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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

<p>DREAM BIG MEDIA, INC., GETIFY SOLUTIONS, INC., and SPRINTER SUPPLIER LLC, Individually and on Behalf of all Others Similarly Situated,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Plaintiffs,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">vs.</p> <p>ALPHABET INC. and GOOGLE LLC,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Defendants.</p>	<p>Case No.: 3:22-cv-2314</p> <p><u>CLASS ACTION</u></p> <p>COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE SHERMAN ANTITRUST ACT, CLAYTON ACT, AND UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW</p> <p><u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u></p> <p>4/13/2022</p>
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1 Plaintiffs Dream Big Media Inc., Getify Solutions, Inc., and Sprinter Supplier LLC
2 (“Plaintiffs”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by Plaintiffs’ undersigned
3 attorneys, for Plaintiffs’ Class Action Complaint for Violations the U.S. Sherman Antitrust Act
4 (“Sherman Act”) and the Unfair Competition Law, against Defendants Alphabet Inc. and Google
5 LLC (“Defendants”), allege the following:

6
7 **I. NATURE OF THE ACTION**

8 1. Alphabet Inc. and its subsidiaries and affiliated entities, including, without
9 limitation, Google LLC (together, “Defendants” or “Google”), have for years engaged in
10 anticompetitive conduct and other actions in violation of Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act
11 15 U.S.C. §§ 1, 2, *et seq.* (“Section 1” and “Section 2,” respectively), and the Unfair Competition
12 Law. Leveraging its enormous market power, and at times monopoly power, across a range of
13 internet products, Google has forced users of its digital-mapping products—services that have
14 become ubiquitous through rapid and competitively close acquisitions—into a bundle of
15 services. Then, once locked in, Google ratchets up the cost on its maps products.

16
17 2. Plaintiffs and Class Members are those who have been harmed by Google
18 improperly tying its mapping products together to restrain competition. Plaintiffs and Class
19 Members also seek injunctive and declaratory relief to stop the alleged anticompetitive conduct.

20
21 3. Central to Google’s anticompetitive scheme alleged here are Google Maps’
22 application programming interfaces, known as “APIs.” An API is a method for one computer
23 program to make use of, or “call,” the resources of another program or service.

24
25 4. For instance, a programmer developing a food-delivery application or website that
26 needs to guide drivers to customers through its application (“app”) or website may call on a
27 Google Maps Embed API (“Maps APIs”) for creating a digital dynamic map, call on a Google
28 Routes Directions API (“Routes APIs”) for adding directions on that dynamic map and provide

1 navigation information to the driver, and then call on a Google Places Place Details API (“Places
2 APIs”) for adding information about the restaurant. These are different products in different
3 markets that can be used to create a digital map on an application or website. Indeed, Google
4 itself recognizes that these are different products, as its pricing menu lists out APIs in different
5 product offering groups, including, without limitation, Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places
6 APIs.
7

8 5. Google’s impermissible use of its market power harms not only computer
9 programmers. Websites also use digital-mapping API calls in order to display location
10 information on their websites, something especially important to small businesses looking to
11 attract customers. Embedding digital-mapping APIs into a website allows customers to both
12 locate the business without opening a separate app or web page, and to be sure that they are
13 seeing the correct business. These are all crucial details when a customer is considering whether
14 to patronize a small business, where even small friction can mean loss of a sale.
15

16 6. Not anyone can call a Google digital-mapping API. Access to a Google mapping
17 API requires an API “key”, which is a unique identifier that Google provides. API keys are
18 tracked to a user’s account, and Google charges for the account holder for API calls made using
19 their key.
20

21 7. Google’s pricing varies, but, for example, it currently charges \$2 for 1,000 calls
22 to its Maps Static API (used to display a single map image on a web page); \$2 for 1,000 calls to
23 its Maps JavaScript API (used to display an interactive map that a user can move around and
24 manipulate); \$5 for 1,000 calls on its Routes Directions API (used to receive directions for
25 different transportation modes); and \$17 for 1,000 calls for Places Place Details API (used to
26 request details about an establishment or point of interest).
27

28 8. While these costs are small on their own, they add up quickly and are often beyond

1 the control of the purchaser of the API keys. The costs depend on how often a user access or
2 reloads a website. As such, an anxious user who compulsively checks map information may
3 quickly rack up many calls over a short period of time.

4 9. Google has monopoly power—or at the least overwhelming market power—in
5 the relevant product markets for digital-mapping APIs. According to a recent report by the U.S.
6 House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative
7 Law (“House Antitrust Subcommittee”) that was released around October 6, 2020, entitled
8 “Investigation of Competition in Digital Markets-Majority Staff Report and Recommendations”
9 (“House Antitrust Proposals”), Google’s market share exceeds 80% in these markets.

10 10. Moreover, Google exercises direct market power over the relevant product
11 markets through the anticompetitive practices alleged herein. In essence, Google uses its market
12 dominance to improperly tie together its products and lock users into what is sometimes called
13 the Google ecosystem. There are competitors, but they have nowhere near the direct market
14 power that Google exerts, nor nowhere near the monopoly power that Google has. Those
15 competitors offer Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs, mostly at significantly reduced
16 prices to Google—and some even for free—and with comparable data and quality, if not better.
17 But over the past several years, these competitors have been strangled out of competing
18 effectively in the relevant product markets because of Google’s anticompetitive conduct alleged
19 herein.
20
21

22 11. Direct victims of these alleged anticompetitive schemes are the class members
23 identified herein: those who have purchased Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs, or had
24 their free credits provided by Google (the “free-tier credits”) used up more rapidly because of
25 Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs.
26

27 12. Google’s terms of service prohibit users from using *any* Google Maps API or
28

1 component with *any* API or component of any *other* digital-mapping provider or service, which
2 constitute separate and distinct products. Google goes so far as to prohibit display of non-Google
3 digital maps near their own maps on an application or web page.

4 13. Further, the type of data tied together are not simply maps themselves, but what
5 Google considers to be related data, including, without limitation, business and other location
6 listings, which Google calls “Places.” Google Places functions like a modern phone book,
7 review website, and more, pulling together not just the address of a business, but also its
8 operating hours, menus, user reviews, and other information. In addition to the terms in Google’s
9 terms of service, Google has been aggressively enforcing these provisions and effectively
10 forcing users to choose whether they will use all of Google’s digital-mapping APIs or none of
11 them, all to the inclusion of competitors digital-mapping APIs.

12 14. A particular example (without limitation) of the anti-competitive nature of the
13 tying alleged herein is that even if a Class Member requests a specific JavaScript-related Google
14 Maps API, Google unilaterally will add on unnecessary, non-responsive other digital-mapping
15 APIs, such as Places APIs, to that request and charge the Class Member for those additional
16 APIs.

17 15. Another particular example (without limitation) is that prior to anticompetitive
18 changes to Google’s terms of services related to its digital-mapping APIs, certain JavaScript or
19 Software Development Kits (“SDK tools”)—not technically APIs—were provided as
20 complimentary with other API calls because those JavaScript or SDK tools were necessary to
21 make the actual APIs accurately overlay information as an image on a digital map. Those tools
22 were not technically APIs. But after changes, Google recategorized those JavaScript or SDK
23 tools as APIs, made them compulsory to other purchased APIs, and charged Class Members for
24 them.
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1 16. Another example (without limitation) is that even if a Class Member wanted to
 2 overlay data that it has acquired through its own app or website—for example, Places API data
 3 concerning information learned from its own users, such as comments on a particular restaurant
 4 dish—on top of a digital-map that has used any Google APIs, Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or
 5 Places APIs, the Class Member cannot because even the Class Member’s own data would be
 6 considered to violate the terms of service if it is overlaid on top of a digital map that used any
 7 Google digital-mapping APIs.
 8

9 17. The graphic below displays the Google Places API in practice—while this
 10 restaurant review has little relation to traditional mapping, Google ties this Places API service
 11 together with basic mapping functions.
 12

The screenshot displays the Google Places interface for Tadich Grill. On the left, there is a photo of the restaurant's interior. Below the photo, the name 'Tadich Grill' is shown with a 4.5 star rating and 2,067 reviews. A price range of '\$\$\$' and the category 'Seafood restaurant' are also visible. A row of icons allows users to get directions, save the place, find nearby locations, send to their phone, or share. An 'ORDER ONLINE' button is prominently displayed. Below this, a brief description of the restaurant is provided, along with icons for dine-in, takeout, and delivery services. The address '240 California St, San Francisco, CA 94111' and the opening time 'Opens soon · 11AM' are listed. A 'Health & safety' section notes that masks are required. Other features include a 'Find a table' link, a menu link, the website 'tadichgrillsf.com', and the phone number '(415) 391-1849'.

On the right side of the screenshot, the 'Review summary' section shows a 4.5 star rating with a bar chart and 2,067 reviews. Below this, three review snippets are visible: 'Great Atmosphere and great place for after-work food and drinks', 'Wait staff a bit pushy, but worth the experience and price.', and 'Classic restaurant serving a wide selection of seafood and steak.' A 'Write a review' button is located below the snippets. The 'Reviews' section includes a search bar, a 'Sort' button, and filter tags for 'All', 'to go 7', 'cioppino 147', 'school 74', and 'sourdough bread 19'. A review by Nathan Ross, a Local Guide with 38 reviews, is shown with a 5-star rating and a 'NEW' badge. The review text states: 'The food here is absolutely amazing. Tadich Grill is the oldest restaurant here in San Francisco, but it also has the most delicious dinners and drinks'. Below the review are two photos of food dishes.

1 18. This unlawful tying and monopolistic behavior has resulted in concrete damages
2 to app and website developers and all other direct users (or those who used them through a pass-
3 through entity or website that passed all of the costs to them) of Google’s digital-mapping APIs,
4 in part through anticompetitive price hikes, forcing users to purchase separate Google products.

5 19. For years, Google offered a free tier of the digital-mapping APIs, incentivizing
6 developers or users to build their apps or websites with Google Maps. And during these years,
7 Google has been acquiring potential competitors, such as Waze, to get to its monopoly power—
8 or, at the least, market power.

9 20. Overwhelmingly however, around May 2018 and continuing thereafter, Google
10 Maps introduced a single “pay-as-you-go” pricing plan for the core mapping APIs. This shift
11 reduced the number of free maps API calls that a firm could make from 25,000 per day to around
12 930 per day. Developers told the House Antitrust Subcommittee that the change amounted to a
13 price increase of 1,400%. One market participant told the House Antitrust Subcommittee that
14 Google instituted this price hike after “gaining dominance.” Since becoming a Google Maps
15 customer, the market participant’s costs “have increased over 20x” and “there are no viable
16 alternatives.” To present, the staggering price increases to the APIs and also lowering of the
17 free-tier credits continues to damage the class members.

