

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Parties. This Settlement Agreement is entered into by and between Anthony Ferreiro (“Ferreiro”) and School Zone Publishing Company (“School Zone”). Together, Ferreiro and School Zone are collectively referred to as the “Parties.” Ferreiro is an individual who resides in the State of California, and seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Ferreiro alleges that School Zone is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq. (“Proposition 65”).

1.2 General Allegations. Ferreiro alleges that School Zone has exposed individuals to the chemical di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) from its sales of School Zone Little Scholar headphones without first providing users and consumers of the product with a clear and reasonable health hazard exposure warning as required pursuant to Proposition 65. DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity.

1.3 Product Description. The products covered by this Settlement Agreement are School Zone Little Scholar headphones (the “Products”) that have been or are imported, manufactured, distributed, offered for sale and/or sold in California by School Zone and/or its distributors or retailers.

1.4 Notice of Violation. On July 22, 2020, Ferreiro served School Zone and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled “Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq.” (the “Notice”). The Notice provided School Zone and such others, including public enforcers, with notice that alleged that School Zone was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, for failing to warn California consumers and customers that use of the Products will expose them to DEHP. No public enforcer has diligently prosecuted the allegations set forth in the Notice.

1.5 No Admission. School Zone denies the material factual and legal allegations contained in the Notice and maintains that, to the best of its knowledge, all products that are or have been sold

and distributed in California, including the Products, have been and are in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by School Zone of any fact, finding, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance with this Settlement Agreement constitute or be construed as an admission by School Zone of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law, such being specifically denied by School Zone. However, this § 1.5 shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities and duties under this Settlement Agreement. Notwithstanding the allegations in the Notice, School Zone maintains that it has not knowingly manufactured, or caused to be manufactured, distributed, offered for sale, or sold the Products in California in violation of Proposition 65.

1.6 Effective Date. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, the term “Effective Date” shall mean the date this Agreement is last executed by the Parties.


2. COMPLIANCE: WARNINGS

2.1 Reformulation of Products. As of the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, Products that School Zone directly manufactures, imports, or distributes for sale in California and/or sells or offers for sale in California shall either: (a) be Reformulated Products pursuant to § 2.2, below; or (b) have a clear and reasonable exposure warning pursuant to §§ 2.3 and 2.4, below. For purposes of this Settlement Agreement, a “Reformulated Product” is a Product that is in compliance with the standard set forth in § 2.2, below. The warning requirement set forth in §§ 2.3 and 2.4 shall not apply to any Reformulated Product. There shall be no obligation for School Zone to reformulate or provide an exposure warning for Products that entered the stream of commerce prior to the Effective Date, including but not limited to those Products currently manufactured, in distribution, in inventory or at retailers.

2.2 Reformulation Standard. “Reformulated Products” shall mean Products that contain concentrations less than or equal to 0.1% by weight (1,000 parts per million (ppm)) of DEHP when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C, CPSC-CH-C1001-09.3 or other methodology utilized by federal or state government agencies for the purpose of determining the phthalate content in a solid substance.

2.3 Clear and Reasonable Warning. The warning for the Product shall include a clear and reasonable exposure warning in accordance with California Code of Regulation, Title 27, Article 6, which may consist of either the **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** described in §§ 2.3(a) or (b), respectively:

(a) **Warning.** The “Warning” shall consist of the statement:

 **WARNING:** This product can expose you to chemicals including di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

(b) **Alternative Warning:** School Zone may, but is not required to, use the alternative short-form warning as set forth in this § 2.3(b) (“**Alternative Warning**”) as follows:

 **WARNING:** Cancer and Reproductive Harm - www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

2.4 A **Warning** or **Alternative Warning** provided pursuant to § 2.3 shall include the word “**WARNING:**” in all capital letters and in bold font, followed by a colon. The warning symbol to the left of the word “**WARNING:**” must be a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a black outline, except that if the sign or label for the Products does not use the color yellow, the symbol may be in black and white. The symbol must be in a size no smaller than the height of the word “**WARNING:**”. The warning shall be affixed to or printed on the Products’ packaging or labeling, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or electronic device or automatic process, providing that the warning is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use. The warning may be contained in the same section of the packaging, labeling, or instruction booklet that states other safety warnings, if any, concerning the use of the Product and shall be at least the same size as those other safety warnings.

