



07-CV-01620-EXH A 9-10

Assignment of New Judge Pending  
Noted for Hearing: October 4, 2007  
Without Oral Argument

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2007

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

CITY OF SEATTLE  
v  
THE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL CLUB, LLC.

NO. 07-2-30997-7SEA  
NOTICE FOR HEARING  
SEATTLE COURTHOUSE ONLY  
(Clerk's Action Required) (NTHG)

TO: THE CLERK OF THE COURT and to all other parties listed on Page 2:  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an issue of law in this case will be heard on the date below and the Clerk is directed to note this issue on the calendar checked below.

Calendar Date: October 4, 2007 Day of Week: Thursday


Nature of Motion: Professional Basketball Club's Motion to Stay

<b>CASES ASSIGNED TO INDIVIDUAL JUDGES - Seattle</b>	
If oral argument on the motion is allowed (LR 7(b)(2)), contact staff of assigned judge to schedule date and time before filing this notice. Working Papers: The <u>judge's name</u> , date and time of hearing <u>must</u> be noted in the upper right corner of the Judge's copy. Deliver Judge's copies to Judges' Mailroom at C203.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Without oral argument (Mon - Fri)	<input type="checkbox"/> With oral argument Hearing
Date/Time: <u>Thursday, October 4, 2007</u>	
Judge's Name: <u>Reassignment Pending Following Affidavit of Prejudice</u> Trial Date:	

<b>CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT - Seattle in E1201</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bond Forfeiture 3:15 pm, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur of each month	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificates of Rehabilitation- Weapon Possession (Convictions from Limited Jurisdiction Courts) 3:30 First Tues of each month	

<b>CHIEF CIVIL DEPARTMENT - Seattle -- (Please report to W1060 for assignment)</b>	
Deliver working copies to Judges' Mailroom, Room C203. In upper right corner of papers write "Chief Civil Department" or judge's name and date of hearing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Extraordinary Writs (Show Cause Hearing) (LR 98.40) 1:30 p.m. Tues/Wed -report to Room W1060	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Proceedings (1:30 pm Tues/Wed)(LR 69)	
<input type="checkbox"/> DOL Stays 1:30 pm Tues/Wed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motions to Consolidate with multiple judges assigned (without oral argument) (LR 40(a)(4))	
<b>Non-Assigned Cases:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Dispositive Motions M-F (w/o oral argument).	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispositive Motions and Revisions (1:30 pm T,W.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certificates of Rehabilitation (Employment) 1:30 pm Tues/Wed (LR 40(2)(B))	

You may list an address that is not your residential address where you agree to accept legal documents.

Sign:  Print/Type Name: Paul R. Taylor  
WSBA # 14851 (if attorney) Attorney for: Defendant The Professional Basketball Club, LLC  
Address: 1000 Second Avenue, 38th Floor City, State, Zip Seattle, Washington 98104  
Telephone: 206-622-2000 Date: September 26, 2007

DO NOT USE THIS FORM FOR FAMILY LAW, EX PARTE OR RALJ MOTIONS.

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Assignment of New Judge Pending  
Noted for Hearing: October 4, 2007  
Without Oral Argument

**LIST NAMES AND SERVICE ADDRESSES FOR ALL NECESSARY PARTIES REQUIRING NOTICE**

Name Thomas A. Carr  
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Service Address: 925 Fourth Avenue, #2900  
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WSBA# 20, 13557 Atty For: City of Seattle  
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Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
WSBA# \_\_\_\_\_ Atty For: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CASES**

Party requesting hearing must file motion & affidavits separately along with this notice. List the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all parties requiring notice (including GAL) on this page. Serve a copy of this notice, with motion documents, on all parties.

The original must be filed at the Clerk's Office not less than six court days prior to requested hearing date, except for Summary Judgment Motions (to be filed with Clerk 28 days in advance).

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL RULES AND ALL PARTIES ARE ADVISED TO CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.

The SEATTLE COURTHOUSE is in Seattle, Washington at 516 Third Avenue. The Clerk's Office is on the sixth floor, room E609. The Judges' Mailroom is Room C203.



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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR KING COUNTY

CITY OF SEATTLE, a first-class charter city, )  
 )  
 ) Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 ) v. )  
 )  
 ) THE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL CLUB, )  
 ) LLC, an Oklahoma limited liability company, )  
 )  
 ) Defendant. )

No. 07-2-30997-7 SEA

**THE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL  
CLUB'S MOTION TO STAY**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND RELIEF REQUESTED**

The Agreement between Seattle and the Sonics by which the Sonics use KeyArena expires in 2010. The Sonics recently filed an arbitration demand seeking a declaratory judgment that they cannot be forced to play the final two seasons in KeyArena; that the City's only remedy is entitlement to rent for those two seasons. In response, the City filed this action, seeking to compel the Sonics to play the final two seasons in KeyArena, and seeking a declaratory judgment that the matter is not subject to arbitration.

This lawsuit should be stayed pending completion of the arbitration. The Agreement contains a clause which generally requires that all disputes be arbitrated and bars both sides from seeking judicial relief. The only exceptions are certain claims for which the Sonics, but not the City, can seek judicial relief. Thus, on its face, the Agreement requires arbitration.

THE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL CLUB'S MOTION TO STAY - 1

BYRNES & KELLER LLP  
38TH FLOOR  
1000 SECOND AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104  
(206) 622-2000

COPY

1 In its Complaint, the City offers a different interpretation of the Agreement but,  
2 surprisingly, does not mention the clause barring judicial relief. Even if the City's  
3 interpretation of the Agreement was plausible (it is not), the result is the same. There is a  
4 strong public policy and presumption in favor of arbitration. Where an arbitration clause is  
5 ambiguous or susceptible to multiple interpretations, all doubts are resolved in favor of  
6 arbitration. The party seeking to avoid arbitration has the burden of proving that there is no  
7 plausible construction of the Agreement by which arbitration can be compelled. The City  
8 cannot meet that burden here. Frankly, it is not a close call.

9 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

10 **A. The Arbitration Clause**

11 The PBC<sup>1</sup> and the City are parties to an Agreement<sup>2</sup> by which the Sonics have the  
12 right to use KeyArena. The Agreement requires that all disputes be resolved by arbitration,  
13 with the exception of certain limited claims which PBC (but not the City) is entitled to pursue  
14 judicially:

15 **D. Limitation on Judicial Relief: No proceedings based**  
16 **upon any claim arising out of or related to this Agreement shall be**  
17 **instituted in any court by any party hereto against any other party**  
18 **hereto except (i) an action to compel arbitration pursuant to this**  
19 **Section, (ii) an action to enforce [an arbitration award], (iii) to file**  
20 **arbitration award as judgment, and (iv) proceedings brought by [the**  
21 **PBC] for injunctive relief or any other interim remedy to protect**  
22 **[the PBC's] rights under this Agreement.**<sup>3</sup>

23 Paragraph A of the same section specifies the claims PBC can pursue judicially:

24 **A. Disputes To Be Resolved Through Arbitration: All**  
25 **claims, disputes and other matters in question between the parties**  
26 **arising out of, or relating to provisions of this Agreement shall be**  
27 **decided by binding arbitration . . . unless the claim . . . relates to the**  
28 **provisions of Article II ("Term; Use Period"), Article III**  
29 **("Termination of Current Agreement Providing Seattle Center Space**  
30 **for SuperSonics Home Games Use"), Article IV ("Coliseum Design**

<sup>1</sup> The Professional Basketball Club, LLC, which is the owner of the Sonics.

<sup>2</sup> "Premises Use and Occupancy Agreement" (Ex. 1).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at § XXV(D) (emphasis added).

1 and Construction”), Article V (“Coliseum Planning & Construction  
2 Schedule; SSI Opportunities to Void Agreement”), Subsection XVI.F  
3 (“Hazardous Substances”), or Article XIX (“Subcontracting and  
4 Transfer of Ownership”). . . .<sup>4</sup>

5 The common theme of these carve outs becomes clear when it is remembered that the  
6 Agreement was entered into even before the design of the renovation for KeyArena was  
7 complete. The Sonics demanded the carve outs to preserve their right to seek immediate  
8 judicial relief if design or construction went awry.

9 **B. Background of the Dispute**

10 On its face, the Agreement requires the Sonics to play home games at KeyArena  
11 through the end of the 2009-2010 NBA season.<sup>5</sup> It is undisputed that if the PBC were to leave  
12 KeyArena after the 2007-2008 season this would constitute a “default” under the Agreement.<sup>6</sup>  
13 The issue is the remedy to which the City is entitled: payment of the remaining rental  
14 obligations or specific performance.

15 **C. The Sonics File a Notice of Arbitration**

16 On September 21, 2007, PBC filed a demand for arbitration with the American  
17 Arbitration Association.<sup>7</sup> The demand seeks a declaratory judgment that the City cannot force  
18 the Sonics to remain at KeyArena for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons, but is instead  
19 limited to damages in the form of the net rent due for those remaining two years.

20 **D. The City Sues for Declaratory Relief**

21 On September 24, 2007, the City sued for declaratory relief. The City’s Complaint<sup>8</sup>  
22 seeks judicial determinations that (i) the dispute is not subject to arbitration, and (ii) the City  
23 is entitled to specific performance.

24 <sup>4</sup> *Id.* at § XXV(A).

25 <sup>5</sup> Ex. 1 at § II.

26 <sup>6</sup> Ex. 1 at § XXVI, “Defaults and Remedies Therefor.”

<sup>7</sup> Ex. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Ex. 3.

1 **III. STATEMENT OF ISSUES**

2 1. Whether the Agreement requires arbitration of a dispute over the remedies  
3 available to the City if the Sonics leave KeyArena after the 2007-2008 season?

4 **IV. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON**

5 The pleadings on file and the attached exhibits.

6 **V. ARGUMENT**

7 **A. There Is a Strong Presumption in Favor of Arbitration**

8 Washington strongly favors arbitration of disputes.<sup>9</sup> The presumption in favor of  
9 arbitration is "inexorable."<sup>10</sup> Accordingly, the Court "must indulge every presumption in  
10 favor of arbitration."<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, "any doubts concerning the scope of arbitrable issues  
11 should be resolved in favor of arbitration."<sup>12</sup> Therefore,

12 [A] contractual dispute is arbitrable unless it can be said with positive  
13 assurance that the arbitration clause is not susceptible of an  
14 interpretation that covers the asserted dispute.

14 Kamaya, 91 Wn. App. at 714 (citation omitted).

15 Likewise, "[i]f the scope of an arbitration clause is debatable or reasonably in doubt,  
16 the clause should be construed in favor of arbitration unless it can be said that it is not  
17 susceptible to an interpretation that covers the asserted dispute."<sup>13</sup>

18 The City, as the party seeking to avoid arbitration, bears the burden of proving that the  
19 dispute is not subject to arbitration. Stein v. Geonero, Inc., 105 Wn. App. 41, 48, 17 P.3d  
20 1266 (2001).

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>9</sup> Mendez v. Palm Harbor Homes, Inc., 111 Wn. App. 446, 454, 45 P.3d 594 (2002); Perez v. Mid-  
Century Ins. Co., 85 Wn. App. 760, 765, 934 P.2d 731 (1997).

23 <sup>10</sup> W.A. Botting Plumbing & Heating Co. v. Constructors-Pamco, 47 Wn. App. 681, 685, 736 P.2d  
1100 (1987).

24 <sup>11</sup> Zuver v. Airtouch Commc'ns, Inc., 153 Wn.2d 293, 301, 103 P.3d 753 (2004) (citing Moses H.  
Cone Mem'l Hosp., 460 U.S. 1, 25, 103 S.Ct. 927 (1983) (internal quotation marks omitted)).

25 <sup>12</sup> Kamaya Co. v. American Prop. Consultants, Ltd., 91 Wn. App. 703, 714, 959 P.2d 1140 (1998)  
(citation omitted); Mendez, 111 Wn. App. at 456.

26 <sup>13</sup> King County v. The Boeing Co., 18 Wn. App. 595, 603, 570 P.2d 713 (1977); see also  
Mendez, 111 Wn. App. at 456 (same).



1 **B. The Agreement Bars the City from Seeking Judicial Relief**

2 Given the plain language of the Agreement, arbitration of the dispute is mandatory.

3 Paragraph D of the arbitration clause provides as follows:

4 **Limitation on Judicial Relief: No proceedings based upon any claim**  
5 **arising out of or related to this Agreement shall be instituted in**  
6 **any court by any party hereto against any other party hereto**  
7 **except (i) an action to compel arbitration pursuant to this Section,**  
8 **(ii) an action to enforce [an arbitration award], (iii) to file arbitration**  
award as judgment, and (iv) proceedings brought by SSI for injunctive  
relief or any other interim remedy to protect SSI's rights under this  
Agreement.<sup>14</sup>

9 *By the express terms of the Agreement, the City is barred from pursuing the judicial relief it*  
10 *seeks, and this case must be stayed.*

11 **C. Even If the City Could Avoid the Bar, This Dispute Must Be Arbitrated**

12 Even if the City was not barred from judicial relief by Paragraph D, this dispute does  
13 not fall within the carve outs to the arbitration clause. Disputes arising from Section II are  
14 excepted from the arbitration clause. Exceptions to arbitration clauses must be construed  
15 narrowly. When faced with a broad agreement to arbitrate subject to certain "enumerated  
16 exceptions," courts must "interpret the exceptions narrowly, lest they overwhelm the rule."  
17 Choice Hotels Int'l, Inc. v. BSR Tropicana Resort, Inc., 252 F.3d 707, 711 (4th Cir. 2001)  
18 (citation omitted). See also Armijo v. Prudential Ins. Co., 72 F.3d 793, 800 (10th Cir. 1995)  
19 (policy favoring broad construction of arbitration clauses requires narrow construction of  
20 exception so that exception does not render broad arbitration agreement "illusory").

21 Section II contains the language providing for the Sonics to play in KeyArena. There  
22 is, however, no dispute between the parties about Section II. Both sides agree that Section II,  
23 on its face, provides for the Sonics to play home games at KeyArena through the 2009-2010  
24 NBA season. See Ex. 1 at § II. Both sides also agree that not playing in KeyArena after the  
25 2007-2008 NBA season would be a "default."<sup>15</sup> Particularly given that exceptions to

26 <sup>14</sup> Ex. 1, § XXV.D (emphasis added).

<sup>15</sup> See Ex. 1, § XXVI(A)(2).

1 arbitration clauses must be construed narrowly, there is no question or dispute about  
2 Section II that can be pursued judicially.

3 The dispute is, instead, the nature of the remedy to which the City is entitled. This is  
4 not covered by Section II, but rather by a different section of the Agreement – the Remedies  
5 clause, Section XXVI:

6 [In the event of default] the City may thereafter terminate this  
7 Agreement. . . lease and license others to use [KeyArena] and receive  
8 rent and license fees therefor as if this Agreement had not been made;  
9 provided, that [the PBC] shall remain liable for the full amount due to  
10 the City pursuant to Article VIII, hereof, as and when due, but may  
11 offset against such liability the amount received by the City as a  
12 consequence of such subsequent lease or license. The City shall also  
13 have such other remedies as may be available to it, which shall  
14 include, without limitation, injunctive relief and damages.

15 Ex. 1, § XXVI(C)(1).

16 This is a dispute about whether the extraordinary remedy of performance is available  
17 to the City under Section XXVI. This section is not within the carve outs to the arbitration  
18 requirement.

19 **D. The City's Position Is Meritless**

20 In its Complaint, the City says that the dispute is not subject to arbitration because it  
21 "relates to" one of the carve outs to Section II.<sup>16</sup> This is wrong. First, the City forgets that it  
22 is expressly barred from instituting judicial proceedings. In fact, the Complaint does not even  
23 mention the clause barring the City from seeking judicial relief. Second, by the plain terms of  
24 paragraph D, the carve outs are only applicable to injunctive relief sought by the PBC. Third,  
25 even if the arbitration clause were construed to allow the City to bring judicial claims arising  
26 from the carve outs, the dispute is still subject to mandatory arbitration because the terms of  
Section II are not in dispute. Both parties agree that the Agreement provides for the Sonics to  
play home games at KeyArena through the end of the 2009-2010 season. Instead, the parties  
dispute what *remedy* should be accorded the City if the Sonics default by departing two years

<sup>16</sup> Ex. 3 at 2, 10.

1 early. That is governed by Section XXVI "Default and Remedies Therefor," not Section II.  
2 Section XXVI, however, is not within the carve outs from arbitration.

3 The City's argument, at best, suggests the arbitration clause is ambiguous or  
4 susceptible to more than one interpretation. Taking the City's argument at face value,  
5 paragraph A of the arbitration clause says the City is entitled to pursue judicial relief.  
6 Paragraph D says it is not. This ambiguity compels the Court to order arbitration. See  
7 Kamaya, 91 Wn. App. at 714; King County v. The Boeing Co., 18 Wn. App. at 603.

8 **VI. CONCLUSION**

9 Given the plain language of the Agreement's Arbitration Clause and Washington's  
10 strong and "inexorable" preference for enforcing arbitration agreements, this case must be  
11 stayed pending arbitration.

12 DATED this 26th day of September, 2007.

13 BYRNES & KELLER LLP

14  
15 By PKA  
16 Bradley S. Keller, WSBA #10665  
17 Paul R. Taylor, WSBA #14851  
18 Attorneys for Defendant  
19 The Professional Basketball Club, LLC  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned attorney certifies that on the 26th day of September, 2007, a true copy of the foregoing pleading was served upon the following individuals:

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

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Gregory C. Narver  
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# **EXHIBIT 1**

***PREMISES USE  
&  
OCCUPANCY  
AGREEMENT***

between

**THE CITY OF SEATTLE**

and

**SSI, SPORTS, INC.**

February 14, 1994

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## PREMISES USE & OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between **THE CITY OF SEATTLE** (hereinafter "the City"), a municipal corporation of the State of Washington, and **SSI SPORTS, INC.** (hereinafter "SSI"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington.

### Recitals

WHEREAS, SSI is the owner and operator of the "SuperSonics" as defined herein; and

WHEREAS, the City is the owner and operator of the Current Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Current Facility is a thirty year old structure that can no longer provide the SuperSonics with a playing venue that is either structurally or economically comparable to the sites in which other NBA teams play; and

WHEREAS, it is not economically feasible for the SuperSonics to continue playing professional basketball games in the Current Facility after the end of the 1993-94 NBA championship playoffs; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to construct a new, state of the art professional basketball playing facility in order to enhance the City but cannot do so without a long-term, principal user; and

WHEREAS, in order to induce SSI to become the principal user of a new playing facility on a long-term basis in lieu of having the SuperSonics play in an alternative venue, and to maintain the SuperSonics NBA franchise in Seattle, the City will construct a new Seattle Center Coliseum to replace the Current Facility; and

WHEREAS, the City and SSI desire to enter into an agreement specifying the terms and conditions under which SSI will use a new Seattle Center Coliseum and certain other facilities at Seattle Center on a long-term basis for the playing of professional basketball by the SuperSonics; and

WHEREAS, the City and SSI intend to refine their new Seattle Center Coliseum use and occupancy agreement by continuing, after the execution of this Agreement, to negotiate and reach agreement regarding the terms and conditions under which SSI shall conduct and engage in, directly or indirectly through one or more third parties with which SSI may subcontract to engage in and conduct food and beverage concession sales and novelties concession sales in and from such new Coliseum, which agreements shall become the Food and Beverage Service Agreement and Novelties Concession Agreement the parties have

intended to attach and incorporate into this Agreement as Exhibits "H" and "I," respectively; and

WHEREAS, the City and SSI intend to further refine their new Seattle Center Coliseum use and occupancy agreement by also continuing, after the execution of this Agreement, to negotiate and possibly reach agreement regarding the terms and conditions under which SSI may be permitted to conduct and engage in, directly or indirectly through one or more third parties with which SSI may subcontract to conduct and engage in, the operation of a full-service restaurant in and from a proposed SSI restaurant facility on that portion of Lots 7 and 8, Block 31, D. T. Denny's Plan of North Seattle (or "North Seattle Addition"), as recorded in Vol. 2 of Plats, Page 77, Records of King County, Washington, that is currently occupied by the West half of the structure commonly known as the "NASA Building" located on such site, together with such structure and any other building that SSI, with the Approval of the Seattle Center Director, subsequently erects on such site for the operation of such sit-down service restaurant;

NOW, THEREFORE,

IN CONSIDERATION of the mutual promises, covenants, agreements, and performances described herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

#### I. DEFINITIONS

All words in this Agreement bearing initial capitals, other than proper nouns, section headings or words required to be capitalized for proper usage, are defined terms and shall have the meanings specifically assigned to them in this section.

As used in this Agreement, the following terms and words are hereby defined as follows:

A. "Advertising" means any printed or verbal announcement or display of any kind intended to promote, directly or indirectly, the sale or rental of a service, an admission ticket to an event, an interest in a product, commodity or other form of property, or the expression of any other commercial or noncommercial message other than directional, health or safety messages.

B. "Agreement" means this Agreement, as from time to time amended in accordance with the terms hereof, including the license to use the Coliseum for Home Games.

C. "Applicable Taxes" means all taxes and governmentally imposed assessments upon the charging of a fee for admission to any Home Game or upon the exercise of any right granted by this Agreement.



D. "Approval" means the prior written consent of a party hereto or a designated representative thereof.

E. "Basketball and Other Novelties" means any general merchandise, goods, wares, and publications including without limitation those bearing the symbol, mark or name of the NBA, the SuperSonics, or any other NBA team, as well as all other general merchandise or items without limitation, except Food, offered for sale in the Coliseum at Home Games.

F. "City" means The City of Seattle.

G. "Club Seats" means the no more than 1,100 Seats within the Coliseum, that are reserved on any Day of Game for holders of "Club" admission tickets, as marked on the attached Exhibit "A" or as revised by SSI by a notice to the Seattle Center Director transmitting a revised exhibit.

H. "Coliseum" means the enclosed sports facility with not less than 17,200 seats to be located on the following property, as more fully depicted on Exhibit "B":

Block(s)	Plat	As Recorded In Records of King County, Washington
31	Supplemental Plat of D.T. Denny's Plan of N. Seattle, EXCEPT the West 93.06 feet of Lots 9 & 10 thereof.	Vol. 3 of Plats, Page 80
32 & 35	D.T. Denny's Home Addition to Seattle.	Vol. 3 of Plats, Page 115
36	D.T. Denny's Third Addition to Seattle	Vol. 1 of Plats, Page 145

and renovated as contemplated by the parties herein, together with all equipment, fixtures, and other appurtenances incorporated therein pursuant to this Agreement.

I. "Coliseum Redevelopment Project" means all work of any kind or nature associated with the demolition of the Current Facility; the construction of those portions of the Coliseum that are to be completed by the City pursuant to this Agreement, rather than by SSI or any of its subcontractors, concessionaires, or any other entity; and the City's modification, in any respect, of any other City property that is required in connection with any such work, including but not limited to City utility lines serving the Coliseum, the SSI Retail Facility, and Practice Facility.

J. "Commissioner" means the party designated by the NBA as the principal officer of the NBA.

K. "Courtside Club" means approximately 500 seats within the "Courtside Club Area" of the Coliseum designated on the attached Exhibit "A" that are reserved on any Day of Game for holders of "Courtside" admission tickets.

L. "Current Facility" means the structure that the SuperSonics currently use for the playing of professional basketball games in Seattle, Washington.

M. "Day of Game" means the portion of the calendar day on which a Home Game is scheduled to be played in the Coliseum commencing at 9:00 AM and ending at 12:00 midnight of that day, unless otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement.

N. "Food" means any item of food or drink, without limitation except for water made available from public drinking fountains or sinks, that is sold, given without charge, or in any other manner dispensed in or from the Coliseum.

O. "Function Rooms" means and includes the Guest Lounge together with its adjacent restroom, coat closet and vestibule, and the areas on the Lower Concourse Level of the Coliseum designated as "shell space" on the attached Exhibit "C".

P. "Home Game" means 1) any pre-season, regular season, conference playoff, or championship playoff professional basketball game played pursuant to a schedule established by the NBA in which the host team is the SuperSonics except for up to four (4) of such games that the NBA determines shall not be played in Seattle, such as a demonstration game scheduled by the NBA to be played in a city without an NBA franchise or in a foreign country, and 2) five additional events for which no admission is charged, or where an admission charge (less Applicable Taxes) is donated to a nonprofit charitable organization.

Q. "NBA" means the National Basketball Association and its successors, assigns or designees or the professional basketball league or organization of which SSI is a member.

R. "Parking Garage" means a multi-deck parking facility at Warren Avenue and Thomas Street having the maximum number of parking spaces allowable under applicable law, ordinance and regulation, a portion of which facility is made available for use and occupancy by SSI as provided in Subsection VII.D of this Agreement.

S. "Practice Facility" means the site depicted on the attached Exhibit "D" and made available to SSI pursuant to the Ground Lease Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "E," providing for the construction and use of a building thereon for the practicing of basketball and the installation or erection of signage as allowed by law.

T. "Premises" means the areas identified in Subsections VII.A-D, hereof, and made available to SSI for use and occupancy pursuant to this Agreement.

U. "Premium Seats" means those seats located in areas designated as Suites, the Courtside Club, and Club Seat areas of the Coliseum.

V. "Premium Seat Marketing Agreement" means the March 22, 1993 "Premium Seat Tickets, Title Sponsorship and Marquee Changeable Copy Sign Marketing Agreement" executed by the parties, as amended.

W. "Project Architect" means NBBJ, the professional architectural firm of that name in Seattle, Washington, or such other architect(s) or architectural firm(s) as may be designated by the Seattle Center Director as the principal architect for work on the Coliseum Redevelopment Project.

X. "Seats" means any seats in the Coliseum from which professional basketball events may be viewed.

Y. "Seattle Center Director" means the Director of the City's Seattle Center Department or such official's designee.

Z. "South Coliseum Parking Lot" means the passenger vehicle parking stalls on the south side of the Coliseum in the area depicted on the attached Exhibit "B."

AA. "SSI" means SSI Sports, Inc., the corporation owning and operating the Seattle NBA franchise, and its successor(s), assigns, or designees.

AB. "SSI Box Office Facility" means the office space (if any) on the west side of the Coliseum that has been designed for ticket sales administration purposes and one ticket booth immediately contiguous to such office space.

AC. "SSI Retail Facility" means the approximately 5,000 square feet of street-level space plus such additional basement space as shall be designated by the Seattle Center Director in the West Court Building located on the West 93.06 feet of Lots 9 and 10, and the South 45.08 feet of the West 93.06 feet of Lot 11, Block 31, D. T. Denny's Plan of North Seattle (or "North Seattle Addition"), as recorded in Vol. 2 of Plats, Page 77, Records of King County, Washington, as depicted on the attached Exhibit "F" made available to SSI hereunder for the development of a retail sales business.

AD. "SSI Suite" means the center court luxury suite in the Coliseum that is directly opposite the basketball scorers' table location.

AE. "SuperSonics" means the NBA professional basketball team owned and operated by SSI, and its successors, transferees or assignees.

AF. "Supplemental Parking Spaces" means the number of parking spaces outside the Parking Garage that are necessary to park the vehicles of Courtside Club ticket holders, Club Seat ticket holders, members of the press, SuperSonics sponsors, and SuperSonics employees for any Home Game that cannot be accommodated in the Parking Garage, which spaces shall include spaces in Seattle Center's "Lot 4" and any parking lot developed at the site of the High School Memorial Stadium on property owned, leased, or otherwise under the control of the City.

AG. "Term" means the Term of this Agreement as set forth in Article II.

AH. "Ticket Sales Proceeds" means the gross revenue derived from the sale of tickets for a Home Game plus the value of all "complimentary" tickets provided or exchanged for any goods or service less applicable admission taxes.

AI. "Unlimited Use Facilities" means the SSI Retail Facility, SSI Box Office Facility, the Practice Facility, and the following areas in the Coliseum: the approximately 6,000 square feet of space designated as the Home Team Dressing Room, the Training Room, SSI storage facilities, and SSI Suite, as depicted on the attached Exhibit "G-1."

AJ. "Use Commencement Date" means the date when SSI may legally commence its use, enjoyment, and occupancy of the Coliseum as documented by the City's issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the Coliseum.

## II. TERM; USE PERIOD

The Term of this Agreement shall commence on the date it is executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties hereto. SSI's use and occupancy rights to the Premises shall commence on the "Use Commencement Date". SSI's use and occupancy rights with respect to the Premises and the Term of this Agreement shall end on September 30, 2010, unless terminated earlier pursuant to the provisions hereof.

Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, SSI shall schedule and ensure that the SuperSonics play all Home Games other than pre-season games exclusively in the Coliseum after the Use Commencement Date.

## III. TERMINATION OF CURRENT AGREEMENT PROVIDING SEATTLE CENTER SPACE FOR SUPERSONICS HOME GAMES USE

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the agreement executed on or about July 19, 1983, between the City and SSI's predecessor in interest, the Seattle SuperSonics Corporation, regarding use of the Current Facility, and the seven amendments to that agreement, such agreement shall terminate as of August 1, 1994, and SSI and the City shall have no further obligations to each other under that amended agreement except as to any unresolved liabilities that may have arisen during the period that agreement was in effect,

including but not limited to, any sums due and owing to the City as a consequence of SSI's use of the Current Facility during the SuperSonics' 1993-94 season including conference and championship games and the provision of City services in connection with such use. This Article shall supersede any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary and shall be applicable in the event this Agreement becomes null and void or unenforceable for any reason.

#### IV. COLISEUM DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

##### A. Necessity for Coordination and Communications Between the Parties.

The City and SSI acknowledge and agree that the development and preparation of documents required for the City's Invitation To Bid on the Coliseum Redevelopment Project and for the issuance of permits relating to such work, are all complex and time-consuming tasks requiring close cooperation by SSI. Such cooperation requires, in particular, the City communicating to SSI any request for a decision by SSI in a timely manner that will permit SSI reasonable opportunity to respond, as set forth herein, and SSI's communicating to the City and the Project Architect, SSI's final decisions about aspects of such City work that are desired, needed, and required by SSI, including but not limited to comments and Approvals with respect to detailed plans and specifications for such work.

##### B. SSI Access to Information.

1. Designation of "SSI Representative": SSI shall designate a single individual (the "SSI Representative") who shall be responsible for SSI involvement with, and SSI's responses and Approval regarding the design and construction of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project. SSI may change the SSI Representative upon written notice to the City.

2. City Communication With SSI Representative: The City shall direct all requests for SSI action and Approval regarding Coliseum Redevelopment Project design and construction issues to the SSI Representative and cause the SSI Representative to receive a copy of all architectural and design plans and specifications for all construction elements and materials of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project that are received by the Seattle Center Director.

C. Liaison Meetings. After consultation with the SSI Representative and the Director, the Project Manager shall schedule Coliseum Redevelopment Project liaison meetings to be held not less frequently than bi-weekly, for discussions between the Project Manager, the SSI Representative and, as required depending on the state of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project, the Project Architect and/or the Construction Manager (if any). Upon the Project Manager's receipt of a request by SSI, or at such additional times as the Project Manager deems necessary, the Project Manager shall invite and schedule, as desired, the Project Architect, Construction Contractor's representative(s) and Coliseum Redevelopment Project consultant(s) to attend any such meeting(s) to facilitate continuing discussions

and information gathering by the parties hereto regarding the Coliseum Redevelopment Project. A party may also invite to any such meeting any other person but the expense (if any) of such other person's attendance and participation shall not constitute an expense of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project unless the same is authorized by the Project Manager. The SSI Representative's receipt of notice of, or participation in, any such meeting shall not constitute, by itself, SSI Approval of any matter discussed during such meeting.

D. SSI Review of Design, Plans, Specifications and Construction. The Project Manager shall ensure that the SSI Representative is provided the opportunity to become actively involved and to serve as an equal participant with the City in on-going decision-making with respect to the design and construction of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project, whether such decision-making occurs during the Design phase or the construction phase of the Project. In this connection, and in recognition that the Coliseum Redevelopment Project is being designed and built primarily for SSI's use and must meet SSI's needs, the Project Manager shall ensure that in the bi-weekly liaison meetings and otherwise, as necessary, until completion of construction, the SSI Representative is provided a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on all design features of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project affecting the playing or viewing of professional basketball or such rights or obligations as SSI may have pursuant to this Agreement, including but not limited to specific Coliseum designs, plans, and specifications and changes thereto, including both functional or aesthetic components, as well as on the status of construction progress. Any question regarding whether or not a design, plan or specification change or a construction related matter requires review and participation by the SSI Representative shall be resolved in favor of its being significant and warranting the involvement of the SSI Representative in decision-making with respect thereto. The SSI Representative shall review and provide comment, as contemplated in this subsection in an expeditious and reasonable manner; provided, that in the event the SSI Representative's review of, and comment on, any particular design, plan, or specification element or any proposed change thereto is required on or by a particular date and time, the Project Manager shall provide reasonable advance notice to the SSI Representative of such need and identify the specific date by when such review and comment must be completed and provided. If, in the exercise of his or her reasonable discretion under the circumstances, the Project Manager determines that the SSI Representative's response is required so quickly that there is insufficient time to allow for written notice of the need for such SSI Representative's review and comment by the critical date, such notice may be given orally, but shall then be immediately confirmed in writing by the Project Manager. In the event that no comment is received by the Project Manager on or by the specific date for response, from or on the behalf of the SSI Representative, and provided reasonable advance notice has been provided to the SSI Representative as contemplated herein, then SSI shall be deemed to have waived its opportunity to review and comment on the particular matter(s) made available to it for review and comment, and the City may proceed as if the SSI Representative had reviewed and commented consistent with the Project Manager's decision with respect to the reviewable matter(s).

E. **Change Orders Permitted at Project Manager's Discretion.** In circumstances where immediate response by the SSI Representative is not feasible, the Project Manager may approve the changes without SSI Approval. Such discretion pertains to changes which will not result in significant functional change to the Coliseum Redevelopment Project or its component parts or have an adverse structural effect on the Coliseum Redevelopment Project or in any manner substantially and negatively affect the rights or obligations of SSI under this Agreement.

F. **Emergency Decisions.** The Project Manager may make decisions without the SSI Representative's Approval in emergency situations where (i) the Project Manager reasonably believes that destruction of property or injury to any person is likely to occur in the absence of such decision-making; (ii) there is no time to consult with the SSI Representative prior to the making of the decision by the Project Manager; and (iii) the Project Manager's actions in such circumstances are reasonable and are limited to dealing with the emergency circumstances. After making any such decision, the Project Manager shall immediately notify the SSI Representative of the nature of the emergency circumstances and his or her decision with respect to such circumstances.

G. **Design Changes Initiated by SSI.** SSI shall have an unrestricted and unlimited right to propose changes in the design or construction change request initiated by or on the behalf of SSI or the City with respect to the Coliseum Redevelopment Project contemplated herein or any aspect thereof. Implementation of such changes shall require the City's prior Approval, which Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. A design change proposed by SSI shall be deemed reasonable unless it results in a cost increase for which SSI does not assume full responsibility; is structurally, mechanically or electrically unsafe or unsound; is aesthetically incompatible with other structures at the Seattle Center as determined by the Seattle Center Director; would adversely impact in a substantial manner the City's operations of the Coliseum or any other facility of the Seattle Center or the rights and interests of any other user or potential user of a Seattle Center facility other than the Coliseum; or is inconsistent with the Seattle Municipal Code, the Revised Code of Washington, or Federal law, or any rule or regulation implementing any such legislation.

H. **No Facility Design or Construction Change Without Mutual Approval.**

1. **Changes After Execution of Construction Contract:** After execution of the Construction Contract, no design or construction change request initiated by or on the behalf of SSI or the City that would materially and adversely affect the playing, exhibition, or viewing of a Home Game or the exercise of any other right granted to SSI hereunder shall be implemented without the prior Approval of the SSI Representative and the Project Manager (and such other official(s) of the City as may be required by law, City Charter, ordinance, rule, regulation or policy), except to the extent expressly permitted to the Project Manager pursuant to the other provisions of this Article IV.

2. **Changes After Completion of Project:** After the completion of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project, no change in the Coliseum that would materially and adversely affect the playing, exhibition, or viewing of a Home Game or the exercise of any other right granted to SSI hereunder shall be implemented by either party without the prior Approval of SSI and the Seattle Center Director (and such other official(s) of the City as may be required by law, City Charter, ordinance, rule, regulation or policy).

I. **Deviations from Approved Design and Report for Not Approved Design or Construction Elements.** In the event the City knows that the design or construction of any component of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project included in any portion of the Premises specified in Subsections VII.A-D, hereof, deviates from the design that has received SSI Approval, the Project Manager shall give immediate notice of such fact to SSI. If such deviation would materially and adversely affect the playing or viewing of NBA basketball in the Coliseum or adversely affect any right or obligation of SSI under this Agreement, then SSI may give the Seattle Center Director notice of SSI's desire to have such deviation remedied. Upon receipt of such notice, the Seattle Center Director shall require the Project Architect and/or construction contractor, as applicable, to correct the deviation or otherwise reasonably satisfy SSI's objections to the same. In the event the City, upon learning of such a deviation, fails to give SSI the notice required above, or if the City fails to take such action as is reasonably necessary under the circumstances to require correction of such deviation as provided above, then the City shall be responsible for costs later incurred during the course of construction to cure the deviation.

J. **Acknowledgement of SSI Involvement and Approval of Decision-Making:** SSI and the City acknowledge that through the date of this Agreement, they have been mutually consulted in connection with all phases of the design process, that they have been equal participants in all significant decisions regarding the redevelopment of the Coliseum, that they have received in a timely manner all architectural and design plans, specifications, and correspondence relating to the redevelopment of the Coliseum, and that no significant decision affecting the Coliseum's functional operation, safety, or aesthetics that has heretofore been disclosed to SSI or the City by the other, by the Project Architect, or which they otherwise were aware, has been made without their respective participation and agreement. Except as to the design aspects of the portions of the Coliseum to be provided to SSI pursuant to the Food and Beverage Service Agreement and Novelties Concession Agreement, SSI and the City hereby waive, release and forever discharge the other party and their respective officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims for reimbursement, demands, damages, suits, and causes of action of any kind or nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any respect to any act or omission by the City or SSI, or any such act or omission of any of their officers, agents, or employees with respect to the Coliseum's design. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed a release by SSI or the City against any third party.



**V. COLISEUM PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE; SSI OPPORTUNITIES TO VOID AGREEMENT**

A. **Importance to SSI & City of Timely Coliseum Construction:** The City and SSI agree that construction of the Coliseum will cause a severe economic hardship of revenue and dislocation to SSI and the City, and that time is of the essence in the completion of the Coliseum so that it will be available to SSI and the City on the Use Commencement Date. In addition, the City and SSI agree that use of the Premises by SSI and the City requires months of advance preparation by SSI and the City, and that delays in the financing or construction of the Coliseum making it unavailable to SSI or the City on or by the later of October 1, 1995, or the Use Commencement Date will severely damage SSI and the City.

B. **Special Conditions for Expedited City Financing of Coliseum Redevelopment Project:** In order to enable the City to sell bonds for the financing of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project at an earlier point than could occur under the timeframe contemplated in the Memorandum of Understanding approved by Resolution 28726 and to thereby take advantage of potentially more favorable interest rates for such financing, in addition to acting according to the time schedule contemplated in such Memorandum of Understanding or pursuant to any other authority, the City may sell bonds to finance such Project from and after the date the Seattle Center Director has received the following financing assurances (hereinafter the "Assurance Date"):

1. **Third-party Commitments:**

a. One or more third-party commitments to secure rights to the use and occupancy of at least 44 Suites and 250 Club Seats and the use of tickets to events available for the same, and under the payment terms generally required from the lessees or acquirers of interests in such Suites and Seats, respectively; and

b. An irrevocable commitment to secure the rights and benefits of "title sponsorship" for the Coliseum for the full term of this Agreement in consideration for compensation payable to the City of not less than \$500,000 per annum for the Term of this Agreement; or

2. **SSI Guarantee:** An irrevocable written guarantee by SSI, not requiring any additional consideration to be effective, to remit to the City all of the payments that would be receivable by the City for the acquisition of the rights and interests in and to the following, which rights and interests SSI may acquire upon making such payments, as applicable; Provided, that in the event SSI provides to the Seattle Center Director the guarantee contemplated in this subsection and thereupon acquires interests in and to one or more Suites, Club Seats, the "title sponsorship," or any combination thereof, nothing herein shall limit the authority of SSI, during the time the "Marketer" under the Premium Seat Marketing Agreement is endeavoring to market the "title sponsorship," any Suite, or any Club Seat to the general public, to lease, assign, or otherwise transfer to one or more third

parties, without further liability under its guarantee, any of the interests SSI has guaranteed or acquired with respect to any Suite, Club Seat, or the "title sponsorship" pursuant to this subsection:

a. The number of Suites that equals the difference between 44 and the aggregate number of Suites that other parties have committed to lease or otherwise acquire an interest in and to as of the assurance date; and

b. The number of Club Seats that equals the difference between 250 and the aggregate number of Club Seats that other parties have committed to lease or otherwise acquire an interest in as of the assurance date; and

c. The "title sponsorship" for the Coliseum; or

3. Combined Third-party Commitments & SSI Guarantee: A combination of the third-party commitments contemplated in Subsection V.B.1, hereof, and the SSI guarantee contemplated in Subsection V.B.2, hereof.

C. Effect of Extension to SSI of Time to Market Suites, Club Seats, and Title Sponsorship on Coliseum Construction Commencement and Completion Dates: In the event that the City Council determines, on or after June 10, 1994, based upon the final Seattle Center Director/SSI joint report contemplated in the Premium Seat Marketing Agreement, that if additional time were allowed for the required marketing, there would be a substantial likelihood that the minimum number of binding commitments identified in Subsection V.B, hereof, could be achieved; and SSI recommends to the City Council that such additional time be allowed for the necessary marketing to be done; and such necessary commitments are secured within the City Council's extended deadline, then the September 1, 1994 construction commencement deadline and the October 1, 1995 construction completion deadline respectively specified in Subsections V.E and V.F, hereof, and the Use Commencement Date shall each be extended by thirty (30) days plus the number of additional days allowed by the City Council for the securing of such minimum number of commitments.

D. Conditions Allowing SSI Nullification of This Agreement Prior to July 1, 1994:

1. For Failure To Demolish Current Facility: The parties acknowledge and agree that the Coliseum is to be built on the site of the Current Facility and that demolition of the unneeded portion of the Current Facility is a critical and material benchmark toward the completion of the Coliseum in a timely manner. Therefore, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, if, for any reason whatsoever, SSI has delivered to the Seattle Center Director the commitments and guarantees described in Subsection V.B, hereof, on or by the date specified in such subsection, but demolition of the unneeded portion of the Current Facility has not commenced on or before July 1, 1994, then SSI, at its sole option, may declare this Agreement void. For the purpose of this subsection, the term

"demolition" shall include but is not limited to the permanent removal of any fixtures and furnishings that the City intends to scrap or salvage from the Current Facility.

2. For Failure to Grant Approval Regarding Practice Facility Design or Specifications: In the event that SSI and the Seattle Center Director and such other official(s) of the City having Approval authority with respect to the Practice Facility do not agree regarding the design and specifications of the same, including on-premises signage, so that the required building permits are issued for such structure on or by the Assurance Date identified in Subsection V.B, then SSI, at its sole discretion, may declare this Agreement void, assuming such Practice Facility and on-premises signage proposed by SSI conforms to all applicable City codes. It is understood by the parties hereto that signage for the Practice Facility will be governed by the February 4, 1994 communication from the Director of Construction and Land Use that is attached hereto as Exhibit "K."

E. Conditions Allowing SSI Nullification of This Agreement Prior to September 1, 1994: In the event that, for any reason whatsoever, construction of the Coliseum does not commence September 1, 1994, and if the construction commencement and completion dates are not extended pursuant to Subsection V.C, hereof, or otherwise extended as the parties hereto shall agree upon, then SSI, at its sole option, may declare this Agreement as null and void.

F. Damages for Untimely Completion of Project.

1. Construction Contract Requirements: The City shall not enter into any contract for the construction of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project unless such contract includes the following: (a) a specific schedule for the construction of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project that provides for the completion of the Project on or before October 1, 1995, or such later date as is authorized by Subsection V.C, hereof, or is otherwise agreed upon by the parties hereto, and (b) a specific provision for the payment to the City of damages in the event that construction of the Project is not completed on or before such date, each of which provisions shall be subject to SSI's prior Approval; and the City secures and maintains through the Use Commencement Date, builder's risk insurance providing coverage of not less than the periodically-determined value of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project at various stages of construction.

2. SSI's Share of City's Damages from Contractor: If the Coliseum is not ready for SSI use and occupancy by the first Home Game scheduled to be played in the 1995-96 NBA regular season, the City shall pay to SSI as damages in lieu of any and all other damages payable to SSI by the City, ninety percent (90%) of the amount that the City secures from any contractor for the failure to complete construction of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project on or by October 1, 1995, or such later date as is authorized by Subsection V.C, hereof, or is otherwise agreed upon by the parties hereto, provided that the aggregate amount received by SSI shall not be greater than the product of the number of Home Games (other than pre-season games) that cannot be played in the Coliseum after

October 1, 1995, or such later date as is authorized by Subsection V.C, hereof, or is otherwise agreed upon by the parties hereto, whichever is the latest, due to such contractor's failure to complete such construction, multiplied by one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

3. SSI's Damages Share Are Additional Rights: The rights granted to SSI pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies SSI may have against any person (other than the City) arising from the failure to complete construction of the Coliseum Redevelopment Project on or before October 1, 1995, or such later date as is authorized pursuant to Subsection V.C, hereof, or is otherwise agreed upon by the parties hereto.

## VI. SCHEDULING OF HOME GAMES INTO SEATTLE CENTER COLISEUM

A. City's Reserved Advanced Regular Season: On or by January 2, 1995, and on or by every January 31st thereafter through 2010, the City shall provide SSI with a preliminary schedule identifying seventy (70) dates between November 1st and the next succeeding April 30th (or any revised term of the NBA regular season) that the City will reserve for SSI use as a regular season Day of Game during the next succeeding NBA regular season. Fifty (50) of those dates shall be nonconsecutive but separated by a period of no greater than seven consecutive days and shall not include any Monday; at least fifteen (15) of the fifty (50) dates shall be Fridays, and fifteen (15) shall be Saturdays. The twenty (20) other dates may be consecutive with themselves and with any of the fifty other dates and may include up to four (4) Mondays. The City expressly agrees that all such dates shall be reserved for the exclusive use of SSI, and that neither the City, itself, nor any third party shall be allowed to use the Coliseum for any purpose, unless and until such dates are selected or rejected by SSI.

B. SSI's Selection of Regular Season and Preseason Game Dates: On or by August 15, 1995, and on or by every August 15th through 2010, SSI shall:

1. SSI's Initial Selection of Dates: Select the particular dates for regular season Home Games established by the NBA for the next such season from the seventy (70) proposed dates for the playing of regular season Home Games at the Coliseum, or such alternative dates as the NBA shall have designated as Home Game dates if such alternative dates have not been previously booked by the Seattle Center by the time such designation is communicated by notice to the Seattle Center Director, and provide notice to the Seattle Center Director regarding which dates have been selected. Upon receipt of such notice, the Seattle Center Director shall schedule and reserve the Coliseum on each selected Day of Game for SSI's potential use. Any date not identified as a "selected date" in such a

notice shall be deemed to be a rejected date, and the City may use each such date for whatever purposes it desires.

2. SSI's Release of Dates Not Selected by NBA: Immediately after receiving notice from the NBA of the dates established by the NBA for Home Games, provide notice to the Seattle Center Director that all other dates then reserved by the City for SSI use are released for whatever use the City may make of such date.

C. SSI's Selection of Additional Event Dates: On or by September 1, 1995, and on or before every succeeding September 1st through 2010, SSI shall notify the Seattle Center Director of any additional dates desired for preseason games and the five (5) additional events referenced in Subsection I.P.2) of this Agreement in the Coliseum, upon receipt of which notice the Seattle Center Director shall schedule and reserve for SSI use of the Coliseum on each such selected Day of Game except for dates that as of the Seattle Center Director's receipt of such notice, had already been committed or are being reserved or held for another event.

D. Playoff Game Date Selection: SSI shall provide notice to the Seattle Center Director of all additional dates during the months of April, May and June that have been tentatively scheduled or are desired by the NBA or SSI for conference playoff and championship Home Games, immediately after the NBA advises SSI of the scheduling of, or the NBA's desire for, the same. Upon receipt of such notice from SSI, the Seattle Center Director shall schedule and reserve the Coliseum for SSI's use on each such selected dates.

