

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
CA No. 1781-CV-03059

LOREN WALSH, on behalf of herself and all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

S & S DONUTS, LLC; COUTO
MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC;
ROSLINDALE DONUTS, INC.; S&C
DONUTS, INC.; NEWTONVILLE DONUTS,
INC.; WHITING ST. DONUTS, INC.; WALK
HILL DONUTS, INC.; WILMINGTON
DONUTS, INC.; CNS DONUTS, INC.;
STATION DONUTS, INC.; LEGION
DONUTS, INC.; E&S DONUTS, INC.;
LANGLEY ROAD DONUTS, INC.; WEST
NEWTON DONUTS LLC; S&S DONUTS
LLC; RED PLAZA DONUTS, LLC
DARTMOUTH MANAGEMENT GROUP,
LLC; CAPE MANAGEMENT TEAM, LLC;
SALVI'S DONUTS, LLC
CAPE COD ENTERPRISES, LLC; C&O
DONUTS, LLC; C&C DONUTS, INC.; and
ROCKLAND DONUTS, INC.

Defendants.

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

TO: ALL CUSTOMERS WHO ORDERED A PRODUCT, SUCH AS A BAGEL, WITH BUTTER, BUT INSTEAD RECEIVED MARGARINE OR BUTTER SUBSTITUTE AT ONE OF THE DUNKIN' DONUTS STORES OWNED OR OPERATED BY DEFENDANTS.

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY AND IN ITS ENTIRETY. THIS NOTICE RELATES TO A PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF THIS CLASS ACTION AND, IF YOU ARE A CLASS MEMBER, CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION AS TO YOUR RIGHTS CONCERNING THE SETTLEMENT DESCRIBED BELOW.

CLAIMS DEADLINE: TO POTENTIALLY SHARE IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCEEDS, CLASS MEMBERS MUST IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO ONE OF DEFENDANTS' DUNKIN' DONUTS STORES (LISTED BELOW) AND OBTAIN A VOUCHER AS DESCRIBED BELOW, ON OR BEFORE the sooner of August 28, 2018, or the time upon which Defendants have given out 1,000 vouchers.

OBJECTION DEADLINE: OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT MUST BE MADE AS PROVIDED BELOW ON OR BEFORE Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

INTRODUCTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Court has entered an Order giving preliminary approval of a settlement and provisional class certification in the above-titled class action lawsuit brought against the Defendants named above ("Defendants").

A hearing to consider final approval of the settlement has been scheduled for **Thursday, September 13, 2018** at 2:00 PM at Middlesex Superior Court, Woburn, MA.

This notice summarizes the substance of the lawsuit and your rights and obligations as a member of the settlement class. This notice is not to be construed as an expression of any opinion by the Court with respects to the merits of the claims asserted in the complaint in the case. Please read the notice carefully.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LITIGATION

On October 16, 2017, plaintiff Loren Walsh ("Plaintiff") sent Defendants a demand pursuant to the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act on behalf of the Class, alleging that Defendants' Dunkin' Donuts stores provided a butter substitute to customers who ordered a baked good with butter.

Plaintiff filed a complaint against Defendants on October 20, 2017. Thereafter, on February 28, 2018, Plaintiff filed an amended class action complaint naming all Defendants listed herein.

The amended complaint alleges that Defendants' Dunkin' Donuts stores, without notice to Class Members, provided margarine or a butter substitute (hereafter "butter substitute") instead of butter when Class Members ordered a baked good (*e.g.*, a bagel or muffin).

Defendants' stores are Dunkin' Donuts stores owned and/or operated by the following entities:

1. S & S Donuts, LLC;
2. Couto Management Group, LLC;
3. Roslindale Donuts, Inc.;
4. S&C Donuts, Inc.;
5. Newtonville Donuts, Inc.;
6. Whiting St. Donuts, Inc.;
7. Walk Hill Donuts, Inc.;
8. Wilmington Donuts, Inc.;
9. CNS Donuts, Inc.;
10. Station Donuts, Inc.;
11. Legion Donuts, Inc.;
12. E&S Donuts, Inc.;

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 13. Langley Road Donuts, Inc.; | 19. Salvi's Donuts, LLC; |
| 14. West Newton Donuts LLC; | 20. Cape Cod Enterprises, LLC; |
| 15. S&S Donuts LLC; | 21. C&O Donuts, LLC; |
| 16. Red Plaza Donuts, LLC; | 22. C&C Donuts, Inc.; and |
| 17. Dartmouth Management Group, LLC; | 23. Rockland Donuts, Inc. |
| 18. Cape Management Team, LLC; | |

SETTLEMENT BENEFITS FOR CLASS MEMBERS

The settlement agreement, subject to final Court approval, provides that Defendants will provide a voucher for a free baked good to each customer who ordered a baked good with butter between October 20, 2013 and April 30, 2018 (the "Class Period"), subject to conditions discussed herein.

Defendants have posted a notice in each store notifying customers of this proposed settlement. Each customer who identifies himself as a Class Member is to be given a voucher entitling the customer to a free baked good, up to a maximum of three (3) vouchers per customer, provided that Defendants are obligated to provide no more than one thousand (1,000) vouchers in total for all Defendants' stores. A voucher may be presented for a free baked good *only after final approval of the settlement*. If the proposed settlement receives final approval from the Court, Defendants will post a notice in each store informing Class Members of the approval, and that a voucher may be presented for a free baked good during the period of sixty-five (65) days following the date upon which the Final Approval of the Court becomes Effective ("Redemption Period").

