### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re:	Chapter 11
F21 OPCO, LLC, et al., <sup>1</sup>	Case No. 25-10469 ()
Debtors.	(Joint Administration Requested)

DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF (I) INTERIM ORDER AUTHORIZING (A) THE CONDUCT OF THE STORE CLOSING SALES, WITH SUCH SALES TO BE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES AND (B) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF, AND (II) FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING (A) THE DEBTORS TO ASSUME THE AGENCY AGREEMENT, (B) THE CONDUCT OF THE STORE CLOSING SALES, WITH SUCH SALES TO BE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES, AND (C) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

F21 OpCo, LLC and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (these "<u>Chapter 11 Cases</u>"), hereby submit this motion (this "<u>Motion</u>") for entry of interim and final orders, substantially in the forms attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u> (the "<u>Interim Order</u>") and <u>Exhibit B</u> (the "<u>Final Order</u>" and, together with the Interim Order, the "<u>Proposed Orders</u>"), (a) authorizing the Debtors, upon entry of the Final Order, to assume the *Letter Agreement Governing Inventory Disposition* dated November 5, 2024 (the "<u>Initial Agreement</u>") by and between F21 OpCo, LLC ("<u>F21</u>" or "<u>Merchant</u>") and Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC ("<u>Hilco</u>"), the First Amendment to Letter Agreement dated December 10, 2024 (the "<u>First Amendment</u>") by and between F21 and Hilco, and the Second Amendment to Letter Agreement (the "<u>Second Amendment</u>" and, collectively

The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: F21 OpCo, LLC (8773); F21 Puerto Rico, LLC (5906); and F21 GiftCo Management, LLC (6412). The Debtors' address for purposes of service in these Chapter 11 Cases is 110 East 9th Street, Suite A500, Los Angeles, CA 90079.



with the Initial Agreement and the First Amendment, the "Agency Agreement"),<sup>2</sup> dated February 12, 2025, by and between F21 on the one hand, and a contractual joint venture composed of Hilco, Gordon Brothers Retail Partners, LLC, and SB360 Capital Partners, LLC (collectively, the "Agent"), on the other hand, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 1 to each of the Proposed Orders, (b) authorizing the Debtors to conduct store closing or similar themed sales in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement and the Store Closing Sales guidelines (the "Sale Guidelines"), a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 2 to each of the Proposed Orders, with such sales to be free and clear of all liens, claims, and encumbrances, and (c) granting certain related relief. In support of this Motion, the Debtors rely upon, and incorporate by reference, the Declaration of Stephen Coulombe in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Pleadings (the "First Day Declaration"), filed contemporaneously herewith. In further support of this Motion, the Debtors respectfully state as follows:

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

1. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Court") has jurisdiction to consider this Motion under 28 U.S.C. § 1334 and the Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware dated as of February 29, 2012. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Under Rule 9013-1(f) of the Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "Local Rules"), the Debtors consent to the entry of a final order by the Court in connection with this Motion to the extent that it is later determined that the Court, absent consent of the parties,

Pursuant to this Motion, the Debtors seek, in the Interim Order, confirmation that the Agency Agreement is operative and effective, and in the Final Order, authorization to assume the Agency Agreement.

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the First Day Declaration or the Agency Agreement, as applicable.

cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection herewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

- 2. Venue of these Chapter 11 Cases and this Motion in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 3. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief requested herein are sections 105, 363, 365, 364 and 554 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rules 2002, 6003, and 6004 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules").

### **BACKGROUND**

#### I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

- 4. On the date hereof (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions in the Court commencing these Chapter 11 Cases. The Debtors continue to manage and operate their businesses as debtors in possession under sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee or examiner has been requested and no committee has been appointed in these Chapter 11 Cases.
- 5. The factual background regarding the Debtors, including their business operations, their capital and debt structures, and the events leading to the filing of these Chapter 11 Cases, is set forth in detail in the First Day Declaration. Simultaneously herewith, the Debtors have filed a motion seeking to have these Chapter 11 Cases jointly administered for procedural purposes only pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).

### II. THE DEBTORS' PREPETITION STORE CLOSING SALES EFFORTS

6. As described in more detail in the First Day Declaration, the Debtors' business operations have been negatively impacted in recent years by challenges affecting many peer retailers including, among other things, inflationary pressures, decreased consumer discretionary

spending, contracting margins, and shifting customer preferences. In this context, in late 2024, the Debtors and their advisors began exploring restructuring alternatives.

- 7. In November 2024, to address immediate liquidity issues, F21 and Hilco entered into the Initial Agreement, which set forth the terms on which Hilco would oversee liquidation of inventory and merchandise at eleven of F21's most underperforming brick and mortar retail locations (the "<u>Initial Closing Stores</u>"). The sales at the Initial Closing Stores commenced on November 7, 2024, and concluded prior to the Petition Date.
- 8. On December 10, 2024, F21 and Hilco entered into the First Amendment to add seven (7) stores to the list of Initial Closing Stores (the "<u>Additional Initial Closing Stores</u>"). The sales at the Additional Initial Closing Stores commenced on December 12, 2024, and concluded prior to the Petition Date. In connection therewith, the Debtors surrendered the Initial Closing Stores and Additional Initial Closing Stores to applicable landlords prior to the Petition Date.

#### III. THE AGENCY AGREEMENT

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9. Once it was determined that the Debtors would likely seek the protection of the Court and wind down their operations in connection therewith, the Debtors began soliciting proposals from national liquidation firms interested in overseeing the contemplated store closing process (the "Store Closing Sales") for the Debtors' remaining stores prior to and during these Chapter 11 Cases (collectively, the "Closing Stores"). After evaluating all available options, the Debtors, in consultation with their advisors, selected the Agent, which is comprised of three leading and reputable firms that, collectively, have the expertise and capacity to conduct the Store Closing Sales, and entered into the Second Amendment memorializing the terms on which the Agent will serve as the exclusive liquidator for the Debtors. Consistent with the final amendment to the Agency Agreement, the initial wave of the Store Closing Sales commenced at the Closing Stores on or about February 14, 2025 (the "Sale Commencement Date"), and the second wave of

Store Closing Sales commenced on or about February 27, 2025. For all Store Closing Sales, it is contemplated that they will conclude no later than April 30, 2025 (the "Sale Termination Date"), provided, however, that F21 and the Agent may mutually agree in writing to extend or terminate a Store Closing Sales at any Closing Store prior to the Sale Termination Date, and that different Closing Stores may have different Sale Commencement Dates or Sale Termination Dates, respectively. The Agency Agreement also provides that, during the Sale Term, the Agent may sell certain Store Closing Assets through wholesale channels.

- 10. In selecting the Agent, the Debtors concluded, in their business judgment, that (a) the Agent's services are necessary (i) for a seamless and efficient large-scale store closing process, as is contemplated by this Motion, and (ii) to maximize the value of the saleable inventory located in the Closing Stores as of the Sale Commencement Date or shipped to the Closing Stores from the Debtors' distribution center (as defined in greater detail in the Agency Agreement, the "Merchandise", as further defined below) during the period between the Sale Commencement Date and the Sale Termination Date (the "Sale Term"), and the associated furniture, fixtures, and equipment (as defined in the Agency Agreement, the "FF&E" and, together with the Merchandise, the "Store Closing Assets"), and (b) the Agent is qualified and capable of performing the required tasks in a value-maximizing manner.
- 11. The Debtors and their advisors have worked with the Agent to determine which, if any, programs and policies governing customer transactions (the "Customer Programs") should continue during the Sale Term. To that end, the Debtors have determined to continue certain customer programs as described in the Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing Maintenance, Administration, and Continuation of Debtors' Customer Programs and (II) Granting Related Relief filed contemporaneously herewith (the "Customer Programs")

Motion"). Given the current strategy, and as set forth in the Customer Programs Motion, the Debtors seek authority to honor their gift card obligations through and including April 15, 2025 (the "Gift Card Termination Date"), which is thirty days from the Petition Date. No later than February 27, 2025, the Debtors stopped selling gift cards at their store point-of-sales and on their ecommerce website. At that time or shortly thereafter, the Debtors posted conspicuous signage at their stores advising customers that gift cards would be honored through the Gift Card Termination Date, and a banner was placed on the Debtors' website advising online customers in the same manner.

- 12. Additionally, as described in the Debtors' Motion for Entry of Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing the Debtors to Pay and Honor Certain (A) Prepetition Wages, Benefits, and Other Compensation Obligations; (B) Prepetition Employee Business Expenses; (C) Bonus Program Obligations; and (D) Workers' Compensation Obligations; (II) Authorizing Banks to Honor and Process Checks and Transfers Related to Such Obligations; and (III) Granting Related Relief (the "Wages Motion") filed contemporaneously herewith, the Debtors have worked with the Agent to implement a retention program designed to retain non-insider full-time store managers and supervisors during the Store Closing Sale. The Debtors are seeking approval of such bonus program in connection with the Wages Motion.
- 13. The material terms of the Agency Agreement are described in the summary chart below.<sup>4</sup>

Provision	Description
Merchandise	" <u>Merchandise</u> " shall mean all goods, saleable in the ordinary course, located in the Closing Stores on the Sale Commencement Date or goods that, upon mutual agreement between the Parties, Merchant ships to the Closing Stores subsequent to the Sale

To the extent that this summary differs in any way from the terms set forth in the Agency Agreement, the terms of the Agency Agreement shall control.