E. SSI's Priority for Coliseum Use; SSI Relief For City's Failure to Make Coliseum Available: In the event that any provision of this section shall no longer satisfy the requirements of the NBA, then the parties shall negotiate an amendment to such provision to satisfy the NBA's requirements. In any event, the parties expressly agree that the provisions are intended to assure that the City gives sole priority to SSI over all other users of the Coliseum in order to ensure that the SuperSonics play basketball at the Coliseum each and every Home Game and that any other use whatsoever by the City or any third person shall be preempted by such SSI use except where such other use is or would be pursuant to a contract between the City and a third party that was executed prior to the City's receipt of notice from SSI of the NBA's requirements. It is further expressly agreed by the parties that the failure of the City to make the Coliseum available as contemplated herein for all Home Games at which the SuperSonics are to play an NBA basketball game would result in irreparable injury to SSI which could not be redressed through the payment of damages alone, and that therefore the City acknowledges and concedes that SSI shall be entitled to injunctive and such other equitable relief as a court may deem appropriate to prevent any use or occupancy of the Coliseum which conflicts with SSI's use and occupancy of the Coliseum as authorized herein for such purpose, in addition to any other remedies available to SSI.

## VII. PREMISES LICENSED FOR USE AND OCCUPANCY BY SSI

Except as otherwise provided herein, the City hereby grants to SSI the exclusive right and license to full and unrestricted use, enjoyment and occupancy of the Premises and the right and license to authorize others designated by SSI to use, enjoy and occupy the Premises, as provided herein in consideration of SSI's payment of the sums specified in Article VIII, hereof, and compliance with all other applicable terms and conditions of this Agreement:

A. **Unlimited Use Facilities:** During the entire Term hereof, SSI shall have sole and exclusive use, custody and occupancy of the Unlimited Use Facilities all without interruption or restriction except as otherwise provided herein.

B. **Basketball Court and Related Areas, and Fixtures:**

1. **Facilities for Use on Any Day of Game:** On each Day of Game, SSI shall have the exclusive use of the areas in the Coliseum necessary for the playing, exhibition, attendance at, and viewing of professional basketball, including all equipment and fixtures required for the exhibition of professional basketball including but not limited to the basketball court, baskets, timing clocks, and scoreboards; visiting team's locker room; sound, lighting, and public address systems; and all other equipment and fixtures as may be required by this Agreement, as depicted on Exhibit "G-2," EXCEPT for the following portions thereof, which are reserved for exclusive use by the City or one or more third parties unless Approval for SSI use of any of the same is given by the Seattle Center Director in the Food and Beverage Service Agreement, the Novelties Concession Agreement, or otherwise:

a. All portions designated as "Suite" or "storage" other than the Suite and three storage areas provided to SSI as part of the Unlimited Use Facilities;

b. All areas designated "electrical," "mechanical," "chillers," "ATM," "control room," "janitor," "machine," "mezzanine," "radio control room," "communications," "telecommunications, or "first aid;"

c. The offices and "staging" area in the Southwest quadrant of the Event Level, the tunnel to the Northwest Pavilion on the Suite Level, and the areas on the Main Concourse Level designated "fire control" or "security" together with the adjoining passage;

d. All men's and women's restrooms outside of those in the Unlimited Use Facilities, whether intended for Suite users, members of a general audience, crew, or other users;

e. All areas in the Northeast and Southeast quadrants of the Event Level, regardless of the designation of the room; and

f. All areas designated as "Vendor Commissary," "Concession," and all portions of "Annex D Pavilion" including but not limited to the loading dock, shell space, locker rooms, generator room, primary electrical room, and existing kitchen and receiving.

g. SSI's rights with respect to access to and within the Coliseum under this Agreement shall be non-exclusive, and shall be exercised in common with the City and other Seattle Center facility or area users requiring access thereto.

2. Facilities for Use on Other Than a Day of Game: On other than any Day of Game, SSI shall be provided for practice purposes, if no other user or event has been scheduled to use the portions of the Coliseum necessary for the practicing of professional basketball on such day and if such facility does not need to be prepared in any respect on such day for any user or event scheduled for any subsequent day and if the City does not need to do maintenance or repair work on the Coliseum that would be interfered with by such SSI use or that would interfere with such SSI use, those portions of the Coliseum equipment and fixtures that are necessary for the practicing of professional basketball on such day including but not limited to the basketball court, baskets, timing clocks, and scoreboard.

#### C. Parking Areas and Spaces:

1. Day of Game Parking: On every Day of Game, beginning two hours prior to the start of a Home Game and ending two hours after the conclusion of such activity, the South Coliseum Parking Lot and at least 574 parking spaces in the Parking Garage, or in the Supplemental Parking Spaces, or in a combination thereof shall be provided to SSI for the exclusive use of Premium Seat ticket holders, SSI employees, SuperSonics sponsors, and members of the press credentialed by SSI. SSI shall allocate parking rights first in the Parking Garage, and then in the Supplemental Parking Spaces in the following manner: First, three spaces shall be allocated to each Suite; Second, one space for every four Courtside Club tickets issued; Third, one space for each four Club Seat tickets issued; and Fourth, in such order as SSI desires, one space for each SuperSonics sponsor, one space for each member of the press credentialed by SSI, and one space for each SSI employee.

2. Parking on Other Than Day of Game: Whenever the Coliseum is made available to SSI for basketball practicing on other than a Day of Game, SSI may also use, without additional charge, the South Coliseum Parking Lot so long as such use is restricted to the parking of vehicles of only SSI personnel.

D. Ticket Sales Facilities: SSI shall be provided all ticket booths in the Coliseum on each Day of Game.

**E. Restrictions on City's Right to Use or Authorize Use of the Coliseum:**

The City shall make the Coliseum available for use by individuals and entities other than SSI only according to a schedule that ensures SSI will play all Home Games other than pre-season games in the Coliseum. The City shall not use the Coliseum for any purpose, nor permit the use of the Coliseum by any other person or entity for any purpose, on any Day of Game without the Approval of SSI. The City shall not permit the Coliseum to be used for semi-professional or professional basketball, whether or not sanctioned by the NBA, without the approval of SSI, other than any presentation of basketball played by the "Harlem Globetrotters." Except as provided in the preceding sentence and Subsection VII.F, hereof, nothing herein shall restrict the ability or right of the City to use the Coliseum or permit the use of the Coliseum by others for any purpose on any dates not used by SSI provided such use by others does not impair SSI's full enjoyment of all use and occupancy rights granted to it herein by the City.

**F. SSI First Right to Use & Occupy Coliseum for Other Franchised**

**Professional Sports Activities:** SSI is hereby granted the first right to use and occupy the Coliseum for the playing and viewing of a series of professional sports events involving any professional sport franchise other than one associated with the playing of semi-professional or professional hockey, which right shall be exercisable only as follows: In the event the Seattle Center Director receives a request by a third party for the use and occupancy of the Coliseum for a series of events by any such professional sport franchise, the Seattle Center Director shall provide notice to SSI of the general terms and conditions under which such use would receive Seattle Center approval (including the amount of rent and the types of other charges applicable to such use) and the date by when SSI must execute an agreement with the City for such additional use and occupancy (which agreement may be subject to City Council authorization and shall be outside the scope of this Agreement). In the event SSI fails to execute a contract with the City for such additional use by the Seattle Center Director's specified date, SSI shall be deemed to have waived such right with respect to that proposed use and the City shall be free to execute an agreement for such Coliseum use with any other party. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, all use and occupation of the Coliseum by SSI pursuant to the right granted in this subsection shall be governed solely by the terms and conditions of the pertinent separate agreement executed with respect thereto and not by this Agreement.

**G. No Use of Common Areas:** Neither SSI nor any of its officers,

employees, invitees, concessionaires, contractors or any of their subcontractors shall use any portion of Seattle Center not specifically granted to SSI for its use and occupancy hereunder, to meet governmental requirements peculiar to SSI's operations on the Premises or otherwise, without the Seattle Center Director's Approval. Whenever SSI or any of its officers, employees, invitees, concessionaires, contractors or any of their subcontractors shall require any equipment, separate area or special facility to satisfy any such governmental requirement, such equipment, area, and facility shall be located within the Premises at SSI's sole expense.



## VIII. SSI PAYMENTS TO THE CITY

A. **Payments Due:** In consideration of the license to full use and enjoyment of the Premises, the right to engage in concession sales of Food as well as Basketball and Other Novelties, all as provided in the separate agreements authorizing such use attached as Exhibits "H" and "I", hereto, and the providing to SSI of various services and facilities, all subject to the provisions of this Agreement; and the marketing of Suite, Courtside Club, and Club seats and tickets, the Coliseum's "title sponsorship," and opportunities for display advertising on changeable-copy "marquee" signs, all subject to the provisions of the Marketing Agreement, as amended by the parties thereto, SSI shall pay to the City the following sums:

### 1. Rent:

a. **Annual Rent:** An initial annual rent of \$800,000, for the period of October 1, 1995, through September 30, 1996, and for each twelve-month period from and after October 1, 1996, an adjusted annual rent as provided in Subsection VIII.A.1.b, hereof, which shall be due and payable in approximately equal quarterly installments, in advance, on the first day of each and every three-month period during the Term hereof; Provided, that in the event SSI's use and occupancy does not commence on October 1, 1995, or such later date as is authorized by Subsection V.C, hereof, or is otherwise agreed upon by the parties hereto, whichever is the latest, then the annual rent or adjusted annual rent shall be prorated on a daily basis, and SSI shall pay only the pro-rated annual rent or adjusted annual rent during the period between the Use Commencement Date and the next succeeding September 30th.

b. **CPI Adjustment:** The annual rent shall be increased each October 1st, beginning in 1996, to reflect the total percentage increase in the "West-A" Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, All Items (1982-84 = 100), as published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor, between September of the year in which the adjustment is made and September of the immediately preceding year; provided, that in no event shall any annual adjustment be less than +3% or more than +7% of the annual rent or adjusted annual rent due for the immediately preceding 12-month period; provided, further, that in the event such CPI is discontinued or if the formula upon which the CPI is based is substantially changed, the parties shall agree upon another similar index to be used to calculate the contemplated adjustments, and in the event of an inability to agree, the parties shall request the American Arbitration Association or its successor to establish an appropriate adjustment standard; provided, further, that in the event of change in the index base of (1982-84 = 100) the parties shall apply whatever conversion factor is necessary to establish the true percentage in the CPI in any year(s) in which the index base is changed, and shall thereafter apply the most recently revised base index; provided, further, that in no such twelve-month period shall the amount of the annual rent, as adjusted, paid by SSI be less than \$800,000.

2. **Additional Rent:** In addition to the annual rent, or adjusted annual rent, SSI shall pay to the City the following additional rent, which shall be added to and paid as part of the next proximate quarterly payment after SSI has received ticket revenue or within thirty (30) days after the date of an invoice for such rent, as specified below:

a. **For pre-season games:** In the event that the Coliseum is used pursuant to this Agreement for the playing of any preseason game that is not one of the five additional, annual events defined herein as a Home Game, then unless the net receipts received from the sale of tickets to any such games are donated to charity, SSI shall pay to the City, without invoice, an additional amount equal to eight and one-half percent (8½%) of the Ticket Sales Proceeds for such games.

b. **For conference or championship Home Games:** For the use of the Coliseum during the term of this Agreement for the playing of any conference or championship Home Games for any NBA season (the "post-season play-off series"), then SSI shall pay to the City, without invoice, an additional amount equal to eight and one-half percent (8½%) of the Ticket Sales Proceeds for the first two Home Games played in the Coliseum during any such post-season playoff series. SSI shall retain all revenues from the sale of tickets for all other conference or championship Home Games played during any such post-season playoff series.

c. **For more than 41 NBA regular season Home Games:** In the event that the NBA regular season is expanded to more than 41 Home Games, then SSI shall pay to the City, without invoice, an additional amount equal to eight and one-half percent (8½%) of the Ticket Sales Proceeds for such additional Home Games.

3. **Service Charges:** SSI shall pay to the City as a service charge, and not as rent, within thirty (30) days after presentation of an invoice therefor unless otherwise specified below, the following:

a. **For the City's provision of additional vehicle parking spaces:** The then-applicable parking charge imposed by the City for City-owned parking spaces, and paid by the City for non-City owned parking spaces, for the use (i) on any Day of Game by Premium Seat ticket holders, SuperSonics sponsors, SSI employees, and members of the press credentialed by SSI of any parking space in excess of those in the South Coliseum Parking Lot and 574 of the total number provided at SSI request in the Parking Garage and as Supplemental Parking Spaces, and (ii) on any day other than a Day of Game, of any parking space provided at SSI request in excess of the number allocated pursuant to Subsection VII.C, hereof, for the holders of Suite Seat Parking Passes and, subject to the Seattle Center Director's Approval, the holders of Club Seat Parking Passes.

b. **For first aid facility services:** The full costs incurred by the City in providing the first aid facility and health care personnel described in Subsection IX.B, hereof.

c. For Seattle Police Department services: The full costs incurred for providing Seattle Police Department law enforcement officers for crowd control to protect SSI employees and basketball game officials, if such law enforcement officers receive compensation from the City for such activity.

d. Coliseum's "title sponsorship" and marquee Advertising revenue: The net revenue derived from the sale or licensing of rights to the Coliseum's "title sponsorship" and from the sale or leasing of the right to any display opportunity for Advertising on any changeable-copy "marquee" sign on or associated with the Coliseum, until the City has received a total of \$750,000 from such sources, after which SSI shall pay the City fifty percent (50%) of such net revenue. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "net revenue" shall mean the gross receipts from such activity less the expenses incurred in the marketing of such sponsorship and Advertising that were authorized by the parties' March 22, 1993 Marketing Agreement or the latest amendment thereto or any successor to such agreement.

e. Coliseum Advertising fee: The sum of \$750,000 for the exclusive right to construct or have constructed within the Coliseum Advertising displays and to exercise any of the rights granted by Subsection XII.C, hereof, with respect to such Advertising, which sum shall be payable in five parts, each due on or by October 1st of the year in which the specified NBA basketball season commences:

<u>NBA basketball season occurring after the Use Commencement Date:</u>	<u>Amount Due:</u>
First season	\$250,000
Second season	\$200,000
Third season	\$150,000
Fourth season	\$100,000
Fifth season	\$ 50,000

f. Percentage of gross receipts from Food sales from concession stands: For the exclusive right to offer for sale and to sell Food in and from concession stands in the Coliseum, that percentage of gross receipts from such Food sales at events other than Home Games that is specified in the Food and Beverage Service Agreement that is now or will be attached hereto as Exhibit "H."

g. Percentage of gross receipts from Food services in Suites, Club Seat areas, and Function Rooms: For the exclusive right to offer for sale and to sell Food in Suites, the food service areas associated with Club Seats, and Function Rooms, that percentage of the gross receipts from such Food sales at events other than Home Games that is specified in the Food and Beverage Service Agreement that is or will be attached hereto as Exhibit "H."

h. Percentage of Club Seat gross receipts: For the exclusive right to offer for sale and to sell any interest in Club Seats in the Coliseum including admission tickets to Home Games viewable therefrom and the Seats provided thereby, that percentage of gross receipts from such sales during the respective calendar years specified below, which percentage payment shall be due and payable, without invoice, within thirty-one (31) days after the end of each calendar quarter in such year:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF GROSS RECEIPTS DUE:</u>
1995	60%
1996	58%
1997	56%
1998	54%
1999	52%
2000	50%
2001	48%
2002	46%
2003	44%
2004	42%
2005 and thereafter	40%

i. Percentage of Suite gross receipts: For the exclusive right to offer for sale and to sell any interest in a Suite in the Coliseum including admission tickets to Home Games and other events viewable therefrom and use of the Seats therein, that percentage of gross receipts from such sales during the respective calendar years specified below, which percentage payment shall be due and payable, without invoice, within thirty-one (31) days after the end of each calendar quarter in such year:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF GROSS RECEIPTS DUE:</u>
1995	80%
1996	78%
1997	76%
1998	74%
1999	72%
2000	70%
2001	68%
2002	66%
2003	64%
2004	62%
2005 and thereafter	60%

j. Percentage of gross receipts from Basketball and Other Novelties: For the exclusive right to offer for sale or rental and to sell or rent Basketball and Other Novelties on the Premises as authorized in the Novelties Concession Agreement that is or will be attached hereto as Exhibit "I," that percentage of gross receipts generated on other than a Day of Game that is specified in such agreement.

k. Event service costs in excess of City base costs: For the providing of stage labor, admission, spotlight operators, and other personnel as well as facilities and equipment specifically requested by SSI to facilitate the production of any SSI pre-, mid-, or post-Home Game special activity that is not ordinarily a part of the normal course of producing and exhibiting a basketball game, the amount by which the City's actual costs for providing such personnel, facilities, and equipment for such special activity (calculated at the applicable rate(s) therefor, as published in the then-current Seattle Center Event Service Manual or its successor publication) exceed the average City costs for the presentation of a Home Game at which no SSI pre-, mid-, or post-Home Game special activity occurred during the last half of the second NBA regular season after the Use Commencement Date.

l. Coliseum conversion for basketball practicing: For the conversion of the Coliseum to make it usable for basketball practicing on a day other than a Day of Game pursuant to Subsection VII.B.2, hereof, if the basketball floor and related equipment have been removed from the event floor to enable another use to be made of such facility, and, if a third party is scheduled to make a different use of the Coliseum before the next Home Game, for the reconversion of the Coliseum to permit such third party's use, the aggregate charge imposed for the personnel, facilities, and equipment required for such conversion and reconversion calculated at the applicable City rate(s) therefor, as published in the then-current Seattle Center Event Service Manual or its successor publication.

m. Courtside press facilities modification: For the modification of courtside facilities at SSI's request to accommodate an increased number of press credentialed by SSI as provided by Subsection IX.D.2.a, the reimbursement of all reasonable out-of-pocket costs incurred by the City in performing such modification work including but not limited to the expense to add the requested communication lines, television cables, other equipment, and furnishings.

B. Delinquencies: All payments shall be delinquent if not paid on or by the date due. Delinquent sums shall bear interest at a rate of 1% per month until paid. Payments made after a delinquency shall be applied first to accrued interest, and then to the principal sums due.

C. Books and Records; Audit:

1. SSI's Record-keeping Obligation: SSI shall keep true, separate, accurate, complete and auditable records of gross receipts from the following:

- a. All tickets and credentials issued or sold for admission to Home Games in the Coliseum (separately identifying revenue from Club Seats, general admission Seats, and Suite sales or rentals);
- b. The sale at events other than Home Games of Food served or provided in and from the concession stands in the Coliseum;
- c. The sale at events other than Home Games of Food served or provided in and to Suites and the Food service areas associated with Club Seats in the Coliseum;
- d. The sale or rental of Basketball and Other Novelties at events other than Home Games;
- e. The sale of the right to procure any interest in Club Seats or any ticket allowing use of such a Seat;
- f. The sale or leasing of the right to procure any interest in Suite Seats or any ticket allowing use of such a Seat;
- g. The sale of "title sponsorship" rights for the Coliseum; and
- h. The sale of the right to any display opportunity on the change-able-copy "marquee" signs on or associated with the Coliseum.; and
- i. The sale of any right to an Advertising display of any kind or nature in the Coliseum, the revenue from which shall be calculated by SSI's imputing a value thereto based upon such Coliseum Advertising display, alone, whether or not such Advertising is sold or packaged in combination with other rights.

The form of all records shall be subject to the approval of the City. Such records shall be retained in King County, Washington, for at least thirty-six (36) months after the close of the calendar year in which they were generated or received.

2. City's Recordkeeping Obligation: The City shall keep true, separate and accurate complete and auditable records of all revenue and appropriations received for the operation of the Coliseum and of all expenditures and expenses made and incurred in the construction, maintenance and operation of the Coliseum, and shall retain such records for at least thirty-six (36) months after the close of the calendar year in which they were incurred or paid. The City shall also keep separate categorical records for each expense item for which the City invoices SSI for reimbursement pursuant to this Agreement.

3. Audits: SSI and the City each shall permit the other party from time to time as the other party deems necessary, upon ten (10) days' prior notice, to annually inspect

and audit in King County, Washington, during regular working hours, all books and records required by this section as well as those books and records pertaining to the providing or serving of Food by or through a caterer, that are necessary to verify the accuracy of the revenue received or payments previously made by SSI or expenditures or expenses paid by the City; and shall supply the other party with, or shall permit it to make, copies of any such books and records and any portion thereof, upon the other party's request. SSI shall further ensure that such inspection, audit and copying right of the City is a condition of any subagreement or other arrangement under which SSI permits any other person or entity to carry on a business activity in or from the Coliseum.

D. **Time Limitation on Assertion of Claim for Payment:** In the event that either party claims an amount due to it had not been paid or that it has paid an amount in excess of any obligation hereunder, said party shall notify the other party of such claim within six (6) years of the time such amount was due or in the event of fraud, within three (3) years after the discovery of the same. The party against whom the claim lies shall pay such amount within thirty (30) days after the date of such notice or submit that claim to arbitration pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV of this Agreement.

## **IX. UTILITY, PERSONNEL, AND OTHER SERVICES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **A. General Utilities.**

1. **City Responsibilities:** Except as otherwise provided herein, the City shall provide, at its sole expense, electricity, water, heating, air conditioning and ventilation, sewer and solid waste removal, and all other utility services that are required for the use of the Coliseum as contemplated herein, and shall have installed a reasonable number of pay telephones in the Coliseum for public use and separate meters for the measurement of electricity and water use in the SSI Retail Facility and areas of the Coliseum provided to SSI under the Food and Beverage Service Agreement. The City shall be responsible for the immediate repair of any malfunction or failure of any utility service provided by the Seattle Center Department and shall be liable for any interruption or impairment of SSI's use, enjoyment and occupancy of the Coliseum or SSI Retail Facility resulting from any such utility system malfunction or failure to repair such service that is directly caused by an act or omission of Seattle Center Department personnel.

2. **SSI Responsibilities:** SSI shall secure, at no expense to the City, all gas, electricity, water, sewage, and solid waste removal utility services for the SSI Retail Facility, the Practice Facility, and all concession areas within the Coliseum, and such separate telephone service SSI desires for its own use of the Coliseum, the SSI Retail Facility and the Practice Facility, and all meters required to measure SSI's receipt of such services that are not installed by the City hereunder. SSI shall not install on the Premises any fixture, furnishing, or trade equipment that exceeds the capacity of any utility or waste facility for

such location. SSI shall make arrangements with all appropriate utility service providers for their direct billing to SSI for the delivery of such services to SSI and shall pay, before delinquency, all fees and charges for the installation, change, and relocation of every point or means of service by any utility or waste line or system and such utility service.

B. **First Aid Facility:** The City shall provide and operate for the benefit of SSI's officers, employees, and invites, commencing two (2) hours prior to and ending forty-five (45) minutes after each Home Game, a first aid facility in the Coliseum staffed by qualified paramedical personnel and equipped with cardiac resuscitation and emergency intervention equipment of the sort that is commonly available in Seattle "Medic One" units.

C. **Public Address Facilities:** Prior to SSI's first Home Game in the Coliseum during the Term of this Agreement, the City shall install a state of the art public address system and specialized musical sound system within the Coliseum having technical characteristics agreed upon by SSI and the City. On every Day of Game the City shall provide SSI with exclusive access to, and control of, such systems. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, the City shall have the right to control and use the public address system on every Day of Game for general safety, health, and legal announcements including but not limited to those for emergency or crowd control purposes, all when and to the extent determined necessary by the Seattle Center Director, Fire Chief, Police Chief, or any of their subordinate officers.

D. **Scoreboard and Time Clock Facilities:**

1. **Provision and Installation of Equipment:** SSI shall provide and have installed in the Coliseum, at SSI's sole expense, the following equipment:

a. A center court scoreboard having at least four sides usable for professional and amateur basketball, hockey, wrestling, and tennis game or match statistics documentation, complete with all necessary hoisting equipment, as well as on each side, a changeable message center and Seattle Center logo or designation of a size and appearance satisfactory to the Seattle Center Director, together with the necessary hardware and software for the programming of such scoreboard for such sporting events; provided, that to satisfy its obligations regarding the center court scoreboard, SSI may use all or any of those component parts of the scoreboard installed in the Current Facility.

b. A scorers' table and reader boards all of a respective size, weight, and storability that is subject to the Approval of the Seattle Center Director, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, which scorers' table and reader boards shall be part of the Advertising displays referred to in Subsection XII.C, hereof, and which shall not be used by the City or any other third person or entity except pursuant to Subsection IX.D.3, hereof, or with the specific prior agreement of SSI.



2. **Set-up Responsibilities:** On every Day of Game, beginning two hours prior to the scheduled time for the commencement of a Home Game and ending two hours after the conclusion of such activity, the following facilities shall be provided by the City, fully set up and ready for use at the City's sole expense:

a. Courtside facilities designated by SSI and located adjacent to the basketball court side lines and equipped with all necessary tables and chairs for teams, officials, and members of the press credentialed by SSI, including provision for telephone lines, television cables and other equipment; Provided, that the courtside facilities designated by SSI shall not be substantially different in size, weight, or storability from the courtside facilities provided in the Current Facility without the prior Approval of the Seattle Center Director; Provided, further, that if the number of press credentialed by SSI is increased beyond the number contemplated in the plans and specifications for the Coliseum that have received SSI's Approval, and if SSI requests the City to modify such courtside facilities to accommodate such increased number, the City shall undertake and complete such modifications and SSI shall reimburse the City's expenses therefor, as provided in Subsection VIII.A.3.m, hereof.

b. All Premium Seats and all other public seating within the Coliseum configured for professional basketball, together with the Function Rooms as depicted on the attached Exhibit "C" each equipped as specified in the then-current Event Service Manual or its successor publication; and

c. All other areas or facilities within the Coliseum necessary for SSI's use and enjoyment as provided by this Agreement.