Defendants have also agreed that in the future they will either not offer a butter substitute in their stores; or Defendants will: (i) offer a butter substitute on the side; or (ii) will provide a butter substitute on the product if requested by the customer but only after providing notice to the customer of the use of a butter substitute by posting a placard at the front counter and the drive-thru window.

Unclaimed Vouchers/Funds. The Parties agree that for any remaining Vouchers which were not distributed during the Notice Period, and any Vouchers which are not redeemed during the Redemption Period, the cash equivalent of said Vouchers shall be paid to a local food pantry. For purposes of this Agreement, the cash equivalent of one Voucher shall be equal to \$1.25.

THE COURT'S PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS SETTLEMENT AND PROVISIONAL CLASS CERTIFICATION ORDER

On, June 25, 2018, the Middlesex County Superior Court entered an order granting preliminary approval of the class settlement and provisional class certification under Massachusetts Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and M.G.L. c. 93A.

The Court appointed Plaintiff as class representative.

The Court also scheduled a Final Approval Hearing to be held on Thursday, September 13, 2018, or such further date to which the hearing may be continued.

A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on the date above in order to: (i) determine whether to grant final approval to this Settlement Agreement; (ii) consider any timely objections to this Settlement and all responses to objections by the Parties; and (iii) rule on the Fee and Expense Application. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Parties shall ask the Court to give final approval to this Settlement Agreement.

RIGHTS AND OPTIONS OF CLASS MEMBERS

If you are a member of the Class described above, you should understand and carefully consider the following:

The final judgment entered in this case will be binding upon all Class Members. All members of the Class will be represented by the attorneys for the Class identified herein as Class Counsel.

The Final Approval Hearing will be held at 2:00 PM on Thursday, September 13, 2018, in Courtroom No.720, of the Middlesex Superior Court, 200 Tradecenter Drive, Woburn, MA 01801.

You may object to the proposed settlement, provided that you file a written statement of objection with the Court at the following address and serve copies on Class Counsel and Defendants' Counsel (listed below) **NO LATER THAN:** July 25, 2018 [30 days from the entry of Preliminary Approval Order].

To the Court:

Middlesex Superior Court
Civil Clerk's Office
Re: Case No.: 1781-CV-03059
200 Tradecenter Drive
Woburn, MA 01801.

And to Class Counsel:

Matthew T. LaMothe, Esq.
Michael C. Forrest, Esq.
Re: Walsh et al. v. S & S Donuts et. al.
Forrest, LaMothe, Mazow,
McCullough, Yasi & Yasi, P.C.
2 Salem Green, Suite 2
Salem, MA 01970

And to Defendants' Counsel:

Nicholas B. Carter, Esq.
Todd & Weld, LLP
Re: Moran et al. v. Lynn Donuts, et al.
One Federal Street, 27th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

To be effective, any objection must contain:

- (i) a heading which properly refers to the Action;
- (ii) the name, address, telephone number and signature of the Class Member filing the objection;
- (iii) a statement whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either in person or through counsel, and, if through counsel, identifying counsel by name, BBO #, address and phone number;
- (iv) a statement of the legal and factual bases for each and every objection, and if through counsel, a legal memorandum in support of the objection;
- (v) a description of any and all evidence the objector may offer at the Final Approval Hearing, if the objector intends to speak at the hearing; and
- (vi) documentary proof of membership in the Settlement Class.

If the Class Member is represented by an attorney, he/she or it must comply with all applicable Massachusetts laws and rules for filing pleadings and documents in Massachusetts courts. The objection, to be effective, also must be sent by the objector or a legally authorized representative on an individual basis and not as part of a group, class or subclass. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to timely file such a written statement of his/her or its intention to object or oppose shall be foreclosed from making any objection to this Settlement Agreement and/or filing any opposition to the Fee and Expense Application, except as permitted by the Court.

ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES

The expenses that are incurred in the prosecution of the action on behalf of the class representative and Class are being advanced by their attorneys, identified above. If you remain a member of the Class, you will have no personal responsibility of liability for any attorneys' fees or expenses of Class counsel. If the settlement is approved, the fees and expense reimbursement for Class counsel will be set by the Court. Class Counsel shall seek from the Court approval of the reimbursement of fees and expenses as well as a representative Stipend for Plaintiff in an amount that shall not exceed \$30,000.00. Any payment of a representative stipend or an award of the reimbursement of attorneys' fees or expenses shall be paid separate and apart from the Class relief set forth herein.

EXAMINATION OF PAPERS OR QUESTIONS

The above description of allegations, responses and other matters in this action constitute a summary, they do not fully describe the aspects of the case. The pleadings in this action are public records and are available for inspection during the regular business hours at the Middlesex Superior Court, 200 Tradecenter Drive, Woburn, MA 01801.

If you have any questions with respect to this action, about this notice, or to receive notice as to when a voucher may be used, you may contact: Attorney Brian P. McNiff or Attorney Michael C. Forrest at Forrest, LaMothe, Mazow, McCullough, Yasi & Yasi, P.C., 2 Salem Green, Salem MA 01970, telephone (877)-599-8890.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE COURT OR THE JUDGE REGARDING ANY QUESTIONS.