

located at 5918 Stoneridge Mall Road, Pleasanton, California 94588. Respondent Safeway operates supermarkets under a number of different banners, including Genuardi's.

II. JURISDICTION

3. Respondent Ahold is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in commerce, or in activities affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 1 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 12, and Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

4. Respondent Safeway is, and at all times relevant herein has been, engaged in commerce, or in activities affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 1 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 12, and Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44.

III. THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION

11. Supermarkets provide a distinct set of products and services and offer consumers convenient one-stop shopping for food and grocery products. Supermarkets typically carry more than 10,000 different items, typically referred to as stock-keeping units or SKUs, as well as a deep inventory of those items. In order to accommodate the large number of food and non-food products necessary for one-stop shopping, supermarkets are large stores that typically have at least 10,000 square feet of selling space.

12. Supermarkets compete primarily with other supermarkets that provide one-stop shopping opportunities for food and grocery products. Supermarkets base their food and grocery prices primarily on the prices of food and grocery products sold at other nearby competing supermarkets. Supermarkets do not regularly conduct price checks of food and grocery products sold at other types of stores and do not typically set or change their food and grocery prices in response to prices at other types of stores.

13. Although retail stores other than supermarkets also sell food and grocery products, including neighborhood “mom & pop” grocery stores, convenience stores, specialty food stores, club stores, limited assortment stores, and mass merchants, these types of stores do not, individually or collectively, provide sufficient competition to effectively constrain prices at supermarkets. Those retail stores do not offer a supermarket’s distinct set of products and services that provide consumers with the convenience of one-stop shopping for food and grocery products. The vast majority of consumers shopping for food and grocery products at supermarkets are not likely to start shopping elsewhere, or significantly increase grocery purchases elsewhere, in response to a small but significant price increase by supermarkets.

V. THE RELEVANT GEOGRAPHIC MARKET

14. Customers shopping at supermarkets are motivated by convenience and, as a result, competition for supermarkets is local in nature. Generally, the overwhelming majority of consumers’ grocery shopping occurs at stores located very close to where they live.

15. Respondents operate supermarkets under the Giant and Genuardi’s banners within approximately two miles of each other in the Newtown, Pennsylvania area. The primary trade areas of the two stores overlap significantly.

16. The relevant geographic market in which to assess the competitive effects of the acquisition is a roughly three to three-and-a half mile area surrounding N is geogs4fJ12.465 0 0 12 72 350.265 n

VI. MARKET CONCENTRATION

17. The relevant market is already highly concentrated, and the acquisition will substantially increase concentration, whether measured by the Herfindahl Hirschman Index (“HHI”) or the

IX. VIOLATIONS CHARGED

22. The agreement described in Paragraph 5 constitutes a violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45, and the acquisition, if consummated, would violate 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.

WHEREFORE, THE PREMISES CONSIDERED, the Federal Trade Commission on this sixteenth day of August, 2012, issues its complaint against said Respondents.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary