



## —The Outdoor Lighting Professionals

## FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT NITELITES FRANCHISE SYSTEMS, INC.

an Ohio corporation 6107 Market Avenue Franklin, Ohio 45005 (513) 424-5510 info@NiteLites.com www.NiteLites.com

A NiteLites franchise sells superior-quality lighting products and services to, and designs and installs architectural and landscaping illumination products for, upscale homeowners and commercial enterprises.

The total investment necessary to begin operation of a NiteLites franchised business is \$66,275 to \$110,785. This includes between \$45,255 to \$68,255 that must be paid to franchisor and its affiliates.

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your franchise agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. **Note, however, that no government agency has verified the information contained in this document.** 

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Tom Frederick at 6107 Market Avenue, Franklin, Ohio 45005 and (513) 424-5510.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don't rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read all of your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or an accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as "A Consumer's Guide to Buying a Franchise," which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission. You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at www.ftc.gov for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising.

There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.

ISSUANCE DATE: April 1, 2018



## STATE COVER PAGE

Your state may have a franchise law that requires a franchisor to register or file with a state franchise administrator before offering or selling in your state. REGISTRATION OF A FRANCHISE BY A STATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STATE RECOMMENDS THE FRANCHISE OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.

Call the state franchise administrator listed in Exhibit A for information about the franchisor, or about franchising in your state.

MANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO RENEW UNCONDITIONALLY AFTER THE INITIAL TERM EXPIRES. YOU MAY HAVE TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE YOUR BUSINESS. BEFORE YOU BUY, CONSIDER WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR FRANCHISE, IF ANY, AND WHAT TERMS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ACCEPT IN ORDER TO RENEW.

Please consider the following RISK FACTORS before you buy this franchise:

- 1. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES YOU TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH US BY MEDIATION AND LITIGATION ONLY IN OHIO. OUT-OF-STATE MEDIATION OR LITIGATION MAY FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT A LESS FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR DISPUTES. IT MAY ALSO COST MORE TO MEDIATE OR LITIGATE WITH US IN OHIO THAN IN YOUR HOME STATE.
- THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT STATES THAT OHIO LAW GOVERNS THE AGREEMENT, AND THIS LAW
  MAY NOT PROVIDE THE SAME PROTECTION AND BENEFITS AS LOCAL LAW. YOU MAY WANT TO
  COMPARE THESE LAWS.

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- 4. THE FRANCHISEE WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE AN ESTIMATED INITIAL INVESTMENT RANGING FROM \$66,275 to \$110,785. THIS AMOUNT EXCEEDS THE FRANCHISOR'S STOCKHOLDERS EQUITY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016, WHICH IS \$37,321.
- 5. YOU MUST MAKE MINIMUM ROYALTY, ADVERTISING, AND OTHER PAYMENTS, REGARDLESS OF YOUR SALES LEVELS. YOUR INABILITY TO MAKE THE PAYMENTS MAY RESULT IN TERMINATION OF YOUR FRANCHISE AND LOSS OF YOUR INVESTMENT.
- 6. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO A PAY MINIMIUM ROYALTY RANGING BETWEEN \$750 PER MONTH FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND \$1,500 PER THE MONTH IN THIRD YEAR AND THERAFTER. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE A MINIMUM LEVEL OF ANNUAL GROSS SALES RANGING FROM \$125,000 TO \$456,262 PER YEAR BEGINNING IN THE 2ND YEAR OF OPERATIONS, AND INCREASING EACH YEAR THEREAFTER DURING THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT. IF YOU FAIL TO ACHIEVE THE MINIMUM ANNUAL GROSS SALES FOR 2 CONSECUTIVE FISCAL YEARS, WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE YOUR FRANCHISE AGREEMENT OR REDUCE THE SIZE OF YOUR PROTECTED TERRITORY.
- 7. THE FRANCHISOR HAS THE RIGHT AND OPTION TO UNILATERALLY TERMINATE THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT "OPTION TO TERMINATE" AT ANY TIME BY REFUNDING THE FRANCHISE FEE ONLY. IF YOUR FRANCHISE FAILS, BOTH YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE'S MARITAL AND PERSONAL ASSETS, INCLUDING YOUR HOME, COULD BE LOST, IF:
  - YOU LIVE IN A COMMUNITY PROPERTY STATE, OR
  - YOU LIVE IN ANOTHER STATE, AND YOUR SPOUSE MUST SIGN A DOCUMENT SUCH AS A GUARANTEE THAT MAKES YOUR SPOUSE LIABLE FOR YOUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT, EVEN IF YOUR SPOUSE DOES NOT OWN ANY PART OF THE FRANCHISE BUSINESS.
- 8. THERE MAY BE OTHER RISKS CONCERNING THIS FRANCHISE.



We use the services of one or more FRANCHISE BROKERS or referral sources to assist us in selling our franchise. A franchise broker or referral source represents us, not you. We pay this person a fee for selling our franchise or referring you to us. You should make sure to do your own investigation of the franchise.

Effective Date: See the next page for state effective dates.

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