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## Crossroads home furnishings and design store offers a touch of Europe

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### Burger King dispute

About 18 months ago, Jim Essington purchased four area Burger King locations. He's still operating three of them — one in Louisburg, Kan., and two in Overland Park. But the fourth is in limbo.

Essington had nearly finished remodeling the exterior of the location at Holmes and Red Bridge roads in Kansas City. Then he filed two lawsuits and shut that restaurant, leaving customers wondering what was up.

He filed one lawsuit against Burger King in Miami-Dade County in Florida. The lawsuit contends that he was fraudulently induced by the chain into purchasing the locations, that Burger King misrepresented that there would be ample opportunity for growth, that no other target sites near his restaurants were committed to other franchises and that he would be an ideal operator of 15 to 20 stores. But, the lawsuit says, Burger King had already committed to at least six other franchisee-owned restaurants near his.

He is asking for a judgment for all funds invested in the franchises, as well as attorney fees and costs.

Essington's Crown Four Inc. sued DML Inc. in district court in Kansas. DML is the former owner of the four restaurants Essington had purchased.

"We hope that all the parties — including Burger King — can sit down and work out a resolution that will result in the reopening of that restaurant," said Robert Zarco, a Florida franchise attorney representing Essington.

Denise Wilson, spokeswoman for Burger King, said the company does not comment on active litigation.

Essington previously owned and operated several successful McDonald's restaurants for 14 years.

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