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# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:

Sticky's Holdings LLC, et al.,1

Chapter 11

Reorganized Debtors.

(Jointly Administered)

Case No. 24-10856 (JKS)

# REQUEST OF UE BERGEN MALL OWNER LLC FOR ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM <u>PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. §§ 365(d)(3), 503(a), 503(b)(1)(A), AND 503(b)(7)</u>

UE Bergen Mall Owner LLC (the "<u>Landlord</u>"), by and through its undersigned counsel, pursuant to sections 365(d)(3) and 503(b) of title 11 of the United States Code, respectfully files this Request (the "<u>Request</u>") for an order granting the allowance and payment of Landlord's administrative expense claim in the amount set forth herein. In support of this Request, Landlord states as follows:

# I. <u>BACKGROUND</u>

1. On March 25, 2024 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Reorganized Debtors each filed a voluntary petition for relief under subchapter V of chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "<u>Court</u>"), which cases have been jointly consolidated for administrative purposes only (the "<u>Chapter 11</u> <u>Cases</u>"). The Reorganized Debtors continue to operate their businesses and manage their properties as debtors and debtors-in-possession pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 1107(a) and 1108.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise specified, all statutory references to "Section" are to 11 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq. (the "<u>Bankruptcy</u> <u>Code</u>").



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Reorganized Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number are as follows: Sticky's Holdings LLC (3586); Sticky Fingers LLC (3212); Sticky Fingers II LLC (7125); Sticky Fingers III LLC (3914); Sticky Fingers IV LLC (9412); Sticky Fingers V LLC (1465); Sticky Fingers VI LLC (0578); Sticky's BK 1 LLC (0423); Sticky's NJ 1 LLC (5162); Sticky Fingers VII LLC (1491); Sticky's NJ II LLC (6642); Sticky Fingers IX LLC (5036); Sticky's NJ III LLC (7036); Sticky Fingers VIII LLC (0080); Sticky NJ IV LLC (6341); Sticky's WC 1 LLC (0427); Sticky's Franchise LLC (5232); Sticky's PA GK I LLC (7496); Sticky's Corporate LLC (5719); and Sticky's IP LLC (4569). The Reorganized Debtors' mailing address is 21 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038.

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2. On April 26, 2024, the United States Trustee appointed Natasha Songonuga as the subchapter V trustee in these Chapter 11 Cases.

3. The Debtor Sticky's NJ I LLC ("Tenant') leases retail space (the "<u>Premises</u>") from the Landlord pursuant to an unexpired lease of nonresidential real property (the "<u>Lease</u>") for its restaurant located in The Outlets at Bergen Town Center in Paramus, New Jersey. To secure payment of its obligations under the Lease, the Debtor Sticky's Holdings, LLC executed a guaranty of Tenant's obligations under the Lease (the "<u>Guaranty</u>"). A true and correct copy of the Lease and the Guaranty are available upon request.

4. The Lease is a lease "of real property in a shopping center" as that term is used in Section 365(b)(3). See In re Joshua Slocum, Ltd., 922 F.2d 1081, 1086-87 (3d Cir. 1990).

5. On October 21, 2024, the Reorganized Debtors filed the Subchapter V Debtor's Modified First Amended Plan of Reorganization [D.I. 368] (the "Plan"), which contemplated assumption of the Lease.

6. On November 13, 2024, the Bankruptcy Court confirmed the Plan pursuant to the *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Confirming Subchapter V Debtors' Modified First Amended Plan of Reorganization* [D.I. 398] (the "<u>Confirmation Order</u>"). The Plan went effective on November 29, 2024 (the "<u>Effective Date</u>"), and the Lease was assumed (the "<u>Assumed Lease</u>"). *See* D.I. 431.

7. Post-confirmation, the Reorganized Debtors defaulted on their obligations under the Assumed Lease and the Guaranty. Among other things, the Reorganized Debtors failed to pay base rent and additional rent due for February, April, May and June, 2025, as more fully set forth herein and in **Exhibit 1** attached hereto.

8. Thereafter, on June 26, 2025, the Court entered the Order Authorizing Reorganized Debtors' Omnibus Motion for Entry of an Order (I) Authorizing the Rejection of

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Certain Unexpired Leases, Equipment Leases, and Executory Contracts; (II) Authorizing the Abandonment of Certain Personal Property; and (III) Granting Related Relief [D.I. 642] (the "<u>Rejection Order</u>"), pursuant to which the Lease was rejected effective June 26, 2025 (the "<u>Rejection Date</u>").