Provision	Description
	Commencement Date for inclusion in the Store Closing Sales.
	"Merchandise" does not mean and shall not include: (a) goods that belong to sublessees, licensees or concessionaires of Merchant; (b) FF&E or (c) damaged or defective merchandise that cannot be sold.
Sale Term	Agent shall complete the Store Closing Sales at each Closing Store no later than April 30, 2025, unless mutually extended by Debtors and Agent.
Agent's Undertakings	During the Sale Term, Agent shall, in collaboration with Merchant, (a) provide qualified Supervisors engaged by Agent to oversee the management of the Closing Stores; (b) determine appropriate point-of-sale and external advertising for the Closing Stores, approved in advance by Merchant; (c) determine appropriate discounts of Merchandise, staffing levels for the Closing Stores, approved in advance by Merchant, and appropriate bonus and incentive programs, if any, for the Closing Stores' employees, approved in advance by Merchant; (d) oversee display of Merchandise for the Closing Stores; (e) to the extent that information is available, evaluate sales of Merchandise by category and sales reporting and monitor expenses; (f) maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary or non-public information regarding Merchant in accordance with the provisions of the confidentiality agreement signed by the Parties; (g) assist Merchant in connection with managing and controlling loss prevention and employee relations matters; (h) determine the necessity for obtaining any applicable permits and governmental approvals to conduct the Store Closing Sales, including working with Merchant to obtain each in a timely and orderly fashion and preparing or causing to be prepared all forms necessary to assist in Merchant's securing any applicable permits and governmental approvals necessary to conduct the Store Closing Sales, the costs and expenses of which shall be paid by Merchant and shall be in addition to the costs and expenses set forth on the Expense Budget; (i) implement Agent's affiliate CareerFlex program for Merchant's Closing Store level and other employees; (j) include Additional Agent Goods (as defined in the Agency Agreement) in the Store Closing Sales in the Agent's discretion under the terms set forth in the Agency Agreement; and (k) provide such other related services deemed necessary or appropriate by Merchant and Agent.
	The Merchant shall have no liability to the Supervisors for wages, benefits, severance pay, termination pay, vacation pay, pay in lieu of notice of termination or any other liability arising from Agent's hiring or engagement of the Supervisors, and the Supervisors shall not be considered employees of Merchant.
Merchant's Undertakings	During the Sale Term, Merchant shall (a) be the employer of the Closing Stores' employees, other than the Supervisors; (b) pay all taxes, costs, expenses, accounts payable, and other liabilities relating to the Closing Stores, the Closing Stores' employees and other representatives of Merchant; (c) prepare and process all tax forms and other documentation; (d) collect all sales taxes and pay them to the appropriate taxing authorities for the Closing Stores; (e) use reasonable efforts to cause Merchant's employees to cooperate with Agent and the Supervisors; (f) execute all agreements determined by the Merchant and Agent to be necessary or desirable for the operation of the Closing Stores during the Store Closing Sales; (g) arrange for the ordinary maintenance of all point-of-sale equipment required for the Closing Stores; (h) apply

Provision	Description	
	for and obtain, with Agent's assistance and support, all applicable permits and authorizations (including landlord approvals and consents) for the Store Closing Sales; (i) assist Agent with implementing the CareerFlex program for Merchant's Closing Store level and other employees; and (j) ensure that Agent has quiet use and enjoyment of the Closing Stores for the Sale Term in order to perform its obligations under the Agency Agreement.  Merchant shall provide throughout the Sale Term central administrative services necessary for the Store Closing Sales, including (without limitation) customary POS administration, sales audit, cash reconciliation, accounting, and payroll processing, all at no cost to Agent.	
	The Agent shall have no liability to Merchant's employees for wages, benefits, severance pay, termination pay, vacation pay, pay in lieu of notice of termination or any other liability arising from Merchant's employment, hiring or retention of its employees, and such employees shall not be considered employees of Agent.	
Store Closing Sales	All sales of Merchandise shall be made on behalf of Merchant. Agent does not have, nor shall it have, any right, title or interest in the Merchandise. All sales of Merchandise shall be by cash, gift card, gift certificate, merchandise credit, debit card, or credit card and, at Merchant's discretion, by check or otherwise in accordance with Merchant's policies, and shall be "final" with no returns accepted or allowed, unless otherwise directed by Merchant.	
Agent Fee and Expenses	The Agent shall earn a base fee equal to two (2.0%) of the Gross Proceeds of Merchandise sold at the Closing Stores during the Sale Term. Agent shall earn a base wholesale fee of seven and one half percent (7.5%) of the Gross Proceeds of Merchandise sold through Agent's wholesale channels.	
	In addition to the Merchandise Fee, and not in lieu thereof, the Merchant shall pay to the Agent from Gross Proceeds of such Merchandise (but not Gross Proceeds of Merchandise sold through wholesale channels) an additional fee based upon the Gross Recovery Percentages achieved as set forth in the following table. The Additional Incentive Compensation shall be equal to the aggregate sum of the percentages set forth in the "Additional Incentive Compensation" column of the table (e.g., calculated back to first dollar) for the corresponding Gross Recovery Percentage achieved; provided, however, no Additional Incentive Compensation shall be earned or payable where the Gross Recovery Percentage is less than 138.9%:	
	Gross Recovery Percentage Additional Incentive Compensation	
	Between 138.9% and 140.9%  An additional 0.25% of Gross Proceeds (total fee equal to 2.25% of Gross Proceeds)	
	Above 140.9%  An additional 0.25% of Gross Proceeds (total fee equal to 2.5% of Gross Proceeds)	

Provision	Description
Additional Agent Goods	Agent shall have the right, at Agent's sole cost and expense, to supplement the Merchandise in the Sale at the Stores with additional goods procured by Agent which are of like kind, and no lesser quality to the Merchandise in the Sale at the Stores ("Additional Agent Goods"); provided, further, that the cost of Additional Agent Goods shall not exceed 20% of the aggregate Cost Value of Merchandise in the Sale. The Additional Agent Goods shall be purchased by Agent as part of the Sale, and delivered to the Stores at Agent's sole expense (including as to labor, freight and insurance relative to shipping such Additional Agent Goods to the Stores). Sales of Additional Agent Goods shall be run through Merchant's cash register systems; provided however, that Agent shall mark the Additional Agent Goods using either a "dummy" SKU or department number, or in such other manner so as to distinguish the sale of Additional Agent Goods from the sale of Merchandise. Agent and Merchant shall also cooperate so as to ensure that the Additional Agent Goods are marked in such a way that a reasonable consumer could identify the Additional Agent Goods as non-Merchant goods. Additionally, Agent shall provide signage in the Stores notifying customers that the Additional Agent Goods have been included in the Sale.  Agent and Merchant intend that the transactions relating to the Additional Agent Goods are, and shall be construed as, a true consignment from Agent to Merchant in all respects and not a consignment for security purposes. Subject solely to Agent's obligations to pay to Merchant the Additional Agent Goods Fee, at all times and for all purposes the Additional Agent Goods and their proceeds shall be the exclusive property of Agent, and no other person or entity shall have any claim against any of the Additional Agent Goods or their proceeds. The Additional Agent Goods shall at all times remain subject to the exclusive control of Agent.  Merchant shall, at Agent's sole cost and expense, insure the Additional Agent Goods and, if r
Merchant's Indemnification	Merchant shall indemnify, defend, and hold Agent and its consultants, members, managers, partners, officers, directors, employees, attorneys, advisors, representatives, lenders, potential coinvestors, principals, affiliates, and Supervisors harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, demands, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or related to: (a) the willful or negligent acts or omissions of Merchant or the Merchant Indemnified Parties; (b) the material breach of any provision of the Agency Agreement by Merchant; (c) any liability or other claims, including, without limitation, product liability claims, asserted by customers, any Closing Store employees (under a collective bargaining agreement or otherwise), or any other person (excluding Agent Indemnified Parties) against Agent or an Agent Indemnified Party, except claims arising from Agent's negligence, willful misconduct or unlawful behavior; (d) any harassment, discrimination or violation of any laws or regulations or any other unlawful, tortuous or otherwise actionable treatment of Agent's Indemnified Parties or Merchant's customers by Merchant or Merchant's Indemnified Parties; and (e) Merchant's failure to pay over to the appropriate taxing authority any taxes required to be paid by Merchant during the Sale Term in accordance with applicable law.

Provision	Description
Agent's Indemnification	Agent shall indemnify, defend and hold Merchant and its consultants, members, managers, partners, officers, directors, employees, attorneys, advisors, representatives, lenders, potential coinvestors, principals, and affiliates (other than the Agent or the Agent Indemnified Parties) harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, demands, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or related to (a) the willful or negligent acts or omissions of Agent or the Agent Indemnified Parties; (b) the breach of any provision of, or the failure to perform any obligation under, the Agency Agreement by Agent; (c) any liability or other claims made by Agent's Indemnified Parties or any other person (excluding Merchant Indemnified Parties) against a Merchant Indemnified Party arising out of or related to Agent's conduct of the Store Closing Sales, except claims arising from Merchant's negligence, willful misconduct, or unlawful behavior; (d) any harassment, discrimination or violation of any laws or regulations or any other unlawful, tortuous or otherwise actionable treatment of Merchant Indemnified Parties, or Merchant's customers by Agent or any of the Agent Indemnified Parties and (e) any claims made by any party engaged by Agent as an employee, agent, representative or independent contractor arising out of such engagement.
Merchant's Insurance	Merchant shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, liability insurance policies (including, without limitation, products liability (to the extent currently provided), comprehensive public liability insurance and auto liability insurance) covering injuries to persons and property in or in connection with the Closing Stores and shall cause Agent to be named an additional insured with respect to all such policies. At Agent's request, Merchant shall provide Agent with a certificate or certificates evidencing the insurance coverage required hereunder and that Agent is an additional insured thereunder. In addition, Merchant shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, in such amounts as it currently has in effect, workers compensation insurance in compliance with all statutory requirements.
Agent's Insurance	As an expense of the Store Closing Sales, Agent shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, liability insurance policies (including, without limitation, products liability/completed operations, contractual liability, comprehensive public liability and auto liability insurance) on an occurrence basis in an amount of at least two million dollars (\$2,000,000) and an aggregate basis of at least five million dollars (\$5,000,000) covering injuries to persons and property in or in connection with Agent's provision of services at the Closing Stores. Agent shall name Merchant as an additional insured and loss payee under such policy, and upon execution of the Agency Agreement provide Merchant with a certificate or certificates evidencing the insurance coverage required hereunder. In addition, Agent shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, workers compensation insurance compliance with all statutory requirements. Further, should Agent employ or engage third parties to perform any of Agent's undertakings with regard to the Agency Agreement, Agent will ensure that such third parties are covered by Agent's insurance or maintain all of the same insurance as Agent is required to maintain pursuant to this paragraph and name  Merchant as an additional insured and loss payee under the policy for each such insurance.