18 21. Even other large companies are beholden to the Google Defendants. For example,
19 the House Antitrust Subcommittee reported that the ride-sharing company Lyft has cited its use
20 of Google Maps as a potential risk to its business model. Lyft stated in a securities filing that
21 “[s]ome of our competitors or technology partners may take actions which disrupt the
22 interoperability of our platform with their own products or services.”

23 22. Under *per se* liability, whether the purported pro-competitive effects outweigh the
24 anti-competitive effects is irrelevant. The allegations herein present *per se* liability.
25
26
27
28

1 23. In the alternative, Defendants’ potential defenses of pro-competitive explanation
2 of avoiding “quality issues and/or brand confusion” are not justified. Even with an ever-
3 increasing stranglehold over Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs, Google with its strict
4 control has recklessly or intentionally done a poor job of maintaining quality and accurate
5 business-mapping features.

6 24. Defendants’ pricing for Google Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs are
7 notoriously known to be materially more expensive than competitors’ pricing. Many
8 competitors, indeed, offer such APIs for free.

9 25. Further Google does not offer a full suite of APIs in all of its Maps APIs, Routes
10 APIs, and Places APIs. There are bodies of API information within these relevant product
11 groups that Google does not offer, that competitors may have, but that Class Members cannot
12 access because of Google’s anticompetitive conduct alleged herein.

13 26. This class action is not about punishing an innovative company that is reaping the
14 rewards of its well-deserved success through large size and power. Instead, this class action is
15 about seeking redress from and stopping a massive company which had the means to acquire
16 several other companies to gain size and create entry barriers, and then used its tying and
17 monopolistic maintenance and exclusionary actions in certain relevant products and services to
18 stifle competition. The result foreclosed users from using sought-after products and services
19 offered by competitors in other relevant products and services.
20
21
22

23 **II. PARTIES**

24 **Dream Big Media, Inc.**

25 27. Plaintiff Dream Big Media, Inc. (“Dream Big Media”) is a California corporation
26 with a principal place of business in California.

27 28. Dream Big Media is a digital-advertising business that has used and paid for
28

1 Google’s digital-mapping APIs.

2 29. For example, it used Google Maps Route APIs to determine the distance between
3 two zip codes. These fees also quickly added up. For example, in November 2019 and December
4 2019 alone, Dream Big Media incurred \$1,371.44 on Google Maps’ “Distance Matrix API”
5 alone. Distance Matrix API is a Routes product that provides the travel distance between two
6 points.
7

8 30. Due to the anticompetitive conduct alleged herein, Dream Big Media could not
9 use competing providers’ digital-mapping APIs nor mix and combine Google’s digital-mapping
10 APIs with competitors’ digital-mapping APIs.

11 31. Dream Big Media was forced to use the other products or services that Google
12 had made subject to the tying and other anti-competitive conduct alleged herein.

13 **Getify Solutions, Inc.**

14 32. Plaintiff Getify Solutions, Inc. (“Getify Solutions”) is a Texas corporation with a
15 principal place of business in Texas.
16

17 33. In 2018, Getify Solutions developed a mobile web app called “RestaurNote” that
18 allowed users to make notations about experiences that related to their physical location, among
19 other uses. For instance, if you had a memorable meal at a restaurant and wanted to order it
20 again—or ordered poorly and wanted to avoid the error next time—you could make a note for
21 the next time you went to that restaurant.
22

23 34. A mobile web app is intended for use on mobile devices (such as phones or
24 tablets) and is built using web technologies (as opposed to native mobile apps that are built for
25 Android or iOS).

26 35. RestaurNote utilizes Google’s web-based digital-mapping APIs in order to allow
27 users to find their location on a map—a crucial feature of an app tied to physical location—and
28

1 for other uses.

2 36. RestaurNote is intended to be a free app, and Google Maps' original pricing
3 structure provided for this—Maps provided sufficient free credits that even moderately sized
4 businesses could expect to rarely exceed the credit allowance.

5 37. However, in the summer of 2018, Google announced a major change in its pricing
6 structure, which significantly impacted the amount that an app like RestaurNote would pay.
7 Given that RestaurNote was intended to be a free app, this made the program unworkable, and
8 Getify Solutions indefinitely paused its development once the app was stable and usable, with
9 limited access given to friends and family to keep fees from Google under control. This was
10 despite the fact that Getify Solutions ran through substantial amounts of the credits offered by
11 Google in order to induce it to use the APIs, and Getify Solutions expended significant time,
12 effort, and costs to have developed the app to launch.

13 38. Due to the anticompetitive conduct alleged herein, Getify Solutions could not use
14 Google's digital-mapping APIs alongside any other APIs from any other provider besides
15 Google if any of that data would interact with Google's digital-mapping capabilities. And Getify
16 Solutions was forced to either exclusively use products and services provided by Google,
17 pursuant to the tying and other anti-competitive conduct alleged herein, or use no Google-
18 provided products and services in the RestaurNote app.

19
20
21 **Sprinter Supplier LLC**

22 39. Plaintiff Sprinter Supplier LLC is a Pennsylvania limited liability company with
23 a principal place of business in Pennsylvania.

24 40. Sprinter Supplier is an e-commerce automotive parts shop located in Northeast
25 Philadelphia. During the global Covid pandemic, Sprinter Supplier also began ordering personal
26 protective equipment, such as masks, to distribute to frontline workers. It found that digital-
27
28

1 mapping APIs were highly valuable in displaying map information on its website in order to
2 help local customers find its business.

3 41. When Sprinter Supplier initially became aware of Google’s staggering digital-
4 mapping APIs pricing, it searched for providers as an alternative to or in combination with
5 Google’s digital-mapping APIs. Indeed, Sprinter Supplier found competing providers to Google
6 of comparable digital-mapping APIs, especially those that offered such APIs for free or at
7 significantly cheaper prices.
8

9 42. But due to the anticompetitive conduct alleged herein, Sprinter Supplier could not
10 use those competing providers’ digital-mapping APIs nor mix and combine Google’s digital-
11 mapping APIs with competitors’ digital-mapping APIs. And Sprinter Supplier was forced to use
12 the other products or services that Google had made subject to the tying and other anti-
13 competitive conduct alleged herein. However, the costs of Google’s digital-mapping APIs
14 quickly became concerning. Although Google promised Sprinter Supplier free credits, those
15 credits were quickly eaten up by Google’s digital-mapping API fees.
16

17 **Defendants**

18 43. Defendant Alphabet Inc. (“Alphabet”) is a Delaware corporation with its principal
19 place of business at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 94043. Defendant
20 Alphabet wholly owns and controls Defendant Google and non-party Waze, and Defendant
21 Alphabet is the alter ego of Defendant Google and Waze. Google and Waze direct all profit to
22 and report revenue through Alphabet.
23

24 44. Defendant Google LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal
25 place of business at 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 94043. Defendant
26 Google is a wholly owned and controlled subsidiary of XXVI Holding Inc., which is a subsidiary
27 of Defendant Alphabet. Since 2005, Google has wholly owned and controlled Google Maps.
28

1 Since 2013, Google has wholly owned and controlled Waze. Google is the alter ego and agent
2 of Defendants Alphabet and Waze, and the companies regularly combine and comingle their
3 operations.

4 45. All Defendants are engaged in substantial interstate commerce. Each Defendant
5 deals with and earns revenue from app and website developers and other users throughout the
6 U.S.
7

8 **IX. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

9 46. Plaintiffs brings this action on behalf of themselves and as a class action under
10 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) on behalf of the following class
11 (“Class”):

12 From April 13, 2018, through the date that the alleged unlawful anticompetitive
13 activity ceases, all direct purchasers, app or website developers, or other types of
14 users of Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs, or direct purchasers, app or
15 website developers, or other types of users of Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places
16 APIs who spent money or had their free-tier credits consumed more rapidly because
of the anticompetitive allegations therein, or other types of users who continue to
experience anticompetitive harm as a result of the allegations herein.

17 47. Specifically excluded from the Class are the following: Defendants; officers,
18 directors, or employees of any Defendant; any entity in which any Defendant has a controlling
19 interest; any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of any Defendant; any person acting
20 on their behalf; any judicial officer presiding over this action and his/her immediate family
21 members; the judicial staff; and any juror assigned to this action.

22 48. Also specifically excluded from this Class are indirect purchasers, app or website
23 developers, or other types of users who have purchased Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs
24 from a more-direct purchaser to Defendants that did *not* pass on all of the purchase price or free-
25 tier credits to the app or website developers or other types of users.
26

27 49. The Classes are readily ascertainable, and the records for them should exist,
28

1 including, without limitation, in Defendants' own records and transaction data.

2 50. Due to the nature of the trade and commerce involved, there are three of
3 geographically dispersed members in the Class, the exact number and their identities being
4 known to Defendants.

5 51. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class members' claims. Plaintiffs and the Class
6 members sustained damages arising out of Defendants' common course of conduct in violation
7 of the laws alleged herein. Each Class member's damages and injuries were directly caused by
8 Defendants' wrongful conduct.

9 52. There are questions of fact and law common to the Class members, including the
10 following, without limitation:
11

- 12 a. Whether Google has monopoly power in the relevant markets, including the
13 markets for Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs;
- 14 b. Whether Defendants have engaged in unlawful tying or bundling;
- 15 c. Whether Defendants have engaged in unlawful monopoly leveraging;
- 16 d. Whether Google engaged in unlawful self-preferencing;
- 17 e. Whether Defendants have blocked rivals from competing in the digital-
18 mapping stack;
- 19 f. Whether the anticompetitive conduct constitutes monopolization, monopoly
20 maintenance, an attempt to monopolize, or a conspiracy to monopolize;
- 21 g. Whether Defendants' anticompetitive conduct has harmed Plaintiffs and the
22 Class members by increasing their costs;
- 23 h. Whether Defendants' anticompetitive conduct has harmed Plaintiffs and the
24 Class members by causing them to pay supra-competitive prices for using
25 Defendants' digital-mapping products and services; and
26
27
28

1 i. The appropriate Class-wide damages measure.

2 53. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the Class members' interests.
3 Plaintiff's interests are aligned with and not antagonistic to those of the other Class members.
4 Plaintiffs have retained counsel competent and experienced in prosecuting class actions and
5 antitrust litigation to represent itself and the Class.
6

7 54. Questions of fact or law are common to the Class members and predominate over
8 any questions affecting only individual Class members.

9 55. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
10 adjudication of this controversy. The prosecution of separate actions by individual class
11 members would impose heavy burdens on the courts and Defendants and would create a risk of
12 inconsistent or varying adjudications of the questions of fact and law common to the Class. On
13 the other hand, a class action would achieve substantial economies of effort and expense and
14 would assure uniformity of decisions as to persons similarly situated without sacrificing
15 procedural fairness or bringing about other undesirable results. Absent a class action, it would
16 not be feasible for the vast majority of Class members to seek redress for the violations of law
17 alleged herein.
18

19 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 56. This class action arises under Sherman Act Sections 2 and 15, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2, 15,
21 and Clayton Act Sections 4 and 16, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 & 26.
22

23 57. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Sherman Act claims pursuant to
24 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 & 1337 and Clayton Act Sections 4 and 16, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 & 26.