9. The Rejection Order established the deadline for filing any claim in relation to the Lease as ten (10) days from the entry of the Rejection Order.

10. Under the terms of the Lease, the Reorganized Debtors are required to make certain payments to the Landlord arising out of their use and occupancy of the Premises. These payments include such items as rent and related charges, common area maintenance obligations, real property taxes, and all other charges imposed by the Lease, including year-end adjustments and reconciliations for charges that the Reorganized Debtors pay on an estimated basis. The Reorganized Debtors have not paid all obligations that have arisen or accrued during the post-Effective Date, post-petition period prior to the Rejection Date. Further, pursuant to Section 503(b)(7), the Landlord is entitled to a sum equal to all monetary obligations due, for the period of two (2) years following the later the rejection date. Accordingly, the Landlord is entitled to a priority administrative expense claim for such obligations, as set forth in greater detail in the chart below and on the attached **Exhibit 1**, in addition to any indemnity obligations, amounts subject to setoff and/or recoupment, and/or attorneys' fees.

UE BERGEN MALL OWNER LLC						
Store No.	Shopping Center	City, State	Administrative Claim Amount			
N/A	Outlets at Bergen Town Center	Paramus, NJ	\$351,944.04			

### II. <u>RELIEF REQUESTED</u>

11. Landlord respectfully requests that the Court enter an order for allowance and payment of its administrative priority claim in the amount set forth herein, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 365(d)(3), 503(a), 503(b)(7), 503(b)(1)(A), and 507(a)(2).

### III. <u>BASIS FOR THE RELIEF REQUESTED</u>

12. Section 365(d)(3) provides that a debtor is required to "timely perform all the obligations of the debtor . . . arising from and after the order for relief under any unexpired lease of nonresidential real property, until such lease is assumed or rejected . . . ." 11 U.S.C. § 365(d)(3). *See, e.g., Imperial Beverage Group, LLC*, 457 B.R. 490, 497-500 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2011); *In re Appletree Markets, Inc.*, 139 B.R. 417, 419-20 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. 1992). *See also In re Simbaki, Ltd.*, Case No. 13-36878, 2015 BL 97167, \*6 (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Apr. 6, 2015).

13. The majority of courts that have considered the operation of Section 365(d)(3) have arrived at the same conclusion: costs and expenses incurred for post-petition, preassumption or rejection performance under an unexpired nonresidential real estate lease must be allowed as an administrative expense regardless of Section 503(b)(1)(A) limitations. *Id. See also In re Liberty Outdoors, Inc.*, 205 B.R. 414, 417 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1997) (lessor entitled to recover unpaid expenses pursuant to section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code regardless of whether such "expenses benefited or preserved the estate"); *In re Worths Stores Corp.*, 135 B.R. 112, 115 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1991) (same); *In re S. Lincoln Med. Grp., P.C.*, Case No. BK07-41636-TLS, 2008 WL 506086, at \*2 (Bankr. D. Neb. Feb. 21, 2008) (citing *In re Brewer*, 233 B.R. 825, 829 (Bankr. E.D. Ark. 1999). Thus, the plain language of Section 365(d)(3) and the relevant case law clearly requires the Reorganized Debtors' immediate payment of all rents and related charges that arise post-petition as administrative expenses of these estates.

14. In addition, Section 503(b)(1) provides for an administrative expense claim for "the actual, necessary costs and expenses of preserving the estate. See 11 U.S.C.

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§ 503(b)(1). A landlord's administrative claim under Section 503(b)(1) is equal to the lease contract rate. *In re ZB Co., Inc.*, 302 B.R. 316, 319 (Bankr. D. Del. 2003) (contract rate is presumed to be the fair rental value.). Section 507(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that administrative expense claims that are allowed under section 503(b) of the Bankruptcy Code have first priority. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(2). The Reorganized Debtors benefited from the postpetition use and occupancy of the Premises through the Rejection Date.

