing, Securities and Gaming and Athletics

DATED: 2/13/17

Christos Gregoris

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