Provision	Description
FF&E	Agent shall sell the FF&E in the Closing Stores from the Closing Stores themselves and shall sell FF&E from Merchant's distribution center(s) and corporate offices. Merchant shall be responsible for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Agent in connection with the sale of FF&E, which costs and expenses shall be incurred pursuant to the Budget, as may be modified from time to time by mutual agreement of the Parties. Agent shall have the right to abandon any unsold FF&E. For the avoidance of doubt, Agent shall be the exclusive agent for FF&E sales from any facilities designated for disposition by Merchant during the Store Closing Sales.  Agent shall be entitled to a commission from the sale of the FF&E equal to 17.5% of the Gross Proceeds of the sale of the FF&E.  Agent shall remit to Merchant all Gross Proceeds from the sale of FF&E.

### **RELIEF REQUESTED**

14. By this Motion, the Debtors seek entry of the Interim Order and the Final Order:

(a) authorizing the Debtors, upon entry of the Final Order, to assume the Agency Agreement,

(b) authorizing the Debtors to conduct the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, with such sales to be free and clear of all liens, claims, and encumbrances, and (c) granting certain related relief.

#### **BASIS FOR RELIEF**

## I. ASSUMPTION OF THE AGENCY AGREEMENT IS WARRANTED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES

15. The Debtors request authority to assume the Agency Agreement, upon entry of the Final Order, pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code. Section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in pertinent part, that a debtor in possession, "subject to the court's approval, may assume or reject any executory contract or unexpired lease of the debtor." 11 U.S.C. § 365(a). A debtor's determination to assume or reject an executory contract is governed by the "business judgment" standard. *See, e.g., In re AbitibiBowater Inc.*, 418 B.R. 815, 831 (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 27, 2009) (finding that a debtor's decision to assume or reject an executory contract will stand so

long as "a reasonable business person would make a similar decision under similar circumstances."); In re HQ Global Holdings, Inc., 290 B.R. 507, 511 (Bankr. D. Del. 2003) (stating a debtor's decision to reject an executory contract is governed by the business judgment standard and can only be overturned if the decision was the product of bad faith, whim, or caprice). "The business judgment rule 'is a presumption that in making a business decision the directors of a corporation acted on an informed basis, in good faith and in the honest belief that the action taken was in the best interest of the company." Official Comm. of Subordinated Bondholders v. Integrated Res., Inc. (In re Integrated Res., Inc.), 147 B.R. 650, 656 (S.D.N.Y. 1992) (quoting Smith v. Van Gorkom, 488 A.2d 858, 872 (Del. 1985)).

- 16. The business judgment rule is crucial in chapter 11 cases and shields a debtor's management from judicial second-guessing. *See In re Integrated Res.*, 147 B.R. at 656; *see also Comm. of Asbestos Related Litigants and/or Creditors v. Johns-Manville Corp. (In re Johns-Manville Corp.)*, 60 B.R. 612, 615–16 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1986) ("[T]he Code favors the continued operation of a business by a debtor and a presumption of reasonableness attached to a debtor's management decisions."). Generally, courts defer to a debtor in possession's business judgment to assume or reject an executory contract or lease. *See, e.g., Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. v. West Penn Power Co., (In re Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp.)*, 72 B.R. 845, 846 (Bankr. W.D. Pa. 1987) (stating that the business judgment test "requires only that the trustee [or debtor in possession] demonstrate that [assumption] or rejection of the contract will benefit the estate.").
- 17. The Debtors, in consultation with their professional advisors, determined that the Closing Stores should be closed and the Store Closing Assets should be liquidated for the benefit of the Debtors' estates and creditors. Furthermore, as demonstrated by the First Day Declaration, after engaging in extensive, arm's-length negotiations with certain nationally-recognized

liquidators regarding the Store Closing Sales and conducting reasonable diligence, the Debtors determined that entering into the Agency Agreement would provide the greatest return to the Debtors' estates for the Store Closing Assets. Additionally, the Debtors believe that the terms set forth in the Agency Agreement are fair and equitable and present the best path forward with respect to winding down their operations.

- 18. Further, for the Debtors to conclude the Store Closing Sales as quickly and efficiently as possible, and thereby minimize any unnecessary administrative expenses in connection with the prosecution of these Chapter 11 Cases, it is essential that the Debtors be permitted to continue performing pursuant to the Agency Agreement. The Agent has been conducting the Store Closing Sales since approximately February 14, 2025, and, consequently, has become familiar with the Debtors' operations in the Closing Stores and the Store Closing Sales conducted therein.
- Agency Agreement, the Debtors believe the estates would be prejudiced by unnecessary delay and expense, thereby prejudicing all stakeholders. Among other things, the Debtors and their advisors would need to devote valuable time and effort, at considerable expense to the Debtors and their estates, to retaining another firm to conduct the Store Closing Sales. Given the effectiveness of the Debtors' prepetition efforts to obtain the best possible terms for liquidation of the Store Closing Assets, the Debtors believe that they would be unable to locate alternate agents willing to conduct the Store Closing Sales with terms as favorable to the Debtors and their stakeholders as those set forth in the Agency Agreement. Moreover, the most valuable inventory has been sold, and the Debtors do not believe any reputable firm would be interested in continuing the Store Closing Sales at this juncture of the Debtors' wind down.

- 20. In contrast to the harm that any failure to perform under the Agency Agreement would undoubtedly cause the Debtors and their estates, the Debtors believe that they will receive significant benefits from performing under the Agency Agreement and allowing the Store Closing Sales to proceed in an efficient and cost-effective manner during these Chapter 11 Cases under the guidance and expertise of the Agent.
- 21. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth herein and in the First Day Declaration, the Debtors submit that there is sufficient business justification for assumption of the Agency Agreement upon entry of the Final Order.

### II. SUFFICIENT BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION EXISTS FOR CONTINUATION OF THE STORE CLOSING SALES

22. The Debtors request authority, pursuant to section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, to sell the Store Closing Assets as part of the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines. Section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a debtor, "after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate." 11 U.S.C. § 363(b). Although section 363(b) does not specify a standard for determining when it is appropriate for a court to authorize the use, sale, or lease of property of the estate, courts have required that such use, sale, or lease be based upon the sound business judgment of the debtor. See, e.g., Myers v. Martin (In re Martin), 91 F.3d 389, 395 (3d Cir. 1996) (internal citation omitted); Comm. of Equity Sec. Holders v. Lionel Corp. (In re Lionel Corp.), 722 F.2d 1063, 1070–71 (2d Cir. 1983); In re Abbotts Dairies, Inc., 788 F.2d 143, 147–48 (3d Cir. 1986) (implicitly adopting the "sound business judgment" test of Lionel Corp.); In re Del. & Hudson Ry. Co., 124 B.R. 169, 175–76 (D. Del. 1991) (holding that the Third Circuit adopted the "sound business judgment" test in Abbotts Dairies); Dai-Icho Kangyo Bank v. Montgomery Ward

Holding Corp. (In re Montgomery Ward Holding Corp.), 242 B.R. 147, 153 (Bankr. D. Del. 1999) (same).

- 23. As set forth above, the demonstration of a valid business justification by the debtor leads to a strong presumption "that in making [the] business decision the directors of a corporation acted on an informed basis, in good faith and in the honest belief that the action taken was in the best interests of the company." *In re Integrated Res.*, 147 B.R. at 656. Accordingly, similar store closing or liquidation sales are routinely approved by courts in this district in chapter 11 cases involving retail debtors.
- 24. As described above and in the First Day Declaration, sound business reasons exist to justify the continuation of the Store Closing Sales. Based upon the results of their exhaustive analysis of the Debtors' ongoing and future business prospects, the Debtors and their professional advisors have concluded that conducting the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines is the best method to maximize recoveries to the estates. The efficient and effective liquidation sales and procedures, as contemplated the Sale Guidelines and the services to be provided by Agent, will allow the Debtors to quickly vacate the Closing Stores and avoid the accrual of unnecessary administrative expenses, while maximizing the value of the Store Closing Assets.
- 25. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that they have compelling business justifications for the continuation of the Store Closing in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement and Sale Guidelines.

## III. THE SALE OF THE STORE CLOSING ASSETS FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, ENCUMBRANCES, AND OTHER INTERESTS IS AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 363(F) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

26. The Debtors request approval to sell the Store Closing Assets on a final "as is" basis, free and clear of liens, claims, interests and encumbrances, in accordance with section 363 32647456.12

of the Bankruptcy Code. A debtor in possession may sell property under section 363(b) of the Bankruptcy Code "free and clear of any interest in such property of an entity other than the estate" if any one of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (1) applicable nonbankruptcy law permits sale of such property free and clear of such interests;
- (2) such entity consents;
- (3) such interest is a lien and the price at which such property is to be sold is greater than the value of all liens on such property;
- (4) such interest is in bona fide dispute; or
- (5) such entity could be compelled, in a legal or equitable proceeding, to accept a money satisfaction of such interest.