3. **Equipment Use:** The scoreboard and its controlling mechanisms shall be made available, without charge by SSI as provided in Subsection IX.E.3, hereof, for use and operation in connection with any event in the Coliseum on other than a Day of Game or for non-SSI activity for which such use is desired by the City or any of its lessees or licensees.

**E. Personnel:**

1. **City-provided personnel:**

a. The City shall employ and provide, at its sole expense, appropriately trained ticket takers, security personnel, parking attendants, ushers, and janitorial maintenance, backboard repair, and all other support personnel necessary to operate and maintain the Premises in an efficient and orderly manner as contemplated herein. As part of this obligation, the City shall provide at its sole expense at the Coliseum on each Day of Game, at least two maintenance engineers who are fully competent to determine the cause of and effect emergency repairs on all utility, and other component and operating systems and fixtures within the Coliseum.

b. All determinations regarding the number, identity, sufficiency of training, and competency, of all such personnel shall be subject to the Approval of SSI; SSI disapproval shall be for only justifiable cause of a nature and severity like that identified in SMC 4.04.230.F as of the date of this Agreement. The City shall act within three (3) days to resolve any complaint by SSI regarding the performance of duties by any individual employed by the City who provides any service subject to the provisions of this Agreement. The City warrants and represents that it shall be solely responsible for any and all acts of omission or commission of all such personnel acting within the scope of their respective duties, directly or in connection with this Agreement and shall hold SSI harmless for any and all such acts.

2. Time for Commencement of Work: All personnel provided by the City necessary for the operation of the Coliseum as a professional basketball game facility shall be on duty on each Day of Game as follows:

<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Time Duties Commence</u>
Parking Garage and Supplemental Parking Area Attendants	Two and one-half (2½) hours before scheduled start of Home Game
Ticket takers/Ushers, Security Personnel	Two and one-half (2½) hours before start of Home Game for ticket takers and security assigned to the West Door and access point for Suites and Club Seats, with all other such personnel one (1) hour before doors are opened to the public
Maintenance, Janitorial, other support personnel not otherwise specified herein	Day of Game

3. SSI's Required Personnel: SSI shall employ or otherwise secure, train, as necessary, and have on duty at all Home Games in the Coliseum, such ticket sellers, and scoreboard and game-in-progress information controllers/operators and technicians, and security personnel for the protection of SSI's players and game officials as SSI determines are needed. In addition, upon five (5) days' notice by the City to SSI, SSI shall supply to the City for direct service to, or under contract with, the City or any of its Coliseum lessees or licensees, such number of fully trained scoreboard controlling mechanism operator(s) as are desired by such Coliseum user, which mechanism operator(s) shall operate the scoreboard controlling mechanism in the manner and for event(s) and activity(ies) desired by the City or its lessees or licensees. SSI may charge the City or such other Coliseum user for the providing of such personnel a fee that does not exceed the pro-rated compensation regularly paid by SSI for such operator(s) services.

4. **Seattle Police Department Personnel:** The City shall detail Seattle Police Department law enforcement officers to control traffic associated with Home Games, provide security for the Coliseum, and if requested by SSI, for crowd control to protect players and officials in connection with SSI's use of the Coliseum.

5. **Joint Development of Personnel Performance Standards:** SSI and the City shall jointly develop performance standards for all persons employed by the City and SSI who provide any service subject to the provisions of the Agreement as well as performance standards for other operational issues. Each party shall promptly act on all complaints by the other regarding the job performance of its respective employees.

## **X. MAINTENANCE AND CARE RESPONSIBILITIES**

A. **General City Responsibilities:** Except as specifically provided in Subsections X.E. and X.F., hereof, the City shall keep the exterior of the SSI Retail Facility and Coliseum including, but not limited to, roofs, floors, walls, foundations, structures and structural elements, and all areas immediately adjacent thereto, together with the Coliseum's interior rooms, spaces, doors, windows, fixtures, equipment, appurtenances and systems (including, but not limited to, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, sound, and lighting) in good working order and repair and in a neat, clean, safe and sanitary condition, and in compliance with the requirements of all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations at all times throughout the term of this Agreement at the City's sole cost and expense. The City shall immediately act to effect such repairs or replacements when malfunctions or defects arise and, without limiting the generality of any of this foregoing, shall keep the glass of all windows and doors clean and presentable, replace immediately all broken glass, paint and refinish the interior of the Coliseum at regular intervals, keep all exterior door closing mechanisms functioning; and keep all pipes, drains, toilets, fixtures and basins clean and free of debris and any obstruction.

B. **City Obligation to Annually Reserve Funds for Repairs:** The City warrants that in addition to amounts necessary for ordinary maintenance, it shall annually reserve for capital maintenance repairs, replacements or improvements, no less than two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000) per annum, adjusted to include an increase of four percent (4%) per annum.

C. **City Obligation to Perform General Renovation of Coliseum in 2003:** In addition to the general maintenance obligation specified in Subsection X.A, hereof, the City shall complete, after the conclusion of the 2002-03 NBA season and prior to the beginning of the 2003-04 NBA season, a general renovation of the Coliseum which shall include the complete refinishing and painting of all interior surfaces, the replacement or reconditioning of all seating, the replacement of all public address and sound system components that are no longer state of the art or are unreasonably worn, and the replacement or repair of all deteriorated fixtures, structural components or utility or other component systems; Provided,

further, that the total amount to be expended by the City on such renovations shall not be less than three and one-half million in 1993 dollars (\$3,500,000) adjusted pursuant to the CPI adjustment formula set forth in Subsection VIII.A.1.b, hereof. In order to ensure that such funds are available, the City shall annually place an amount equal to approximately one-seventh (1/7) of such aggregate amount into a subfund that may only be used for the purposes set forth in this subsection.

D. *SSI Remedy for City's Failure to Perform Maintenance or Repairs:* In the event that the City fails to perform maintenance, repairs, replacements or renovations as required by this Agreement, then SSI may provide the City with notice which sets forth the nature of the condition requiring such action. In the event that the City fails to perform maintenance, repair, replacement, or renovation work within a reasonable time after the providing of such notice and such failure has an adverse impact on SSI's full use of the Coliseum, then SSI may elect to: (i) submit the matter to expedited arbitration, as provided in Article XXV, herein, in order to secure an order compelling such performance together with an award to SSI of damages resulting from the City's failure to perform, or (ii) itself perform such maintenance, repair, replacement or renovation, or cause the same to be performed at commercially reasonable rates and offset the expenses incurred for such work against any other amount that is payable by SSI to the City. In the event that SSI elects to itself perform or cause such maintenance repair, replacement or renovation to be performed, then the City shall either agree to such offset by SSI or reimburse SSI for such expenses, or alternatively, submit to expedited arbitration the issue of whether the amount of the offset claimed by SSI is commercially reasonable.

E. *SSI's Repair, Maintenance and Care Responsibilities:* SSI shall keep the SSI Retail Facility, the Practice Facility, and the Unlimited Use Facilities of the Coliseum and all improvements to the same including but not limited to all structural, mechanical, electrical systems as well as all fixtures, equipment, appurtenances and systems (including, but not limited to, plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, electrical, sound, and lighting), windows, interior spaces and interior doors therein in good working order and repair, in a neat, clean, safe and sanitary condition, and in compliance with the requirements of all applicable laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, at all times throughout the term of this Agreement, all at no cost and expense to the City. SSI shall immediately act to repair or replace any defective or malfunctioning portion or system element in any such area or and, without limiting the generality of any of the foregoing, shall keep the glass of all windows and doors clean and presentable, replace immediately all broken glass, paint and refinish the interior of the SSI Retail Facility, Practice Facility, and Unlimited Use Facilities of the Coliseum at regular intervals, keep all door closure mechanisms functioning; and keep all pipes, drains, toilets, fixtures and basins within any such area clean and free of debris and any obstruction. SSI shall not allow, or cause anything to be done whereby the Premises is damaged in any manner, normal wear and tear excepted.

F. *SSI Maintenance and Repair of SSI-Provided or -Installed Equipment:* SSI shall be responsible for providing or performing all maintenance, repair and replacement of

equipment that is provided by or installed by or for SSI pursuant to Subsection IX.D.1, hereof, or otherwise, for use on the Premises.

G. **City Remedy for SSI's Failure to Perform Maintenance or Repairs:** In the event that SSI fails to perform maintenance, repairs, replacements or renovations as required by this Agreement, then the City may provide SSI with notice that sets forth the nature of the condition requiring such action. In the event that SSI fails to perform maintenance, repair, replacement, or renovation work within a reasonable time after the providing of such notice and such failure has an adverse impact on the City's full use and enjoyment of the Coliseum, then the City may elect to: (i) submit the matter to expedited arbitration, as provided in Article XXV, herein, in order to secure an order compelling such performance together with an award to the City of damages resulting from the SSI's failure to perform, or (ii) itself perform such maintenance, repair, replacement or renovation, or cause the same to be performed at commercially reasonable rates and offset the expenses incurred for such work against any other amount that is payable by the City to SSI. In the event that the City elects to itself perform or cause such maintenance repair, replacement or renovation to be performed, then SSI shall either agree to such offset by the City or reimburse the City for such expenses, or alternatively, submit to expedited arbitration the issue of whether the amount of the offset claimed by the City is commercially reasonable.

H. **SSI Assistance with City Recycling Efforts:** SSI and City officials shall periodically consult with each other regarding how City recycling objectives can best be achieved on the Premises.

#### **XI. CITY'S SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF SEATTLE CENTER BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS AND ACTIVITIES**

A. **General City Rights:** The City reserves the exclusive right, without liability of any kind, to do the following so long as such actions do not substantially interfere with the viewing and playing of professional basketball games by the SuperSonics as contemplated herein:

1. **Appearance, Size & Location of Seattle Center:** Increase, reduce, and change in any manner whatsoever the number, appearance, dimension, and locations of the Seattle Center walks, buildings, landscaping, parking, and service areas, and make improvements, alterations, and additions to the portions of the Premises that have been made available to SSI for its use;

2. **Traffic Regulation:** Regulate all traffic within and adjacent to the Seattle Center;

3. **Admission Charges:** Impose a reasonable charge for admission to the Seattle Center and facilities therein, including parking facilities at any time or manner except as limited by this Agreement;

4. **Rules & Regulation Promulgation:** Promulgate, from time to time, reasonable rules and regulations regarding the use and occupancy of any area of Seattle Center; provided that no such rule or regulation that would directly or indirectly affect any right granted to SSI by this Agreement shall be promulgated without the Seattle Center Director's having given prior notice of such action to SSI and at least thirty (30) days to comment on such proposed action unless such promulgation is because of an emergency reasonably declared by the Seattle Center Director;

5. **Days & Hours For Operations:** Determine the days and hours the Seattle Center and various business operations will be open to the public; and

6. **Size, Number, Type & Identity of Concession Operations:** Determine the size, number, and type and identity of concessions, stores, businesses, and operations being conducted or undertaken at Seattle Center other than in the SSI Retail Facility or as authorized in the Food and Beverage Service Agreement or Novelties Concession Agreement.

B. **SSI Principal User:** The City expressly agrees that in all matters to which this Agreement directly or indirectly applies, SSI is the principal user of the Coliseum and that SSI's convenience and enjoyment of such use shall be paramount to all other tenants and that no other use by a person or entity other than the City shall be permitted to conflict with or impair SSI's convenience and enjoyment of such use. The City shall take no action, or fail to take any necessary action, which in any manner undermines or impinges upon or restricts SSI's convenience and enjoyment of the Coliseum, unless specifically and expressly provided for in this Agreement. All ambiguities in this Agreement or disputes between the parties shall be resolved in accordance with this paragraph.

C. **Supervision and Control of Coliseum:** The City shall at all times exercise overall supervision and control of the Coliseum, and shall be responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the same as well as for all contiguous external areas and of all fixtures necessary for SSI's use except as otherwise provided herein.

## **XII. SSI EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS REGARDING THE SALE OF FOOD, BASKETBALL AND OTHER NOVELTIES, ADVERTISING, VIDEO PRODUCTION AND BROADCAST RIGHTS**

A. **Exclusive Food Sales & Service Right:** SSI is hereby granted the exclusive right and obligation to sell Food within the Coliseum. The terms and conditions of such exclusive right shall be as provided in the Food and Beverage Service Agreement between the parties hereto, which agreement shall be subject to and subordinate to this Agreement and

is or shall be attached hereto as Exhibit "H;" Provided, that such agreement shall not require separate authorization by ordinance for City execution unless such agreement is inconsistent with the provisions of paragraph 2.c) of Attachment 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding approved by City Council Resolution 28726. It is expressly understood that the City cannot grant this right to any other party during the Term of this Agreement.

B. Exclusive Novelties Concession Sales and Rental Right: SSI is hereby granted the exclusive right to offer for sale or rental, and to sell and rent Basketball and Other Novelties at, in, and from the Coliseum on any Day of Game; and at, in, and from the SSI Retail Facility during the Term of this Agreement. The terms and conditions of such exclusive right shall be as provided in the Novelties Concession Agreement between the parties hereto, which agreement shall be subject to and subordinate to this Agreement and is or shall be attached hereto as Exhibit "I;" Provided, that such agreement shall not require separate authorization by ordinance for City execution unless such agreement is inconsistent with the provisions of Attachment 1 to the Memorandum of Understanding approved by City Council Resolution 28726. Nothing herein or in such other agreement shall limit the right of SSI to publish, manufacture, or distribute Basketball and Other Novelties outside the geographic area of the Seattle Center. It is expressly understood that the City cannot grant this right to any other party during the Term of this Agreement.

C. Exclusive Advertising Display Service Right: SSI is hereby granted, subject to the provisions of Subsections XII.C.1-11, hereof, the exclusive right to provide all Advertising display services within the Coliseum, SSI Retail Facility, and Practice Facility as more specifically set forth below:

1. Advertising Display's Focus: All Advertising displays in the interior of the Coliseum shall be designed, to the extent practicable (given that the sides of the Coliseum are primarily glass) to be primarily viewable by an audience that is inside, rather than outside, of the Coliseum.

2. Advertisers' Obligation to Respect Family Orientation of Seattle Center: In exercising the rights granted by Subsection XII.C, SSI shall ensure that all contracts, agreements and understandings made with respect to the displaying of Advertising on the Premises require the advertiser to respect the family orientation of Seattle Center and, in particular, the Coliseum and SSI Retail Facility in developing copy and designs for Advertising to be displayed in any such building, and to require that all such Advertising be appropriate for Seattle Center and such building. In the event that the Seattle Center Director, in the exercise of such official's reasonable discretion, determines that any Advertising displayed in the Coliseum or SSI Retail Facility contains copy or any design element that is inappropriate to the family orientation of Seattle Center, the Seattle Center Director may request SSI to replace such Advertising. SSI shall request substitute Advertising in the event that copy supplied by an advertiser does not reflect the family orientation of Seattle Center.

3. **Prohibition Against Any Advertising Display for a Tobacco Product or Certain Alcoholic Beverages:** In order to retain a family atmosphere in the Premises, SSI shall not sell or display any Advertising for any tobacco product anywhere on the Premises other than in the SSI Retail Facility, shall not sell or display any Advertising for any alcoholic beverage other than beer or wine that may be viewed in or from the lobby, concourses, or Seats of the Coliseum. SSI may sell and display Advertising for alcoholic beverages other than beer or wine only within the Food service areas associated with Club Seats and in Suites and in a manner that does not enable people outside of such areas to read such Advertising.

4. **Advertising Display Opportunities Available for Hockey Franchise Acting as "Host Team" in Coliseum:** Any semi-professional or professional hockey franchise using the Coliseum for events in which its team acts as the "host" or "home team" including but not limited to the Seattle Thunderbirds Hockey Club, Inc. and its successors and assigns shall have the exclusive right to provide Advertising services and to sell and display Advertising solely on the dashboards erected for any hockey game presented by such entity in the Coliseum. SSI shall have the right to offer to the purchasers of SSI's Coliseum Advertising or any portion thereof, the right to advertise on the dashboards at a charge to be set by the hockey franchise. If the purchasers of SSI's Coliseum Advertising or any portion thereof elect not to advertise on the dashboards then the hockey franchise shall have the right to sell Advertising rights on the dashboards but only at the charge offered to the purchasers of SSI's Coliseum Advertising or any portion thereof.

5. **City's Right to Temporarily Interrupt, Without Compensation to SSI, Certain Advertising Displays Due to Conflict with Theatrical Performance or User's Policies or Religious Tenets:** Notwithstanding the Advertising rights granted to SSI herein, the City reserves the right to temporarily interrupt or otherwise prevent the illumination or display of particular Advertising on any and all signs installed by or for SSI in the Coliseum (other than the scoreboard) for any event or activity other than an SSI use authorized under this Agreement, without having to remit to SSI the payment contemplated in Subsection XII.C.6, hereof, whenever the Seattle Center Director determines, in the exercise of such official's discretion, that the illumination of such Advertising on SSI's sign(s) would conflict with any aspect of a third party's actual theatrical presentation or activity occurring within the area of the Coliseum in which Seats are located (as opposed to the lobby, box office, concourses, concession facilities, the Food service areas associated with Club Seats, SSI Unlimited Use Facilities, and similar areas of the Coliseum); or such Advertising display (whether or not illuminated) would otherwise offend or be offensive to any announced policy of the Western Interscholastic Athletic Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, or any successor of either such entity, or any third party Coliseum user as a result of a user's religious tenet. (The exercise of this reserved right may be illustrated by the following non-exclusive examples: If the Coliseum were licensed or leased for use for the presentation of a musical or theatrical performance, circus, or similar event for which a blacking-out of the house is required during any portion of the performance itself (in contrast to the intermissions and the pre- and post-performance ingress and egress periods), then the



illumination of Advertising displays in the area of the Coliseum in which Seats are located could be extinguished during such portion of the performance. Similarly, if the Coliseum were licensed or leased for use as the site of a religious organization's convention, and the religion of the members of such organization enjoined or proscribed the use of caffeinated beverages, and the Seattle Center Director is advised that the displaying of Advertising for a caffeinated beverage at such convention site would be offensive to the religious organization, then the displaying on SSI's signs of a logo, trademark, service mark, or other text or design element that promotes the sale or use, or contains the tradename of any caffeinated beverage could be limited, restricted, or otherwise interrupted during such third party's use of the Coliseum.) The City's right to interrupt or prevent the displaying of Advertising as reserved herein shall be exercised as specified in Subsection XII.C.8, hereof.)

6. **City's Right to Temporarily Interrupt Advertising Displays Upon Payment of Compensation to SSI:** The City may also temporarily interrupt or otherwise prevent the displaying of any particular Advertising on any of SSI's signs during an event upon the remittance to SSI of an amount equal to the pro-rated charge for such Advertising according to the applicable, published rate card for the same. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "event" shall be limited to any activity or presentation occurring in the Coliseum pursuant to a separate licensing agreement with the City authorizing such use, that is sponsored by any provider, distributor, or manufacturer or a service or product in competition with a service, product, or product line advertised on SSI's signs including but not limited to a meeting of a corporation's shareholders, one or more concerts by musicians on consecutive or non-consecutive days, or regional or national sports competition or exhibition. The City's right to interrupt or prevent the displaying of Advertising as reserved herein shall be exercised as specified in Subsection XII.C.8, hereof.

7. **City's Right to Allow Temporary Advertising Displays:** Notwithstanding the Advertising rights granted to SSI herein, the City reserves the right to permit, on such conditions as the Seattle Center Director may specify in the exercise of such official's discretion, one or more third parties to display temporary Advertising (whether for commercial or non-commercial purposes) that is part of the presentation display of an event sponsor, such as a message incorporated within the staging and lighting, but only during any event or activity scheduled for presentation, in whole or in part, at the Seattle Center, including but not limited to Advertising that is by or for one or more entities or products in competition with any entity or product advertised on the scoreboard or other sign(s) installed by or for SSI.

8. **City Notice to SSI of Need for Advertising Display Interruption; SSI's Implementation of City Notice:** The City's right to interrupt or prevent the displaying of Advertising, as reserved in Subsections XII.C.4-6, hereof, may be effected after the Seattle Center Director has given notice to SSI of such conflict, by requesting that SSI cover such sign(s) or the image(s) thereon, or by not providing electricity to illuminate the same, and by specifying the necessary period of such Advertising display interruption. Immediately

following SSI's receipt of such request, SSI shall cover or discontinue the electricity service to the subject Advertising for the duration of the specified interruption period.

9. **City's Right to Scoreboard Message Center Announcements at Home Games:** At each Home Game SSI shall provide to the City, free of charge, use of time on the scoreboard message center aggregating not less than four (4) announcements of approximately fifteen (15) seconds, each, for the promotion of events being or to be held at the Seattle Center.

10. **Advertising Displays Constitute Improvements; Standards for Construction and Attractiveness:** All Advertising displays constructed pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed to be "improvements" subject to the provisions of Article XXI, hereof. No such Advertising display shall interfere, in any respect, with the City's maintenance of or service in the Coliseum. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties hereto, the Advertising displays installed in the Coliseum shall be limited to the number in, and shall have a quality of construction and display attractiveness that is equivalent to, the displays in the Salt Lake City Delta Center, as illustrated on Exhibit "I" attached hereto; SSI and the Seattle Center Director intend, however, to cooperate in the joint development of standards regarding Advertising displays for the Coliseum to address issues of number, quality of construction, and display attractiveness in a manner particularly suited to the Seattle market and the Coliseum as a unique facility therein and as an integral component of Seattle Center. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article XXV, hereof, in the event of any dispute regarding the number of Advertising displays or the quality of construction or the display attractiveness of any such Advertising display that cannot be resolved by agreement of the parties, such dispute shall be referred to a special Advertising display panel composed of three arbitrators. One such arbitrator shall be selected by the Seattle Center Director, another by the President of SSI, and the third selected by the other two arbitrators. No person shall be eligible to serve as such an arbitrator if such person, or such person's spouse or domestic partner is, or has been within the past two years, an employee of either party hereto or if such person has, or has had within the past two years, any contractual association with either party hereto.

11. **Title Sponsorship Identification:** Appropriate identification signage shall be installed on the exterior and interior of the Coliseum for the purpose of identifying and giving recognition to the Coliseum's "title sponsor." All such signage shall be subject to the conditions of Subsection XII.C.10, and Articles IV and XXI, hereof. No Advertising display of SSI or any of other user of the Coliseum shall be erected or displayed in a way that obstructs, covers or otherwise interferes with any identification of the Coliseum by reference to the name of its "title sponsor."

### **XIII. EXCLUSIVE VIDEO PRODUCTION, BROADCAST & CABLECAST TRANSMISSION RIGHTS**

SSI hereby reserves and retains, for itself, the exclusive use and control of all rights to all Home Games or any other professional basketball games played in the Coliseum other than performances by the Harlem Globetrotters, including exclusive rights to preserve, transmit, or reproduce for hearing or viewing such games by whatever means or processes now exist or may hereafter be developed for such preservation, transmission, or reproduction including but not limited to radio and television broadcasting, motion picture and still photography, video taping and closed circuit pay-per-view and all forms of cablecasting or electronic transmission without any limitation. The City shall require every other user of the Coliseum including the Harlem Globetrotters to grant to SSI a first right of refusal with respect to the exercising of any such preservation, transmission or reproduction rights for and in connection with such other user's event or activity in the Coliseum; Provided, that this obligation shall not apply to any other Coliseum user's event or activity that, as of the date of such Coliseum use, is to be the subject of a national network broadcast or cablecast, or that is the subject of a contract enabling a third party to exercise any of such rights in the Coliseum and at least one other performance venue.

### **XIV. TICKET ADMINISTRATION**

A. **SSI Responsibilities:** SSI shall have the exclusive responsibility for and control of the administration of all sales of tickets to Home Games except as otherwise provided in the Luxury Suite and Club Seat Marketing Agreement, including but not limited to the printing and distribution of tickets, the undertaking and conducting of group, season, and special package sales; the establishment of any and all prices for basic admission to SSI events and activities in the Coliseum and any service charge(s) thereon (but not the establishment by any unit of government of any tax on any such admission or service charges); collection and counting of receipts and accounting; and the purchase, installation, and maintenance of all equipment used in connection with such ticketing. As part of this responsibility, SSI shall assume all costs of such administration.