25 58. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants. Alphabet, Google, Google
26 Maps, and Waze each maintain their headquarters in California.

27 59. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to Clayton Act Sections 4, 12, and 16, 15
28

1 U.S.C. §§ 15, 22, and 26, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c), and (d). All Defendants reside, transact
2 business, are found, and have agents in this District.

3 60. Pursuant to the Google Maps Platform Terms of Service, venue and personal
4 jurisdiction is consented to in this District.

5 61. Defendants' acts were within the flow of, were intended to have, and did in fact
6 have a substantial effect on the interstate commerce of the United States.
7

8 **IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

9 62. The digital-mapping "stack" provides users with virtual maps of the physical
10 world.

11 63. With the proliferation of smart devices, digital mapping has become a critical
12 resource for users and businesses alike.

13 64. There are two sets of customers for digital-mapping services: app or website
14 developers (or other types of businesses) who use underlying mapping libraries and design tools
15 to produce customized maps; and consumers (or users), who use map products for navigation.

16 65. Consumer-facing providers of mapping services license map databases and layer
17 technologies atop of the map data. Consumers use these search and traffic tools either through
18 a standalone, turn-by-turn navigation service that licenses the underlying data—such as
19 MapQuest or Bing Maps—or through a vertically integrated provider, such as Google Maps,
20 Waze, or other providers.
21

22 66. App or website developers or other users have contracted with Defendants to use
23 their Google Maps and related products and services, including, without limitation, application
24 APIs, and other products and services, such as Google's general search tools and Google Cloud
25 Platform ("GCP").
26

27 67. The essential input for both types of services is a digital-map database.
28

1 68. Mapping data can be gathered in a few ways, including through the collection of
2 imagery from satellites and streets, the tracking of global positioning system (“GPS”) traces,
3 and the collation of public domain mapping data.

4 69. Building a digital map database is costly and time-intensive, requiring significant
5 investment in mapping technologies and data collection.

6 70. The more robust the API, the more it costs. Desktop-based pulls and more
7 advanced functions, such as directions, route-mapping search, street view, speed limits, or
8 current location tracking can go a la carte for as much as \$32 per 1,000 views. App or website
9 developers or other users also have the option to purchase a premium, all-in-one package. All
10 of this affects the features that app or website developers or other users will choose to implement
11 and the overall impression that their end users will have when considering their app against
12 others in the same field.

13 71. Business-facing providers serve map design tools and mapping libraries required
14 to produce customized maps. The leading providers of business-to-business mapping software
15 Google, and there are other providers, including, without limitation, HERE, Mapbox, TomTom,
16 Apple Maps, Bing, ESRI, Comtech, and Telenav. Some of these providers operate in more-
17 specialized markets. For example, HERE and TomTom primarily serve automotive customers,
18 while ESRI provides desktop Geographic Information System (“GIS”) software used by
19 governments and spatial analysts.

20 72. The dominant providers of consumer-mapping applications are Google Maps and
21 Google-owned Waze.

22 73. Digital-mapping APIs are often broken down into three distinct relevant product
23 markets: Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs. Indeed, Google itself breaks this out on its
24 publicly available documents and websites, especially in terms of free-tier and pricing menus,
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1 as three distinct relevant products, as also recognized by other providers, competitors, users, and
2 analysts.

3 74. Maps APIs is one relevant product market. It is global. Even Google itself breaks
4 this out as a separate relevant product market group and for separate pricing. An example of
5 pricing is \$2 for 1,000 calls to its Maps Static API (used to display a single map image on a web
6 page) and \$2 for 1,000 calls to its Maps JavaScript API (used to display an interactive map that
7 a user can move around and manipulate). This API pricing both eats up more quickly users'
8 free-tier credits, which are assets in themselves, and of course are charged to users above the
9 free tiers.
10

11 75. Routes APIs is another relevant product market. It is also global. Even Google
12 itself breaks this out as a separate relevant product market group and for separate pricing. An
13 example of pricing is \$5 for 1,000 calls on its Routes Directions API (used to receive directions
14 for different transportation modes). This API pricing both eats up more quickly users' free-tier
15 credits, which are assets in themselves, and of course are charged to users above the free tiers.
16

17 76. Places APIs is another relevant product market. It is global. Even Google itself
18 breaks this out as a separate relevant product market group and for separate pricing. An example
19 of pricing \$17 for 1,000 calls for Places Place Details API (used to request details about an
20 establishment or point of interest). This API pricing both eats up more quickly users' free-tier
21 credits, which are assets in themselves, and of course are charged to users above the free tiers.
22

23 77. There are additional relevant markets salient for this case outside of the Maps
24 APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs markets and outside of the digital-mapping stack. These
25 include the market for internet search and the market for cloud computing, both of which are
26 global.
27
28

1 **1. Google acquired several companies, such as Waze, to amass its monopoly power.**

2 78. Google Maps in its current state can be traced to a series of acquisitions.

3 79. In September 2003, Google Labs launched “Search by Location,” a feature that
4 sought to filter search results based on a user’s geographic location.

5 80. However, the feature stalled because Google lacked mapping data.

6 81. In October 2004, a few months after Google’s IPO, Google acquired
7 Where2Technologies, an Australian startup that created web-based dynamic maps.
8

9 82. Google soon followed this acquisition with two additional purchases: Keyhole, a
10 firm that used satellite images and aerial photos to create digital-mapping software, and
11 ZipDash, a provider of real-time traffic information captured through GPS.

12 83. In February 2005, Google launched Google Maps.

13 84. The following year, Google introduced Google Maps API, which enabled
14 developers to use and build on top of its digital maps.
15

16 85. In 2008, it launched “Ground Truth,” a project devoted to assembling and refining
17 underlying mapping data and images. This effort included Google Street View Cars, which
18 drove around the country—and, eventually, the world—taking pictures of the surrounding
19 buildings and landscapes and delivering Google structured data that it could use to create digital
20 maps. As part of Project Ground Truth, Google also obtained mapping information from satellite
21 and aerial imagery, as well as from public databases. A 2008 budget request for Ground Truth
22 stated that the goal of the project was “long term independence from Tele Atlas and Navteq,”
23 two sources of mapping data that Google had been using at the time and that were owned by
24 TomTom and Nokia, respectively. The presentation stated that achieving independence would
25 take several years and requested a 5-7-year renewal of the Tele Atlas contract to help Google
26
27
28

1 bridge “between now and completion of Google Truth initiatives.”

2 86. Although Google Maps was not generating revenues, Google was investing in it
3 heavily. Google’s documents show that from 2008 to 2009, the company spent \$32 million on
4 the Street View program and \$88.7 million on Ground Truth overall.

5 87. When Google launched Google Maps in 2005, MapQuest had been the “king of
6 Internet-based maps and driving directions,” with Yahoo gearing up to heavily compete. By
7 2008, Google’s internal documents show that Google was “#1 in Maps usage,” as well as at the
8 top in capturing online local search.

9 88. Some market participants at the time questioned whether Google was using its
10 search dominance to give Google Maps a boost. In 2009, one publisher noted that “61% of visits
11 to Google Maps came directly from Google,” giving it an advantage over MapQuest. The
12 publisher wrote, “[a]s long as Google dominates search, MapQuest will face a tough battle for
13 visits.”

14 89. Google’s documents revealed that by 2012, Google Maps was the top provider of
15 digital maps in desktop, mobile, and API, and it was closely tracking Waze’s fast growth. One
16 Google presentation in 2012 noted that Waze was the most-downloaded app in the navigation
17 category and that it was seeing a 30% increase in daily downloads and averaging around 100,000
18 downloads a day. Google also honed in on the fact that Waze was the only other mapping
19 provider that was vertically integrated across the full stack at that time, spanning the provider,
20 application, map, traffic, and search layers.

21 90. In 2013, Google purchased Waze, an Israeli crowd-sourced mapping provider, for
22 \$1.3 billion. The acquisition solidified Google’s dominance in turn-by-turn navigation,
23 eliminating its only meaningful competitive threat.

24 91. Of these acquisitions, only Waze—for which Google paid \$1.1 billion—was
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1 subject to an antitrust investigation.

2 92. Although Google did not originally report the Waze transaction, both the U.S.
3 Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) and the United Kingdom’s Office of Fair Trading (“OFT”)
4 reviewed the deal.

5 93. Both enforcers initially approved the transaction but have since revisited the
6 decision. In 2019, the OFT commissioned a study reviewing its past merger cases, including
7 Google/Waze, and the FTC is reportedly examining the Waze deal as part of its broader review
8 of previous tech mergers.

9 94. Market participants viewed Google and Waze as close competitors in a “highly
10 concentrated” market for navigable digital map databases and turn-by-turn navigation
11 applications.

12 95. Prior to the transaction, Waze had observed that it and Google were “the only
13 vertically integrated stacks.”

14 96. One market participant told antitrust enforcers that it viewed Waze as “Google’s
15 closest competitor for real-time, updated [turn-by-turn] navigation services” and that Waze “was
16 the digital-map competitor with the best opportunity to overcome Google’s significant data and
17 funding advantage.”

18 97. Market participants cited several reasons the transaction would undermine
19 competition.

20 98. First, they noted that barriers to entry in the market for turn-by-turn navigation
21 providers were high and that it would be difficult for new firms to enter.

22 99. One market participant stated that “[n]avigable digital map databases contain far
23 more information than maps and addresses. For example, Google’s database includes a range of
24 other information, including traffic, conditions and rerouting information, interior and exterior
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1 photographs, reviews, commentary from Google+ friends.”

2 100. And Waze in particular had a unique crowd-sourced model that would be difficult
3 for other firms to replicate.

4 101. Although Waze had secured a “first-mover advantage” and acquired a “critical
5 mass of users,” the group of self-selected volunteers who edited Waze’s maps were “unlikely to
6 fill such a role (without payment) for more than one set of mapping data.” The market participant
7 added, “[o]nce those editors provide the benefit of their input into Waze they create a powerful
8 map that passive Waze users will turn to as well given the lack of other real-time-updated maps
9 of comparable quality. As a result, passive Waze users likely will have no incentive to multi-
10 home.”
11

12 102. Second, market participants pointed to the fact that Waze was the only firm
13 meaningfully positioned to dislodge Google Maps because it—like Google—lacked financial
14 pressures.
15

16 103. One entrepreneur noted that “Google and Waze do not care how much it costs to
17 keep the maps up-to-date. Google because it has a lot of money, and Waze because it relies on
18 the community.”

19 104. One market participant warned about the following: “The acquisition would
20 effectively lead to the elimination of Waze as a market disrupting force that would otherwise be
21 capable of challenging the model adopted by Google’s dominant Google Maps. In essence,
22 Google’s acquisition of Waze is defensive—seeking to remove a disruptive force from the
23 market.”
24

25 105. Several market participants and advocates who opposed the deal noted that
26 Waze’s former chief executive officer (“CEO”), Noam Bardin (“Bardin”), had recently stated
27 that Waze was “the only reasonable competition” to Google Maps, which suggests that Google
28

1 pursued the acquisition, in order to quash its most significant competitor.

2 106. And third, market participants argued that the acquisition would give Google both
3 the incentive and ability to foreclose rivals, including those apps that offer mobile-navigation
4 and social-networking services. Seeking to mitigate this concern, Google’s letter to the FTC
5 emphasized the “numerous providers who license mapping, traffic, and incident” data for use in
6 mobile apps.
7

8 107. But today, although Google Maps and Waze teams remain purportedly separate,
9 analysts have reported that Google has used Waze as a tool to “test and iterate on monetizing
10 Navigation without disrupting its much larger Google Maps asset.”

11 108. One market participant stated, “Google has used Waze as an ads guinea pig,”
12 noting that Waze has released efficacy reports of location-tailored ads, information that seems
13 to have informed Google Maps’ recent expansion of advertising.
14

15 109. Since completing the Waze acquisition, Google has reportedly come to capture
16 81% of the market for navigation mapping services.

17 110. Despite Google’s claims that entry barriers were low and alternate offerings
18 abundant, no major competitor has emerged since Google acquired Waze.

19 111. Based on the materials that the FTC provided to the House Antitrust
20 Subcommittee, it is unclear whether the FTC fully assessed entry barriers. Instead, it appears
21 that the FTC primarily took a static view—focusing on the existing quality of Waze’s maps—
22 rather than assessing the dynamic effects of the acquisition.
23

24 112. In essence, in acquiring Waze, Google bought out one of the few companies in
25 the world making navigable maps while also providing turn-by-turn navigation service.

26 113. Google effectively acquired an innovative startup with employees focused on a
27 mission and bureaucratized it into a failing subsidiary.
28

1 114. As reported in news around February 14, 2020, the acquisition “was literally
2 Google acquiring its number one competitor in maps,” said Sally Hubbard, director of
3 enforcement strategy at the Open Markets Institute, which is pushing for a crackdown on big
4 internet platforms. “It was a bad deal that should have been blocked.”

5
6 115. Even Mr. Bardin, who left Google in early 2021, has been outspoken about
7 Google’s anticompetitive gutting of Waze as a prior independent and innovative competitor:

8 We quickly learned, the hard way, that we could not get distribution from
9 Google. Any idea we had was quickly co-opted by Google Maps. The Android app
10 store treated us as a 3rd party, there was no pre-installation option and no additional
11 distribution. We did have a lot more marketing dollars to spend but had to spend
12 them like any other company, except we were constrained in what we could do and
13 which 3rd parties we could work with due to corporate policies. All of our growth
14 at Waze post acquisition was from work we did, not support from the mothership.
15 Looking back, we could have probably grown faster and much more efficiently had
16 we stayed independent.

17 116. Mr. Bardin has stated that “that Google had promised us autonomy to continue to
18 act as Waze and we believed them.” But Mr. Bardin has been vocal about Google’s lack of focus
19 on “user value creation” after having acquired Waze:

20 Focus—as much as I tried to keep the team focused, being part of a Corporation
21 means that the signal to noise ratio changes dramatically. The amount of time and
22 effort spent on Legal, Policy, Privacy—on features that have not shipped to users
23 yet, meant a significant waste of resources and focus. After the acquisition, we have
24 an extremely long project that consumed many of our best engineers to align our
25 data retention policies and tools to Google. I am not saying this is not important
26 BUT this had zero value to our users. An ever increasing percent of our time went
27 to non user value creation tasks and that changes the DNA of the company quickly,
28 from customer focused to corporate guidelines focused.

29 We start companies to build products that serve people, not to sit in meetings with
30 lawyers. You need to be able to answer the “what have I done for our users today”
31 question with “not much but I got promoted” and be happy with that answer to be
32 successful in Corp-Tech. I guess that’s just not me.

33 117. While Google captured the navigation market through offering Google Maps for

1 free, even as it generated no revenue, Google now monetizes both Google Maps and Waze
2 through charging supra-competitive prices to app and website developers and other users and
3 selling ads.

4 118. In 2013, Google introduced a limited form of maps advertising, and in recent years
5 it has expanded the program, allowing local businesses to purchase advertising on maps to
6 maximize foot traffic.

7 119. Around September 2016, Google acquired Urban Engines, a mapping-analytics
8 startup.

9 120. Research by Google shows that 76% of users who search for locations nearby end
10 up visiting a related business within a day and that 28% of those searches ultimately lead to a
11 purchase. This high conversion rate leads analysts to believe that Google Maps alone could help
12 drive between \$1.9 billion and \$3.7 billion of incremental revenue by 2021.

13 121. Commenting on the value of Google Maps to the Google ecosystem, one analyst
14 noted:

15 [Google Maps'] user base has been impressive for years, crossing 1B a few years
16 ago, but monetization is just getting started ... Maps is the closest thing to a
17 platform that Google has at the application layer, with three stakeholders in the
18 ecosystem: 1) users; 2) publishers; and 3) advertisers. The importance of Maps to
19 mobile, including both the advertising and transportation-on-demand spaces, is one
20 of the biggest potential markets Google is servicing in the future.

21 **2. Google exercises dominance—if not monopoly power—in the relevant product**
22 **markets of Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs, along with the other affected**
23 **relevant product markets.**

24 122. Google has monopoly power—or at the least, market power—in the relevant
25 product markets Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs. According to the House Antitrust
26 Proposals and analysts, Google's market share exceeds 80% in the digital-mapping stack.
27 Moreover, Google exercises direct market power over the relevant product markets through the
28

1 anticompetitive practices alleged herein. In essence, Google uses its market dominance to
2 improperly tie together its products and lock users into the Google ecosystem. There are
3 competitors with nowhere near the direct market power that Google exerts, nor nowhere near
4 the monopoly power—or at the least, market power—that it has. Those competitors offer Maps
5 APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs, mostly at significantly reduced prices to Google—and some
6 even for free—and with comparable data and quality, if not better. But over the past several
7 years, these competitors have been strangled out of competing effectively in the relevant product
8 markets because of Google’s anticompetitive conduct alleged herein. Direct victims of these
9 alleged anticompetitive schemes are the class members identified herein: those who have
10 purchased Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs or had their free-tier credits used up more
11 rapidly because of Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs. The Class Members also seek
12 injunctive and declaratory relief to stop the alleged anticompetitive conduct.
13
14

15 123. Google also has monopoly, or at a minimum market, power in the internet search
16 market where it has by some estimates a 90% market share. And Google has market power in
17 the cloud computing market, through its exercise of power in other related markets.

18 124. Google currently monopolizes or is attempting to cement monopoly power in all
19 of the distinct products and services through unlawful tying, negative tying, exclusive dealing,
20 bundling, monopoly leveraging, and self-preferencing, including, without limitation, in Maps
21 APIs, Routes APIs, Places APIs, business-to-business features and services, destination
22 information and features, mapping data and tools, advertising through map features, navigation
23 tools (such as turn-by-turn services), and street view.
24

25 125. Google already dominates the market for digital maps with over a billion users. It
26 is the dominant provider of mapping data and turn-by-turn navigation services.
27
28

1 126. Google’s documents reveal that by 2012, Google Maps was the top provider of
2 digital maps in desktop, mobile, and API.

3 127. Financial analysts have described navigation maps as a “utility” that people
4 cannot do without.

5 128. Although data on the value of the consumer-facing digital mapping industry is not
6 publicly available, analysts have estimated that Google Maps earned Google around \$2.95
7 billion in revenue in 2019. One bank has estimated that if Google Maps were a standalone
8 product, its market capitalization would hit \$61.5 billion.

9 129. According to a third-party estimate, Google Maps and Waze capture 81% of the
10 market for turn-by-turn navigation services.

11 130. One market participant estimated that Google Maps API captures over 90% of the
12 business-to-business market.

13
14
15 **3. The barriers to entering the digital-mapping-stack market are staggering.**

16 131. Google has an enormous advantage over digital-mapping stack competitors and
17 app and website developers owing to the sheer volume of information that it acquires about
18 users through its panoply of products and services. It acquires data from browsing histories and
19 advertising data from the suite of its Google search, Chrome, G-Suite, and YouTube offerings,
20 and it has location data from Google Maps, Waze, and Google’s Android operating system
21 embedded in hundreds of millions of mobile phones. Indeed, Google’s former CEO Eric
22 Schmidt has boasted that “[w]e know where you are. We know where you’ve been. We can
23 more or less know what you’ve been thinking about.”

24 132. The barriers to entering the market for developing products and services for the
25 digital-mapping stack are staggering because of access to data, fixed costs, market tipping,
26 network effects, and Google’s alleged anticompetitive activity that shackle app and website
27
28

1 developers, other users, and exclude competitors in anticompetitive ways.

2 133. Several factors suggest that Google Maps is well positioned to maintain its
3 dominance. The high fixed costs of creating mapping data pose a significant barrier to entry.
4 Apple, which recently built its mapping database from the ground up, told the House
5 Subcommittee that the effort required billions of dollars.

6
7 134. Moreover, Google also benefits from an enormous lead in the tracking and
8 processing of location data, as well as from the prevalence of tracking-enabled Android devices.

9 135. An analyst has recently said that Google Maps has “reasonably sustainable
10 moats.”

11 136. For example, one blunt weapon that Google wields to erect entry barriers is a
12 treasure-trove of competitively valuable information, including, without limitation, traffic,
13 conditions and rerouting information, interior and exterior photographs, reviews, and
14 commentary from Google+ friends.

15
16 137. For instance, a person’s location history using Google Maps reveals valuable and
17 sensitive information about others as well—such as traffic patterns and other data.

18 138. According to Professors Dirk Bergemann, Alessandro Bonatti, and Tan Gan, the
19 creation of this “data externality” mean that for firms such as Google, “the cost of acquiring . .
20 . individual data can be substantially below the value of the information to the platform.”

21
22 139. In particular, Waze has a unique crowd-sourced model that would be difficult for
23 other firms to replicate.

24 140. Market participants cite several factors that privilege dominant digital map
25 incumbents and impede entry.

26 141. First is the capacity of Google to invest heavily in creating mapping databases and
27 technology without needing to turn a profit. For example, prior to its acquisition by Google,
28

1 Waze executives observed that Google Maps had “disrupted the market” primarily through
2 “financial disruption,” namely that it had “unlimited funds” and was giving away Google Maps
3 to users for free. Startups seeking to enter this market yet lacking the financial cushion that
4 permits them to incur losses while developing the product will be at a relative disadvantage.