11 U.S.C. § 363(f); see Citicorp Homeowners Servs., Inc. v. Elliot (In re Elliot), 94 B.R. 343, 345 (E.D. Pa. 1988) (noting that because section 363(f) is written in the disjunctive, a court may approve a sale free and clear if any one subsection is met); see also Mich. Emp't Sec. Comm'n v. Wolverine Radio Co. (In re Wolverine Radio Co.), 930 F.2d 1132, 1147 n.24 (6th Cir. 1991) (same).

27. Although the term "any interest" is not defined in the Bankruptcy Code, the trend in modern cases is toward a "broader interpretation which includes other obligations that may flow from ownership of the property." *See Folger Adam Security, Inc. v. DeMatteis/MacGregor, JV*, 209 F.3d 252, 258–59 (3d Cir. 2000). The scope of section 363(f) is not limited to *in rem* interests in a debtor's assets. *Id.* (citing *In re Leckie Smokeless Coal Co.*, 99 F.3d 573, 581–82 (4th Cir. 1996)). A debtor can therefore sell its assets under section 363(f) free and clear of successor liability that otherwise would have arisen under federal statute. *Id.* 

- 28. The Debtors submit that it is appropriate to sell the Store Closing Assets on a final "as is" basis, free and clear of any and all liens, claims, and encumbrances in accordance with section 363(f) of the Bankruptcy Code because one or more of the tests of section 363(f) are satisfied. In particular, the Debtors believe that at least section 363(f)(2) of the Bankruptcy Code will be met because the Debtors' prepetition secured lenders are secured by, among other things, the Store Closing Assets and have consented to the sale of the Store Closing Assets free and clear. Moreover, with respect to any other party asserting a lien, claim, or encumbrance against the Store Closing Assets, the Debtors anticipate that they will be able to satisfy one or more of the conditions set forth in section 363(f) of the Bankruptcy Code. Furthermore, the Debtors propose that any liens, claims, and encumbrances asserted against the Store Closing Assets be transferred to and attach to the amounts earned by the Debtors under the Store Closing Sales.
- 29. Accordingly, the Debtors propose that section 363(f) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes the transfer and conveyance of the Store Closing Assets free and clear of any liens, claims, and encumbrances.

#### IV. THE COURT SHOULD APPROVE THE PROPOSED SALE GUIDELINES

- 30. As set forth in greater detail below, many Liquidation Laws (defined below) require special and cumbersome licenses, waiting periods, time limits, and other procedures in connection with store closing and liquidation sales. Therefore, although the Debtors intend to comply fully with applicable state and local health and safety and consumer protection laws in connection with the Store Closing Sales, the Debtors seek a waiver of compliance with the Liquidation Laws and instead request the authority to conduct such sales in accordance with the Sale Guidelines.
- 31. The Debtors developed the Sale Guidelines, which are market in this district and others, with the intent to provide a means of controlling the administrative burdens on their estates that are associated with complying with the Liquidation Laws, while at the same time protecting 32647456.12

the interests of their landlords and the applicable governmental agencies enforcing such laws. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the Sale Guidelines adequately address any concerns that their landlords or the governmental agencies may raise with respect to the Store Closing Sales and, therefore, the requested relief below seeking the waiver of Liquidation Laws should be approved.

### V. PAYMENT OF THE AGENT FEES AND EXPENSES IS AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 363 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

- 32. The Debtors request authorization, on an interim basis, to pay any amounts owed under the Agency Agreement to the Agent (the "Agent Claims"). Under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, a bankruptcy court is empowered to authorize a chapter 11 debtor to expend funds in the bankruptcy court's discretion outside the ordinary course of business. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 363. In order to obtain approval for the use of estate assets outside the ordinary course of business, the debtor must articulate a valid business justification for the requested use. *See In re Ionosphere Clubs*, 98 B.R. at 176.
- 33. As discussed above, the Debtors have determined, in the sound exercise of their business judgment, that they will receive significant benefits from performing under the Agency Agreement and allowing the Store Closing Sales to proceed during the interim period under the guidance of the Agent.
- 34. The Debtors' ability to successfully maximize the value of their assets depends in large part upon their ability to continue using the experience and knowledge of the Agent, including its experience with and knowledge of the Debtors' business, to continue the Store Closing Sales. The Agent has already committed significant capital, energy and efforts to commence the Store Closing Sales. Any disruption to the Store Closing Sales during the interim period would cause significant and unnecessary delays to the process of selling the Store Closing Assets and may impair the Debtors' ability to receive the necessary funds under the Agency

Agreement. For the overall benefit to the Debtors' chapter 11 efforts, payment of the Agent Claims will ensure maximum value for all interested parties. The Debtors believe that in order to avoid delays in their efforts to conduct the Store Closing Sales, it is critical that they be authorized to satisfy the Agent Claims. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the Court should grant the requested relief under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code.

## VI. PROTECTION OF THE AGENT PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 363(m) AND 364(e) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE IS WARRANTED

- 35. As described above, entry into the Agency Agreement was the result of arm's-length negotiations between the Debtors and the Agent. Indeed, the Debtors' prepetition solicitation of proposals from reputable firms was designed to, and did, ensure that all bidders had an equal and fair opportunity to bid on the opportunity to sell the Store Closing Assets during the Store Closing Sales. Thus, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court find that the Agent acted in good faith within the meaning of section 363(m) of the Bankruptcy Code.
  - 36. Specifically, section 363(m) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that:

[t]he reversal or modification on appeal of an authorization under subsection (b) or (c) of this section of a sale or lease of property does not affect the validity of a sale or lease under such authorization to an entity that purchased or leased such property in good faith, whether or not such entity knew of the pendency of the appeal, unless such authorization and such sale or lease were stayed pending appeal.

11 U.S.C. §363(m).

37. While the Bankruptcy Code does not define "good faith," the Third Circuit has "turned to traditional equitable principles, holding that the phrase encompasses one who purchases in 'good faith' and for 'value." *In re Abbotts Diaries of Pennsylvania, Inc.*, 788 F.2d 143, 147 (3d Cir. 1986).

- 38. Because of the manner in which the prepetition bid solicitation process was conducted, the Agent was not able to exert any undue influence over the Debtors. Furthermore, the assets that will be sold as part of the Store Closing Sales will not be sold to the Debtors' insiders. Thus, the Store Closing Sales will not unfairly benefit insiders or any particular constituency in these Chapter 11 Cases. There is no fraud or collusion or any attempt to take unfair advantage of another through the Agency Agreement or Store Closing Sales.
- 39. The Debtors also submit that the Agency Agreement is the result of good-faith arm's-length negotiations and the good faith extension of credit by the Agent, as well as the other financial accommodations, as set forth in the Agency Agreement, constitute the extension of credit in good faith under section 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code and, as such, the reversal or modification on appeal of the Court's authorization to consummate the transactions contemplated by the Agency Agreement, and the security granted thereunder, should not affect the validity of such transactions unless such authorization has been stayed pending appeal. The Debtors further believe that the consideration provided in the Agency Agreement is fair and constitutes reasonably equivalent value under the Bankruptcy Code, the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act, the Uniform Fraudulent Conveyance Act, and other applicable Federal and State laws, if any.
- 40. Based on the foregoing and under the circumstances, the Debtors believe that the Court should find that (a) entry into the Agency Agreement was the result of good faith arm's-length transactions and (a) the Agent is entitled to all of the protections of sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code as requested herein.

### VII. EXEMPTION FROM LIQUIDATION LAWS IS WARRANTED AND APPROPRIATE

41. The states in which the Closing Stores are located have or may have licensing and other requirements governing the conduct of store closing, liquidation, or other inventory clearance

sales, including (but not limited to) state and local rules, laws, ordinances, and regulations related to store closing and liquidation sales, establishing licensing, permitting, or bonding requirements, waiting periods, time limits, bulk sale restrictions, augmentation limitations or fast pay laws that would otherwise apply to the Store Closing Sales, or consumer fraud laws, with the exception of deceptive advertising laws (collectively, the "<u>Liquidation Laws</u>"). Many such Liquidation Laws, however, provide that court-authorized liquidation sales are exempt from compliance therewith.

- 42. The Debtors, therefore, request that the Court authorize the Debtors to conduct the Store Closing Sales without the necessity of, and the delay associated with, complying with the Liquidation Laws. Because the Debtors and their assets are subject to the Court's jurisdiction, *see* 28 U.S.C. § 1334, the Court will be able to supervise the Store Closing Sales. The Store Closing Sales are legitimate methods by which the Debtors can maximize the return from the sale of the Store Closing Assets for the benefit of their estates and creditors. Moreover, creditors and the public interest are adequately protected by the jurisdiction and supervision of the Court.
- 43. Even if a state or local law does not expressly except bankruptcy sales from its ambit, the Debtors submit that, to the extent that such state or local law conflicts with federal bankruptcy laws, it is preempted by the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution. To hold otherwise would severely impair the relief otherwise available under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. In concert with this premise, bankruptcy courts have consistently recognized that federal bankruptcy law preempts state and local laws that contravene the underlying policies of the Bankruptcy Code. *See, e.g., Aloe v. Shenango Inc. (In re Shenango Group, Inc.)*, 186 B.R. 623, 628 (Bankr. W.D. Pa. 1995) ("Trustees and debtors-in-possession have unique fiduciary and legal obligations pursuant to the bankruptcy code . . . . [A] state statute []cannot place burdens on them where the result would contradict the priorities established by the federal bankruptcy code.").