15. Furthermore, Section 503(b)(7) provides that where a lease is assumed and subsequently rejected, the Landlord shall receive " sum equal to all monetary obligations due, excluding those arising from or relating to a failure to operate or a penalty provision, for the period of 2 years following the later of the rejection date or the date of actual turnover of the premises, without reduction or setoff for any reason whatsoever except for sums actually received or to be received from an entity other than the debtor, and the claim for remaining sums due for the balance of the term of the lease shall be a claim under section 502(b)(6)."

16. On the basis of the foregoing, Landlord respectfully requests that the Court enter an order allowing its administrative expense claim in the amount set forth herein and in the accompanying supporting exhibit.

#### **NO PRIOR REQUEST**

17. Landlord submits that no prior request for the relief requested herein has been made to this Court or any other Court.

### **NOTICE**

18. Service of this Request will be made upon the Debtors, counsel to the Reorganized Debtors, the Subchapter V Trustee and the United States Trustee. In light of the relief requested, Landlord submits that no other or further notice is required.

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WHEREFORE, Landlord respectfully requests that the Court enter an Order: (i) awarding the allowance and payment of the Landlord's administrative expense claims against the Reorganized Debtors' estates under sections 365(d)(3), 503(a), 503(b)(1)(A), and 503(b)(7) of the Bankruptcy Code in the amount set forth herein; and (ii) providing for such other relief as the Court deems just and necessary.

Dated: July 7, 2025 Wilmington, Delaware Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Leslie C. Heilman Leslie C. Heilman, Esquire (DE No. 4716) Laurel D. Roglen, Esquire (DE No. 5759) Margaret A. Vesper, Esquire (DE No. 6995) BALLARD SPAHR LLP 919 N. Market Street, 11th Floor Wilmington, DE 19801 Telephone: (302) 252-4465 Facsimile: (302) 252-4466 E-mail: heilmanl@ballardspahr.com roglenl@ballardspahr.com vesperm@ballardspahr.com

Counsel to UE Bergen Mall Owner LLC

# **EXHIBIT 1**

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Landlord:	UE Bergen Mall Owner LLC
Tenant:	Sticky's NJ I LLC
Premises:	The Outlets at Bergen Town Center, 605 Bergen Town Center, Paramus, New Jersey
Lease Expiration:	2029
Lease Rejection Date:	June 26,2025
Petition Date:	April 25, 2024
Security Deposit:	None
Guarantor	Sticky's Holdings, LLC

#### Account Statement Urban Edge Properties RBER: Bergen Mall Sticky's Finger Joint Master Occupant ID: 000000371

Invoice Date Ca	ategory	Category Description	Transaction Description	Amount		
2/1/2025 AE	DV	Advertising	AUTOCHRG @T2/28/2025	218.66		
2/1/2025 BF	RR	Base Rent - Retail	AUTOCHRG @T2/28/2025	9,534.71		
2/1/2025 CC	CF	ReimbOperating Fixed CAM	AUTOCHRG @T2/28/2025	1,633.86		
2/1/2025 MI	IDF	Marketing Fund	AUTOCHRG @T2/28/2025	218.66		
2/1/2025 TT	ТТ	Real Estate Tax	AUTOCHRG @T2/28/2025	844.23		
2/1/2025 W	/AT	TT - Water & Sewer	AUTOCHRG @T2/28/2025	80.00		
4/1/2025 AE	DV	Advertising	AUTOCHRG @T4/30/2025	218.66		
4/1/2025 BF	RR	Base Rent - Retail	AUTOCHRG @T4/30/2025	9,534.71		
4/1/2025 CC	CF	ReimbOperating Fixed CAM	AUTOCHRG @T4/30/2025	1,633.86		
4/1/2025 MI	IDF	Marketing Fund	AUTOCHRG @T4/30/2025	218.66		
4/1/2025 TT	ТТ	Real Estate Tax	AUTOCHRG @T4/30/2025	844.23		
4/1/2025 W	/AT	TT - Water & Sewer	AUTOCHRG @T4/30/2025	80.00		
4/29/2025 RT	TT	RET Mnth Pr Yr	Recovery Reconciliation 12/24	157.83		
4/29/2025 TT	ТТ	Real Estate Tax	Recovery Reconciliation 12/24	52.61		
5/1/2025 AE	DV	Advertising	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	218.66		
5/1/2025 BF	RR	Base Rent - Retail	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	9,534.71		
5/1/2025 CC	CF	ReimbOperating Fixed CAM	AUTOCHRG @T5/21/2025	1,106.81		
5/1/2025 MI	IDF	Marketing Fund	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	218.66		
5/1/2025 TT	TT	Real Estate Tax	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025 @R	857.38		
5/1/2025 W	/AT	TT - Water & Sewer	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	80.00		
5/22/2025 CC	CF	ReimbOperating Fixed CAM	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025 @R	548.14		
6/1/2025 AE	DV	Advertising	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	218.66		
6/1/2025 BF	RR	Base Rent - Retail	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	9,534.71		
6/1/2025 CC	CF	ReimbOperating Fixed CAM	AUTOCHRG @T5/21/2025	1,654.95		
6/1/2025 MI	IDF	Marketing Fund	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	218.66		
6/1/2025 TT	TT	Real Estate Tax	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025 @R	857.38		
6/1/2025 W	/AT	TT - Water & Sewer	AUTOCHRG @T5/31/2025	80.00		
Sticky's Finger Joint Total: 50						
Plus, Section 503(b)(7) 2-Year Claim @ total per month x 24 months: 12,564.36						
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIM:						
Plus, Section 502(b)(6) Claim - 1 Year's Rent - Rejection Damages @ \$12,564.36 per Month						
TOTAL PREPETITION CLAIM:						