5 142. Another factor is that incumbents that are integrated can collect relevant map and
6 location data from across complementary lines of business, feeding this data back into mapping.

7 143. For example, one market participant noted that Google “collects an unparalleled
8 amount of data used in digital mapping from users of its dominant search engine and Android
9 smartphone OS.”
10

11 144. Another market participant stated that Google’s dominant position in search and
12 advertising incentivizes businesses to closely monitor and maintain the accuracy of their
13 information in Google’s systems, “leading to a dynamic by which Google enjoys a free,
14 crowdsource effort to improve and maintain their data’s quality,” thereby improving the quality
15 of Google Maps. Firms without concurrent positions in web search and the smartphone market
16 are comparatively disadvantaged.
17

18 145. A third factor is the superior distribution that integrated firms in maps-adjacent
19 lines of business can provide their own mapping product at the expense of third-party mapping
20 products. Google gives Google Maps default placement on its Android devices, while Apple
21 does the same with Apple Maps on iOS devices. Together, Android and iOS account for 99%
22 of the smartphone operating systems in the United States.
23

24 146. Market participants explained that the default placement of Google Maps on
25 Android devices also disadvantages third-party mapping providers technologically. If a
26 developer chooses a third-party mapping provider when building an app, downloading that app
27 on Android would involve downloading both the app features and the mapping functionality.
28

1 By contrast, choosing to develop the app with Google Maps would reduce the app’s file size on
2 Android, as Google Maps is already on the device.

3 147. Lastly, incumbents benefited from a lack of prohibitions on collecting location
4 data—an advantage that startups today lack given the passage of new data restrictions that limit
5 the development of digital mapping technology.

6 148. Notably, many of these rules came into existence following public outrage
7 prompted by Google Street View. By the time these rules were implemented, Google had
8 already mapped out most of the planet.

9 149. Except for Apple’s independent mapping database, there has been no recent entry
10 in the market for underlying mapping data.

11 150. Similarly, the list of leading providers of consumer mapping services and
12 business-to-business services has mostly been unchanged since 2013.

13 Google uses unlawful tying and other anticompetitive conduct to acquire and maintain its
14 monopoly power Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs.

15 151. Google has engaged in a series of actions to acquire and/or maintain monopoly
16 power, at least market power, throughout the relevant product markets, including Maps APIs,
17 Routes APIs, and Places APIs, as well as the search and cloud computing, including the
18 following, without limitation: (i) anticompetitive acquisitions, especially of Waze, at different
19 levels of the digital-mapping stack; (ii) using data amassed through its consumer services (for
20 example, search, Gmail, YouTube, Chrome, and Android OS) to lock in substantial app
21 developer demand; (iii) tying, negative tying, bundling, and monopoly leveraging in connection
22 with Google’s Maps APIs, Routes APIs, Places APIs, and products and services for search and
23 GCP; (iv) requiring app and website developers and other users who seek to use certain of
24 Google’s digital-mapping products and services—Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs—
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1 to use its other digital-mapping products and services and not use those of competitors; (v) self-
2 preferencing Google’s products and services over the products and services of app developers
3 who use Defendants’ products and services; and (vi) using Google’s market power from other
4 markets to impair actual or potential rivals from accessing data that could allow them to compete
5 with Google.

6
7 152. In terms of tying, Google uses at least three weapons to further entrench its
8 monopoly power—or at the least, market power—in the relevant product markets of Maps APIs,
9 Routes APIs, and Places APIs: First, Google has ratcheted up its prohibition against app or
10 website developers or other users from using any part of its mapping features and using any
11 competitors’ Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs and also forbids app or website
12 developers or other users from using any Google digital mapping features alongside any non-
13 Google mapping features; second, Google has leveraged access to its dominant search products
14 to intimidate app or website developers or other users out of working with other digital-map
15 providers; and third, Google misleadingly favors its own non-maps-related products that
16 compete with the products offered by app developers that license Google Maps APIs, Routes
17 APIs, and other Places APIs.

18
19 *i. Google Maps app developers are prohibited from using any competing tools.*

20
21 153. Google has been revising and enforcing the Google Maps platform’s Terms of
22 Service (“Terms of Service”) to prohibit app developers from using *any* component of the
23 Google Maps Core Service with mapping services provided by non-Google firms.

24
25 154. According to the House Antitrust Proposals, flexing a stranglehold over crucial
26 digital search and mapping markets, Google has leveraged monopoly power to effectuate
27 exclusionary tying. App or website developers or other users using Google Maps have told the
28 House Antitrust Subcommittee that over the past several years, Google has been imposing

1 anticompetitive and exclusionary licensing restrictions as it has gained a more-dominant market
2 position.

3 155. Business-facing mapping products usually consist of a core set of features to
4 provide greater mapping functionality. For example, the Google Maps platform offers
5 developers Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs. App or website developers or other users
6 would want to choose to mix and match for example, using maps data from one firm but places
7 data from another. However, Google has ratcheted up its prohibition against app developers
8 using any part of its mapping tools alongside any non-Google mapping features.
9

10 156. For example, prior to April 2020, the Terms of Service stated the following:

11 (e) No Use With Non-Google Maps. Customer will not use the Google Maps Core
12 Services in a Customer Application that contains a non-Google map. For example,
13 Customer will not (i) display Places listings on a non-Google map, or (ii) display
14 Street View imagery and non-Google maps in the same Customer Application.

15 157. Recent changes to the Terms of Service are even more restrictive by prohibiting
16 developers from even displaying any component of Google Maps “near” any other map:

17 Google Maps Content means any content provided through the Services (whether
18 created by Google or its third-party licensors), including map and terrain data,
19 imagery, trace data, and places data (including business listings).

20 ***

21 (e) No Use With Non-Google Maps. To avoid quality issues and/or brand
22 confusion, Customer will not use the Google Maps Core Services with or near a
23 non-Google Map in a Customer Application. For example, Customer will not (i)
24 display or use Places content on a non-Google map, (ii) display Street View
25 imagery and non-Google maps on the same screen, or (iii) link a Google Map to
26 non-Google Maps content or a non-Google map.

27 158. Both versions of this provision prohibit developers from using *any* component of
28 the Google Maps Core Service with mapping services provided by non-Google firms.

159. The April 2020 change to the terms of service is even more restrictive: it prohibits
developers from even displaying any component of Google Maps “near” any other map.

1 160. In practice, Google’s contractual provisions have forced several major companies
2 to switch entirely to Google’s ecosystem, even in cases where they preferred mapping services
3 from a non-Google provider—for example, Mapbox.

4 161. Through interviews with market participants, the House Antitrust Subcommittee
5 learned that Google has been enforcing these provisions aggressively.

6 162. According to one firm, Google closely tracks and pressures developers who use
7 Google’s place data in conjunction with mapping data from a non-Google firm, effectively
8 forcing them to choose whether they will use all of Google’s mapping services or none of them.

9 163. One firm described Google’s coercive tactics, stating that “[i]t’s a bigger player
10 putting a gun to our head saying ‘switch or else.’”

11 164. A particular example (without limitation) of the anti-competitive nature of the
12 tying alleged herein is that even if a Class Member requests a specific JavaScript-related Google
13 Maps API, Google unilaterally will add on unnecessary, non-responsive other digital-mapping
14 APIs, such as Places APIs, to that request and charge the Class Member for those additional
15 APIs. Another particular example (without limitation) is that prior to anticompetitive changes
16 to Google’s terms of services related to its digital-mapping APIs, certain JavaScript or SDK
17 tools—not technically APIs—were provided complimentary with other API calls because those
18 JavaScript or SDK tools were necessary to make the actual APIs accurately overlay information
19 as an image on a digital map. Those tools were not technically APIs. But after changes, Google
20 had recategorized those JavaScript or SDK tools as APIs, made them compulsory to other
21 purchased APIs, and charged Class Members for them. Another particular egregious example
22 (without limitation) is that even a Class Member wanted to overlay data that it has acquired
23 through its own app or website—for example, Places API data concerning information learned
24 from its own users, such as comments on a particular restaurant dish—on top of a digital-map
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1 that has used any Google APIs, Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs, it cannot because even
2 the Class Member's own data would be considered to violate the terms of service if it is
3 overlaid on top of a digital map that used any Google digital-mapping APIs.

4 ***ii. Google leverages its dominant search products to intimidate app developers.***

5 165. Monopolistic leveraging is the use of monopoly power in one market to strengthen
6 or gain a monopoly share in another market. Leveraging may be achieved through many
7 anticompetitive practices, including, without limitation, contractual or technological tying,
8 bundling, and exclusive dealing. In digital markets, the DOJ has noted that monopolistic
9 leveraging and relationships between markets is as important as dynamics within the market,
10 such as barriers to entry and market power.

11 166. Google has leveraged its monopoly power in its search products and services to
12 suppress competition in the digital-mapping stack.

13 167. Because Google's monopoly in online search has furnished it with a treasure-trove
14 of data and a robust index, its place-search feature is also seen by app developers effectively as
15 a must-have.

16 168. One market participant that has lost business partnerships due to Google's
17 coercive restrictions told the House Antitrust Subcommittee that Google is "using access to its
18 dominant search products as leverage to intimidate businesses out of working with other map
19 providers." He noted that Google's conduct now threatens his firm's survival, saying that "[t]his
20 is existential for us."

21 169. One app developer noted that Google's control over what now serves as a key
22 mapping technology has allowed Google to call all the shots. "We license Google Maps and it's
23 essentially a contract of adhesion. It's full of restrictions and we aren't able to negotiate any
24 changes," the developer said. The developer added that they had explored switching to
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1 alternative mapping providers. “Other providers still value us and want to know how they can
2 accommodate us,” they said. “With Google, we just have to comply with all their restrictions.”

3 170. In a submission to the House Antitrust Subcommittee, one market participant who
4 uses Google Maps to power its reservation system, website, and mobile app stated the following:
5 “[L]ocal businesses are most likely to use Google’s tools to index their websites because Google
6 controls the search engine space, which has the ability to deliver—or restrict—whether these
7 websites appear in corresponding links in consumer search results.” The market participant
8 added that this dependence reinforces Google’s market power, as it “provides Google with
9 another opportunity to monetize companies’ supply chains and leverage its pricing power over
10 companies that need to promote their businesses and/or purchase ad space to grow.” This
11 business predicted that “the data advantages that Google incorporates into its tools will only
12 grow with time, making it impossible for a new player to ever achieve the scale, user base, or
13 database necessary to compete.”
14
15

16 171. According to Google Maps’ terms of service, Class Members could not use
17 advertising overlays from a source other than Google’s APIs if it is being done any digital map
18 that includes any information from a Google Maps API, Routes API, or Places API. Only
19 Google is permitted to enable the type of advertising information and the manner in which it is
20 overlaid on a digital map based on Google Maps APIs, Google Routes APIs, or Google Places
21 APIs.
22

23 ***iii. Google even uses its control over digital mapping to favor its own products.***

24 172. App developers told the House Antitrust Subcommittee that Google even uses its
25 control over digital mapping to favor its own products in other lines of business.

