



ENTERED
05/12/2020

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

In re:)	
)	Chapter 11
)	
STAGE STORES, INC., <i>et al.</i> , ¹)	Case No. 20-32564 (DRJ)
)	
Debtors.)	(Jointly Administered)
)	
)	Re: Docket No. 18

ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS TO PAY PREPETITION CLAIMS OF LIEN CLAIMANTS (II) CONFIRMING ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE PRIORITY OF OUTSTANDING ORDERS, AND (III) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

Upon the motion (the "Motion")² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") for entry of an order (this "Order"): (a) authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to pay in the ordinary course all prepetition and postpetition amounts owing on account of certain lienholders; (b) confirming the administrative expense priority status of Outstanding Orders (as defined below); and (c) 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 this Court having found that it may enter an 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

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: Stage Stores, Inc. (6900) and Specialty Retailers, Inc. (1900). The Debtors' service address is: 2425 West Loop South, Houston, Texas 77027.

² Capitalized terms used and not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.



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 set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to pay the prepetition lien claims, in the ordinary course of business and consistent with their prepetition practices as the Debtors deem necessary in their reasonable business judgement and are authorized to pay all undisputed amounts related to the Outstanding Orders in the ordinary course of business consistent with the parties' customary practices in effect prior to the Petition Date.
3. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to require that, as a condition to receiving any payments under this Order, a payee continue to supply goods or services to the Debtors in accordance with the Trade Terms, or any Trade Agreement. If a payee, after receiving a payment under this Order, ceases to provide the Trade Terms or otherwise violates the Trade Agreement, if applicable, then the Debtors may, in their reasonable business judgment deem such payment to apply instead to any postpetition amount that may be owing to such payee or treat such payment as an avoidable postpetition transfer of property. Any party that accepts payment from the Debtors on account of a Supply Claim shall be deemed to have agreed to the terms and provisions of this Order.
4. Any party that accepts payment from the Debtors on account of a Supply Claim shall be deemed to have agreed to the terms and provisions of this Order.

5. Subject to paragraph 3 of this Order, all undisputed obligations related to the Outstanding Orders are granted administrative expense priority status in accordance with section 503(b)(1)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code.

6. Notwithstanding the relief granted in this Order and any actions taken pursuant to such relief, nothing in this Order shall be deemed: (a) an admission as to the amount of, basis for, or validity of any claim against a Debtor entity under the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable nonbankruptcy law; (b) a waiver of the Debtors' or any other party in interest's right to dispute any claim on any grounds; (c) a promise or requirement to pay any claim; (d) an implication or admission that any particular claim is of a type specified or defined in the Motion or any order granting the relief requested by the Motion or any order granting the relief requested by the Motion or a finding that any particular claim is an administrative expense claim or other priority claim; (e) a request or authorization to assume, adopt, or reject any agreement, contract, or lease pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code; (f) an admission as to the validity, priority, enforceability, or perfection of any lien on, security interest in, or other encumbrance on property of the Debtors' estates; (g) a waiver or limitation of the Debtors', or any other party in interest's, rights under the Bankruptcy Code or any other applicable law; or (h) a concession by the Debtors that any liens (contractual, common law, statutory, or otherwise) that may be satisfied pursuant to the relief requested in this Motion are valid, and the rights of all parties in interest are expressly reserved to contest the extent, validity, or perfection or seek avoidance of all such liens.

7. The Debtors shall maintain a matrix/schedule of amounts directly or indirectly paid, subject to the terms and conditions of this Order, including the following information: (a) the names of the payee; (b) the amount of the payment; (c) the category or type of payment, as further described and classified in the Motion; (d) the Debtor or Debtors that made the payment; and

(e) the payment date. The Debtors shall provide a copy of such matrix/schedule to the U.S. Trustee, and any statutory committee appointed in these chapter 11 cases every 30 days beginning upon entry of this Order.

8. Nothing herein shall impair or prejudice the rights of the U.S. Trustee and the statutory committee appointed in these chapter 11 cases, which are expressly reserved, to object to any payment made pursuant to this order to an insider (as such term is defined in section 101(31) of the Bankruptcy Code), or an affiliate of an insider, of the Debtors. To the extent the Debtors intend to make a payment to an insider or an affiliate of an insider of the Debtors, the Debtors shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, provide three (3) business days' advance notice to, and opportunity to object by the U.S. Trustee and any statutory committee appointed in these chapter 11 cases; provided, that if any party objects to the payment, the Debtors shall not make such payment without further order of the Court.

9. The Debtor shall not pay any obligations under this Order unless they are due or are deemed necessary to be paid in the Debtor's reasonable business judgment to ensure ongoing provision of goods or services or otherwise to avoid an adverse effect on operations.

10. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, prior to making any payment pursuant to this Order to a Lien Claimant, the Debtors shall provide such Lien Claimant with a copy of this Order (unless previously provided to such Lien Claimant).

5. The banks and financial institutions on which checks were drawn or electronic payment requests made in payment of the prepetition obligations approved herein are authorized and directed to receive, process, honor, and pay all such checks and electronic payment requests when presented for payment, and all such banks and financial institutions are authorized to rely on

the Debtors' designation of any particular check or electronic payment request as approved by this by this Order.

11. The Debtors are authorized to issue postpetition checks, or to effect postpetition fund transfer requests, in replacement of any checks or fund transfer requests that are dishonored as a consequence of these chapter 11 cases with respect to prepetition amounts owed in connection with any obligations.

12. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of such Motion and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

13. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

14. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Motion.

15. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.

Signed: May 12, 2020.



DAVID R. JONES
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE