UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:	Jon Leibowitz, Chairman
	Pamela Jones Harbour
	Willia

WHOLE FOODS MARKET, INC.	•	Docket No. 9324
a corporation.))))

DECISION AND ORDER [Public Record Version]

The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") having heretofore issued its complaint charging Whole Foods Market, Inc. ("Whole Foods" or "Respondent") with violations of Section 7 of the Clayton Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 18, and Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and Respondent having been served with a copy of that complaint, together with a notice of contemplated relief, and Respondent having answered the complaint denying said charges but admitting the jurisdictional allegations set f

- 1. Whole Foods is a corporation organized, existing and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Texas, with its offices and principal place of business located at 550 Bowie Street, Austin, Texas 78703.
- 2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding and of Respondent, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

I.

IT IS ORDERED that, as used in this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "Whole Foods" or "Respondent" means Whole Foods Market, Inc., its directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, predecessors, successors, and assigns; its joint ventures, subsidiaries, divisions, groups and affiliates controlled by Whole Foods Market, Inc., and the respective directors, officers, employees, agents, representatives, successors, and assigns of each.
- B. "Wild Oats" means the former corporation Wild Oats Markets, Inc., which was organized, existing, and doing business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, with its office and principal place of business located at 1821 30th Street, Boulder, Colorado 80301, and which was acquired by Respondent Whole Foods.
- C. "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.
- D. "Closing Date" means the date on which Respondent (or the Divestiture Trustee) and a Commission-approved Acquirer consummate a transaction to divest any Asset To Be Divested pursuant to this Order.
- E. "Commission-approved Acquirer" means an entity that receives the prior approval of the Commission to acquire particular assets that the Respondent is required to divest pursuant to this Order.
- F. "Divestiture Trustee" means a trustee appointed by the Commission pursuant to the relevant provisions of this Order to effectuate the divestitures required by this Order [as distinguished from interim monitor].
- G. "Assets To Be Divested" means:
 - 1. The name "WILD OATS," all trademarks, trade dress, service marks, trade names, and other Wild Oats intellectual property associated with the Wild Oats stores (all hereinafter collectively "Wild Oats Associated Intellectual Property");

- 2. The store locations listed on Appendix A of this Order;
- 3. The store locations listed on Appendix B of this Order; and
- 4. All assets, leases, fixtures, properties, government permits (to the extent transferable), tangible and intangible, related to or used in the stores operated at these locations at the Closing Date, but shall not include those assets consisting of or pertaining to any of Respondent's other (non "WILD OATS") trademarks, trade dress, service marks, or trade names, or any inventory, books and records, financial information, supplies or packaging related to or used in the stores operated at these locations.

- C. Respondent shall consent to the following terms and conditions regarding the Divestiture Trustee's powers, duties, authority, and responsibilities:
 - 1. Subject to the prior approval of the Commission, the Divestiture Trustee shall have the exclusive power and authority to divest the Assets To Be Divested and to assure that Respondent has completed all of its obligations under Paragraph II.H. of this Order for any Asset To Be Divested.
 - 2. The Divestiture Trustee shall have six (6) months from the date the Commission approves the trustee agreement described herein to accomplish the divestiture, which shall be subject to the prior approval of the Commission. If, however, at the end of the

member (employee) information and files related to human resources, payroll or benefits. Respondent shall take no action to interfere

- 9. The Divestiture Trustee shall report in writing to Respondent and to the Commission every thirty (30) days concerning the Divestiture Trustee's efforts to accomplish the divestiture.
- 10. The Divestiture Trustee shall notify Respondent immediately upon signing any letter of intent or other significant event relating to the sale of the Assets To Be Divested that is required to be revealed by Respondent to accurately reflect its financial statements.
- 11. Respondent may require the Divestiture Trustee and each of the Divestiture Trustee's consultants, accountants, attorneys and other repre

scheduled raises, bonuses and vesting of pension benefits (as permitted by law and for those Store Employees covered by a pension plan), offered by Respondent.