B. **Complimentary Tickets:** SSI shall be authorized to determine in its sole discretion the number and recipients of complimentary admission tickets and credentials issued for admission to Home Games.

### **XV. INDEMNIFICATION; INSURANCE**

#### **A. Indemnification:**

1. **SSI to Indemnify City:** Except as provided in Subsection XV.A.3, hereof, SSI shall indemnify and hold the City harmless from any and all losses, claims,

actions, and damages suffered by any person or entity by reason of or resulting from any negligent, reckless, or intentional act or omission of SSI or any of its agents, employees, invitees, concessionaires, contractors and any of their subcontractors in connection with use or occupancy of the Premises; and if, as a consequence of any such act or omission, any suit or action is brought against the City, SSI, upon notice of the commencement thereof, shall defend the same at no cost and expense to the City, and promptly satisfy any final judgment adverse to the City; Provided, that in the event the City determines that one or more principles of governmental or public law are involved, the City retains the right to participate in such action. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed as requiring SSI to indemnify the City against liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damage to property caused by or resulting from the sole negligence of the City or its officers, employees, or agents. The indemnification provided in this subsection shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

2. City to Indemnify SSI: Except as provided in Subsection XV.A.3, hereof, the City shall indemnify and hold SSI harmless from any and all losses, claims, actions, and damages suffered by any person or entity by reason of or resulting from any negligent, reckless, or intentional act or omission of the City or any of its agents, employees, invitees, or contractors and any of their subcontractors in connection with use or occupancy of the Premises; and if, as a consequence of any such act or omission, any suit or action is brought against SSI, the City, upon notice of the commencement thereof, shall defend the same at no cost and expense to SSI, and promptly satisfy any final judgment adverse to SSI. Nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed as requiring the City to indemnify SSI against liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damage to property caused by or resulting from the sole negligence of SSI or any of its officers, employees, concessionaires, contractors, or agents. The indemnification provided in this subsection shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

3. Indemnification Regarding Any Alteration, Addition, or Improvement: Where any bodily injury or damage to property results from or arises out of any construction, alteration, repair, addition to, subtraction from, improvement to, or maintenance of, any building, road, excavation, or other structure, project, development, or improvement attached to real estate, including moving and demolition in connection therewith, the indemnification provided pursuant to Subsections XV.A.1 and -.2, hereof, shall be limited to the extent of the indemnitor's negligence. The indemnification provided in this subsection shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

B. SSI's Liability Insurance: SSI shall maintain at all times during the use period specified in Article II, hereof, at no cost or expense to the City, one or more policies of commercial general liability insurance as required below:

1. Liability Limits: The limitations of liability shall not be less than Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) Combined Single Limits (bodily injury and property

damage) with a deductible or self-insurance retention of no more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) for property damage, only.

2. Coverage: Coverage shall be provided for all risk liability on a "per occurrence" rather than "claims made" basis, for any injury, death, damage and/or loss of any sort sustained by any person, organization or corporation (including SSI, or any of its officers, employees and agents) in connection with or arising out of any act or omission of SSI, or any of its officers, employees, agents, or assigns upon the Premises and for any activity performed by SSI under this Agreement and shall include, but need not be limited to the following types (described in insurance industry terminology):

- a. Premises operations liability (O, L & T or M & C);
- b. Blanket contractual liability;
- c. Broad form property damage;
- d. Independent contractor (O & CP);
- e. Automobile liability for owned, leased, hired or non-owned vehicles;
- f. Products and/or completed operations;
- g. Personal injury, including coverages A, B, and C with no employee exclusion;
- h. Fire legal liability;
- i. Employees as additional insured; and
- j. Copyright/Trademark/Tradename infringement.

All such insurance shall be primary to any other insurance that may be valid and collectable. SSI is not required to provide insurance coverage against the City's sole negligence, reckless act, breach of this Agreement, or violation of any law.

3. Authorized Carriers: The insurance described herein shall be obtained from insurance companies duly authorized to issue such policies in the State of Washington, and having a rating of "A-" or better.

4. Naming of City as Additional Insured: The City shall be named as an additional insured in such policy(ies) or an endorsement thereto, to the extent provided in Subsection XV.B.1, above, in the following manner:

"The City of Seattle is an additional insured for all coverages provided by this policy of insurance and shall be fully and completely protected by this policy for any claim, suit, injury, death, damage or loss of any sort sustained by any person, organization or corporation in connection with activity upon or use or occupancy of certain facilities and automobile parking areas at Seattle Center, as well as any activity performed by the principal insured or an affiliate of the principal insured under a Premises Use & Occupancy Agreement with the City.

"The coverages provided by this policy to the City shall not be terminated, reduced or otherwise changed in any respect without providing at least thirty (30) days prior written notice to The City of Seattle, c/o Seattle Center Facility Sales Office, 305 Harrison Street, Seattle, Washington 98109."

C. Evidence of Insurance: SSI shall deliver to the  
Risk Manager  
Finance Department  
The City of Seattle  
600 Fourth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

or to such other official(s) and address(es) as City may hereafter specify, a copy of all policies required hereunder, and all endorsements thereto or other evidence to the reasonable satisfaction of the City Risk Manager or such official's successor, that SSI has secured or renewed and is maintaining insurance as required by this Agreement

1. not less than ten (10) days prior to SSI's first use of any of the Premises pursuant to this Agreement; and
2. within five (5) City business days prior to the expiration or renewal date of each such policy; and
3. within five (5) City business days after SSI's receipt of a written request therefor.

D. Assumption of Risk: The placement and storage by SSI of personal property on the Premises shall be the responsibility, and at the sole risk, of SSI.

E. Adjustments of Claims: SSI shall provide for the prompt and efficient handling of all claims for bodily injury, property damage or theft arising out of the activities of SSI under this Agreement. SSI shall ensure that all such claims, whether processed by SSI or SSI's insurer, either directly or by means of an agent, will be handled by a person with a permanent office in the Seattle area.

F. Remedies upon Failure to Insure: The Seattle Center Director shall notify SSI whenever the Seattle Center Director has a reasonable belief that SSI has failed to secure or maintain insurance as required by this Agreement. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, after its receipt of any such notice, SSI shall not enter upon the Premises until SSI has secured and is maintaining insurance as required by this Agreement. Alternatively, at the option of the Seattle Center Director, the City may procure the required insurance for and at the ultimate expense of SSI, from whatever source the Seattle Center Director or the City's Risk Manager deems reasonable. In the event the insurance required

of SSI is procured by the City, SSI shall also reimburse all costs incurred by the City to secure such insurance coverage as well as a service charge, the initial amount of which shall be Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00); Provided, that from and after October 1, 1996, such initial service charge shall be increased by the amount of the total CPI adjustment that has been made in the annual rent pursuant to Subsection VIII.A.1.b, hereof, from October 1, 1996, through the date each such service charge becomes due and payable.

G. **Mutual Release and Waiver:** For and in consideration of the execution of this Agreement, the City and SSI each hereby releases and relieves the other, and waives its entire claim of recovery from the other for loss or damage to owned or rented property arising out of or incident to fire, lightning and the perils covered under any extended coverage insurance policy or endorsement approved for use in the State of Washington, whether such loss or damage is due to negligence of either party or any agent or employee of either or any other person unless an insurance policy secured by either party hereto pursuant to this Agreement or otherwise would become void upon the making of such release and waiver.

#### **XVI. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW**

SSI and the City, each at its sole cost and expense, shall conform and comply with all applicable laws of the United States and the State of Washington, the Charter and ordinances of The City of Seattle, rules and regulations of the Seattle Center, Fire, Health, and Police Departments and licenses, permits and any directives issued by any authorized official thereof with respect to such party's responsibilities under this Agreement. In this connection,

A. **Licenses:** SSI shall obtain and maintain in full force and effect during the Term of this Agreement, all licenses, permits and authorizations required of it by law and conform with all applicable requirements of any authorized person acting in connection therewith.

B. **Nondiscrimination in Employment:** SSI agrees to and shall comply with all State and local laws and ordinances prohibiting discrimination with regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, political ideology, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap.

During the term of this Agreement,

"SSI shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of creed, religion, race, color, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, political ideology, ancestry, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification. SSI shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated

during employment without regard to their creed, religion, race, color, sex, national origin, or the presence of any sensory, mental or physical handicap. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. SSI shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the City setting forth the provision of this nondiscrimination clause. SSI shall take affirmative action to ensure that all of its employees, agents and subcontractors adhere to this provision; Provided, nothing herein shall prevent an employer from giving preference in employment to a member of his/her immediate family.

"SSI shall, upon the request of the Director of the City's Human Rights Department, or his/her designee (hereinafter the 'HRD Director') furnish to the HRD Director on such form as may be provided therefor, a report of the affirmative action taken by SSI in implementing the terms of this provision, and shall permit access to SSI's records of employment, employment advertisements, application forms, other pertinent data and records requested by the HRD Director for the purpose of investigation to determine compliance with this provision.

"If, upon investigation, the HRD Director determines that there is probable cause to believe that SSI has failed to comply with any of the terms of this provision, SSI shall be so notified in writing. The Seattle Center Director shall give SSI an opportunity to be heard after ten (10) days notice. If the Seattle Center Director concurs in the findings of the HRD Director, the Seattle Center Director may suspend or terminate this Agreement or withhold any funds due or to become due to SSI pending compliance by SSI with the terms of these provisions.

"Failure to comply with any of the terms of this provision shall be a material breach of this Agreement."

C. Women's and Minority Business Enterprise Utilization:

1. Incorporation of Seattle Municipal Code Ch. 20.46: The provisions of Seattle Municipal Code Ch. 20.46, (Women's and Minority Business Enterprise Utilization Ordinance, as amended), are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof as if fully set forth herein.

2. SSI's WMBE Obligations: During the use period provided in Article II, hereof, SSI shall:



a. Make every effort to utilize minority business enterprises and women's business enterprises as subcontractors;

b. Require its subcontractors to make every effort to utilize women's business enterprises and minority business enterprises; and

c. Maintain records reasonably necessary for monitoring compliance with the provisions of Seattle Municipal Code Ch. 20.46.

3. **Noncompliance with SMC Ch. 20.46 Constitutes Material Breach:** The failure of SSI or any of its subcontractors to comply with any of the requirements of Seattle Municipal Code Ch. 20.46 shall be a material breach of this Agreement.

D. **Attendance and Safety Standards:** The Seattle Fire Chief or his/her designee shall have the authority to determine, in the reasonable exercise of his/her discretion, the number of persons that may be admitted to, and safely and freely move about in, the Coliseum. SSI shall not sell or issue Home Game tickets or credentials for admission to the Coliseum in an aggregate number that exceeds the Seattle Fire Chief's determined number. The City shall not admit to the Coliseum more people than the number so determined by the Seattle Fire Chief. SSI shall not permit any chair or movable seat or other obstruction to be erected or placed in any Coliseum passageway or fire exit. Sidewalks, grounds, entries, passages, vestibules, halls, elevators, abutting streets and all ways of access to the Coliseum shall not be obstructed by SSI or used for any purpose other than for ingress and egress to the Coliseum.

E. **Taxes:** SSI shall pay, before delinquency, all taxes, levies, and assessments arising from its activities in, on, or involving occupancy and use of any Seattle Center facility including, but not limited to, taxes arising out of the occupancy of, or activity or business conducted in or from the Premises; taxes levied on SSI's property, equipment, improvements; and taxes levied on SSI's interest in this Agreement and any leasehold interest recognized by Ch. 82.29A RCW, and in the event the State of Washington makes any demand upon the City for the remittance of leasehold excise taxes payable by SSI as a consequence of SSI's occupation of the Premises or withholds funds due to the City to enforce collection of such leasehold excise taxes, SSI shall immediately pay the same together with all interest and penalties assessed in connection therewith, or, at its sole expense, shall contest such action and indemnify the City for all sums expended by, or withheld by the State from, the City in connection with such taxation; Provided, that SSI shall not be deemed to be in default as long as SSI, in good faith, is contesting the validity or amount of any such taxes.

F. **Environmental Standards:**

1. **Definitions:** For the purpose of this subsection, the following terms shall be defined as provided below unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

a. "Law or Regulation" means any environmentally related local, state or federal law, regulation, ordinance or order (including without limitation any final order of any court of competent jurisdiction of which SSI has knowledge), now or hereafter in effect including but not limited to the Clean Air Act, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as amended by the Solid and Hazardous Waste Amendments of 1984, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986, and the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

b. "Hazardous Substances" shall mean any hazardous, toxic, or dangerous substance, waste, or material that is regulated under any federal, state, or local statute, ordinance, or regulation relating to environmental protection, contamination or cleanup.

2. **City Representations & Warranties:** The City represents and warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, the Premises and the real property on which the Premises are located do not contain any Hazardous Substances found in violation of any applicable Law or Regulation. The City further represents and warrants that, to the best of its knowledge, every mandatory requirement of any applicable Law or Regulation with respect to environmental hazards or Hazardous Substances affecting the Premises or the real property on which the Premises is located has been complied with. The City will comply with every applicable Law and Regulation regulating Hazardous Substances found in, on or about the Premises or the real property on which the Premises are located and promptly remedy any violation of each such Law or Regulation except with respect to Hazardous Substances generated or disposed of by SSI, or any of its employees, agents, concessionaires, or contractors or any of its contractor's subcontractors or materialmen, or other persons or entities.

3. **SSI's General Obligations:** SSI shall not cause to occur upon the Premises or permit the Premises to be used to generate, produce, manufacture, refine, transport, treat, store, handle, dispose, transfer, or process Hazardous Substances except in compliance with all applicable Laws and Regulations. SSI shall provide the Seattle Center Director with SSI's USEPA Waste Generator Number if SSI's activities require such compliance, and with copies of all Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), Generator Annual Dangerous Waste Reports, environmentally related regulatory permits or approvals (including revisions or renewals) and any correspondence SSI receives from, or provides to, any governmental unit or agency in connection with SSI's handling of Hazardous Substances or the presence, or possible presence, of any Hazardous Substance on the Premises.

4. **SSI's Obligations Upon Violation of Conditions; City's Rights Upon SSI Violation:** If SSI violates any of the terms of this section concerning the presence or use of Hazardous Substances or the handling or storing of hazardous wastes, such shall promptly

take such action as is necessary to mitigate and correct the violation. If SSI does not act in a prudent and prompt manner, the City reserves the right, but not the obligation, to act in place (for which purpose SSI hereby appoints the City as its agent), to come onto the Premises and to take such action as the City deems necessary to ensure compliance or to mitigate the violation. If the Seattle Center Director determines that SSI is in violation of any law or regulation, or that SSI's actions or inactions present a threat of violation or a threat of damage to the Premises, the City reserves the right to enter onto the Premises and take such corrective or mitigating action as the City deems necessary. All costs and expenses incurred by the City where an actual violation had or would have occurred shall become immediately due and payable by SSI upon presentation of an invoice therefor.

5. **Environmental Inspections & Testing:** SSI shall provide the City with access to the Premises to conduct an annual environmental inspection in January of each year of the term hereof or at such other time as may be mutually agreed upon. In addition, SSI shall permit the City access to the Premises at any time, upon reasonable notice, for the purpose of conducting environmental testing at the City's expense. SSI shall not conduct or permit others to conduct environmental testing on the Premises without first obtaining the Seattle Center Director's written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. SSI shall promptly inform the Seattle Center Director of the existence of any environmental study, evaluation, investigation or results of any environmental testing conducted on the Premises whenever the same becomes known to SSI, and SSI shall provide a written copy of the same to the Seattle Center Director within thirty (30) days after the preparation of any such material.

6. **SSI's Removal of Hazardous Substances:** Prior to vacation of the Premises, in addition to all other requirements under this Agreement, SSI shall remove any Hazardous Substances that SSI or any of its employees, agents, concessionaires, or contractors, or any of its contractor's subcontractors has placed on the Premises during the term of SSI's use of the Premises, and shall demonstrate such removal to the Seattle Center Director's reasonable satisfaction.

7. **SSI's Reimbursement of City Costs:** In addition to any remedy provided above, the City shall be entitled to full reimbursement from SSI whenever the City incurs any cost resulting from SSI's violation of any of the terms of this section, including, but not limited to, the cost of clean-up or any other remedial activity, fines, penalties assessed directly against the City, injuries to third persons or other property, and loss of revenue resulting from an inability to release or market the Premises due to its environmental condition as the result of SSI's violation of the terms of this Agreement (even if such loss of revenue occurs after the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement).

8. **Indemnification:** In addition to all other indemnities provided in this Agreement, and notwithstanding the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, SSI and the City agree to defend, indemnify and hold the other free and harmless from any and all claims, causes of action, regulatory demands, liabilities, fines, penalties, losses, and

expenses, including without limitation cleanup or other remedial costs (and including attorneys' fees, costs and all other reasonable litigation expenses when incurred and whether incurred in defense of actual litigation or in reasonable anticipation of litigation), arising from the existence or discovery of any Hazardous Substance on the Premises or on the real property on which the Premises are located resulting from a violation of the terms of this section, or the migration of any Hazardous Substance from the Premises or from the real property on which the Premises are located to other property or into the surrounding environment that is the result of a violation of the terms of this section, by that party whether (a) made, commenced or incurred during the term of this Agreement, or (b) made commenced or incurred after the expiration or termination of this Agreement if arising out of an event occurring during the term of this Agreement. The indemnification provided in this subsection shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement.

**XVII. CITY'S ACCESS TO PREMISES; INSPECTION, REPAIR, AND IMPROVEMENT OF PREMISES**

A. Access to Premises: SSI and the City shall provide each other with access to the Premises at all reasonable times to inspect the same and to make any repair, improvement, alteration or addition thereto or any property owned by or under the other party's control as provided in this Agreement.

B. Permitted Interference With Either Party's Operations: In inspecting, and in making repairs, alterations, additions, and improvements, either party may erect barricades and scaffolding in and outside of the Premises, and may otherwise interfere with the conduct of the other party's business and operations where such action is reasonably required by the nature of the work; and such interference shall not be deemed to be a breach or default under this Agreement. The City shall use its best efforts to minimize interference with access to and from the Premises and with SSI business and operations in, on, or from the Premises.

C. Retention and Use of Keys to Premises: Each party shall deliver to the other such keys as are necessary to enable the other party at any time, to unlock any door in and to the Premises for which such party may have a reasonable need of access, excluding doors to vaults, safes, and files. In addition, City shall have the right to use any and all means that the Seattle Center Director deems proper to obtain entry to the Premises in an emergency without liability to SSI except for any failure to exercise due care for SSI's property. Any entry to the Premises obtained by either party by reasonable means shall not be construed or be deemed, under any circumstances, to be a forcible or unlawful entry into, or a detainer of, the Premises or a termination of SSI's license to use and occupy the Premises or any portion thereof.

### **XVIII. NO NUISANCES OR OBJECTIONABLE ACTIVITY**

Neither party shall permit any objectionable noise, odor, dust, vibration, or other similar substance or condition to remain on or be emitted from the Premises; or create any nuisance in or adjacent to the Premises; or do anything on the Premises that will create an unreasonable danger to life or limb; Provided, that noise emanating from the audience during a Home Game shall not be subject to this provision.

### **XIX. SUBCONTRACTING AND TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP**

A. Subcontracting: SSI shall not subcontract to another person or entity other than an entity controlled by SSI any of its responsibilities or obligations under this Agreement without the prior Approval of the Seattle Center Director, which Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any subcontract shall be subject to all pertinent terms and provisions of this Agreement. No subcontract under this Agreement shall release or relieve SSI of or from any of the obligations on SSI's part to be kept and performed under this Agreement; provided, however, that provisions of this Subsection XIX.A shall be inapplicable and without effect with respect to the assignment or other transfer of this Agreement as part of the sale, assignment, or other transfer of any ownership interest, in whole or in part, in SSI or interest in the Seattle SuperSonics NBA Franchise.

#### **B. Transfer Of Ownership Interest:**

1. SSI's Delivery of Instrument of Assumption and Agreement: In the event of the sale, assignment or other transfer of any ownership interest in the SuperSonics or in SSI, or both to any third party or parties, SSI shall cause to be delivered to the Seattle Center Director, immediately after such assignment, sale, or transfer, an instrument, in writing, executed by the assignee, grantee, purchaser or transferee, in which such person shall assume and agree to perform all of the terms and provisions of this Agreement to the extent to the interest acquired. Except as is provided in Subsections XIX.B.2 and -.3, hereof, there shall be no other restraints on the assignment, grant, purchase, sale or other transfer by SSI of any ownership interest in the SuperSonics or in SSI.

2. Release of SSI Upon Total Assumption of SSI's Obligations by Other Party: Upon the delivery by SSI of an instrument of assumption and agreement as contemplated in Subsection XIX.B.1, hereof, executed by the assignee, grantee, purchaser, or transferee acquiring one hundred percent (100%) of SSI's interest in the SuperSonics and this Agreement, each and every obligation of SSI hereunder shall become null and void as to SSI and SSI shall have no further direct or indirect liability or obligation hereunder to the extent of that assumption, notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement.

3. Joint & Several Liability of SSI and Other Party Where SSI's Obligations Are Not Totally Assumed: In the event less than one hundred percent (100%)

of SSI's interest in the SuperSonics and this Agreement is assigned, granted, purchased by, or transferred to, one or more other persons or entities, SSI shall remain jointly and severally liable with such other persons and entities for the performance of its obligations hereunder.

## **XX. RELATIONSHIP WITH NBA**

**A. Warranty and Special Covenant:** SSI hereby warrants to, and specially covenants and agrees with, the City as follows:

1. **SSI's Ownership of Valid NBA Franchise:** SSI is the owner and holder of a valid effective NBA franchise that permits and authorizes the SSI to operate a professional basketball team in the Coliseum; and

2. **No NBA Prohibition or Limitation on SSI's Ability to Execute or Carry Out Agreement:** No rule, regulation, policy, Constitution or Bylaw (or any provision of any thereof) of the NBA prohibits, limits or affects in any manner or respect the right or power of SSI to enter into, accept, or perform each and every one of the terms, commitments and provisions of this Agreement; and

3. **NBA Commissioner Has Approved Agreement:** This Agreement has been approved by the Commissioner.

**B. SSI Subject to NBA Rules and Regulations.** The activities of SSI in owning and playing a professional basketball team in the NBA and in matters related to such activities and the obligations of the Seattle NBA team under this Agreement are subject to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NBA; provided, however, that nothing in such Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations shall relieve SSI of its obligation to pay amounts in accordance with this Agreement except in the instance of a strike or work slowdown directed against the NBA or SSI by professional basketball players employed by SSI or a lockout of such players by SSI or the NBA during which SSI does not use the Coliseum for any purpose.

## **XXI. IMPROVEMENTS, ADDITIONS, AND ALTERATIONS**

**A. Prior Approval of Plans and Specifications Required:** SSI shall submit to the Seattle Center Director, for Approval, schematic designs, design development drawings, and final working drawings and specifications for the undertaking of any and all demolition, construction, improvement, alteration or addition in or on the Premises or any portion thereof other than a portion solely within the Unlimited Use Facilities unless a City structural, utility, or mechanical system is affected by such work, or such work is likely to increase the extent or cost of maintenance required of the City under this Agreement, and

unless the design, drawings, and specifications relate to the exterior appearance of the Practice Facility or SSI Retail Facility, in which case SSI shall submit such designs, drawings and specifications to the Seattle Center Director for Approval. All such designs, drawings and plans shall be prepared by a licensed architect or engineer, who shall have affixed to the same his/her signature and seal. SSI shall not begin any demolition or the construction of any improvement, addition, or alteration in or on the Premises subject to the Approval of the Seattle Center Director until after such Approval has been given, which Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

B. **No Representation or Liability Created by Approval:** The Approval of such plans and specifications by the Seattle Center Director shall not constitute an opinion or representation by the City as to their compliance with any law or ordinance or their adequacy for other than the Seattle Center Department's purposes; and such Approval shall not create or form the basis of any liability on the part of the City or any of its officers, employees, or agents for any injury or damage resulting from any inadequacy or error therein or any failure to comply with applicable laws or ordinances.

C. **Work Inconsistent with Approved Plans and Specifications:** No improvement, alteration, or addition shall be constructed, placed, or erected on the Premises except in accordance with plans and specifications therefor with respect to which the Seattle Center Director has given Approval. Immediately following SSI's receipt of notice by the Seattle Center Director of any variation between the approved plans and specifications and any improvement, addition, or alteration in, on, or being made to the Premises, SSI shall either desist from occupation, use, and operation of such improvement, addition, or alteration and remove it from the Premises or make it consistent with such approved plans and specifications or submit the matter within ten days to arbitration pursuant to the provisions of Article XXV to determine whether the variation was materially different than what was approved. No change shall be made to any electrical wiring or other utility serving the Premises as of the commencement date of this Lease or at any time subsequent thereto, other than a change made by a properly licensed electrical contractor or electrician, or plumbing contractor or plumber.