- 44. While preemption of state law is not always appropriate, as when the protection of public health and safety is involved, *see Baker & Drake, Inc. v. Pub. Serv. Comm'n of Nev. (In re Baker & Drake, Inc.)*, 35 F.3d 1348, 1353–54 (9th Cir. 1994) (finding no preemption when state law prohibiting taxicab leasing was promulgated in part as a public safety measure), it is appropriate when, as here, the only state laws involved concern economic regulation. *Id.* at 1353 (finding that "federal bankruptcy preemption is more likely . . . where a state statute is concerned with economic regulation rather than with protecting the public health and safety"). Moreover, pursuant to section 105 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Court has the authority to permit the Store Closing Sales to proceed notwithstanding contrary Liquidation Laws. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 105(a).
- 45. Here, section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, which requires the Debtors to operate their businesses in a way that maximizes recoveries for creditors, will be undermined if the Court does not provide for the waiver of the Liquidation Laws because the Liquidation Laws constrain the Debtors' ability to marshal and maximize assets for the benefit of creditors. Moreover, given the supervision of the Court, the requested waiver will not unduly undermine state and local requirements that would otherwise apply to the Store Closing Sales. The Debtors only request that the Court authorize the Debtors to conduct the Store Closing Sales without the necessity of, and the delay associated with, obtaining various state licenses or permits, observing state and local waiting periods or time limits, and/or satisfying any additional requirements with respect to conducting the Store Closing Sales as store closings or similar type sales. The Debtors fully intend to be bound by and comply with remaining statutes and regulations, such as health and safety laws.
- 46. The Debtors also request that no other person or entity, including (but not limited to) any lessor or federal, state, or local agency, department, or governmental authority, be allowed to take any action to prevent, interfere with, or otherwise hinder consummation of the Store

Closing Sales, or the advertising and promotion (including through the posting of signs) of the Store Closing Sales, in the manner set forth in the proposed orders.

- 47. Notwithstanding such requests, the Debtors propose to serve, within two (2) business days of the entry of the Proposed Orders, copies of such Orders and the Sale Guidelines attached thereto, by email, facsimile, or regular mail on the following parties: (a) the Attorney General's office for each state in which the Debtors operate a retail location, (b) the City Attorney of each city in which the Debtors operate a retail location, (c) the county consumer protection agency or similar agency for each county in which the Debtors operate a retail location, (d) the division of consumer protection for each state in which the Debtors operate a retail location, (e) the chief legal counsel for each local jurisdiction in which the Debtors operate a retail location (collectively, clauses (a) through (e), the "Applicable Governmental Units"), and (f) the applicable landlord for each Closing Store (collectively, the "Landlords").
- 48. The Debtors further propose that, to the extent there is a dispute arising from or relating to the Store Closing Sales between any governmental unit (as defined in section 101(27) of the Bankruptcy Code) (each a "Governmental Unit") and the Debtors relating to the Liquidation Laws (such dispute, a "Liquidation Dispute"), the following procedures shall apply (the "Resolution Procedures"):
  - a. The Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to resolve the Liquidation Dispute which such Liquidation Dispute will be heard at the Final Hearing, absent a party obtaining expedited relief. Nothing in this Interim Order shall constitute a ruling with respect to any issues to be raised with respect to a Liquidation Dispute. Any Governmental Unit may assert a Liquidation Dispute and shall send a notice (the "Dispute Notice") explaining the nature of the dispute to: (i) the Debtors' proposed counsel, Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Rodney Square, 1000 North King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Andrew L. Magaziner, (amagaziner@ycst.com) and S. Alexander Faris, Esq. (afaris@ycst.com); (iii) counsel to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells Fargo") in its capacity as Prepetition ABL Administrative Agent, Otterbourg P.C., 230 Park Avenue,

New York, NY 10169, Attn: Chad Simon, Esq. (csimon@otterbourg.com) and Daniel Fiorillo, Esq. (dfiorillo@otterbourg.com); (iv) counsel to Pathlight Capital LP in its capacity as Prepetition Term Loan Agent, Riemer & Braunstein LLP, Times Square Tower, Suite 2506, Seven Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Steven E. Fox, Esq. (sfox@riemerlaw.com) and Paul D. Bekker, Esq. (pbekker@riemerlaw.com); and (v) counsel to any statutory committee, no later than fourteen (14) days following the service of the Interim Order.

- b. If the Debtors, the Agent and the Governmental Unit are unable to resolve the Liquidation Dispute within fourteen (14) days of service of the notice, the aggrieved party may file a motion with this Court requesting that this Court resolve the Liquidation Dispute (a "Dispute Resolution Motion").
- c. In the event that a Dispute Resolution Motion is filed, nothing in the Interim Order or the Final Order, as applicable, shall preclude the Debtors, a landlord, or any other interested party from asserting (i) that the provisions of any Liquidation Sale Laws are preempted by the Bankruptcy Code, or (ii) that neither the terms of the Interim Order or the Final Order nor the conduct of the Debtors pursuant to the Interim Order or the Final Order, violates such Liquidation Laws. Filing a Dispute Resolution Motion as set forth herein shall not be deemed to affect the finality of the Interim Order or the Final Order or to limit or interfere with the Debtors' or the Agent's ability to conduct or to continue to conduct the Store Closing Sales pursuant to the Interim Order or the Final Order, as applicable, absent further order of the Court. Upon the entry of the Interim Order or the Final Order, the Court grants authority for the Debtors and the Agent to conduct the Store Closing Sales pursuant to the terms of the Interim Order or the Final Order, the Agency Agreement, and the Sale Guidelines (as may be modified by Side Letters, as defined in the Proposed Orders) and to take all actions reasonably related thereto or arising in connection therewith. The Governmental Unit will be entitled to assert any jurisdictional, procedural, or substantive arguments it wishes with respect to the requirements of its Liquidation Laws or the lack of any preemption of such Liquidation Laws by the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing in the Interim Order or the Final Order will constitute a ruling with respect to any issues to be raised in any Dispute Resolution Motion.

### VIII. THE COURT SHOULD WAIVE COMPLIANCE WITH ANY RESTRICTION IN THE LEASES

49. Certain of the Debtors' leases governing the premises of the stores subject to the Store Closing Sales may contain provisions purporting to restrict or prohibit the Debtors from conducting store closing, liquidation, or similar sales. Such provisions have been held to be

unenforceable in chapter 11 cases as they constitute an impermissible restraint on a debtor's ability to properly administer its reorganization case and maximize the value of its assets under section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. *See Ames Dep't Stores*, 136 B.R. at 359 (deciding that enforcement of such lease restrictions would "contravene overriding federal policy requiring debtor to maximize estate assets..."); *In re R. H. Macy and Co., Inc.*, 170 B.R. 69, 73–74 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1994) (holding that the lessor could not recover damages for breach of a covenant to remain open throughout the lease term, because the debtor had a duty to maximize the value to the estate and the debtor fulfilled this obligation by holding a Store Closing Sales and closing the store.); *In re Tobago Bay Trading Co.*, 112 B.R. 463, 467–68 (Bankr. N.D. Ga., 1990) (finding that a debtor's efforts to reorganize would be significantly impaired to the detriment of creditors if lease provisions prohibiting a debtor from liquidating its inventory were enforced); *In re Lisbon Shops, Inc.*, 24 B.R. 693, 695 (Bankr. E.D. Mo. 1982) (holding restrictive lease provision unenforceable in chapter 11 case where debtor sought to conduct a liquidation sale).

50. Thus, as a result of the above and to the extent that such provisions or restrictions exist in any of the leases of the stores subject to the Store Closing Sales, the Debtors request that the Court authorize the Debtors and/or the Agent to conduct any liquidation sales without interference by any landlords or other persons affected, directly or indirectly, by the liquidation sales.

### IX. APPOINTMENT OF A CONSUMER PRIVACY OMBUDSMAN IS UNNECESSARY

51. Section 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that a debtor may not sell or release personally identifiable information about individuals unless such sale or lease is consistent with its policies or upon appointment of a consumer privacy ombudsman pursuant to section 332 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors will not be selling or releasing personally identifiable

information as part of the Store Closing Sales. The Agent will be authorized, however, to distribute emails and promotional materials to the Debtors' customers consistent with the Debtors' existing policies on the use of consumer information. In light of the foregoing, the Debtors believe that appointment of a consumer privacy ombudsman is unnecessary under the circumstances of the Store Closing Sales.

### BANKRUPTCY RULE 6003 HAS BEEN SATISFIED AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 6004 SHOULD BE WAIVED

- 52. Under Bankruptcy Rule 6003, the Court may grant a motion to "use . . . property of the estate, including a motion to pay all or part of a claim that arose before the filing of the petition" within 21 days after the commencement of a chapter 11 case to the extent "relief is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6003. The Debtors believe an immediate and orderly transition into chapter 11 is critical to the success of these Chapter 11 Cases. As discussed in detail above and demonstrated by the First Day Declaration, immediate and irreparable harm would result if the relief requested herein is not granted. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that they have satisfied the "immediate and irreparable harm" standard of Bankruptcy Rule 6003 and, therefore, respectfully request that the Court approve the relief requested in this Motion on an emergency basis.
- 53. The Debtors also request that the Court waive the stay imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), which provides that "[a]n order authorizing the use, sale, or lease of property other than cash collateral is stayed until the expiration of 14 days after entry of the order, unless the court orders otherwise." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 6004(h). As described above, the relief sought herein is necessary for the Debtors to operate their business without interruption, thereby preserving value for their estates. Accordingly, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court waive the fourteen-

day stay imposed by Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), as the exigent nature of the relief sought herein justifies immediate relief.