G. Prior to the each Closing Date, Respondent shall secure all Third Party Consents.

Provided however, that, if within twelve (12) months of the date the Commission approves the trustee agreement described herein, Respondent certifies to the Commission that a landlord is unreasonably withholding its consent to a transfer or assignment of the lease of a particular store location, then the divestiture period is tolled while the **Commfai**00j23.8800 0.0000 0 Tr. I of a 812.0000 0.0000 TDf0 0.0000 TD(d h)T77a

business information, including all information technology and operating systems, all human resources, payroll and benefits records, all accounting and financial records, all company policies and directives, and all purchasing information. This exclusive access period shall end when Respondent has removed all confidential business information from the store. *Provided, however*, that Respondent shall also use commercially reasonable efforts to remove as soon as practicable any of Respondent's trademarks, trade dress, service marks, trade names, inventory, and all other proprietary information from the store during such exclusive access period.

2. For a period of not more than twenty (20) days after Respondent has removed the confidential business information from the store, Respondent shall have non-exclusive access to the store, during which period Respondent shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to remove as soon as practicable any remaining trademarks, trade dress, service marks, trade names, inventory, and all other proprietary information from the store. Respondent shall cooperate fully with the Commission-approved Acquirer to coordinate its removal efforts with the Commission-approved Acquirer's efforts to prepare the location for reopening.

Provided, however, that Respondent shall be responsible for all lease and utility costs associated with such store until it has completely removed its assets from such store.

Provided further, however, that Respondent shall not remove any of the Wild Oats Associated Intellectual Property identified in Paragraph I.G.1. of this order.

I. The purpose of the divestiture of the Assets To Be Divested is to ensure the viable and competitive operation of the Assets To Be Divested in the same business and in the same manner in which the Assets To Be Divested were engaged at the time of the announcement of the proposed acquisition of Wild Oats by Whole Foods and to remedy the lessening of competition alleged in the Commission's complaint.

III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that:

A. Within thirty (30) days after the date this Order becomes final, and every thirty (30) Days thereafter until Respondent has fully complied with Paragraphs I

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall notify the Commission at least thirty (30) days prior to any proposed (1) dissolution of the Respondent, (2) acquisition, merger or consolidation of Respondent, or (3) any other change in the Respondent that may affect compliance obligations arising out of this Order, including, but not limited to, assignment, the creation or dissolution of subsidiaries, or any other change in Respondent.

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, for purposes of determining or securing compliance with this Order, and subject to any legally recognized privilege, and upon written request and upon five (5) days notice to Respondent, Respondent shall, without restraint or interference, permit any duly authorized representative(s) of the Commission:

A. access, during business office hours of the Respondent and in the

APPENDIX A OPERATING LOCATIONS

Wild Oats Market 2584 Baseline Rd. Boulder, CO 80305

Alfalfa's 1651 Broadway St. Boulder, CO 80302

Whole Foods Market 3180 New Center Point Colorado Springs, CO 80922

Wild Oats Market 4301 Main St. Kansas City, MO 64111

Whole Foods Market 7250 W. Lake Mead Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89128

Wild Oats Market 5910 S. University Blvd. Littleton, CO 80121

Whole Foods Market 6930 S. Highland Dr.

APPENDIX B CLOSED LOCATIONS

200 W. Foothills Pkwy. Fort Collins, CO 80525

1422 N. Cooper Road Gilbert, AZ 85233

874 E. Warner Road Gilbert, AZ 85296

5350 W. Bell Road Glendale, AZ 85308

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APPENDIX C

INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE DIVESTITURE TRUSTEE

For each store listed in Appendix A and Appendix B:

Store number, banner, name, address, city, state, zip code and county

Total square footage and selling space square footage

Date store opened and closed (if applicable)

Indication whether store is freestanding or in a shopping center

Indication whether store has equipment (yes or no answer within ten (10) days of approval of trustee agreement, full list of fixtures and equipment to be provided later upon the request of the Divestiture Trustee

Total gross sales for the (1) 2008 fiscal year, (2) first quarter 2009 fiscal year, and (3) first quarter 2008 fiscal year

Occupancy expenses (segmented by minimum annual rent, percentage rent, common area maintenance expenses, insurance, taxes and utilities) during the last full fiscal year

Lease and lease abstract indicating lease commencement date, base lease expiration, remaining renewal options, minimum annual rent, percentage rent and threshold, rent adjustments, recapture rights/operating covenaeshold

CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX D

[Redacted From the Public Record Version, But Incorporated By Reference]