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:

Sticky's Holdings LLC, et al.,<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-10856 (JKS)

Reorganized Debtors.

(Jointly Administered)

# ORDER GRANTING ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE CLAIM

Upon the request (the "<u>Request</u>") of UE Bergen Mall Owner LLC (the "<u>Landlord</u>") for entry of an order (this "<u>Order</u>") for allowance and payment of administrative expense claim (the "<u>Claim</u>"), all as more fully set forth in the Request; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware*, dated February 29, 2012; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Request in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and this Court having found that the notice of the Request was appropriate and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Request and determined that the legal and factual bases set forth therein establish just cause

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Reorganized Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number are as follows: Sticky's Holdings LLC (3586); Sticky Fingers LLC (3212); Sticky Fingers II LLC (7125); Sticky Fingers III LLC (3914); Sticky Fingers IV LLC (9412); Sticky Fingers V LLC (1465); Sticky Fingers VI LLC (0578); Sticky's BK I LLC (0423); Sticky's NJ 1 LLC (5162); Sticky Fingers VII LLC (1491); Sticky's NJ II LLC (6642); Sticky Fingers IX LLC (5036); Sticky's NJ III LLC (7036); Sticky Fingers VIII LLC (0080); Sticky NJ IV LLC (6341); Sticky's WC 1 LLC (0427); Sticky's Franchise LLC (5232); Sticky's PA GK I LLC (7496); Stickys Corporate LLC (5719); and Sticky's IP LLC (4569). The Reorganized Debtors' mailing address is 21 Maiden Lane, New York, NY 10038.

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for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Request is granted as set forth herein.

2. The Landlord is hereby granted an allowed administrative expense claim in the amount of \$351,944.04, which shall be paid by the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "<u>Reorganized Debtors</u>") within ten (10) business days of the entry of this Order.

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

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

5. The Reorganized Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted in this Order in accordance with the Request.

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

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Leslie C. Heilman, hereby certify that on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing pleading to be served electronically on all parties who have requested notice in these cases via CM/ECF and to the following parties, in the manner indicated:

### Via First-Class Mail

Jaime Greer 1 Maiden Lane New York, NY 10038, E-mail: jamie@stickys.com

Reorganized Debtors

Via First-Class Mail

Wilmington, Delaware, 19899

Counsel for Subchapter V Trustee

E-mail: Nsongonuga@VTrusteellc.com

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Trustee LLC

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# Counsel for Reorganized Debtors

# <u>Via First-Class Mail</u>

Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware Attn: Attn: Joseph F. Cudia Jonathan W. Lipshie J. Caleb Boggs Building 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Lockbox 35 Wilmington, Delaware, 19801 E-mail: Joseph.Cudia@usdoj.gov Jon.Lipshie@usdoj.gov

United States Trustee

Dated: July 7, 2025 Wilmington, Delaware

> <u>/s/ Leslie C. Heilman</u> Leslie C. Heilman (No. 4716) BALLARD SPAHR LLP