26 173. Since Google provides mapping services and also offers non-mapping services
27 that use its own mapping as an input, Google can selectively degrade access for third parties that
28

1 rely on Google’s mapping product to disfavor them as competitors to its non-mapping products.

2 174. For example, market participants noted that Google has added various restrictions
3 to the license agreement for Google Maps digital-mapping APIs—restrictions that apply to
4 third-party developers or other users but not to Google’s own competing products.

5 175. One example is unequal rights to map caching. Map caching occurs when a server
6 stores copies of map images that it can speedily distribute when next recalled. Without caching,
7 a map is drawn each time it is requested, a much slower process.

8 176. Although previous versions of the Google Maps digital-mapping APIs agreement
9 permitted caching by developers or other users, the recent versions prohibit caching of maps
10 with limited exception.

11 177. Third-party apps or websites built on Google Maps’ digital-mapping APIs can no
12 longer store a map cache.

13 178. However, market participants note that Google’s own products built on Google
14 Maps—ranging from its local search service to its hotel finder—face no similar restrictions,
15 enabling them to load faster than those run by third parties.

16 179. Commenting on the asymmetry, one market participant told the House Antitrust
17 Subcommittee that Google’s decision to deny third parties caching “denigrates the service that
18 our maps can provide compared to Google’s.” They added “that’s why we can’t create an app
19 that provides directions as well as Google or we can’t update a user’s location as quickly as
20 Google.”

21 180. Allegedly, Microsoft used similar anticompetitive strategies in the 1990s. For
22 example, allegedly, Microsoft correctly recognized that the web browser could displace the
23 operating system as the most important computer interface. The web browser is an application
24 that sits on top of a “stack” or layers of software, with the operating system at its foundation.
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27
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1 Allegedly, Microsoft used its Windows operating system monopoly to force consumers to
2 install, load, and use Internet Explorer instead of a rival web browser. Allegedly, by so doing,
3 Microsoft was both expanding its monopoly “upward” in the stack—from the operating system
4 into web browsers—and maintaining its operating system monopoly by making the web browser
5 dependent on Windows. Similarly, Google is alleged to be seeking to maintain and expand
6 control throughout the entire digital-mapping stack, including, without limitation, in Maps APIs,
7 Routes APIs, and Places APIs, by forcing app or website developers or other users to use distinct
8 products and services both within and outside of the digital-mapping stack. Google, like
9 Microsoft before it, is thereby squelching innovation and locking app and web developers and
10 other users into a Google-controlled system from top to bottom.
11

12 **4. Defendants’ purported pro-competitive justifications ring hollow.**

13 181. Under *per se* liability, whether the purported pro-competitive effects outweigh the
14 anti-competitive effects is irrelevant. The allegations herein present *per se* liability.
15

16 182. In the alternative, Defendants’ potential defenses of pro-competitive justifications
17 cannot stand.
18

19 183. Defendants cannot justify their restraints of trade and monopolizing conduct.
20

21 184. Defendants cannot convincingly claim efficiency justifications for its conduct
22 because their conduct creates numerous inefficiencies.
23

24 185. Defendants’ potential ripostes of pro-competitive justifications in avoiding
25 “quality issues and/or brand confusion” would be incredible.
26

27 186. Even with an ever-increasing stranglehold over Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and
28 Places APIs, Google with its strict control has done an abysmal—if not intentional or reckless—
job of maintaining quality and accurate business-mapping features.

187. Defendants’ pricing for Google Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs are

1 widely known to be materially more expensive than competitors’ pricing—indeed, competitors
2 offer such APIs for free. A particular example of over-pricing by Google compared to its
3 competitors (without limitation) is the Google Places APIs, an otherwise commodity form of
4 API information.

5
6 188. And there would not be confusion to the end user about the source of the digital-
7 mapping information because direct users can seamlessly display on a digital map the source of
8 which component digital-mapping information comes from which competitor.

9
10 189. Moreover, users would appreciate having back-up digital mapping data by another
11 provider when Google’s servers freeze or shut down, which has happened recently. Building
12 back-ups data into systems is critical in case the initial data provider experiences difficulties.
13 Indeed, based on public revelations, around Mar 2022, Google Maps nearly experienced a
14 complete world-wide failure and outage that lasted several hours. This left Class Members
15 powerless to display their digital maps and help it support their businesses, apps, and websites.
16 Having back-up data also enables the user to truly experiment which competitor provides the
17 highest-quality data.

18
19 190. And Google does not offer a full suite of APIs in all of its Maps APIs, Routes
20 APIs, and Places APIs. There are bodies of API information within these relevant product
21 groups that Google does not offer, that competitors may have, but the Class Members cannot
22 access because of Google’s anticompetitive conduct alleged herein.

23 191. The Antitrust House Subcommittee emphasized this phenomenon:

24 Although Google’s responses to the Subcommittees’ questions about its conduct
25 regarding Google Maps emphasized “quality” and “user experience,” ... public
26 reporting has documented that Google Maps’ listings are “overrun with millions of
27 false business addresses and fake names.” ... A fake listing can occur when a
28 business creates a fake listing or when a fraudulent business hijacks the name of a
legitimate business on Google Maps, diverting user calls or visits from the
legitimate business to a fraudulent one. A survey of experts conducted by the *Wall*

1 *Street Journal* estimated that Google Maps hosts around 11 million falsely listed
2 businesses on any given day. ... The same experts stated that “a majority” of the
3 listings on Google Maps for businesses such as “contractors, electricians, towing
4 and car repair services, movers and lawyers,” as well as others, are not actually
5 located at the location given by Google Maps.

6 These fake listings endanger consumer safety, giving rise to situations where users
7 of Google Maps have unknowingly requested home repairs and other services from
8 fraudulent providers, ultimately, paying inflated prices for shoddy work. ... The
9 fraudulent listings also disadvantage legitimate businesses, both those whose
10 listings have been hijacked as well as those whose own listings appear below those
11 of sham businesses.

12 Legitimate businesses hurt by fake listings say that contacting Google to report the
13 situation generally fails to resolve the problem. In practice, the only ways legitimate
14 businesses can shield themselves from fake listings is to buy ads from Google. Ad
15 prices for categories that are most susceptible to ad fraud have increased more than
16 50% over the last two years.

17 ***

18 Both digital advertisement experts and individuals engaging in fraudulent activity
19 believe that Google has turned a blind eye to the problem. According to the *Wall*
20 *Street Journal*, one ad specialist who was invited by Google to help root out the
21 problem left after concluding that Google “has obviously chosen not to solve the
22 problem.” ... A business owner who helps facilitate the fake listings says his
23 activity leaves a “huge footprint” and yet Google is “just letting it happen.” He
24 added, “I know Google knows.”

25 192. Developers, users, and mapping providers have questioned Google’s purported
26 quality and confusion rationales, noting that developers were the ones best positioned to
27 determine whether combining mapping services from multiple providers created a “negative
28 user experience.” One provider added, “The developers we partner with are extremely
sophisticated. They’re not confused.”

193. Nor is there any valid argument that monopoly is somehow desirable in the
relevant markets. Even in markets with network effects, antitrust law does not recognize a
defense to anticompetitive conduct based on size. Competition on the merits will produce better
outcomes than monopoly for app developers and users.

1 194. Nor can Google claim any of the abstract justifications often used when firms
2 vertically integrate. Google’s integration in fact reflects a strategy through which Google raises
3 barriers to entry and prevents new competitors or ways of doing business from breaking into the
4 online advertising marketplace.

5
6 **V. INTERSTATE TRADE AND COMMERCE**

7 195. Google engages in interstate commerce and activities substantially affecting
8 interstate commerce, including, without limitation, providing products and services such as
9 Google Maps, Waze, Gmail, YouTube, Android OS, and search, to app and website developers,
10 other users, and consumers throughout the U.S. and globally.

11 196. App and website developers and other users use Google’s services in the relevant
12 markets to provide products and services to users across the U.S. and globally.

13
14 **VI. ANTITRUST HARM**

15 197. Defendants’ conduct goes far beyond aggressive competition. Their
16 anticompetitive actions intend to and in fact have excluded rivals and harmed the competitive
17 process. This conduct is not competition on the merits or otherwise privileged. Even worse, the
18 conduct has been planned and thoroughly executed over many years—it is willful.

19 198. Defendants’ conduct harms app and website developers and ultimately other users
20 by depriving them of valid competitive choice, degrading consumer privacy, degrading quality
21 and variety of products and services offered to consumers, stifling innovation, and ultimately
22 raising the prices for digital-mapping goods and services.

23
24 199. As a result of the anticompetitive conduct alleged herein, Defendants have
25 foreclosed other firms from competing in the relevant markets to the detriment of app or website
26 developers and other users, such as Plaintiff, and the Class members.

27 200. And Defendants have reinforced their market position by impairing potential
28

1 competing Maps APIs, Routes APIs, or Places APIs providers by using Google’s market power
2 in other markets to prevent potential rivals from collecting rival datasets that could make the
3 potential rivals viable alternatives to Google Maps and Waze for app or website developers,
4 which in turn could loosen Google’s strangle-hold on the relevant markets.

5
6 201. In particular, by acquiring Waze—the main vertically integrated competitor that
7 could have jeopardized Google Maps’ quest for dominance—and several other acquisitions,
8 Google morphed competitors into structural support for further dominance.

9
10 202. Google has foreclosed competition to Google Maps and Waze’s products and
11 services from having implemented the anticompetitive conduct herein, such as tying, leveraging
12 monopoly power to create dominance in other products and services, fraudulent and
13 manipulative conduct, and anti-competitive self-preferencing.

14
15 203. The foreclosure caused by Google’s conduct in the relevant markets can be seen
16 by the exit and limited entry of competitors. Entry into the relevant markets has been weak over
17 the time period of Google Maps and Waze’s increasing dominance. This lack of entry has
18 resulted from artificial entry barriers arising from Google’s anticompetitive conduct.

19
20 204. This unlawful tying and monopolistic behavior has resulted in concrete damages
21 to app developers, in part through egregious and anticompetitive price hikes.

22
23 205. For years, Google offered a free tier of the Maps API, incentivizing developers to
24 build their apps with Google Maps.

25
26 206. However, in around May 2018 and continuing thereafter, Google Maps
27 introduced a single “pay-as-you-go” pricing plan for the core mapping APIs.

28
29 207. This shift dramatically reduced the number of free maps API calls that a firm
30 could make—from 25,000 per day to around 930 per day.

31
32 208. Developers told the House Antitrust Subcommittee that the change amounted to

1 a price increase of 1,400%.

2 209. One market participant told the House Antitrust Subcommittee that Google
3 instituted this price hike after “gaining dominance.” Since becoming a Google Maps customer,
4 the market participant’s costs “have increased over 20x” and “there are no viable alternatives.”

