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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Maureen K. Ohlhausen

In the Matter of

RAMEY MOTORS, INC., a corporation.

DOCKET NO. C-4354

DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of Respondent named in the caption hereof, and Respondent having been furnished thereafter with a copy of a draft complaint which the Bureau of Consumer Protection proposed to present to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued by

2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of Respondent, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this order, the following definitions shall apply:

- 1. "Advertisement" shall mean a commercial message in any medium that directly or indirectly promotes a consumer transaction.
- 2. "Clearly and conspicuously" shall mean as follows:

a. In a print advertisement, the disclosure shall be in a type size, location, and in print that contrasts with the background against which it appears, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to notice, read, and comprehend it.

b. In an electronic medium, an audio disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it. A video disclosure shall be of a size and shade and appear on the screen for a duration and in a location sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend it.

c. In a television or video advertisement, an audio disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it. A video disclosure shall be of a size and shade, and appear on the screen for a duration, and in a location, sufficient for an ordinary consumer to read and comprehend it.

d. In a radio advertisement, the disclosure shall be delivered in a volume and cadence sufficient for an ordinary consumer to hear and comprehend it.

e. In all advertisements, the disclosure shall be in understandable language and syntax. Nothing contrary to, inconsistent with, or in mitigation of the disclosure shall be used in any advertisement or promotion.

- 3. "Consumer credit" shall mean credit offered or extended to a consumer primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 4. "Material" shall mean likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services.
- 5. "Motor vehicle" shall mean

a. any self-propelled vehicle designed for transporting persons or property on a street, highway, or other road;

- b. recreational boats and marine equipment;
- c. motorcycles;
- d. motor homes, recreational vehicle trailers, and slide-in campers; and
- e. other vehicles that are titled and sold through dealers.

I.

IT IS ORDERED that Respondent, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with any advertisement to promote, directly or indirectly, the purchase, financing, or leasing of automobiles, in or affecting commerce, shall not, in any manner, expressly or by implication:

- A. Misrepresent that when a consumer trades in a used motor vehicle ("trade-in vehicle") in order to purchase another motor vehicle ("newly purchased vehicle), Respondent will pay any remaining loan balance on the trade-in vehicle such that the consumer will have no remaining obligation for any amount of that loan; or
- B. Misrepresent any material fact regarding the cost and terms of financing or leasing any newly purchased vehicle.

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent, directly or through any corporation, subsidiary, division, or other device, in connection with an advertisement to promote, directly or indirectly, any extension of consumer credit, in or affecting commerce, shall not in any manner, expressly or by implication:

- A. State the amount or percentage of any down payment, the number of payments or period of repayment, the amount of any payment, or the amount of any finance charge, without disclosing clearly and conspicuously all of the following terms:
 - 1. The amount or percentage of the down payment;
 - 2. The terms of repayment; and
 - 3. The annual percentage rate, using the term "annual percentage rate" or the abbreviation "APR." If the annual percentage rate may be increased after consummation of the credit transaction, that fact must also be disclosed; or
- B. State a rate of finance charge without stating the rate as an "annual percentage rate" or the abbreviation "APR," using that term.

C. Fail to comply in any respect with Regulation Z, 12 C.F.R. § 226, as amended, and the Truth in Lending Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1667.

III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent and its successors and assigns shall, for five (5) years after the last date of dissemination of any representation covered by this order, maintain and upon request make available to the Federal Trade Commission for inspection and copying:

- A. All advertisements and promotional materials containing the representation;
- B. All materials that were relied upon in disseminating the representation; and
- C. All tests, reports, studies, surveys, demonstrations, or other evidence in their possession or control that contradict, qualify, or call into question the representation, or the basis relied upon for the representation, including complaints and other communications with consumers or with governmental or consumer protection organizations.

IV.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent and its successors and assigns shall deliver a copy of this order to all current and future principals, officers, directors, and managers, and to all current and future employees, agents, and representatives having responsibilities with respect to the subject matter of this order, and shall secure from each such person a signed and dated statement acknowledging receipt of the order. Respondent shall deliver this order to current personnel within thirty (30) days after the date of service of this order, and to future personnel within thirty (30) days after the person assumes such position or responsibilities.

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent and its successors and assigns shall notify the Commission at least thirty (30) days prior to any change in the corporation(s) that may affect compliance obligations arising under this order, including but not limited to a dissolution, assignment, sale, merger, or other action that would result in the emergence of a successor corporation; the creation or dissolution of a subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices subject to this order; the proposed filing of a bankruptcy petition; or a change in the corporate name or address. <u>Provided, however</u>, that, with respect to any proposed change in the corporation about which Respondent learns less than thirty (30) days prior to the dates**inch**.3600 0.0000 TD(b

VI.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent and its successors and assigns, within ninety (90) days after the date of service of this order, shall file with the Commission a true and accurate report, in writing, setting forth in detail the manner and form of their own compliance with this order. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of written notice from a representative of the Commission, they shall submit additional true and accurate written reports.

VII.

This order will terminate on April 19, 2032, or twenty (20) years from the most recent date that the United States or the Federal Trade Commission files a complaint (with or without an accompanying consent decree) in federal court alleging any violation of the order, whichever comes later; provided, however, that the filing of such a complaint will not affect the duration of:

A. Any Part in this orde