### **NOTICE**

54. Notice of this Motion will be given to: (a) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware; (b) counsel to Wells Fargo; (c) counsel to Pathlight Capital LP as Prepetition Term Loan Agent; (d) counsel to Simon Blackjack Consolidated Holdings, LLC as Prepetition Subordinated Loan Agent; (e) the creditors listed on the Debtors' consolidated list of thirty (30) creditors holding the largest unsecured claims against the Debtors; (f) the landlords for the Closing Stores; (g) the United States Attorney for the District of Delaware; (h) the Internal Revenue Service; (i) the state attorneys general for states in which the Debtors conduct business; and (j) all parties entitled to notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002. Notice of this Motion and any order entered hereon will be served in accordance with Local Rule 9013-1(m). The Debtors submit that, under the circumstances, no other or further notice is required.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court enter the Proposed Orders granting the relief requested in this Motion and such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: March 17, 2025 YOUNG CONAWAY STARGATT & TAYLOR, LLP

### /s/ S. Alexander Faris

Andrew L. Magaziner (No. 5426) Robert F. Poppiti, Jr. (No. 5052) Ashley E. Jacobs (No. 5635) S. Alexander Faris (No. 6278) Kristin L. McElroy (No. 6871) Andrew M. Lee (No. 7078) Sarah Gawrysiak (No. 7403) Rodney Square 1000 North King Street Wilmington, DE 19801 Telephone: (302) 571-6600 Email: amagaziner@ycst.com rpoppiti@ycst.com ajacobs@ycst.com afaris@ycst.com kmcelroy@ycst.com alee@ycst.com sgawrysiak@ycst.com

Proposed Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

### EXHIBIT A

**Proposed Interim Order** 

### IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

	Ref: Docket No.
Debtors.	(Jointly Administered)
F21 OPCO, LLC, et al., 1	Case No. 25-10469 ()
In re:	Chapter 11

# INTERIM ORDER AUTHORIZING (I) THE CONDUCT OF THE STORE CLOSING SALES, WITH SUCH SALES TO BE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

Upon the motion (the "Motion")<sup>2</sup> of the Debtors for entry of an interim order (this "Interim Order") (a) authorizing the Debtors, upon entry of the Final Order, to assume the Agency Agreement, (b) authorizing the Debtors to conduct store closing or similar themed sales in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, with such sales to be free and clear of all liens, claims, and encumbrances, and (c) granting certain related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and the First Day Declaration; and this Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2) and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this

The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: F21 OpCo, LLC (8773); F21 Puerto Rico, LLC (5906); and F21 GiftCo Management, LLC (6412). The Debtors' address for purposes of service in these Chapter 11 Cases is 110 East 9th Street, Suite A500, Los Angeles, CA 90079.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Motion.

district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and it appearing that proper and adequate notice of the Motion has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; and upon the record herein; and after due deliberation thereon; and this Court having determined that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest, it is hereby

### FOUND, CONCLUDED AND DETERMINED THAT:<sup>3</sup>

- A. The Debtors' decision to (i) enter into the Agency Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**, and (ii) perform under and make payments required by the Agency Agreement, is a reasonable exercise of the Debtors' sound business judgment consistent with their fiduciary duties and is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and all other parties in interest.
- B. The Agency Agreement was negotiated, proposed, and entered into by the Agent and the Debtors without collusion, in good faith, and from arm's length bargaining positions.
- C. Time is of the essence in effectuating the Agency Agreement and continuing with the Store Closing Sales contemplated therein without interruption. The conduct of the Store Closing Sales will provide an efficient means for the Debtors to dispose of the Store Closing Assets. The Store Closing Sales under the Agency Agreement must be permitted to continue to maximize the value that the Agent may realize from the Store Closing Sales and the value that the Debtors may realize from assuming the Agency Agreement.

The findings and conclusions set forth herein constitute this Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7052, made applicable to this proceeding pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9014. To the extent any of the following findings of fact constitute conclusions of law, they are adopted as such. To the extent any of the following conclusions of law constitute findings of fact, they are adopted as such.

- D. The Agent is not an "insider" as that term is defined in section 101(31) of the Bankruptcy Code. No common identity of directors or controlling stockholders exists between the Agent and the Debtors.
- E. The Sale Guidelines, as described in the Motion and attached as **Exhibit 2** hereto, are reasonable and appropriate and will maximize the returns on the Store Closing Assets for the benefit of the Debtors' estates and creditors.
- F. The Store Closing Sales, in accordance with the Sale Guidelines and with the assistance of the Agent, will provide an efficient means for the Debtors to liquidate and dispose of the Store Closing Assets as quickly and effectively as possible, and are in the best interests of the Debtors' estates.
  - G. The Resolution Procedures are fair and reasonable and comply with applicable law.
- H. The Debtors have represented that, pursuant to the Motion, they are not seeking to either sell or lease personally identifiable information during the course of the Store Closing Sales at the Closing Stores; *provided*, *however*, that the Agent will be authorized to distribute emails and promotional materials to the Debtors' customers consistent with the Debtors' existing policies on the use of consumer information.
- I. No sale, transfer, or other disposition of the Store Closing Assets pursuant to the Agency Agreement or entry into the Agency Agreement will subject the Agent to any liability for claims, obligations or Encumbrances asserted against the Debtors or the Debtors' interests in such Store Closing Assets by reason of such transfer under any laws, including, without limitation, any bulk-transfer laws or any theory of successor or transferee liability, antitrust, environmental, product line, de facto merger or substantial continuity or similar theories. The Agent is not a successor to the Debtors or their respective estates.

- J. The relief set forth herein is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors and their estates, and the Debtors have demonstrated good, sufficient, and sound business purposes and justifications for the relief approved herein.
- K. The entry of this Interim Order is in the best interest of the Debtors, their estates and creditors, and all other parties in interest herein.

#### ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED on an interim basis, as set forth herein.
- 2. All objections to the entry of this Interim Order, to the extent not withdrawn or settled, are overruled.
- 3. The final hearing (the "Final Hearing") on the Motion shall be held on [\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2025, at : .m] (prevailing Eastern Time). On or before [ : .m.] (prevailing Eastern Time) on [ , 2025] (the "Objection Deadline"), any objections or responses to entry of a final order on the Motion shall be filed with this Court and served on: (a) the Debtors, 110 East 9th Street, Suite A500, Los Angeles, CA 90079, Attn: Michael Brown (mbrown@thinkbrg.com); (b) the Debtors' proposed counsel, Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Rodney Square, 1000 North King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Andrew L. Magaziner, Esq. (amagaziner@ycst.com) and S. Alexander Faris, Esq. (afaris@ycst.com); (c) counsel to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. in its capacity as Prepetition ABL Administrative Agent, Otterbourg P.C., 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169, Attn: Chad Simon, Esq. (csimon@otterbourg.com) and Daniel Fiorillo, Esq. (dfiorillo@otterbourg.com); (d) counsel to Pathlight Capital LP in its capacity as Prepetition Term Loan Agent, Riemer & Braunstein LLP, Times Square Tower, Suite 2506, Seven Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Steven E. Fox, Esq. (sfox@riemerlaw.com) and Paul D. Bekker, Esq. (pbekker@riemerlaw.com); (e) counsel to Simon Blackjack Consolidated

Holdings, LLC in its capacity as Prepetition Subordinated Loan Agent, (i) Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, Two International Place, Boston, MA 02110, Attn: Mark D. Silva, Esq. (msilva@choate.com), Rick Thide, Esq. (rthide@choate.com), and Hampton Foushee, Esq. (hfoushee@choate.com); and (ii) Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, P.C., 824 North Market Street, Suite 800. DE 19801. C. Wilmington, Attn: Joseph Barsalona, (jbarsalona@pashmanstein.com); and (f) the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware, 844 King Street, Suite 2207, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Jane M. Leamy, Esq. (jane.m.leamy@usdoj.gov). In the event no objections to entry of the Final Order on the Motion are timely received, this Court may enter such Final Order without need for the Final Hearing.

### I. EFFECTIVENESS OF AGREEMENT

- 4. The Agency Agreement is operative and effective on an interim basis. The Debtors are authorized to act and perform in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement, including, but not limited to, making payments required by the Agency Agreement to the Agent without the need for any application of the Agent or a further order of this Court. Notwithstanding this or any other provision of this Interim Order, nothing shall prevent or be construed to prevent any of the Agent (individually, as part of a joint venture, or otherwise) or any of their affiliates from bidding on the Debtors' other assets pursuant to an agency agreement or otherwise, and Agent is hereby authorized to bid on and guarantee or otherwise acquire such assets notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable law, provided that such guarantee, transaction or acquisition is approved by separate order of this Court.
- 5. Subject to the restrictions set forth in this Interim Order and the Sale Guidelines, the Debtors and the Agent are authorized to take any and all actions as may be necessary or

desirable to implement the Agency Agreement and the Store Closing Sales, and each of the transactions contemplated by the Agency Agreement.

#### II. AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN THE STORE CLOSING SALES

- 6. The Debtors are authorized, pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, to immediately continue and conduct the Store Closing Sales in accordance with this Interim Order, the Sale Guidelines, the Agency Agreement and any Side Letter (defined below).
  - 7. The Sale Guidelines are approved in their entirety on an interim basis.
- 8. Subject to entry of the Final Order, all entities that are presently in possession of some or all of the Store Closing Assets in which the Debtors hold an interest that are or may be subject to the Agency Agreement or this Interim Order hereby are directed to surrender possession of such Store Closing Assets to the Debtors or the Agent.
- 9. Except as provided herein, neither the Debtors nor the Agent nor any of their officers, employees, or agents shall be required to obtain the approval of any third party, including (without limitation) any Governmental Unit or any Landlord, to conduct the Store Closing Sales and any related activities in accordance with the Sale Guidelines.

#### III. ORDER BINDING

10. This Interim Order shall be binding upon and shall govern the acts of all entities, including, without limitation, all filing agents, filing officers, title agents, title companies, recorders of mortgages, recorders of deeds, registrars of deeds, administrative agencies, governmental departments, secretaries of state, federal, state and local officials, and all other persons and entities who may be required by operation of law, the duties of their office, or contract,

to accept, file, register or otherwise record or release any documents or instruments, or who may be required to report or insure any title or state of title in or to the Store Closing Assets.