D. **Extra Charges:** In the event an improvement, addition, or alteration made or desired to be made by SSI requires or would require any change in any facility, utility or service provided by the City, SSI shall pay, as an additional charge, any costs incurred by the City in making such change or otherwise in connection therewith.

E. **Improvements, Additions, and Alterations Become City Property:** All improvements, additions, and alterations made to the Premises by SSI including but not limited to the Coliseum scoreboard and other equipment to be provided by SSI pursuant to Subsection IX.D.1.a, hereof, shall become the property of the City upon the expiration of the Term, and shall remain in, and be surrendered with the Premises, as a part thereof at that time without molestation, disturbance, or injury. Trade fixtures and equipment of SSI including but not limited to Advertising displays installed by or for SSI shall remain the

property of SSI and may be removed by SSI upon the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, consistent with the requirements of Subsection XXVII.B, hereof.

F. **Improvements, Additions & Alterations At SSI Expense:** All improvements, additions, and alterations made to the Premises by SSI to convert the same to the condition desired by SSI shall be at the expense of SSI and at no cost to the City unless otherwise specifically agreed by the parties, in writing.

G. **Construction Bond:** Prior to commencing any alteration, addition or improvement work on the Premises, SSI, if required by the Seattle Center Director, shall file with such official a good and sufficient corporate surety bond subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and surety, conditioned upon the completion and installation of said addition, alteration or improvement as described in plans submitted to and given Approval by the Seattle Center Director and in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and all licenses, permits, ordinances, statutes, regulations and laws governing the making of the same, and further conditioned upon the payment of all persons supplying labor and material for the making of said addition, alteration or improvement, and upon the making of said addition, alteration, or improvement without cost and expense to the City; provided, however, that the Seattle Center Director may waive or reduce this surety bond requirement if, in the opinion of the Seattle Center Director, such surety bond coverage either is unavailable or available only at an cost deemed by the Seattle Center Director to be unreasonable under the circumstances.

H. **Construction Liability Insurance:** SSI shall require its general contractor to furnish and maintain, at no cost to the City, during the full period of the making of any part of any physical addition, alteration or improvement to the Premises having a cost of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) or more, a policy of public liability and property damage insurance issued by an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Washington, protecting SSI and the City from any and all claims for damages for personal injury, including death, and for property loss or damage that may arise from any activity related to the making of said addition, alteration or improvement, whether such activity is by SSI, its contractor(s), any subcontractor, or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by or under contract to any of them. Said policy shall provide coverage in the following minimum amounts: One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) Combined Single Limit, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) Annual Aggregate. Such policy shall name The City of Seattle as an additional insured and provide that the terms thereof cannot be modified or terminated without thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the City, all in the manner and form required by the City's Risk Manager or such official's successor. Evidence of such insurance must be provided to the City's Risk Manager consistent with the requirements of Subsection XV.C, hereof, prior to the commencement of any such work. All such insurance shall be primary to any insurance maintained by the City.

I. **Delivery of "As-Built" Drawings:** Immediately after the completion of each improvement, addition, or alteration to the Premises, SSI shall deliver to the Seattle Center



Director a complete set of reproducible drawings on mylar sheets not smaller than 2' x 3' reflecting the final "as-built" condition of said improvement, addition and alteration, together with either the original or a copy of all maintenance and operation manuals necessary for the repair and maintenance of any structural, mechanical, or electrical building system or piece of equipment installed on the Premises that is not a removable trade fixture.

J. Testing of Premises: SSI may make such tests, borings and other minor disturbances of the Premises as may be necessary to develop designs and plans for all required or desired improvements, additions and alterations to the Premises, including installations and modifications to accommodate changes in trade fixtures intended for use on the Premises. A report of the findings and results of each such test or boring shall be submitted to the Seattle Center Director within thirty (30) days after the date such findings and results are obtained.

**XXII. DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION**

A. Notice: In the event that the Coliseum, or any portion thereof, is destroyed or damaged in any manner that limits or prevents the playing, exhibition, attendance at, or viewing of a Home Game, or the exercise by SSI of any other rights granted to it by this Agreement (an "Occurrence"), SSI or the City, as the case may be, shall submit a notice to the other party regarding the existence and extent of such damage or destruction within forty-eight (48) hours after such party's discovery of the Occurrence.

**B. City Notice of Intentions Regarding Rebuilding of Coliseum:**

1. Circumstances Under Which City Obligated to Repair & Restore Coliseum After Occurrence: In the event of an Occurrence, the City shall immediately undertake such repair and restoration work as may be necessary to completely restore the Coliseum to at least the condition it was in immediately prior to the Occurrence where (i) the reason for the Occurrence was a risk that was not excluded from coverage under Subsections B.1.a-g of the "Causes of Loss - Special Form" standard ISO 1983, 1989 Special Risk Property Insurance Form ("CP 10 30 10 90") and (ii) the cost of such work is estimated to not exceed "Y" in the following formula:

$$Y = \frac{C}{15} \times N \text{ where:}$$

- "C" = the total cost paid by the City to construct and equip the Coliseum; and
- "N" = the number of full years remaining in the Agreement term;

Provided, that even if the City is not obligated to restore and repair the Coliseum according to the above formula, the City may, nonetheless, at its election, perform such restoration and repair pursuant to the provisions of this Article XXII.

2. **City Notice of Intent to Restore & Repair Coliseum After Occurrence:** The City shall give notice to SSI as soon as practicable after the Occurrence regarding the City's assessment of the extent of damage or destruction that has occurred and of the City's determination whether or not to restore and repair the Coliseum; Provided, that such notice to SSI shall not be given later than one hundred (100) calendar days after the Occurrence. In addition, if such notice advises SSI of the City's determination to not restore or repair the Coliseum, the notice shall also set forth in detail the reasons why such determination is in compliance with the terms of this Article XXII.

**C. SSI Remedies During City Repair and Restoration of Coliseum:**

1. In the event that the City undertakes and completes the repair and restoration of the Coliseum after an Occurrence, then the annual rent or adjusted rent and additional rent required by Subsections VIII.A.1 and 2, hereof, shall be abated by an amount equal to "Z" in the following formula:

$$Z = \frac{N}{41} \times R \times \frac{AS}{TS} \quad \text{where:}$$

"N" = the number of Home Games that could not be played in the Coliseum because of the Occurrence that were scheduled between the date of the Occurrence and the Use Commencement Date for the repaired Coliseum;

"R" = the annual rent or adjusted annual rent, as appropriate, due between the date of the Occurrence and the Use Commencement Date for the repaired Coliseum;

"AS" = the number of Seats from which a Home Game cannot be reasonably viewed because of the Occurrence; and

"TS" = the total number of Seats in the Coliseum.

2. **City's Liability for SSI Damages After Thirteenth Month Following Occurrence & Prior To Restoration of Coliseum:** In the event that Coliseum repair and restoration work required because of an Occurrence takes longer than one hundred (100) days, in addition to the abatement of rent and adjusted rent as provided in Subsection XXII.C.1, hereof, the City shall compensate SSI for all damages and losses that SSI reasonably incurs as a result of the Occurrence from the first day of the thirteenth (13th) month after the Occurrence through the latest Use Commencement Date.

D. **No Liability for Termination:** The termination of this Agreement by either the City or SSI as provided in this Article XXII, hereof, shall not create any liability on or of the terminating party for the benefit of the other party.

#### **XXIII. SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATIONS (FORCE MAJEURE)**

Whenever a party's performance of any obligation under this Agreement except those obligations set forth in Article III is prevented by an act of war or warlike operation by a foreign nation; a labor dispute including a strike, lock-out, or walkout including such labor dispute between SSI or the NBA and players employed by the NBA; then the performance of such affected obligation shall be suspended, but only for so long as such performance remains beyond the reasonable control of such party. SSI's obligations hereunder shall not be suspended, however, if during any such labor dispute, SSI uses any portion of the Premises for the practicing for, or the playing of, any professional basketball game by persons who are not participants in such labor dispute.

#### **XXIV. NOTICES**

Any notice or communication to be given by one party to the other under this Agreement must be in writing; and if given by registered or certified mail, such notice or communication shall be deemed to have been given and received when a registered or certified letter containing such notice or communication, properly addressed, with postage prepaid, is deposited in the United States mail, but if given otherwise than by registered or certified mail, it shall be deemed to have been given when received by the party to whom it is addressed. Such notices or communications shall be delivered or sent to the following respective addresses or to such other addresses as the parties, from time to time, may specify in writing:

If to the City:

Seattle Center Director  
Seattle Center Department  
The City of Seattle  
305 Harrison Street  
Seattle, WA 98109

If to SSI:

SSI Sports, Inc.  
Attn: President  
190 Queen Anne Avenue, North  
2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98109

## XXV. ARBITRATION

A. Disputes To Be Resolved Through Arbitration: All claims, disputes and other matters in question between the parties arising out of, or relating to provisions of this Agreement shall be decided by binding arbitration in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association then in effect unless the parties mutually agree otherwise or unless the claim, dispute, or matter in question relates to the provisions of Article II ("Term; Use Period"), Article III ("Termination of Current Agreement Providing Seattle Center Space for SuperSonics Home Games Use"), Article IV ("Coliseum Design and Construction"), Article V ("Coliseum Planning & Construction Schedule; SSI Opportunities to Void Agreement"), Subsection XVI.F ("Hazardous Substances") or Article XIX ("Subcontracting and Transfer of Ownership"). The dispute shall be determined by majority vote of a panel of three arbitrators, unless the parties agree to have the matter decided by a single arbitrator. The written decision of the arbitrator(s) shall be final and binding on all parties to the arbitration proceeding. The costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) of the arbitration proceeding shall be assessed in favor of the prevailing party by the arbitrator(s), and the assessment shall be set forth in the decision and award of the arbitrator(s). The parties recognize that a need may arise for a more expeditious resolution of disputes concerning Article IV ("Coliseum Design and Construction") and therefore will make their best efforts to develop a mutually satisfactory informal dispute resolution mechanism for such matters.

B. Limitations on Arbitration Scope: No arbitration arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall include, by consolidation, joinder or in any other manner any parties other than the parties to this Agreement and any other persons substantially involved in a common question of fact or law, whose presence is required if complete relief is to be accorded in the arbitration. No parties other than the parties to this Agreement shall be

included as an original third party or additional third party to an arbitration whose interest or responsibility is insubstantial. Any consent to arbitration involving an additional person or persons shall not constitute consent to arbitration of any dispute not described therein. The foregoing agreement to arbitrate and any other agreement to arbitrate with any additional party duly consented to by the parties hereto shall be specifically enforceable under prevailing arbitration law.

C. **Notice of Demand for Arbitration:** Notice of the demand for arbitration shall be filed in writing with the other party and with the American Arbitration Association. The demand for arbitration shall be made within a reasonable time after the claim, dispute or other matter in question has arisen, and in no event shall it be made after the date when institution of legal or equitable proceedings based on such claim, dispute or other matter in question would be barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

D. **Limitation on Judicial Relief:** No proceedings based upon any claim arising out of or related to this Agreement shall be instituted in any court by any party hereto against any other party hereto except (i) an action to compel arbitration pursuant to this Section, (ii) an action to enforce the award of the arbitration panel rendered in accordance with this Section, (iii) to file arbitration award as a judgment, and (iv) proceedings brought by SSI for injunctive relief or any other interim remedy to protect SSI's rights under this Agreement.

## XXVI. DEFAULT AND REMEDIES THEREFOR

A. **Act of Default and Breach by the Parties:** In addition to the acts and omission described this Agreement, the following acts and omissions shall constitute a default and material breach of this Agreement:

1. **SSI's Failure to Insure:** The failure of SSI to comply with all of the requirements of Article XV, hereof, regarding insurance; or
2. **SSI's Abandonment of Premises:** The abandonment or vacating of the Premises by SSI without cause; or
3. **SSI's Nonremittance of Amounts Due City:** The failure of SSI without cause to pay to the City, in a timely manner, the amounts due under Article VIII, hereof; or
4. **City's Failure to Maintain Premises:** The failure of the City to maintain the Premises as required by this Agreement; or
5. **Violation of Other Provisions of Agreement:** The failure by either party to perform or the violation of any other condition, warranty, covenant or provision of this Agreement where such default or deficiency in performance was not remedied within a reasonable time unless a specific period of time is specifically provided for herein.

**B. Notice to Cure:** In the event either party fails to perform any obligation hereunder, whether imposed by law, ordinance, regulation, or otherwise, or violates any provision of this Agreement, the other party shall notify such party of such failure or violation and, except where impracticable, shall provide the other with a reasonable period to correct, remedy or cease such failure or violation, which period shall not exceed ninety (90) days after the date of such notice unless the nature of the notified party's obligation is such that more than ninety (90) days is reasonably required for its performance, in which case the notified party shall not be in default if, within such ninety (90) day period, it commences the activity necessary to enable it to perform and thereafter diligently undertakes such activity to its completion. Nothing in this Agreement shall enable SSI to avoid liability for interest on any delinquent payments due to the City.

**C. Rights Upon Default and Breach:** After expiration of the cure period provided pursuant to Subsection XXVI.B, hereof:

1. **City Rights Upon SSI Default & Breach:** In the event SSI fails to correct, remedy, or cease such failure or violation within the time specified in the City's notice, the City may thereafter terminate this Agreement without any further proceedings, re-enter the Premises, lease and license others to use said Premises and receive rent and license fees therefor as if this Agreement had not been made; provided, that SSI shall remain liable for the full amount due to the City pursuant to Article VIII, hereof, as and when due, but may offset against such liability the amount received by the City as a consequence of such subsequent lease or license. The City shall also have such other remedies as may be available to it, which shall include, without limitation, injunctive relief and damages. The City shall take all reasonable measures to mitigate any damages.

2. **SSI Rights Upon City Default & Breach:** In the event the City fails to correct, remedy, or cease such failure or violation within the time specified in SSI's notice, then in addition to any other remedies available to SSI, which shall include, without limitation, injunctive relief, damages, and the withholding of rent, SSI may terminate this Agreement, whereupon all SSI's obligations that had not been incurred as of the effective termination date, including the obligation to pay future rent, shall terminate.

**D. Termination by Court Decree:** In the event that any court having jurisdiction renders a decision that has become final and that prevents the performance by the City of any of its obligations under this Agreement, either party may terminate this Agreement, without recourse, by providing written notice of termination to the other party, specifying the effective date thereof, as of which date all rights and obligations that accrued prior to the effective date of termination shall terminate.

## XXVII. SURRENDER OF PREMISES; HOLDING OVER

A. **Surrender and Delivery:** Upon the expiration or termination of the use period specified in Article II, hereof, whichever is earlier, SSI shall surrender the Premises and promptly deliver to the Seattle Center Director all keys SSI, its officers, agents, and employees may have to the Seattle Center and the Premises.

B. **Removal of SSI's Property:** Prior to the expiration of the use period specified in Article II, hereof, or in the event this Agreement is terminated, within fifteen (15) days after the termination date, whichever is earlier, the SSI shall remove, at its sole expense, all trade fixtures, trade furnishings, trade equipment, Advertising displays and other personal property owned or installed by SSI in, on, or from the Premises, taking due care to not unreasonably injure or damage the Premises, and shall make such repairs to the Premises as shall be necessary to restore the same to their condition as of the commencement date of the use period specified in Article II, hereof, ordinary wear and tear and improvements, additions, and alterations approved by the City excepted. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, improvements, additions, and alterations installed on the Premises by the City or by SSI with the City's Approval shall not be removed without the express, written authorization of the Seattle Center Director.

C. **Storage of SSI's Property:** In the event SSI fails to remove all fixtures, furnishings, trade equipment, and other personal property owned by SSI on or by the time specified in Subsection XXVII.B, hereof, the City may, but shall not be required to, remove such material from the Premises and store the same, all at SSI's expense; and in the event the City removes or arranges for the storage of such material, SSI shall reimburse the City for all costs incurred in connection with such removal or storage, including any administrative costs, which reimbursement shall be paid within thirty (30) days after the date of the City's invoice therefor.

D. **Holdover Use and Occupancy of Premises:** In the event SSI, with the consent of the City, holds over after the expiration or termination of the use period specified in Article II, hereof, whichever is earlier, SSI shall be bound by all of the provisions of this Agreement during such holdover period.

E. **No Claims for Removal:** In no event shall SSI make any claim or demand upon the City nor shall the City be liable for any inconvenience, annoyance, disturbance, or loss of business or any other damages suffered by SSI arising out of such removal operations under Subsections XXVII.B and C., hereof.

## XXVII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

A. **City Warranty of Title and Authority:** The City represents and warrants to SSI that the City holds fee simple title to the Premises, free from any liens or encumbrances and has the full right, power and authority to enter into this Agreement with SSI. Subject to SSI's compliance with all applicable terms and conditions of this Agreement, the City covenants and agrees that throughout the term of this Agreement, SSI shall be permitted to lawfully, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy and enjoy the Premises and any appurtenant rights granted to SSI hereunder during the term without hinderance or ejection by the City or the successors or assigns of the City or anyone acting by, through or on behalf of the City.

B. **Use of Language:** Words used in the neuter gender include the masculine and feminine; and words used in the singular or plural includes the other as the context may require.

C. **Captions:** The titles of sections and subsections are for convenience only and do not define or limit the contents.

D. **Amendments:** No modification or amendment of the provisions of this Agreement shall be effective unless written and signed by the authorized representatives of the parties hereto. The parties hereto expressly reserve the right to modify this Agreement from time to time by mutual agreement.

E. **Time of Essence:** Time is of the essence in this Agreement.

F. **Remedies Cumulative:** Except as otherwise provided herein, rights under this Agreement are cumulative; failure to exercise on any occasion any right shall not operate to forfeit such right on another occasion. Each party shall also have any other remedy given by the law. The use of one remedy shall not be taken to exclude or waive the right to use another.

G. **No Waiver:** No action other than a written notice by one party to the other specifically stating that such notice has the effect of waiver, shall constitute a waiver of any particular breach or default of such other party. No such notice shall waive SSI's failure to fully comply with any other term, condition, or provision of this Agreement, irrespective of any knowledge any City officer, employee, or agent may have of any breach or default of, or noncompliance with, such other term, condition, or provision. No waiver of full performance by either party shall be construed, or operate, as a waiver of any subsequent default of any of the terms, covenants and conditions of this Agreement. The payment or acceptance of rent for any period after a default shall not be deemed a waiver of any right or acceptance of defective performance.



H. Limited Effect of Approval by Seattle Center Director: Action of the Seattle Center Director pursuant to or in implementation of this Agreement does not constitute any official action by any other City Department or official that may be required by law, City Charter, ordinance, rule or regulation before SSI may rightfully commence, suspend, enlarge, or terminate any particular undertaking or may obtain or exercise any particular right or privilege under this Agreement.

I. No Relationship: In no event shall the City be construed to be a partner, associate, or joint venturer of SSI, or any party associated with SSI. SSI is not an agent of the City for any purpose whatsoever. SSI shall not create any obligation or responsibility on behalf of the City or bind the City in any manner.

J. Powers of the City: Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be considered to diminish the governmental or police powers of the City.

K. Binding Effect: The provisions, covenants and conditions in this Agreement apply to bind the parties, their legal representatives, successors, and assigns.

L. Enforcement of this Agreement: The obligations of the parties to this Agreement are unique in nature; this Agreement may be specifically enforced by either party.

M. Invalidity of Particular Provisions: Should any term, provision, condition or other portion of this Agreement or the application thereof be held to be inoperative, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement or the application of such term or provision to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid or unenforceable shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in full force and effect.

N. Costs of Suit and Attorneys' Fees: If either party shall commence suit to enforce any terms or condition or covenant herein, or in any other action for relief against the other, declaratory or otherwise, arising out of this Agreement, the nonprevailing party in such action shall pay the prevailing party, in addition to any judgment, a reasonable sum as attorneys' fees together with costs of litigation through arbitration or trial including appellate proceedings.

O. Applicable Law; Venue: This Agreement shall be construed under the Law of the State of Washington. Venue for any action brought hereunder shall be in King County, Washington.

P. Previous Agreements Superseded: The terms and conditions of this Agreement supersede the terms, obligations and conditions of any existing or prior agreement or understanding, written or oral, between the parties regarding the Premises other than the terms, obligations and conditions of the March 22, 1993 Memorandum of Understanding, which is superseded only to the extent the terms and conditions of this Agreement are inconsistent with such Memorandum of Understanding or as expressly provided herein.

Q. Construction of Agreement: The parties to this Agreement acknowledge that it is a negotiated agreement, that they have had the opportunity to have this Agreement reviewed by their respective legal counsel, and that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are not to be construed against any party on the basis of such party's draftsmanship thereof.

R. Incorporation of Exhibits; Entire Agreement: This Agreement, including the following attached exhibits:

- Exhibit "A" Coliseum Floorplan showing Club Seat and Courtside Seat locations
- Exhibit "B" Coliseum Site Map showing, inter alia, the South Coliseum Parking Lot
- Exhibit "C" Coliseum Floorplan showing Function Room locations
- Exhibit "D" Map showing Practice Facility site
- Exhibit "E" Ground Lease for Practice Facility site
- Exhibit "F" Map showing SSI Retail Facility location
- Exhibit "G-1" Coliseum Floorplans showing SSI Unlimited Use Facilities
- Exhibit "G-2" Coliseum Floorplans showing authorized SSI use and occupancy areas on any Day of Game
- Exhibit "H" Food and Beverage Service Agreement
- Exhibit "I" Novelties Concession Agreement
- Exhibit "J" Photographs of "Look & Feel" of Salt Lake City Delta Center
- Exhibit "K" February 4, 1994 communication from Director of Construction and Land Use

which exhibits, by this reference, are incorporated herein, contains and constitutes all of the covenants, promises, agreements, and conditions, either oral or written, between the parties regarding the subject matter thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by having their authorized representatives affix their signatures in the space below:

SSI SPORTS, INC.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

By: *Ben Fubling*  
Chairman

By: *Virginia Anderson*  
Seattle Center Director

By: *Robert J. White*  
President

Pursuant to Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss:  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this 2nd day of March, 1994, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, duly commissioned and sworn, personally appeared Virginia Anderson to me known to be the Seattle Center Director, who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledge said instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of The City of Seattle, for the uses and purposes herein mentioned, and on oath stated that she is authorized to execute said instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal hereto affixed the day and year in this certificate above written.

Carolyn C. Gossard  
(Signature)

CAROLYN C. GOSSARD  
(Print or type name)

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle.  
My appointment expires 11/28/96

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss:  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this 24<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 1994, before me personally appeared Bob Weitzert, to me known to be the President of SSI Sports, Inc., the corporation that executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged said instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and further that said officer has the authority to sign on behalf of said corporation.

WITNESS my hand and official seal hereto affixed the day and year in this certificate above written.

Sarah Furtado  
(Signature)

SARAH FURTADO  
(Print or type name)



NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at King Ctx.  
My appointment expires 10/21/96.

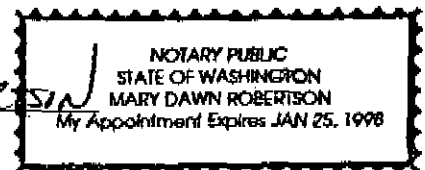
STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss:  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this 14<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 1994, before me personally appeared Billy Ackert, to me known to be the Chairman of the Board of SSI Sports, Inc., the corporation that executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged said instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and further that said officer has the authority to sign on behalf of said corporation.

WITNESS my hand and official seal hereto affixed the day and year in this certificate above written.

Mary Dawn Robertson  
(Signature)

MARY DAWN ROBERTSON  
(Print or type name)



NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle, WA  
My appointment expires 1/25/98

After recording, return to:  
Seattle City Attorney's Office  
600 Fourth Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 94769  
Seattle, WA 98124-4769  
Attn: Helaine Honig

Document Title: AMENDED EASEMENT  
Reference Number of Related Document: 9307299007; 9403040621  
Grantor: The City of Seattle  
Grantee: Basketball Club of Seattle, LLC  
Abbreviated Legal Description: Portion Block 73, D.T. Denny's Home  
Addition to Seattle, Vol. 3, page 115.  
Additional Legal Description is on Page 2 of Document  
Assessor's Property Tax Parcel or Account No.: A portion of 198820-0836

AMENDED EASEMENT

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Grantor, The City of Seattle, a municipal corporation, hereby grants and conveys to the Grantee, The Basketball Club of Seattle, LLC, assignee of Seattle SuperSonics, Inc., under a certain Premises Use and Occupancy Agreement dated March 4, 1994, and its successors and assigns, an easement across, over and upon the land described in Attachment A hereto, which easement shall expire on the earlier of September 30, 2010 or the date of termination of the Premises Use and Occupancy Agreement; or, shall expire on such later date as the parties may agree, in writing.