5 210. Another developer stated that the 2018 pricing change “took our bill from
6 \$90/month in October to \$20,000/month in December.” The developer stated that it was able to
7 subsequently reduce its bill through making a change that enabled the location-retrieval function
8 to occur directly on a user’s device—a change that gave Google “greater ability to identify and
9 track” the device user.
10

11 211. Several developers expressed their frustrations publicly, noting that Google’s
12 decision to hike prices so sharply, and without giving developers significant notice, underscored
13 its power to set the terms of commerce.
14

15 212. One developer stated the following: “I understand that Google wants to make this
16 into a line of business. But it feels like they’re taking advantage of us. They know that they’re
17 the best, and that no one else is even close. Instead of just giving us Maps for free or very cheap,
18 in exchange for collecting all our usage data, they now feel they need to charge really high
19 prices.”
20

21 213. In effect, Google makes market participants pay twice to access Google Maps—
22 first by giving Google their valuable usage data and then again by paying Google’s volume-
23 based fees for API calls.

24 214. Even apparently powerful, large companies are beholden to Defendants.

25 215. For example, the House Antitrust Subcommittee reported that the ride-sharing
26 company Lyft has cited its use of Google Maps as a potential risk to its business model. Lyft
27
28

1 stated in a securities filing that “[s]ome of our competitors or technology partners may take
2 actions which disrupt the interoperability of our platform with their own products or services.”

3 216. In 2019, Uber disclosed that it relied on Google Maps for “the mapping function
4 that is critical to the functionality” of its platform. It added, “We do not believe that an
5 alternative mapping solution exists that can provide the global functionality that we require to
6 offer our platform in all of the markets in which we operate.” Uber disclosed that from January
7 1, 2016, through December 31, 2018, the company had paid Google \$58 million for use of
8 Google Maps.
9

10 217. And Google in 2020 executed a juggernaut of an exclusive-dealing arrangement
11 with Ford that is slated to span six years, entails several billions of dollars, and not only locks
12 Ford into Google Maps and Google Automotive Services, but also obligated Ford to use GCP
13 rather than staying with Microsoft Azure.
14

15 218. And recent news has revealed that automakers through the Google Automotive
16 Services package face a bundled together package of Google digital-mapping APIs, the Google
17 Play application store, Google Assistant, and other services. For example, car companies are
18 prevented from mixing Google Maps digital-mapping APIs with voice assistants developed by
19 smaller rivals.
20

21 219. Concrete monetary damages to helpless app developers and the flexing of
22 monopoly power over other market participants are not the only devastating consequences of
23 Defendants’ alleged tying and monopolization.

24 220. It gets worse.

25 221. Letting Defendants’ alleged tying and monopolistic actions proceed unfettered—
26 as it appears to have been raging on for the past several years—results in very real danger to
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28

1 everyday users in the form of severe degradation of accuracy. According to a *Wall Street Journal*
2 article cited in the House Antitrust Proposals, users are subjected to real danger:

3 [A] 67-year-old-woman contacted a local home repair service she found through
4 Google, only to be serviced by a man who was pretending to be from the company
5 she had hired. The man charged almost twice the cost of previous repairs and
6 demanded a personal check or cash. The woman told the *Wall Street Journal*, “I’m
at my house by myself with this guy. He could have knocked me over dead.”

7 **VII. PLAINTIFFS AND CLASS MEMBERS WERE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE**
8 **ALLEGED ANTICOMPETITIVE ACTIONS**

9 222. Defendants’ anticompetitive and exclusionary conduct has resulted in harm to
10 competition.

11 223. Defendants have unlawfully maintained monopolies by using Google’s market
12 power to disadvantage app developers and rivals through tying, exclusionary conduct,
13 information asymmetries, and other conduct that has collectively and separately harmed
14 competition in the following ways, without limitation:

15 a. Denying rivals in the relevant markets access to the necessary scale to compete
16 effectively by denying rivals’ access to data and app developer demand;

17 b. Substantially foreclosing competition in the markets for certain products and
18 services within the digital-mapping stack;

19 c. Substantially foreclosing competition in the markets for certain products and
20 services within the digital-mapping stack and using market power in those certain products
21 and services to foreclose competition in other products and services within the digital-
22 mapping stack;

23 d. Substantially foreclosing competition in the relevant markets by creating
24 information asymmetry;

25 e. Substantially foreclosing competition in the relevant markets by engaging in self-
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1 preferencing;

2 f. Harming app developers' ability to effectively monetize their apps; and

3 g. Improperly shielding Defendants from competitive pressures, thereby allowing
4 them to continue to extract high margins and applying significant pressure on innovation.

5 224. As a direct and proximate result of Google's anticompetitive conduct, Plaintiffs
6 and the Class members suffered substantial losses to their business and property.

7 225. Costs for app developers who relied on Google Maps were artificially increased
8 during the Class Period due to Google's unlawful conduct. Absent Google's anticompetitive
9 conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class members would have experienced less costs.

10 226. And inflated costs that app developers experienced due to Google's unlawful
11 conduct have forced many proposed Class members to have gone out of business altogether.

12 227. As a direct and proximate result of the alleged anticompetitive conduct herein,
13 Google reaps more revenue, suppresses Plaintiffs and the Class members' earnings, and forces
14 them to reduce content, causing further reductions in earnings.

15 228. Evidence of the anticompetitive effects from Defendants' conduct includes,
16 without limitation, the exit of rival firms and limited and declining entry rates in the relevant
17 markets, despite significant profits enjoyed by Google in those same markets.

18 229. A significant entry barrier—high switching costs—exists in the market for digital-
19 mapping stack products and services used by app developers. Defendants' conduct, including,
20 without limitation, tying certain products and services to other products and services, creates
21 artificial entry barriers into the digital-mapping stack market. Defendants' foreclosure of rival
22 digital-mapping stack products and services has left app developers with little to no choice in
23 their selection of digital-mapping stack products and services.

24 230. Defendants' anticompetitive conduct has shielded them from competitive
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1 pressures that would otherwise require ongoing, substantial innovation in response to app
2 developers and users' needs. This lack of innovation has caused grave harm to competition.

3 231. An example of the adverse effects from Defendants' anti-competitive conduct
4 when innovation did occur—specifically by Waze before Google acquired it—demonstrates the
5 potential innovation that has been thwarted throughout the Class Period.
6

7 232. For example, Plaintiff Dream Big Media incurred charges of more than \$1,300 on
8 Google Maps products in 2019 alone.

9 233. Plaintiff Getify Solutions experienced, and continues to experience, significant
10 charges to its credit balance, in addition to the harm from being unable to launch its product.

11 234. For example, Plaintiff Sprinter Supplier experienced a charge of \$5.74, for
12 example, in early February 2020, depleting a credit balance that Google had provided—indeed,
13 it is even unclear given Google's reporting whether the credit balance handled this charge.
14

15 235. The harm to competition deprives app developers, users, and other consumers of
16 improved quality, greater transparency, increased output, and/or lower prices.

17 236. Google's anticompetitive conduct is continuing and so are damages suffered by
18 Plaintiffs and the Class members.

19 237. The full amount of such damages will be calculated after discovery and upon
20 proof at trial.
21

22 **X. CALIFORNIA LAW APPLIES TO THE ENTIRE CLASS**

23 238. California's substantive laws apply to every Class member, regardless of where
24 in the U.S. the Class member resides. The Terms of Service explicitly state that California law
25 will govern all disputes arising out of or relating to the terms, service-specific additional terms,
26 or any related services, regardless of conflict of laws rules. By choosing California law for the
27
28

1 resolution of disputes covered by its Terms of Service, Google concedes that it is appropriate
2 for this Court to apply California law to the instant dispute.

3 239. Further, California's substantive laws may be constitutionally applied to the
4 claims of Plaintiffs and the Class under the Due Process Clause, *see* U.S. CONST. amend. XIV,
5 § 1, and the Full Faith and Credit Clause, *see* U.S. CONST. art. IV, § 1, of the U.S. Constitution.
6 California has significant contact or significant aggregation of contacts with the claims asserted
7 by Plaintiffs and all Class members, thereby creating state interests that ensure that the choice
8 of California state law is not arbitrary or unfair. Defendants' decisions to reside in California
9 and avail themselves of California's laws and to engage in the challenged conduct from and
10 emanating out of California render the application of California law to the claims herein
11 constitutionally permissible. The application of California laws to the Class is also appropriate
12 under California's choice of law rules because California has significant contacts with the claims
13 of Plaintiffs and the Class, and California has the greatest interest in applying its laws here.
14
15

16 **XI. TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

17 240. The statutes of limitations did not begin to run because Plaintiffs did not and could
18 not discover their claims.

19 241. Plaintiffs and the Class members had no knowledge of Defendants'
20 anticompetitive conduct or facts sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of the claims asserted
21 herein during the Class Period and continuing hereafter.
22

23 242. As described herein, Plaintiffs and the Class members suffered economic loss as
24 a result of Defendants' tying and wrongful exercise of monopoly power in the relevant markets
25 . Other than dealing directly with Defendants when using its digital-mapping products and
26 services, Plaintiffs had no direct contact or interaction with Google and had no means from
27 which it could have discovered Defendants' wrongful conduct.
28

1 243. Plaintiffs first learned about information in the public domain sufficient to put it
2 on notice of Defendants’ alleged anticompetitive conduct when the House Antitrust Proposals
3 were released around October 6, 2020.

4 244. Before then, it was reasonable for Plaintiffs and the Class members not to have
5 suspected that Defendants were engaging in any unlawful anticompetitive behavior.

6 245. Plaintiffs allege a continuing course of unlawful conduct by Defendants, including
7 conduct within the applicable limitations periods. That conduct has inflicted continuing and
8 accumulating harm within the applicable statute of limitations.

9 246. For these reasons, the statutes of limitations applicable to Plaintiffs and the Class
10 members claims have been tolled with respect to the claims asserted herein.

11 247. Additionally and alternatively, application of the fraudulent-concealment doctrine
12 tolled the statutes of limitations on Plaintiff’s claims.

13 248. Plaintiffs and the Class members had no knowledge of Defendants’ wrongful
14 tying and acquisition and maintenance of monopoly power in the relevant markets or of facts
15 sufficient to place them on inquiry notice of their claims, during the Class Period and continuing
16 thereafter. No information in the public domain or otherwise available to Plaintiffs and the Class
17 members during the Class Period suggested that Defendants had wrongfully tied and acquired a
18 monopoly or was using its monopoly power to charge app developers supra-competitive prices
19 for digital-mapping products and services.

20 249. Defendants concealed their illicit conduct, both by failing to disclose their
21 wrongful tying and acquisition and maintenance of a monopoly through exclusionary acts in the
22 relevant markets .