If School Zone sells Products via an internet website to customers located in California, the warning requirements of this section shall be satisfied if the foregoing warning appears either: (a) on the same web page on which a Product is displayed and/or described; (b) on the same page as the price for the Product; or (c) on one or more web pages displayed to a purchaser prior to purchase during the checkout process. Alternatively, a symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow or white

equilateral triangle may appear adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, price, or checkout listing of the Product, if the warning statement appears elsewhere on the same web page in a manner that clearly associates it with the product(s) to which the warning applies.

2.5 Compliance with Warning Regulations. The Parties agree that School Zone shall be deemed to be in compliance with this Settlement Agreement and with Proposition 65 by either adhering to §§ 2.3 and 2.4 of this Settlement Agreement or by complying with warning requirements of Title 27, California Code of Regulations, section 25600 et seq., operative August 30, 2018, or otherwise adopted or amended by the State of California’s Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (“OEHHA”) after the Effective Date.

3. PENALTIES PURSUANT TO HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(b)

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Settlement Agreement, School Zone shall pay \$500.00 as a Civil Penalty in accordance with this Section. The Civil Penalty payment shall be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.12(c)(1) and (d), with 75% of the Penalty remitted to OEHHA and the remaining 25% of the Penalty remitted to Ferreiro. The Civil Penalty payment(s) shall be delivered to the addresses identified in § 3.2, below.

3.1 Civil Penalty. Within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date, School Zone shall issue two separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment to (a) “OEHHA” in the amount of \$375.00; and to (b) “Brodsky & Smith, LLC in Trust for Ferreiro” in the amount of \$125.00. The Civil Penalty payment(s) shall be delivered to the addresses identified in § 3.2, below.

3.2 Payment Procedures.

(a) **Issuance of Payments.** Payments shall be delivered as follows:

(i) All payments owed to Ferreiro, pursuant to § 3.1 shall be delivered to the following payment address:

Evan J. Smith, Esquire
Brodsky & Smith, LLC
Two Bala Plaza, Suite 805
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

(ii) All payments owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486), pursuant to § 3.1 shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo Line “Prop 65 Penalties”) at the following addresses:

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
P.O. Box 4010
Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics
Fiscal Operations Branch Chief
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(b) **Copy of Payments to OEHHA.** School Zone agrees to provide Ferreiro’s counsel with a copy of the checks payable to OEHHA, simultaneous with its penalty payments to Ferreiro, to be delivered to the address provided in § 3.2(a)(i), as proof of payment to OEHHA.

(c) **Tax Documentation.** School Zone agrees to provide a completed IRS 1099 for its payments to, and Ferreiro agrees to provide IRS W-9 forms for, each of the following payees under this Settlement Agreement:

(i) “Anthony Ferreiro” whose address and tax identification number shall be provided within five (5) days after this Settlement Agreement is fully executed by the Parties;

(ii) “Brodsky & Smith, LLC” (EIN: 23-2971061) at the address provided in Section 3.2(a)(i); and

(iii) “Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment” 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

4. REIMBURSEMENT OF FEES AND COSTS

The Parties acknowledge that Ferreiro and his counsel offered to reach preliminary agreement on the material terms of this dispute before reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to them. The parties have reached an accord on the compensation due to Ferreiro and his counsel under general principles of contract law and the private attorney general doctrine and principles codified at California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution of this agreement. Under these legal principles, School Zone shall reimburse Ferreiro's counsel for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to School Zone's attention, and negotiating this settlement in the public interest. Within fifteen (15) days of the Effective Date, School Zone shall issue a check payable to "Brodsky & Smith, LLC" in the amount of \$5,500.00 for delivery to the address identified in § 3.2(a)(i), above. Each party shall otherwise bear their own fees and costs.

5. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

5.1 Release of School Zone and Downstream Customers and Entities. This Settlement Agreement is a full, final and binding resolution between Ferreiro, acting on his own behalf and on behalf of past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, on the one hand, and School Zone, on the other hand, of any violation of Proposition 65 that was or could have been asserted by Ferreiro or on behalf of his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assigns ("Releasers") for a failure or an alleged failure to provide warnings for alleged exposures to DEHP from the Products, and Releasers hereby release and waive any such claims against School Zone and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities, shareholders, marketplaces, directors, officers, agents, employees, attorneys, successors and assignees, and each entity to whom School Zone directly or indirectly distributes or sells the Products, including but not limited to, downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, and their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, parents, franchisees, cooperative members and licensees, including but not limited to Target Corporation, and its respective subsidiaries, affiliates and parents, franchisees,

cooperative members and licensees (collectively, the “Releasees”), from all claims for violations of Proposition 65 through the Effective Date.

In further consideration of the promises and agreements herein contained, including for the payments to be made pursuant to §§ 3 and 4 above, Ferreiro, on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby covenants not to sue and waives any right to institute, participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases any and all claims or potential claims, including without limitation, all actions, claims, suits, liabilities, and causes of action in law and in equity, all obligations, expenses (including without limitation all attorneys’ fees, expert fees, and investigation fees, and costs), damages, losses, penalties, liabilities and demands against any of the Releasees of any nature, character, or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, regarding or arising out of the Products.

5.2 School Zone’s Release of Ferreiro. School Zone, on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby releases any and all claims against Ferreiro, his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by Ferreiro and/or his attorneys and other representatives in the course of investigating the claims, or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65, against it in this matter with respect to the Products prior to the Effective Date.

5.3 California Civil Code § 1542. It is possible that other claims not known to the Parties arising out of the facts alleged in the Notice and relating to the Products will develop or be discovered. Ferreiro on behalf of himself only acknowledges that the claims released in §§ 5.1 and 5.2, above, may include unknown claims, and nevertheless waives California Civil Code § 1542 as to any such unknown claims. California Civil Code § 1542 reads as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

Ferreiro acknowledges and understands the significance and consequences of this specific waiver of California Civil Code § 1542.

5.4 Deemed Compliance with Proposition 65. The Parties agree that compliance by School Zone with this Settlement Agreement constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposure to DEHP from the Products.

5.5. Public Benefit. It is School Zone's understanding that the commitments it has agreed to herein, and actions to be taken by School Zone under this Settlement Agreement, would confer a significant benefit to the general public, as set forth in Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5 and Cal. Admin. Code tit. 11, § 3201. As such, it is the intent of School Zone that to the extent any other private party initiates an action alleging a violation of Proposition 65 with respect to School Zone failure to provide a warning concerning exposure to DEHP prior to use of the Products it has manufactured, distributed, sold, or offered for sale in California, or will manufacture, distribute, sell, or offer for sale in California, such private party action would not confer a significant benefit on the general public as to those Products addressed in this Settlement Agreement, provided that School Zone is in material compliance with this Settlement Agreement.

6. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are deemed by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected but only to the extent the deletion of the provision deemed unenforceable does not materially affect, or otherwise result in the effect of the Settlement Agreement being contrary to the intent of the Parties in entering into this Settlement Agreement.

7. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Settlement Agreement shall be governed by the law of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable or limited by reason of law generally, or as to the Products, School Zone shall provide written notice to Ferreiro of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further

obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, a Product is so affected.

8. NOTICES

Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by: (i) first-class (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (ii) overnight or two-day courier on any party by the other party to the following addresses:

For School Zone:

Jonathan S.P. Hoffman
President
School Zone Publishing Company
1819 Industrial Park Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Peter Duchesneau
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
2049 Century Park East, Suite 1700
Los Angeles, CA 90067

For Ferreiro:

Evan J. Smith
Brodsky & Smith, LLC
Two Bala Plaza, Suite 805
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Either party, from time to time, may specify in writing to the other party a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

9. COUNTERPARTS: SIGNATURES

This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile or .pdf signature, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)

Ferreiro agrees to and shall comply with the reporting requirements referenced in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f).

11. **MODIFICATION**

This Settlement Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement of the Parties.

12. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

13. **AUTHORIZATION**

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions contained of this Settlement Agreement.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: 12/17/2020

Date: 12/14/20

By: Anthony Ferreiro
Anthony Ferreiro

By: [Signature]
School Zone Publishing Company

Leah Hoffman. CEO!