This easement amends and supersedes that certain easement recorded with the King County Recorder under recording number 94030406214, which is hereby released.

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE, a municipal corporation  
of the state of Washington

By: Virginia Anderson  
Virginia Anderson, Seattle Center Director

THE BASKETBALL CLUB OF SEATTLE, LLC,  
a Washington limited liability company

By: Walt. O.

ATTACHMENT A

*Legal Description*

An easement for ingress and egress, twenty-four (24) feet wide, having twelve (12) feet on each side of the following described centerline, over and across that portion of D.T. Deany's Home Addition to the City of Seattle described as follows:

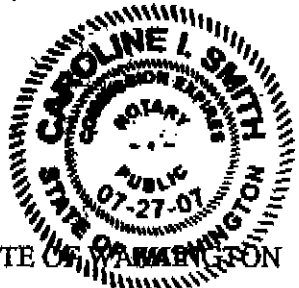
COMMENCING at the intersection of Fifth Ave. North and Republican Streets as shown on that certain Record of Survey map filed with King County Recorder under recording number 9307299007; thence South  $88^{\circ} 35' 01''$  E along the centerline of said Republican Street, a distance of 54.01 feet to the East right-of-way margin of said Fifth Ave. No. and the POINT OF BEGINNING;

Thence continuing along said street centerline, S  $88^{\circ} 35' 01''$  E, a distance of 267.98 feet to a monument in case at the intersection of said centerline with Taylor Ave. No.; thence S.  $88^{\circ} 32' 22''$  E, a distance of 322.16 feet to the intersection of said centerline with 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. No.; thence S.  $88^{\circ} 32' 21''$  E, a distance of 12.00 feet to the terminus of said centerline and easement description.

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this day personally appeared before me VIRGINIA ANDERSON, to me known to be the Director of The Seattle Center for the CITY OF SEATTLE, the corporation that executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and on oath stated that she was duly authorized to execute said instrument on behalf of the corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.



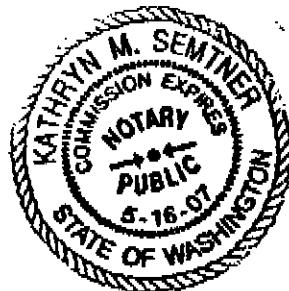
Caroline Smith

(print or type name)  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle  
My Commission expires: 7-27-07

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this day personally appeared before me Wally Walker to me known to be the President & CEO of THE BASKETBALL CLUB OF SEATTLE, LLC, the limited liability company that executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and on oath stated that he was duly authorized to execute said instrument on behalf of the corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2005.



Kathryn Semtner

(print or type name)  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle  
My Commission expires: 5-16-07



After recording, return to:  
Seattle City Attorney's Office  
600 Fourth Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 94769  
Seattle, WA 98124-4769  
Attn: Helaine Honig

Document Title: AMENDED EASEMENT  
Reference Number of Related Document: 9307299007; 9403040621  
Grantor: The City of Seattle  
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Abbreviated Legal Description: Portion Block 73, D.T. Denny's Home  
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Additional Legal Description is on Page 2 of Document  
Assessor's Property Tax Parcel or Account No.: A portion of 198820-0836

#### AMENDED EASEMENT

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Grantor, The City of Seattle, a municipal corporation, hereby grants and conveys to the Grantee, The Basketball Club of Seattle, LLC, assignee of Seattle SuperSonics, Inc., under a certain Premises Use and Occupancy Agreement dated March 4, 1994, and its successors and assigns, an easement across, over and upon the land described in Attachment A hereto, which easement shall expire on the earlier of September 30, 2010 or the date of termination of the Premises Use and Occupancy Agreement; or, shall expire on such later date as the parties may agree, in writing.

This easement amends and supersedes that certain easement recorded with the King County Recorder under recording number 94030406214, which is hereby released.

DATED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE, a municipal corporation  
of the state of Washington

By: Virginia Anderson  
Virginia Anderson, Seattle Center Director

THE BASKETBALL CLUB OF SEATTLE, LLC,  
a Washington limited liability company

By: Walt F. De

ATTACHMENT A

Legal Description

An easement for ingress and egress, twenty-four (24) feet wide, having twelve (12) feet on each side of the following described centerline, over and across that portion of D.T. Denny's Home Addition to the City of Seattle described as follows:

COMMENCING at the intersection of Fifth Ave. North and Republican Streets as shown on that certain Record of Survey map filed with King County Recorder under recording number 9307299007; thence South  $88^{\circ} 35' 01''$  E along the centerline of said Republican Street, a distance of 54.01 feet to the East right-of-way margin of said Fifth Ave. No. and the POINT OF BEGINNING;

Thence continuing along said street centerline, S  $88^{\circ} 35' 01''$  E, a distance of 267.98 feet to a monument in case at the intersection of said centerline with Taylor Ave. No.; thence S.  $88^{\circ} 32' 22''$  E, a distance of 322.16 feet to the intersection of said centerline with 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. No.; thence S.  $88^{\circ} 32' 21''$  E, a distance of 12.00 feet to the terminus of said centerline and easement description.

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this day personally appeared before me VIRGINIA ANDERSON, to me known to be the Director of The Seattle Center for the CITY OF SEATTLE, the corporation that executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and on oath stated that she was duly authorized to execute said instrument on behalf of the corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.



Caroline Smith  
(print or type name)  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle  
My Commission expires: 7-27-07

STATE OF WASHINGTON )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF KING )

On this day personally appeared before me Wally Walker to me known to be the President & CEO of THE BASKETBALL CLUB OF SEATTLE, LLC, the limited liability company that executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the instrument to be the free and voluntary act and deed of said corporation for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and on oath stated that he was duly authorized to execute said instrument on behalf of the corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 31<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2005.



Kathryn Semtner  
(print or type name)  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the State of Washington, residing at Seattle  
My Commission expires: 5-16-07

# **EXHIBIT 2**



COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION RULES  
DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION

**MEDIATION:** If you would like the AAA to contact the other parties and attempt to arrange a mediation, please check this box.   
There is no additional administrative fee for this service

Name of Respondent City of Seattle, a Municipal Corp. Address 600 4th Avenue 7th Floor			Name of Representative (if known) Thomas Carr Name of Firm (if applicable) Seattle City Attorney Representative's Address 600 4th Avenue, 4th Floor		
City Seattle	State WA	Zip Code 98104	City Seattle	State WA	Zip Code 98104
Phone No. (206) 684-4000		Fax No.	Phone No. 206-684-8288		Fax No. 206-684-8284
Email Address:			Email Address:		

The named claimant, a party to an arbitration agreement dated Feb. 14, 1994, which provides for arbitration under the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association, hereby demands arbitration.

THE NATURE OF THE DISPUTE

See attached

Dollar Amount of Claim \$ N/A	Other Relief Sought: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attorneys Fees <input type="checkbox"/> Interest <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Punitive/ Exemplary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Decl. Judgment
----------------------------------	---

AMOUNT OF FILING FEE ENCLOSED WITH THIS DEMAND (please refer to the fee schedule in the rules for the appropriate fee) \$3,250

PLEASE DESCRIBE APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARBITRATOR(S) TO BE APPOINTED TO HEAR THIS DISPUTE:

Complex commercial litigation background

Hearing locale Denver (check one)  Requested by Claimant  Locale provision included in the contract

Estimated time needed for hearings overall: _____ hours or <u>5</u> days	Type of Business: Claimant <u>Prof. Basketball Franchise</u> Respondent <u>Municipal Corporation</u>
---	---

Is this a dispute between a business and a consumer?  Yes  No Does this dispute arise out of an employment relationship?  Yes  No

If this dispute arises out of an employment relationship, what was/is the employee's annual wage range? Note: This question is required by California law.  Less than \$100,000  \$100,000 - \$250,000  Over \$250,000

You are hereby notified that copies of our arbitration agreement and this demand are being filed with the American Arbitration Association's Case Management Center, located in (check one)  Atlanta, GA  Dallas, TX  East Providence, RI  Fresno, CA  International Centre, NY, with a request that it commence administration of the arbitration. Under the rules, you may file an answering statement within fifteen days after notice from the AAA.

Signature (may be signed by a representative) <u>[Signature]</u>	Date: <u>9/19/07</u>	Name of Representative Paul R. Taylor
Name of Claimant The Professional Basketball Club, LLC	Name of Firm (if applicable) Byrnes & Keller LLP	Representative's Address 1000 2nd Ave., 38th Flr.
Address (to be used in connection with this case) c/o Byrnes & Keller, 1000 2nd Ave.	City Seattle	State WA
City Seattle	Zip Code 98104	Zip Code 98104
Phone No. (206) 622-2000	Fax No. (206) 622-2522	Phone No. (206) 622-2000
Email Address: ptaylor@byrneskeller.com	Email Address: ptaylor@byrneskeller.com	Fax No. (206) 622-2522

To begin proceedings, please send two copies of this Demand and the Arbitration Agreement, along with the filing fee as provided for in the Rules, to the AAA. Send the original Demand to the Respondent.

Please visit our website at [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org) if you would like to file this case online. AAA Customer Service can be reached at 800-778-7879

1 **Arbitration Demand**

2 **I. Introduction and Overview**

3 1. The Agreement between Seattle and the Sonics<sup>1</sup> by which the Sonics are  
4 permitted to use and occupy KeyArena expires in 2010.<sup>2</sup> There are three remaining NBA  
5 seasons covered by the Agreement (2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010). Unfortunately,  
6 KeyArena is no longer an economically viable NBA venue. Recognizing this, the Sonics  
7 have worked diligently with elected officials to obtain a suitable multipurpose facility for the  
8 future beyond 2010. Despite these efforts, no viable option is on the horizon. Meanwhile, the  
9 Sonics' losses tied to playing in KeyArena are staggering -- \$17,000,000 in just this past year.  
10 Accordingly, and in an effort to stem the losses, the Sonics have no alternative but to play the  
11 2007-2008 season in KeyArena, and satisfy all remaining obligations by paying the rent for  
12 the balance of the term of the Agreement. Under the guise of "specific performance," the  
13 City has publicly stated it intends to try to force the Sonics to play in KeyArena, against their  
14 will, for the final two seasons.

15 2. The issue is whether it makes equitable sense to force the Sonics to play the  
16 final two seasons in KeyArena. The answer is "no," for many good reasons. First, for many  
17 years KeyArena has not been economically viable for men's professional basketball. As the  
18 City admits, KeyArena lacks the necessary physical infrastructure and amenities and is an  
19 economically obsolete venue for men's professional basketball. Thus, specific performance  
20 guarantees huge losses for the Sonics and a declining revenue stream for the City. Second,  
21  
22  
23  
24

25 <sup>1</sup> "Sonics" refers to the current owners of the Sonics, The Professional Basketball Club, LLC,  
an Oklahoma limited liability company ("PBC").

26 <sup>2</sup> "Premises Use and Occupancy Agreement" (Ex. 1).

1 City officials have repeatedly acknowledged that there will be little or no cultural or economic  
2 impact on the City if the Sonics leave. Third, the relationship between the Sonics and the  
3 City's elected leaders is all but gone. Likewise, a majority of the public has accepted the  
4 team's imminent departure. The sentiment among many is "who cares"? Fourth, the  
5 complex, ongoing nature of the parties' relationship under the Agreement is not the type of  
6 business relationship that can be meaningfully or effectively "forced" and supervised on a  
7 going-forward basis. Finally, the Sonics have the right to leave KeyArena so long as they  
8 honor their financial commitment. Given the many negatives of a forced and dysfunctional  
9 relationship, the lack of corresponding benefits, and the resulting financial losses for both  
10 sides, it makes no sense to unnecessarily prolong the relationship.  
11

12  
13 3. From a legal perspective, specific performance also is not warranted. Like any  
14 landlord, the City's damages are readily measurable under the rental formula established by  
15 the Agreement. That is why specific performance is routinely denied to landlords. The  
16 landlord is made whole by the payment of the rent owed for the remaining term of the lease.

17 4. Were this a traditional business relationship, it is unlikely that the parties  
18 would be at this point. Any rational landlord/businessperson in the City's position would  
19 realize that the City is better off by not seeking specific performance but instead embracing  
20 the traditional legal remedy: to be made financially whole under the Agreement. Those funds  
21 could be used by the City to strategically position KeyArena for its future without the Sonics.  
22 The City can begin now to make KeyArena a premier facility for those events for which it is  
23 suitable. There is, unfortunately, a political overlay that has apparently impeded the City's  
24 ability or willingness to address the issues in a way that benefits the taxpayers.  
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5. Even though it is financially best for both parties to end the relationship, it is clear that certain elected officials do not want to be known as “the ones that let the Sonics leave.” Thus, for non-economic, non-legal reasons, City leadership has taken an increasingly adversarial approach with the Sonics, culminating in a September 12, 2007, announcement from the Mayor’s office that the City was “lawyering up,” and setting aside a million dollars to fight the Sonics.<sup>3</sup> Perhaps those leaders believe that bellicose, truculent and economically irresponsible rhetoric can change the ultimate outcome. The reality is that even if the City were right -- even if it could force specific performance -- it simply delays the Sonics’ departure by two years and hurts the City. No amount of grandstanding can change these essential facts.

6. The Sonics seek a declaratory judgment that under §§ XXVI and XXVII of the Agreement, specific performance is not available to force the Sonics to play the final two seasons at KeyArena. The City is instead entitled to the traditional damages remedy: the payment due under the Agreement for the final two seasons. Once the specific performance issue is resolved, the parties should be able to agree on the amount owed for the remaining term of the Agreement pursuant to the rental formula in the Agreement. If not, a short follow-up proceeding may be necessary to determine that amount.

**II. The KeyArena Agreement**

7. The Sonics’ use of KeyArena is governed by the Agreement. The Agreement began in 1995 and runs through September 30, 2010. The rent is set forth in § VIII of the Agreement:

<sup>3</sup> Seattle Times, September 12, 2007 (Ex. 2).

- **Base rent:** The base rent is \$1,170,300.32 for the 2007-2008 season. Per a CPI adjustment formula, it will be increased for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 seasons.
- **Additional rent:**
  - **Ticket sales revenue sharing:** 8-1/2 percent of preseason and playoff ticket sales;<sup>4</sup>
  - **Other revenue sharing:** Fixed percentages of gross receipts from concessions, suites and other sources;<sup>5</sup> and
  - **Expense Reimbursement:** Reimbursement of certain out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the City related to KeyArena.<sup>6</sup>

**III. The Sonics Worked Diligently, But Unsuccessfully, to Reach a Solution Short of Leaving**

8. When PBC purchased the Sonics, it was widely recognized that KeyArena was no longer economically viable for men's professional basketball. Building on the efforts of prior ownership, PBC was optimistic that it could reach an agreement with the City, County and/or the State of Washington for a new multipurpose arena financed by a combination of PBC and public funding, similar to the Qwest and Safeco field models. PBC believed that elected decision makers would be willing to assist financially to ensure the Sonics' long-term presence in the area.

9. To that end, PBC began an exhaustive exploration of alternatives by which the Sonics could stay in Seattle or the greater Puget Sound area on a long-term basis. Working with a national real estate consulting firm, PBC reviewed nearly 100 potential sites for a new multipurpose arena. It conducted feasibility and economic studies on the sites that looked most viable. Those studies consistently showed, however, that there was no site that made economic sense without a public financing component.

<sup>4</sup> Ex. 1 at 20, § VIII.2.a, b and c.

<sup>5</sup> Ex. 1. at 20, § VIII.3.g, h, i, and j.

<sup>6</sup> Ex. 1 at 20, § VIII.3.a, b, c and k.

1           10. At the same time, PBC began working with the state legislature to craft  
2 legislation to fund a new multipurpose arena. PBC Chair Clay Bennett and others spent  
3 hundreds of hours meeting with state officials, local business leaders, and other interested  
4 parties. Ultimately, PBC's efforts were unsuccessful. In fact, PBC encountered considerable  
5 resistance. For example, in the state House of Representatives, the matter was not even  
6 brought to a vote.  
7

8           11. The City was likewise unwilling to assist in a way that made it economically  
9 viable to build a new multipurpose arena in the City. Moreover, the voters of Seattle  
10 overwhelmingly passed a Referendum – aimed squarely at the Sonics – that made a new  
11 facility in Seattle all but impossible.<sup>7</sup>  
12

13           12. After spending several million dollars exploring alternatives, it ultimately  
14 became clear that a new multipurpose arena would not happen in Seattle or elsewhere in the  
15 Puget Sound region. The Sonics' only remaining viable business option is to play the 2007-  
16 2008 season in Seattle, pay off the remaining lease obligation under the Agreement, and  
17 leave. The alternative – playing out the remainder of the lease at KeyArena – is simply  
18 untenable for the Sonics, and guarantees declining revenue for the City.  
19

20                           **IV. The City Is Not Entitled to Specific Performance**

21           13. Specific performance is an extraordinary remedy, available only in very  
22 limited circumstances. It is not available where, as here, there is a readily available formula –  
23 spelled out in the Agreement – for calculating any amounts owing.

24           14. Even if specific performance were theoretically available, it is nevertheless not  
25 warranted. Specific performance is a discretionary remedy, taking into account all of the facts  
26

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<sup>7</sup> See ¶ 31.

1 and circumstances. The facts and circumstances here show that by any measure, specific  
2 performance does not make sense. KeyArena is economically obsolete and both sides will  
3 suffer. By contrast, and as the City has acknowledged, there will be no negative economic or  
4 cultural impact on the City if the Sonics leave. Finally, KeyArena will be fine without the  
5 Sonics. It will thrive if the City exercises fiscal prudence and uses the money available from  
6 the Sonics to make improvements to KeyArena to attract and retain the types of events for  
7 which it is suitable.  
8

9 **A. KeyArena Is No Longer Economically Viable for Professional Men's Basketball**

10 15. Key Arena is no longer an economically viable facility for men's professional  
11 basketball. It is the smallest NBA arena, barely one-half the average size of other NBA  
12 facilities.<sup>8</sup> The limited square footage is economically crippling.

13 16. The size and configuration make it impossible to offer enough premium  
14 seating alternatives.<sup>9</sup> As a result, the Sonics' premium seating revenues are among the lowest  
15 in the NBA.  
16

17 17. The small size also limits point of sale opportunities for food, beverages, and  
18 merchandise.<sup>10</sup> For example, a number of NBA venues offer (and profit from) a variety of  
19 restaurant-type dining alternatives. As a comparison, Toyota Center (Houston) has 13,500  
20 square feet of restaurant/club space.<sup>11</sup> AT&T Center (San Antonio) has 11,400.<sup>12</sup> Fed Ex  
21 Forum (Memphis) has 6,000 square feet.<sup>13</sup> KeyArena has only 1,300 square feet of  
22

23  
24 <sup>8</sup> Ex. 3 (KeyArena Subcommittee Report) at 35.

25 <sup>9</sup> Id.

26 <sup>10</sup> Id.

<sup>11</sup> Ex. 4 at 3.

<sup>12</sup> Id.

<sup>13</sup> Id. at 3.

1 restaurant/club space. Likewise limited are the opportunities for a large "team store" like the  
2 Mariners Team Store at Safeco Field. In fact, the Sonics Team Store is not even in KeyArena  
3 but housed in a separate building, out of the patron traffic flow.

4 18. Given the shortcomings of KeyArena, it is not surprising that the Sonics have  
5 incurred losses every year since 1999. In the past five years, the Sonics have lost over  
6 \$55,000,000. The loss for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, will be over  
7 \$17,000,000. These losses continued to mount even as the Sonics' share of suite revenues  
8 increased from 20 to 40 percent, club revenues went from 40 to 60 percent, and non-Sonic  
9 event concessions increased from 60 to 70 percent.

10 19. These numbers will, of course, only worsen given the inevitable decline in  
11 attendance with what the fan base views as a lame duck franchise. Likewise, the City's  
12 revenue sharing income, which has already been declining, will decline further.

13 20. The problems with KeyArena were aptly summarized in The Seattle Times:

14  
15  
16 When the City Council and the Sonics agreed in 1994 to build  
17 the KeyArena, the plan was celebrated as a win-win: The City  
18 floated construction bonds and got a cut of luxury-suite sales to  
19 pay off the debt. No public subsidy required.

20  
21 But soon, KeyArena was dwarfed by larger, more lucrative  
22 NBA arenas. Today, KeyArena is the NBA's smallest venue  
23 and a money loser.<sup>14</sup>

24 21. These are the facts. Forcing an unwanted two additional years on the Sonics  
25 will not change the facts, or make KeyArena profitable.

26  

---

14 Seattle Times, November 14, 2006 (Ex. 11).

1 **B. There Is No Non-Monetary Injury to the City If the Sonics Leave – Few Care**

2 22. The City cannot establish the type or level of irreparable, non-monetary injury  
3 required to justify specific performance. In cases addressing whether equity is available to  
4 force a professional sports franchise to play in a given venue, the non-monetary inquiry  
5 examines the extent to which the team is an essential part of the “fabric of the community.”<sup>15</sup>  
6 Here, there is a considerable record showing, at best, profound community indifference about  
7 whether the Sonics stay or leave. Politicians, the press, and much of the public have  
8 consistently displayed a “who cares?” attitude.

9  
10 23. For example, the President of the Seattle City Council, Nick Licata, gave the  
11 following answer when asked if the City would suffer any injury if the Sonics left:

12 On an economic basis near zero. On a cultural basis, close to  
13 zero. We would still have two sports, and plenty of cities our  
14 size don’t have three.

15 24. Underscoring the lack of impact on Seattle, Council President Licata has also  
16 made clear that, in his view, the Sonics are free to leave:

17 The City and the public will now have to wait to see if the new  
18 owners are willing to keep the team in Seattle without expecting  
19 a huge public subsidy. **I hope they do, but that is their  
decision to make.**<sup>16</sup>

20 25. The Mayor’s Office agrees:

21 In terms of our image as a city, I don’t think (the Sonics’ effect)  
22 matters – maybe it did 40 years ago when they first came here.<sup>17</sup>

23  
24 <sup>15</sup> See, e.g., City of New York v. New York Yankees, 458 NYS.2d 486 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1983)  
25 (granting an injunction requiring the Yankees to play games in Yankee Stadium because  
26 “Yankee Pinstripes” help make New York “the Big Apple.” No one will make a similar claim  
about the Sonics in this case.

<sup>16</sup> N. Licata, Urban Politics, Issue No. 217 (July 28, 2006) (emphasis added) (Ex. 5).

<sup>17</sup> May 28, 2007, Seattle Post Intelligencer, quoting Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis (Ex. 6).

1           26.    The view from the leadership of the Washington Legislature is the same.  
2 House Speaker Frank Chopp refused to bring the proposed arena legislation to a vote.  
3 According to an editorial in a leading daily paper, Chopp acted "as though naming the Walla  
4 Walla onion the state vegetable was a higher legislative priority than the Sonics arena."<sup>18</sup>  
5

6           27.    A prominent Seattle sportscaster echoed the view that it does not matter if the  
7 Sonics leave:

**Right now, in Seattle, nobody cares about whether the  
Sonics stay here or not. You know, the Legislature just  
kicked Clay Bennett and the rest of that group down in  
Oklahoma to the curb.**

-----

**Really, nobody cares up here. I am being really honest with  
you guys.**

Interviewer: Well, do you as a journalist, you got to cover the  
hottest things going up there, what do you cover?

Swanson: Well, of course, we have the Seahawks who went to  
the Super Bowl a couple of years ago. They went to the  
playoffs. And then we have the Mariners, who are really having  
just an up and down season, but they've won 5 of 6, including  
today against Kansas City where they get a sweep. We got the  
Huskies; we got the World Series, where if Oklahoma would  
have won today, it would have been the Huskies taking on the  
Sooners down in the College World Series, but that is not going  
to happen. It is going to be DePaul, so, there is a lot to cover  
up here, but, really guys, no one thinks about the NBA  
anymore. You got the Blazers, two and one-half hours by  
car, so if you are a real NBA fan, you just hightail it south a  
little bit. So, it ain't that big a deal.<sup>19</sup>

23           28.    The Tacoma News Tribune, a leading daily newspaper in the region, shared  
24 these sentiments. After the Washington Legislature declined to vote on funding a new arena,  
25

26 <sup>18</sup> Tacoma News Tribune Editorial, April 18, 2007 (Ex. 7).  
<sup>19</sup> Gaard Swanson, KIRO TV, May 27, 2007.