23 250. Because Defendants’ antitrust violations were self-concealing and affirmatively
24 concealed by Defendants, Plaintiffs and the Class members had no knowledge of Defendants’
25

1 antitrust violations or of any facts or information that would have caused a reasonably diligent
2 person to suspect Defendants of having wrongfully tied and acquired and maintained monopoly
3 power during the Class Period.

4 251. Therefore, by operation of Google’s fraudulent concealment, the statutes of
5 limitations applicable to Plaintiffs and the Class members’ claims were tolled throughout the
6 Class Period.
7

8 **XII. CAUSES OF ACTION**

9 **COUNT ONE: Violation of Sherman Act Section 1**
10 **(15 U.S.C. § 1)**

11 252. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations above as if fully set forth
12 herein.

13 253. As described above, Google entered into and carried out an unlawful tying
14 agreement in violation of Sherman Act Section 1, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

15 254. Google improperly tied the distribution of the Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and
16 Places APIs—each of which are separate and distinct products—to the detriment of Plaintiffs
17 and the Class.
18

19 255. Google has sufficient market power in the tying markets to materially restrain
20 competition in the markets for the tied products and has shown an ability to leverage its market
21 power in the tying markets to substantially exclude competition in the tied markets.

22 256. Google’s tying practices are a *per se* violation of antitrust laws in addition to being
23 unreasonable and unlawful restraints of trade.

24 257. Google’s practices include unreasonable and unlawful restraints of trade via
25 negative tying.
26

27 258. Google’s practices described here also constitute unlawful exclusive dealing.
28

1 259. Google’s tying practices further fail the quick look or abbreviated rule of reason
2 standard because there is no plausible justification of Google’s practices.

3 260. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful tying and agreements, Plaintiffs
4 and proposed Class members have suffered injury and damages.

5 261. On behalf of itself and the Class members, Plaintiffs seek money damages from
6 Defendants for these violations. These damages represent the lower costs the Class would have
7 experienced, absent Defendants’ anticompetitive conduct alleged herein. Damages will be
8 quantified on a class-wide basis at trial.

9 262. These actual damages should be trebled under Clayton Act Section 4, 15 U.S.C.
10 § 15.

11 263. On behalf of itself and the Class members, Plaintiffs seeks injunctive relief barring
12 Defendants from engaging in the anticompetitive alleged herein. The violations set forth above
13 and the effects thereof are continuing and will continue unless injunctive relief is granted.

14 264. Plaintiffs and the Class members’ injuries are of the type that the U.S. federal
15 antitrust laws were designed to prevent and flow directly from Defendants’ unlawful,
16 anticompetitive conduct.

17 **COUNT TWO: Tying in Violation of Sherman Act Section 2**
18 **(15 U.S.C. § 2)**

19 265. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations above as if fully set forth
20 herein.

21 266. Defendants have engaged in unlawful tying or bundling, including technological
22 tying, of Google products and services, including through its search, GCP, and digital-mapping
23 products and services.

24 267. Defendants’ contractual arrangements and other conduct force app developers to
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1 use Defendants' digital-mapping products and services if they use Google's other products and
2 services.

3 268. Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs are separate products and services in
4 separate markets.

5 269. As detailed above Defendants have monopoly power in the markets for Maps
6 APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs.

7 270. Google has sufficient market power in the tying markets to materially restrain
8 competition in the markets for the tied products and has shown an ability to leverage its market
9 power in the tying markets to substantially exclude competition in the tied markets.

10 271. Defendants' tying arrangements affect a significant volume of interstate
11 commerce and have the effect of substantially foreclosing competition in the market for the
12 Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs markets by virtue of reducing the number of app
13 developers and others for whom other companies can effectively compete.

14 272. These tying arrangements allow Google to maintain supra-competitive prices for
15 digital-mapping products and services that are ultimately passed on to users, who are also
16 harmed by virtue of having fewer options available at lower prices.

17 273. Defendants have engaged in unlawful tying, including negative tying, with the
18 specific intent to monopolize the Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs markets.

19 274. Defendants' tying arrangements have caused competing digital-mapping-stack
20 providers substantial damages as a direct and proximate cause of this unlawful conduct because
21 Google has foreclosed other digital-mapping-stack providers from competing for potential app
22 developers and others for reasons having nothing to do with the merits of Defendants' products
23 and services.

24 275. There is no valid procompetitive business justification for Defendants'
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1 anticompetitive conduct. To the extent that Defendants offer one, it is pretextual and not
2 cognizable. Any procompetitive benefits of defendants' conduct do not outweigh the
3 anticompetitive harms. And even if the procompetitive benefits are determined to outweigh the
4 anticompetitive harms, Defendants alleged anticompetitive actions were not reasonably specific
5 to accomplish the purported procompetitive justifications.
6

7 276. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' anticompetitive restraints, app
8 developers and the Class members have suffered injury to their business and property
9 throughout the Class Period. The precise amount of damages that Plaintiffs and the Class
10 members are entitled to recover as a result of the foregoing injuries is substantial and will be
11 fully ascertained at trial.

12 277. Defendants' monopolization of the relevant markets is an ongoing wrong that
13 causes incalculable and irreparable injury for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Unless
14 Defendants are enjoined by an appropriate order of this Court, the asserted harm will continue
15 unabated.
16

17 **COUNT THREE: Monopoly Leveraging in Violation of Sherman Act Sec. 2**
18 **(15 U.S.C. § 2)**

19 278. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations above as if fully set
20 forth herein.

21 279. Google has monopoly power in the Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs
22 markets.

23 280. Through the anticompetitive conduct described herein, Google has leveraged
24 each of these markets in an effort to gain monopoly power and further dominances in the digital-
25 mapping products and services markets.
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1 281. Defendants have done so willfully, and unless restrained by the Court, they will
2 continue to willfully leverage that power by further anticompetitive, illegal, deceptive, and
3 unreasonably exclusionary conduct.

4 282. Defendants have acted with the intent to unlawfully maintain and gain monopoly
5 power in each of these markets, and their unlawful conduct has enabled them to do so in
6 violation of Sherman Act Section 2.

7 283. Defendants have used and leveraged their monopoly power and dominance in
8 Google search to anticompetitively and unlawfully disadvantage and harm Plaintiffs and the
9 Class members in the markets for digital-mapping products and services.

10 284. As a direct and proximate results of Defendants' anticompetitive restraints,
11 Plaintiffs and the Class members have suffered injury to their business and property throughout
12 the Class Period.

13 285. Defendants' unlawful conduct had directly caused significant monetary damages
14 to Plaintiff. The precise amount of damages that Plaintiffs are entitled to recover as a result of
15 the foregoing injuries is substantial and will be fully ascertained at trial.

16 286. And Defendants' monopolization of the relevant markets and monopoly
17 leveraging are ongoing wrongs that cause incalculable and irreparable injury for which there is
18 no adequate remedy at law. Unless Defendants are enjoined by an appropriate order of this
19 Court, the asserted harm will continue unabated.

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23 **COUNT FOUR: Exclusive Dealing and Tying in Violation of Clayton Act Section 3**
24 **(15 U.S.C. § 14)**

25 287. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations above as if fully set
26 forth herein.

27 288. Google has monopoly power in the Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs
28

1 markets.

2 289. Defendants have willfully and intentionally entered into anticompetitive,
3 exclusionary, and unjustified agreements with app developers and others, creating high entry
4 barriers and unreasonably excluding competition in the attendant markets.

5 290. These exclusionary dealing agreements and tying of products as described above
6 are unreasonably restrictive in terms of breadth, duration, and market coverage.

7 291. This web of exclusive-dealing agreements cannot be justified by any purportedly
8 procompetitive purpose. Google's exclusive-dealing agreements are thus not only unduly
9 restrictive and unreasonable in length, but they also serve the anticompetitive purpose of cutting
10 competitors off from resources that they need to compete with Google.

11 292. This conduct has substantially foreclosed competition in the relevant markets.

12 293. These exclusionary agreements violate Clayton Act Section 3, 15 U.S.C. § 14,
13 because these agreements constitute anticompetitive acts intended to maintain defendants'
14 monopolies, including in the Maps APIs, Routes APIs, and Places APIs markets

15 294. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' anticompetitive and monopolistic
16 conduct, Plaintiffs and the Class members have been damaged in fact.

17 295. Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to an injunction, pursuant to 15 U.S.C.
18 § 26, to prevent Google from persisting in its unlawful behavior to their detriment.

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21 **COUNT FIVE: Unfair Competition Law – Unfair or Unfair Business Practices**
22 **(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code. §§ 17200, *et seq.*)**

23 296. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations above as if fully set
24 forth herein.

25 297. Defendants' conduct, acts, and practices, as described herein, violate
26 California's Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*), which
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1 prohibits any unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice.

2 298. Plaintiffs may bring this action under California’s Unfair Competition Law
3 because Defendants have offices and continuing operations in California, including Mountain
4 View, California. Further, Defendant Google’s California office is responsible for, in part,
5 making or implementing decisions relating to digital-mapping products.
6

7 299. Defendants have engaged in unlawful tying or bundling, including
8 technological tying, of Google products and services, including through its search, GCP, and
9 digital-mapping products and services.

10 300. Plaintiffs have standing to bring this Unfair Competition Law claim as it has
11 suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendants’ unlawful and unfair
12 competition. Specifically, the conduct, acts, and practices of Defendants’ force app developers
13 to use Defendants’ digital-mapping products and services if they use Google’s other products
14 and services.
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16 301. Defendants’ conduct, acts, and practices, as described herein, violate the
17 Sherman Act, and thus constitute a violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law, under the
18 “unlawful” prong of UCL. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

19 302. As a direct result of Defendants’ anticompetitive conduct, acts, and practices,
20 which unlawfully disadvantage Plaintiff, the asserted harm will continue unabated.
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22 303. Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to treble damages based on monetary
23 injuries caused to them by Google’s unlawful conduct.

24 **XIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 WHEREFORE, on behalf of itself and the Class members, Plaintiffs respectfully asks
26 the Court for a judgment at trial for the following:

- 27 a. Certification of this case as a class action on behalf of the Class pursuant to Fed.
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1 R. Civ. P. 23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3), an order that notice of this class action be given to Class
2 members, as provided by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2), and appointment of Plaintiffs as class
3 representative and its attorneys as class counsel;

4 b. An order declaring that Defendants' actions violate the law;

5 c. Awards to Plaintiffs and the proposed Class members treble to the amount of
6 damages actually sustained by reason of Defendants' antitrust violations alleged herein plus the
7 reasonable costs of this action, including, without limitation, attorneys' fees;

8 d. Orders of such equitable relief as are necessary to correct the anticompetitive
9 market effects caused by Defendants' unlawful conduct; and

10 e. Awards of such other relief that the Court deems reasonable and appropriate.

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12 **JURY DEMAND**

13 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.
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Dated: April 13, 2022

/s/ Mario Simonyan
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ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Google Leverages Market Power to Hike Up Prices for Maps API Access, Class Action Alleges](#)