11. This Interim Order and the terms and provisions of the Agency Agreement shall be binding on all of the Debtors' creditors (whether known or unknown), the Debtors, the Agent, and their respective affiliates, successors and assigns, and any affected third parties including, but not limited to, all persons asserting an interest in the Store Closing Assets, notwithstanding any subsequent appointment of any trustee, party, entity or other fiduciary under any section of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to the forgoing parties, and as to such trustee, party, entity or other fiduciary, such terms and provisions likewise shall be binding. The provisions of this Interim Order and the terms and provisions of the Agency Agreement, and any actions taken pursuant hereto or thereto shall survive the entry of any order which may be entered confirming or consummating any plan(s) of the Debtors or converting the Debtors' cases from chapter 11 to chapter 7, and the terms and provisions of the Agency Agreement, as well as the rights and interests granted pursuant to this Interim Order and the Agency Agreement, shall continue in these or any superseding cases and shall be binding upon the Debtors, the Agent and their respective successors and permitted assigns, including any trustee or other fiduciary hereafter appointed as a legal representative of the Debtors under chapter 7 or chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Any trustee appointed in this case shall be and hereby is authorized to operate the Debtors' business to the fullest extent necessary to permit compliance with the terms of this Interim Order and the Agency Agreement, and Agent and the trustee shall be and hereby are authorized to perform under the Agency Agreement upon the appointment of the trustee without the need for further order of this Court.

#### IV. CONDUCTING THE STORE CLOSING SALES

- 12. Except as otherwise provided in the Agency Agreement, pursuant to section 363(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Agent is authorized to sell all the Store Closing Assets to be sold pursuant to the Agency Agreement free and clear of any and all liens, claims, encumbrances, and other interests ("Encumbrances"), including, without limitation, the liens and security interests, as the same may have been amended from time to time, of Wells Fargo and the Prepetition Term Loan Agent whether arising by agreement, any statute or otherwise and whether arising before, on or after the date on which these Chapter 11 Cases were commenced; *provided, however*, that any such Encumbrances shall attach to the proceeds of the sale of the Store Closing Assets with the same validity, in the amount, with the same priority as, and to the same extent that any such liens, claims, and encumbrances have with respect to the Store Closing Assets, subject to (i) the ABL-Term Loan Intercreditor Agreement and (ii) any claims and defenses that the Debtors may possess with respect thereto.
- 13. Other than filings made by Wells Fargo and the Prepetition Term Loan Agent with respect to their liens and security interests in the Store Closing Assets, if any person or entity that has filed financing statements, mortgages, construction or mechanic's liens, lis pendens or other documents or agreement evidencing liens on or interests in the Store Closing Assets shall not have delivered to the Debtors, in proper form for filing and executed by the appropriate parties, termination statements, instruments of satisfaction, or releases of any Encumbrances which the person or entity has with respect to the Store Closing Assets, each such person or entity is hereby directed to deliver all such statements, instruments and releases and the Debtors and the Agent are hereby authorized to execute and file such statements, instruments, releases and other documents on behalf of the person or entity asserting the same and the Agent is authorized to file a copy of

this Interim Order which, upon filing, shall be conclusive evidence of the release and termination of such interest. Each and every federal, state and local governmental unit is hereby directed to accept any and all documents and instruments necessary or appropriate to give effect to the Store Closing Sales and related transactions.

- 14. All newspapers and other advertising media in which the Store Closing Sales may be advertised and all Landlords or licensors, as applicable, of the Closing Stores are directed to accept this Interim Order as binding authority so as to authorize the Debtors and the Agent to conduct the Store Closing Sales and the sale of Store Closing Assets pursuant to the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, including, without limitation, to conduct and advertise the sale of the Store Closing Assets and the Additional Agent Goods in the manner contemplated by and in accordance with this Interim Order, the Sale Guidelines, and the Agency Agreement.
- 15. Nothing nullifies or enjoins the enforcement of any liability to a Governmental Unit under environmental laws or regulations (or any associated liabilities for penalties, damages, cost recovery, or injunctive relief) that any entity would be subject to as the owner, lessor, lessee, or operator of the property after the date of entry of this Interim Order. Nothing contained in this Interim Order or in the Agency Agreement shall in any way (a) diminish the obligation of any entity to comply with environmental laws, or (b) diminish the obligations of the Debtors to comply with environmental laws consistent with their rights and obligations as debtors in possession under the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing herein shall be construed to be a determination that the Agent is an operator with respect to any environmental law or regulation. Moreover, the sale of the Store Closing Assets shall not be exempt from, and the Debtors and the Agent shall be required to comply with laws and regulations of general applicability, including, without limitation, public health and safety, criminal, tax, labor, employment, environmental, antitrust, fair competition,

traffic and consumer protection laws, including consumer laws regulating deceptive practices and false advertising (collectively, "General Laws"). Nothing in this Interim Order shall alter or affect the Debtors' and Agent's obligations to comply with all applicable federal safety laws and regulations. Nothing in this Interim Order shall be deemed to bar any Governmental Unit from enforcing General Laws in the applicable non-bankruptcy forum, subject to the Debtors' or the Agent's right to assert in that forum or before this Court that any such laws are not in fact General Laws or that such enforcement is impermissible under the Bankruptcy Code, this Interim Order, or otherwise. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Interim Order, no party waives any rights to argue any position with respect to whether the conduct was in compliance with this Interim Order and/or any applicable law, or that enforcement of such applicable law is preempted by the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing in this Interim Order shall be deemed to have made any rulings on any such issues.

- 16. In accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of the Agency Agreement, the Agent shall have the right to use the Closing Stores and all related store services, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and other assets of the Debtors for the purpose of conducting the Store Closing Sales, free and clear of any interference from any entity or person, subject to compliance with the Sale Guidelines (as modified by the Side Letters) and this Interim Order.
- 17. Subject to the Resolution Procedures provided herein, the Debtors and the Agent are hereby authorized to take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the Agency Agreement and to conduct the Store Closing Sales without the need for a further order of this Court, including, but not limited to, advertising the sale as a "store closing," "sale on everything," "everything must go," "liquidation sale," and "going out of business" or similar themed sale through the posting of signs (including the use of exterior banners at non-enclosed

mall Closing Stores, and at enclosed mall Closing Stores to the extent the applicable Store entrance does not require entry into the enclosed mall common area), use of sign-walkers, A-frames and other street signage, in accordance with the Interim Order, Agency Agreement, and Sale Guidelines.

- 18. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, and in view of the importance of the use of sign-walkers, banners, and other advertising to the sale of the Store Closing Assets, to the extent that, prior to the Final Hearing, disputes arise during the course of such sale regarding laws regulating the use of sign-walkers, banners or other advertising and the Debtors and the Agent are unable to resolve the matter consensually with a Governmental Unit, any party may request an immediate telephonic hearing with this Court pursuant to these provisions. Such hearing will, to the extent practicable, be scheduled initially no later than the earlier of (a) the Final Hearing or (b) within five (5) business days of such request. This scheduling shall not be deemed to preclude additional hearings for the presentation of evidence or arguments as necessary.
- 19. Except as expressly provided in the Agency Agreement and Sale Guidelines, the sale of the Store Closing Assets shall be conducted by the Debtors and the Agent notwithstanding any restrictive provision of any lease, sublease, license, reciprocal easement agreement, restrictive covenant, or other agreement relative to occupancy affecting or purporting to restrict the conduct of the Store Closing Sales, the rejection of leases or licenses, the necessity of obtaining any third party consents, abandonment of assets, or "going dark" provisions, and such provisions shall not be enforceable in conjunction with the Store Closing Sales. Breach of any such provisions in these Chapter 11 Cases in conjunction with the Store Closings shall not constitute a default under a lease or provide a basis to terminate the lease. The Agent, along with landlords and licensors, as applicable, of the Closing Stores are authorized to enter into agreements ("Side Letters") between

themselves modifying the Sale Guidelines without further order of this Court, and such Side Letters shall be binding as among the Agent and any such landlords or licensors, as applicable, of the Closing Stores, provided that nothing in such Side Letters affects the provisions of paragraphs 15, 17, 18, and 30 of this Interim Order. In the event of any conflict between the Sale Guidelines and any Side Letter, the terms of such Side Letter shall control.

20. Except as expressly provided for herein or in the Sale Guidelines, and except with respect to any Governmental Unit (as to which paragraphs 15 and 30 of this Interim Order shall apply), no person or entity, including, but not limited to, any landlord, licensor, service providers, utilities, and creditor, shall take any action to directly or indirectly prevent, interfere with, or otherwise hinder the continuation of the Store Closing Sales or the sale of Sale Closing Assets, or the advertising and promotion (including the posting of signs and exterior banners or the use of signwalkers) of such sales, and all such parties and persons of every nature and description, including, but not limited to, any landlord, licensor, service providers, utilities, and creditor and all those acting for or on behalf of such parties, are prohibited and enjoined from (a) interfering in any way with, obstructing, or otherwise impeding, the conduct of the Store Closing Sales and/or (b) instituting any action or proceeding in any court (other than in this Court) or administrative body seeking an order or judgment against, among others, the Debtors, the Agent, or the landlords or licensors, as applicable, at the Closing Stores that might in any way directly or indirectly obstruct or otherwise interfere with or adversely affect the conduct of the Store Closing Sales or sale of the Store Closing Assets or other liquidation sales at the Closing Stores and/or seek to recover damages for breach(es) of covenants or provisions in any lease, sublease, license, or contract based upon any relief authorized herein.