1 Sonics' Chair Clay Bennett said there was "little hope of remaining in the Puget Sound  
2 region." Here is the Tacoma News Tribune's response:

3 [I]t seems obvious that the region's love affair with the Sonics  
4 is all but over.

5 . . . .

6 We didn't notice a sense of general crisis in the Puget Sound  
7 region following [Bennett's] pronouncement. The sky turned  
8 dark, but that was just the rain. Life goes on.

9 . . . .

10 If the city of Seattle is in a panic about the prospect of losing  
11 the Sonics, we haven't noticed. . . .

12 The Sonics' biggest problem is that Seattle and the rest of the  
13 metropolitan region doesn't need the Sonics to feel big-league  
14 anymore.

15 . . . .

16 This region isn't infatuated with the Sonics anymore. The  
17 taxpayers have had their fill subsidizing new playpens for the  
18 Mariners and the Seahawks. If the Sonics head for Oklahoma,  
19 we'll get by.<sup>20</sup>

20 29. The public feels the same way:

21 An overwhelming majority of Seattle residents would rather  
22 watch the Sonics leave the City than use tax money to renovate  
23 KeyArena, according to a telephone survey of registered voters.

24 Some 78 percent of those polled said they were "more inclined  
25 (to) let the Sonics leave Seattle" than to pay for renovation with  
26 "use taxes," according to the survey conducted June 1-5 by  
independent pollster Stuart Elway.<sup>21</sup>

26 <sup>20</sup> Tacoma News Tribune, April 17, 2007, editorial (Ex. 7).

<sup>21</sup> Seattle Post Intelligencer, June 13, 2006 (Ex 8).



1           30.    The comments and polls are consistent with the election results on Seattle  
2    Referendum 91 in November 2006. That Referendum provided that City funds could not be  
3    used on professional sports facilities unless the City was guaranteed a minimum rate of return  
4    on the funds it contributed to building the facility. The Official Voters Pamphlet urged voters  
5    to approve the Referendum:  
6

7                    Studies show that the Sonics have a limited economic impact on  
8                    Seattle, and that most money spent at pro-sports games is  
9                    discretionary and would otherwise be spent elsewhere in our  
10                   region.

11                   Referendum 91 passed overwhelmingly – by 75 percent.

12           31.    The lack of interest is borne out by the television ratings for Sonics' games.  
13    They have declined from an already low 3.12 rating in 2004-2005 to a 1.6 rating in 2006-2007  
14    – a drop of nearly 50 percent. A 1.6 rating means that out of 1,500,000 potential households,  
15    only 24,000 are watching the Sonics.

16           32.    In short, there will be minimal or no impact on Seattle when the Sonics leave.  
17    Unfortunately, most people seem not to care. Other than the dwindling core fan base, the only  
18    people pushing to force the Sonics to stay are those with a self-advancing political agenda.

19    **C.    KeyArena Will Continue Without the Sonics**

20           33.    The future viability of KeyArena without the Sonics was studied by the  
21    KeyArena Subcommittee. The Subcommittee consisted of several of Seattle's community  
22    leaders, and was assisted by the staff of the Seattle Center (where KeyArena is located), and a  
23    number of consultants. Following several months of study, the committee concluded that  
24    under certain conditions, KeyArena could remain the "premier" arena in the region even if the  
25  
26

1 Sonics leave.<sup>22</sup> Ironically, the first condition is that the Sonics “relocate to a city **outside the**  
2 **state.**”<sup>23</sup> Competition from a new multipurpose arena in the region, the committee concluded,  
3 would “spell disaster” for KeyArena.<sup>24</sup> The second two conditions relate to new capital  
4 investment, and ongoing funding for maintenance and improvements. An obvious source of  
5 such funds would be the rental payments under the Agreement.  
6

7 34. Following up on the KeyArena Subcommittee Report, Council President  
8 Licata issued a report concluding that the City was much better off financially by letting the  
9 Sonics leave rather than investing in a new arena or renovating KeyArena:

10 So here is our dilemma: taxpayers pay \$200 million to upgrade  
11 Key Arena to keep the Sonics, and in return the city gets \$1  
12 million in rent per year; or, taxpayers pay between zero and \$20  
13 million to upgrade Key Arena, the Sonics leave, and the city  
14 earns between \$1.903 million and \$3.076 million per year in  
15 operating profits from Key Arena. Debt outstanding on which  
16 taxpayers will pay, in the former instance, will total some \$250  
17 million, and in the latter, about \$30 million. Without regard to  
18 the cultural contribution of the Sonics to Seattle, **the financial  
19 decision is clear.**<sup>25</sup>

20 35. As the Licata report makes clear, the City, Seattle Center, and KeyArena will  
21 be better served by accepting and addressing the reality that the Sonics will be leaving.

22 **V. Conclusion and Demand for Relief**

23 36. The Deputy Mayor of Seattle, Tim Ceis, recently summed up the relationship  
24 between the Sonics and the City of Seattle:

25 “The situation is **really dysfunctional**,” Deputy Mayor Tim  
26 Ceis said by phone . . . . “**We are all going to go down the**

27 <sup>22</sup> Ex. 3 at 65.

28 <sup>23</sup> Ex. 3 at 65 (emphasis added).

29 <sup>24</sup> *Id.* at 67.

30 <sup>25</sup> Ex. 9.

**drain together.** The worse we make it for [the Sonics], the worse [the Sonics] make it for us.<sup>26</sup>

37. Sadly, Mr. Ceis was right. But in the guise of "not giving in," the City's leaders are on a path intended to benefit certain political images at the expense of the City, the taxpayers, and the Sonics. Fortunately, the law of specific performance is such that the City cannot block the Sonics from leaving, and the City will instead benefit from realizing the financial benefits that it bargained for under its agreement.

38. The Sonics seek a declaratory judgment that under §§ XXVI and XXVII of the Agreement, specific performance is not available to force the Sonics to play the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 NBA seasons in KeyArena. The City is instead entitled to the traditional remedy: the monetary consideration it bargained for under the Agreement. If the parties thereafter are unable to reach agreement on the remaining amount owing under the Agreement, the Sonics also seek to have that matter resolved in a follow-on proceeding.

DATED this 19th day of September, 2007.

BYRNES & KELLER LLP

By Paul R. Taylor  
Bradley S. Keller, WSBA #10665  
Paul R. Taylor, WSBA #14851  
Attorneys for The Professional Basketball Club,  
LLC

<sup>26</sup> Remarks of Tim Ceis as quoted in August 23, 2007, Seattle Post Intelligencer (emphases added) (Ex. 10).

# **EXHIBIT 3**

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BYRNES & KELLER LLP

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FOR KING COUNTY

CITY OF SEATTLE, a first-class charter city,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL CLUB,  
LLC, an Oklahoma limited liability company,

Defendant.

07-2-30997-7 SEA

No.

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY  
RELIEF

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

The City of Seattle (the "City") seeks to hold the Seattle Supersonics ("Sonics") and their new owners, The Professional Basketball Club, LLC ("PBC"), to their promises. In 1994, the City agreed to make a substantial investment to re-construct the old Seattle Coliseum into a new, state of the art professional basketball playing facility in exchange for a commitment from the Sonics to play professional basketball at the new facility on a "long-term basis." Premises Use & Occupancy Agreement (the "Lease"), p. 1. That facility became what we now call KeyArena. In Article II of the Lease, the Sonics promised to "play all Home Games . . . exclusively" in the KeyArena through September 30, 2010. The Sonics agreed that its "obligations are unique in nature" and

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF - 1

**COPY**

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Seattle City Attorney  
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1 that the Lease "may be specifically enforced by either party." Lease, p. 59. The Sonics and City  
2 agreed to arbitrate many disputes, but specifically excluded from arbitration any "claim, dispute  
3 or matter in question [that] relates to the provisions of Article II ("Term; Use Period")." Lease,  
4 p. 54. The actions and statements of the Sonics' new owners and their recent demand for  
5 arbitration demonstrate their intent to break their promises and breach the Lease.

6 Prior to purchasing the Sonics, the new owners promised to "assume" and "honor" all the  
7 Lease obligations. They put that commitment in writing to the City. They promised to use  
8 "good faith best efforts" to find a venue in the Greater Seattle area for the Sonics to play into the  
9 future after the KeyArena Lease term. From day one, however, the new owners have failed to  
10 live up to their promises. For example, the new owners rejected efforts by the City to put  
11 together a viable financial package to renovate KeyArena with equal commitments of investment  
12 from the new owners and the City. The new owners' efforts in the 2007 State legislative session  
13 were, on any objective basis, guaranteed to fail as their proposed legislation was filed too late in  
14 the session, and relied on too much public subsidy (\$400 million combined state and local taxes),  
15 compared to their proposed investment (\$100 million). The new owners intent to break their  
16 promises and breach the Lease was demonstrated when they rejected requests from some local  
17 selling owners and other local partners to join the new Sonics ownership, thus ensuring that the  
18 ownership group was comprised entirely of Oklahomans. Indeed, the new owners' intent to move  
19 the team was acknowledged by Aubrey McClendon, a member of the ownership group, when he  
20 stated that "[w]e didn't buy the team to keep it in Seattle, we hoped to come here [i.e., to Oklahoma  
21 City, Oklahoma]." Finally, despite the promises made by the Sonics in the Lease agreement, the  
22 new owners have filed an Arbitration Demand on a dispute they agreed was not subject to  
23 arbitration, to get out of their obligation to play all Sonics Home Games at KeyArena, and to avoid

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF - 2

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1 their agreement that the Sonics' obligations could be specifically enforced. The Arbitration  
2 Demand complains about matters (e.g., that the Sonics were losing money, that obtaining a new  
3 venue would be challenging, and that the Lease requires the Sonics to play in KeyArena until 2010)  
4 known to the new owners at the time they purchased the Sonics. The City has no choice but to file  
5 this lawsuit to hold the Sonics to their promises and preserve the benefits of professional  
6 basketball for the citizens of the greater Seattle area.

7 Accordingly, Plaintiff City of Seattle alleges as follows:

8 **PARTIES**

9 1. Plaintiff City is a first-class charter city organized under the laws of the State of  
10 Washington.

11 2. Defendant PBC is an Oklahoma limited liability company that is registered to do  
12 business in the State of Washington and that does business in King County, Washington. PBC  
13 owns and operates the National Basketball Association ("NBA") professional basketball team  
14 known as the Sonics.

15 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

16 3. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court pursuant to RCW 4.08.110 and RCW  
17 4.12.025, and pursuant to the lease that is the subject of this lawsuit. The lease provides, at Article  
18 XXVII(O), that "[v]enue for any action brought hereunder shall be in King County, Washington."

19 **FACTS**

20 **HISTORY OF SEATTLE SUPERSONICS**

21 4. The NBA awarded a franchise to the City of Seattle in December 1966, and the  
22 Sonics began play in the NBA in October 1967. The Sonics were Seattle's first major  
23 professional sports franchise.

1           5.       The Sonics have enjoyed a number of successful seasons, during which the team has  
2 drawn a large and enthusiastic fan base. The team advanced to the NBA finals in 1978, and won the  
3 NBA championship in 1979 – an event celebrated by a parade through downtown Seattle that drew  
4 an estimated 300,000 fans in the middle of the work day. The team won four division titles in five  
5 years in the 1990's, and returned to the NBA finals in 1996. During each of these seasons, and in  
6 other seasons in which the team has been competitive on the court, the Sonics have drawn large  
7 crowds at their home games.

8           6.       The presence of the Sonics in Seattle creates large financial benefits for the City and  
9 for local businesses, including but not limited to: income generated from lease payments; ticket  
10 sales; concessions and novelties sales; spending at local restaurants and hotels (both by fans and by  
11 visiting teams); parking; spending on advertising and merchandising; Business and Occupation  
12 taxes paid by the team; revenues associated with Sonics players living in the Seattle area; and  
13 revenues from media covering the team's games. The team's presence also creates numerous non-  
14 quantifiable benefits for the City, including but not limited to enhanced economic growth and  
15 ancillary private sector development spurred by the operation of a professional sports facility;  
16 convenient entertainment options for local families; facilities for youth activities; charitable events  
17 sponsored by the team and by individual players; advertising opportunities for local businesses;  
18 increased inducements for businesses to locate in Seattle, and for existing businesses to remain; and  
19 enhanced community pride, self-image, exposure, reputation, and prestige.

20           7.       In the summer of 1998, a disagreement between NBA players and owners  
21 concerning the issue of a salary cap led the owners to declare a lockout. The players and owners  
22 did not reach agreement until January 1999, and the season did not begin until February 1999.  
23 The lockout led to a dramatic decrease in ticket sales and revenues for the Sonics, as well as for



1 other NBA teams.

2 8. In the three years prior to the lockout, the Sonics had regular season records of  
3 64-18 (1995-96), 57-25 (1996-97), and 61-21 (1997-98). Regular season attendance in each of  
4 those seasons exceeded 600,000. In the three years following the lockout, the Sonics' record  
5 declined (although the team continued to have a winning record, and made the playoffs during  
6 the 1999-2000 and 2001-02 seasons), and annual regular season attendance dropped to between  
7 approximately 505,000 and 520,000 per season.

8 9. As the Sonics' performance on the court has declined in recent seasons (with the  
9 exception of the 2004-05 season, when the team won a division championship), attendance has  
10 continued to decline. In 2005-06, when the team won only 35 games, regular season attendance  
11 totaled approximately 476,000. In 2006-07, the first year that PBC owned the Sonics, the team won  
12 only 31 games, and regular season attendance dropped to approximately 457,000. Although the  
13 Sonics now claim that the facility is to blame for reduced attendance and alleged financial  
14 difficulties, the historical record shows otherwise. The team was financially successful at KeyArena  
15 prior to the lockout – years in which the Sonics consistently fielded a competitive team.

16 DEVELOPMENT OF KEYARENA

17 10. From 1967 to 1978, and from 1985 to 1994, the Sonics played their home games at  
18 the Seattle Center Coliseum (the "Coliseum") on the grounds of the Seattle Center.

19 11. In 1993, the Seattle City Council approved a contract for the renovation of the  
20 Coliseum. The ultimate cost to the City was approximately \$74 million. As a condition for its  
21 approval of the contract, the Council sought a 20-year lease term from the corporation that  
22 owned the team to coincide with the length of the debt financing. At the insistence of the Sonics,  
23 the City Council eventually agreed to approve the contract with only a 15-year lease term,

1 despite the increased financial burden the 15-year term placed on the City, because of the many  
2 financial and other benefits derived from having the Sonics play their home games in Seattle.

3 12. In 1994 and 1995, the Coliseum was completely renovated. Approximately 3,000  
4 new seats were added, including 1,100 premium Club Seats and 58 Luxury Suites, and the  
5 facility was subsequently renamed KeyArena.

6 1994 LEASE AGREEMENT

7 13. On February 14, 1994, the Seattle City Council passed, and Mayor Norm Rice  
8 signed, Seattle Ordinance 117049, under which the Director of the Seattle Center was authorized  
9 to enter into a Premises Use & Occupancy Agreement (the "Lease") with SSI Sports, Inc.  
10 ("SSI"), the corporation that then owned the Sonics. Ordinance 117049 specifically provided  
11 that the term of the Lease would commence on or about October 1, 1995, and would expire on  
12 September 30, 2010.

13 14. On or about March 14, 1994, SSI and the City executed the Lease. A true and  
14 correct copy of the Lease is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

15 15. Consistent with the authorizing Ordinance, the Lease provided, in Article II, that  
16 "SSI's use and occupancy rights with respect to the Premises and the Term of this Agreement shall  
17 end on September 30, 2010." Article II of the Lease further required SSI to "schedule and ensure  
18 that the SuperSonics play all Home Games other than pre-season games exclusively in the Coliseum  
19 [now KeyArena] after the Use Commencement Date." Consistent with the terms of the Lease, the  
20 Sonics have played all of their home games since November 1995 at KeyArena.

21 16. The terms of the Lease repeatedly reflect the mutual understanding between the City  
22 and SSI that in exchange for the City's substantial and long-term investment in KeyArena (subject  
23 to SSI's participation and approval in its design and construction), SSI was making a long-term

1 promise that the Sonics would play their home games there. In addition to the explicit requirement  
2 that the Sonics play all home games at KeyArena through the 2009-10 season:

3 • SSI and the City agreed that the City could not re-construct the Coliseum into a  
4 "new, state of the art professional basketball facility in order to enhance the City .  
.. without a long-term, principal user." Lease, Recitals, p. 1.

5 • SSI and the City agreed that the City was constructing a new facility "in order  
6 to induce SSI to become the principal user of a new playing facility on a long-  
term basis in lieu of having the SuperSonics play in an alternative venue, and to  
maintain the SuperSonics NBA franchise in Seattle[.]" Lease, Recitals, p. 1.

7 • SSI and the City agreed that their purpose in entering into the Lease was to  
8 "specify[] the terms and conditions under which SSI will use a new Seattle Center  
Coliseum and certain other facilities at Seattle Center on a long-term basis for the  
9 playing of professional basketball by the SuperSonics. Lease, Recitals, p. 1.

10 • In Article XIX, SSI was given an unrestrained right to transfer its ownership in  
11 the Sonics, subject only to the condition that its successor-in-interest agree to  
fulfill all the conditions of the Lease. Article XIX(B)(1). Thus, to the extent any  
12 owner of the Sonics – including PBC – is dissatisfied with the combined benefits  
and responsibilities of ownership, they have every right to sell the team. But if  
13 they choose to continue to own the team, they have an obligation to fulfill the  
promises in the Lease.

14 17. The 15-year lease term was an essential term of the Lease and a principal  
15 incentive for Council approval of the Lease. To ensure that the City would have a way to ensure  
16 that the Sonics would play all of their home games at KeyArena through the duration of the Lease,  
17 the Lease included a specific enforcement clause: "Enforcement of this Agreement: The  
18 obligations of the parties to this Agreement are unique in nature; this Agreement may be specifically  
19 enforced by either party." Lease, Article XXVII(L). This clause was necessary, in part, due to the  
20 fact that the Sonics are a wholly unique tenant and an asset to the City that would be impossible to  
21 replace.

22 18. In 2001, the Sonics were sold to The Basketball Club of Seattle, LLC ("BCOS").  
23 BCOS became a party to the Lease through an Instrument of Assumption, executed on or about

1 March 1, 2001, under which BCOS agreed to assume and perform all of SSI's obligations under the  
2 Lease. Consistent with the terms of the Lease, the Sonics played all of their home games at  
3 KeyArena during the time that BCOS owned the team.

4 19. In July 2006, BCOS sold to PBC the Sonics, as well as the Women's National  
5 Basketball Association team known as the Seattle Storm. PBC acquired the Sonics with full  
6 knowledge of the terms and duration of the Lease, the financial condition of the Sonics franchise,  
7 and of the dimensions, condition and capacity of KeyArena. PBC became party to the Lease  
8 through an Instrument of Assumption executed on October 23, 2006, a true and correct copy of  
9 which is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The Instrument of Assumption stated in part: "PBC  
10 acknowledges having been provided with a copy of the [Lease] and agrees that, from and after  
11 the Closing Date, it shall assume, and hereby agrees to satisfy or perform (as applicable), all  
12 liabilities and obligations of BCOS under the [Lease]."

13 20. The City has fulfilled all of its duties under the Lease and the amendments thereto.

14 21. The City has further worked with the owners of the Sonics over recent years to make  
15 substantial improvements to KeyArena, at a cost to the City of millions of dollars.

16 22. Since the sale of the team to PBC, the City has tried repeatedly to work with the new  
17 owners to improve KeyArena, and has made several offers to secure public funding for additional  
18 multi-million dollar improvements. PBC has failed even to respond to these offers, instead  
19 demanding construction of a new arena at public expense.

20 PBC'S INTENTION TO BREACH THE LEASE

21 23. Since acquiring ownership of the SuperSonics, representatives of PBC have stated  
22 repeatedly their intent to relocate the SuperSonics in violation of the terms of the Lease, and have  
23 otherwise indicated their intent to move the team away from Seattle – most likely to Oklahoma

1 City. PBC was formed in 2006 as an Oklahoma limited liability company, even though the purpose  
2 of the company was to acquire a basketball franchise in Seattle. PBC refused to allow any local  
3 participation in the ownership of the team. Principal owner Clay Bennett has repeatedly stated that  
4 if a new arena is not built for the team – a proposal that would have required the expenditure of  
5 approximately \$400 million in public funds – he would seek to move the team to Oklahoma City.  
6 In August 2007, Aubrey McClendon, a member of the ownership group, stated that “[w]e didn’t  
7 buy the team to keep it in Seattle, we hoped to come here [i.e., to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma].”

8 24. If the Sonics were to breach the Lease by failing to play the 2008-09 and 2009-10  
9 seasons at KeyArena, the City would lose the entire benefit of its Lease bargain, as its agreement to  
10 construct a new professional basketball arena at public expense was premised on the condition that  
11 the Sonics would be the principal tenant of the new arena through the 2009-10 season. The City  
12 would be responsible for paying the debt service on the KeyArena re-construction without the  
13 promised income stream from the Sonics, a promise the City relied on when it decided to fund re-  
14 construction. Moreover, it would be impossible for the City to find an alternative tenant with the  
15 unique characteristics of the Sonics. This would result in significant tangible and intangible losses  
16 to the City and its residents, both directly and tangentially related to the Lease terms themselves.

17 25. On or about September 21, 2007, PBC filed a Demand for Arbitration with the  
18 American Arbitration Association. Although certain disputes under the Lease are subject to  
19 arbitration, this is not one of them. This is a dispute over whether the Sonics are required to  
20 continue to play their home games at KeyArena through the term of the Lease. The Demand for  
21 Arbitration specifically provides that the ownership is seeking a declaratory judgment that “specific  
22 performance is not available to force the Sonics to play the final two seasons at KeyArena.”  
23 Demand for Arbitration, ¶ 6. The Lease specifically provides, at Article XXV(A), that disputes

1 relating to the provisions of Article II ("Term; Use Period") are not subject to arbitration.

2 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
3 **(Declaratory Judgment that Article II of the Lease May be Specifically Enforced)**

4 26. The City realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set  
5 forth in paragraphs 1 through 25 above.

6 27. Pursuant to Article XXVII(L) of the Lease, the parties agreed that either party  
7 may utilize specific performance to enforce the terms of the Lease. Article XXVII(L) of the  
8 Lease provides: "The obligations of the parties to this Agreement are unique in nature; this  
9 Agreement may be specifically enforced by either party."

10 28. Pursuant to Article II of the Lease, PBC is contractually obligated to have the  
11 SuperSonics play all regular season home games at KeyArena through September 30, 2010,  
12 when the Lease expires.

13 29. On September 21, 2007, PBC filed a demand for arbitration seeking relief from its  
14 contractual obligations under Article II.

15 30. The City is entitled to specific performance of PBC's contractual obligations  
16 under Article II and seeks a Declaratory Judgment to that effect pursuant to RCW 7.24.020.

17 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
18 **(Order and Judgment that Disputes Relating to Article II of the Lease**  
19 **Are Not Arbitrable)**

20 31. The City realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set  
21 forth in paragraphs 1 through 30 above.

22 32. Pursuant to Article XXV(A) of the Lease, the parties agreed that certain disputes  
23 are exempt from arbitration, including disputes relating to Article II.

33. In its September 21, 2007 Demand, PBC seeks arbitration of its contractual  
obligations under Article II.

1 34. PBC's obligations under Article II may not be arbitrated, because the parties  
2 specifically exempted Article II from arbitration, and the City seeks an Order and Judgment to  
3 that effect pursuant to RCW 7.04A.070.

4 **REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

5 FOR THESE REASONS, the City of Seattle prays for judgment against PBC as follows:

6 1. A declaratory judgment that Article II of the Lease, and the rights and obligations  
7 it contains, are enforceable through the specific performance clause provided in Article  
8 XXVII(L) of the Lease.

9 2. An Order and Judgment that, as provided in Article XXV(A) of the Lease,  
10 disputes relating to Article II of the Lease, and the rights and obligations it contains, are not  
11 subject to arbitration.

12 3. Judgment against PBC for reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the  
13 City to enforce its rights in this action;

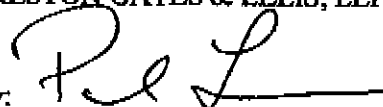
14 4. Interest on the Judgment at the maximum rate allowed by law;

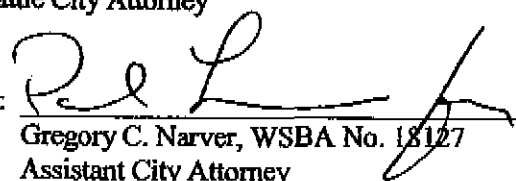
15 5. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

16 DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2007.

17 KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART  
18 PRESTON GATES & ELLIS, LLP

THOMAS A. CARR  
Seattle City Attorney

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