- 21. The Agent shall honor gift cards and gift certificates, that were issued by or on behalf the Debtors prior to the Petition Date through and including April 15, 2025 (the "Gift Card Termination Date"). To the extent not already completed, as soon as reasonably practicable after entry of this Order, the Debtors shall post conspicuous signage at their stores and on their website advising customers that gift cards and gift certificates will not be honored after the Gift Card Termination Date.
- 22. All sales of all Store Closing Assets and the Additional Agent Goods, if any, shall be "as is" and final. Conspicuous signs stating that "all sales are final" and "as is" will be posted at the cash register areas at all Stores. However, all state and federal laws relating to implied warranties for latent defects shall be complied with and are not superseded by the sale of said goods or the use of the terms "as is" or "final sales."
- 23. Except as expressly provided for in the Agency Agreement, nothing in this Interim Order or the Agency Agreement, and none of the Agent's actions taken in respect of the Store Closing Sales shall be deemed to constitute an assumption by Agent of any of the Debtors' obligations relating to any of the Debtors' employees. Moreover, the Agent shall not become liable under any collective bargaining or employment agreement or be deemed a joint or successor employer with respect to such employees.
- 24. The Agent shall not be liable for sales taxes except as expressly provided in the Agency Agreement, and the Debtors remain responsible for the payment of any and all sales taxes. The Debtors are directed to remit all taxes accruing from the Store Closing Sales to the applicable Governmental Units as and when due, provided that in the case of a bona fide dispute, the Debtors are only directed to pay such taxes upon the resolution of the dispute, if and to the extent that the dispute is decided in favor of the applicable Governmental Unit. For the avoidance of doubt, sales

taxes collected and held in trust by the Debtors shall not be used to pay any creditor or any other party, other than the applicable Governmental Unit for which the sales taxes are collected. This Interim Order does not enjoin, suspend, or restrain the assessment, levy, or collection of any tax under state law, and does not constitute a declaratory judgment with respect to any party's liability for taxes under state law.

- 25. To the extent that the Debtors propose to sell Store Closing Assets that may contain any personal and/or confidential information about the Debtors' employees and/or customers (the "Confidential Information"), the Debtors shall remove all such the Confidential Information from such Store Closing Assets before they are sold.
- 26. The Agent is authorized to sell, without incurring liability to any person or entity, the Store Closing Assets in accordance with the terms of this Interim Order, the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines.
- 27. Nothing in this Interim Order shall (a) alter or affect the Debtors' obligations to comply with section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code or (b) alter or modify the rights of any lessor or other counterparty to a lease with the Debtors to file an appropriate motion or otherwise seek appropriate relief if the Debtors fail to comply with section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code; provided that the conduct of the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the Sale Guidelines, as may have been modified by Side Letter, shall not be a violation of section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 28. During the Store Closing Sales Term, the Agent shall be granted a limited license and right to use the trade names, logos, e-mail lists, mailing lists, customer lists, and e-commerce sites (including (without limitation) websites and social media sites), including a banner on such sites and a store locator to identify the Closing Stores, relating to and used in connection with the

operation of the stores as identified in the Agency Agreement, solely for the purpose of advertising the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement, this Interim Order, and the Sale Guidelines; *provided*, *however*, that the Agent shall not receive personally identifiable information from the Debtors.

## V. RESOLUTION PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTES REGARDING LIQUIDATION LAWS

- 29. To the extent that the Store Closing Sales at the Closing Stores are conducted in accordance with this Interim Order and the Sale Guidelines, and are therefore conducted under the supervision of this Court, such Store Closing Sales are authorized notwithstanding any federal, state, or local statute, ordinance, rule, or licensing requirement directed at regulating "going out of business," "store closing," similar inventory liquidation sales, bulk sale laws, or fast pay laws, including laws restricting safe, professional and non-deceptive, customary advertising such as signs, banners, posting of signage, and use of sign-walkers in connection with the sale and including ordinances establishing license or permit requirements, waiting periods, time limits or bulk sale restrictions (collectively, the "Liquidation Laws").
- 30. Provided that the Store Closing Sales are conducted in accordance with the terms of this Interim Order, the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, and in light of the provisions in the laws of many Governmental Units that exempt court-ordered sales from their provisions, the Debtors shall be presumed to be in compliance with any Liquidation Laws and, subject to paragraphs 15 and 18 herein, are authorized to conduct the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of this Interim Order and the Sale Guidelines without the necessity of further showing compliance with any such Liquidation Laws. To the extent that between the Petition Date and the date of the Final Hearing there is a dispute arising from or relating to the Store Closing Sales, this

Interim Order, the Agency Agreement, or the Sale Guidelines, which dispute relates to any Liquidation Sales Laws (a "<u>Liquidation Dispute</u>"), the following procedures shall apply:

- a. The Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to resolve the Liquidation Dispute which such Liquidation Dispute will be heard at the Final Hearing, absent a party obtaining expedited relief. Nothing in this Interim Order shall constitute a ruling with respect to any issues to be raised with respect to a Liquidation Dispute. Any Governmental Unit may assert a Liquidation Dispute and shall send a notice (the "Dispute Notice") explaining the nature of the dispute to: (i) the Debtors' proposed counsel, Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Rodney Square, 1000 North King Street, DE 19801, Attn: Andrew L. Magaziner. Wilmington. (amagaziner@ycst.com) and S. Alexander Faris (afaris@ycst.com) (iii) counsel to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. in its capacity as Prepetition ABL Administrative Agent, Otterbourg P.C., 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169, Attn: Chad Simon, Esq. (csimon@otterbourg.com) and Daniel Fiorillo, Esq. (dfiorillo@otterbourg.com); (iv) counsel to Pathlight Capital LP in its capacity as Prepetition Term Loan Agent, Riemer & Braunstein LLP, Times Square Tower, Suite 2506, Seven Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Steven E. Fox, Esq. (sfox@riemerlaw.com) and Paul D. Bekker, Esq. (pbekker@riemerlaw.com); and (v) counsel to Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC, Ropes & Gray LLP, 191 North Wacker Drive, 60606, Floor. Chicago, ILAttn: Stephen (stephen.iacovo@ropesgray.com); (vi) counsel to any statutory committee, no later than fourteen (14) days following the service of the Interim Order.
- b. If the Debtors, the Agent and the Governmental Unit are unable to resolve the Liquidation Dispute within fourteen (14) days of service of the notice, the aggrieved party may file a motion with this Court requesting that this Court resolve the Liquidation Dispute (a "**Dispute Resolution Motion**").
- c. In the event that a Dispute Resolution Motion is filed, nothing in this Interim Order or the Final Order, as applicable, shall preclude the Debtors, a landlord, or any other interested party from asserting (i) that the provisions of any Liquidation Sale Laws are preempted by the Bankruptcy Code, or (ii) that neither the terms of this Interim Order or the Final Order nor the conduct of the Debtors pursuant to this Interim Order or the Final Order, violates such Liquidation Laws. Filing a Dispute Resolution Motion as set forth herein shall not be deemed to affect the finality of this Interim Order or the Final Order or to limit or interfere with the Debtors' or the Agent's ability to conduct or to continue to conduct the Store Closing Sales pursuant to this Interim Order or the Final Order, as applicable, absent further order of the Court. Upon the entry of this Interim Order or the Final Order, the Court grants authority for the Debtors and the Agent to conduct the Store Closing Sales pursuant to the terms of this Interim Order or the Final Order, the Agency Agreement, and the Sale Guidelines (as may be modified by

Side Letters, as defined below) and to take all actions reasonably related thereto or arising in connection therewith. The Governmental Unit will be entitled to assert any jurisdictional, procedural, or substantive arguments it wishes with respect to the requirements of its Liquidation Laws or the lack of any preemption of such Liquidation Laws by the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing in this Interim Order or the Final Order will constitute a ruling with respect to any issues to be raised in any Dispute Resolution Motion.

31. Within two (2) business days of the entry of this Interim Order, the Debtors shall serve copies of this Interim Order, which includes the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, by email, facsimile, or regular mail on the Applicable Governmental Units and the Landlords.

#### VI. SECTIONS 363(m) AND 364(e) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

32. Entry into the Agency Agreement is undertaken by the parties thereto in good faith, as that term is used in sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, and Agent shall be protected by sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code in the event that this Interim Order is modified, amended or vacated by subsequent order of the Court or any other court. The modification, amendment or vacatur of the authorization provided herein to enter into the Agency Agreement and consummate the transactions contemplated thereby shall not affect the validity of such transactions (including the enforceability of the Store Closing Sales or the liens or priority authorized or created under the Agency Agreement or this Interim Order solely in respect of Additional Agent Goods and the proceeds therefrom), unless such authorization is duly stayed pending such appeal. The Agent is entitled to all of the benefits and protections afforded by sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code. The transactions contemplated by the Agency Agreement are not subject to avoidance pursuant to section 363(n) of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### VII. ADDITIONAL AGENT GOODS

33. The Agent is authorized to supplement the Merchandise in the Store Closing Sales with Additional Agent Goods; *provided*, that the Debtors may reasonably object to the inclusion of Additional Agent Goods that are not of like kind and are of lesser quality to the Merchandise in 32647456.12

the Store Closing Sales at the Closing Stores, in which case the Debtors and the Agent shall work in good faith to resolve such objection, which resolution may require the exclusion of such Additional Agent Goods subject to the objection; provided, further, that the cost of Additional Agent Goods shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate Cost Value (as defined in the Agency Agreement) of the Merchandise in the Store Closing Sale. The Additional Agent Goods shall be purchased by the Agent as part of the Store Closing Sales and delivered to the Closing Stores at the Agent's sole expense (including as to labor, freight, and insurance relative to shipping such Additional Agent Goods to the Closing Stores). Sales of Additional Agent Goods shall be run through the Debtors' cash register systems; provided, however, that the Agent shall mark the Additional Agent Goods using either a "dummy" SKU or department number, or in such other manner so as to distinguish the sale of Additional Agent Goods from the sale of Merchandise. The Agent and Debtors shall cooperate to ensure that the Additional Agent Goods are marked in such a way that a reasonable consumer could identify the Additional Agent Goods from the Merchandise. The Agent shall provide signage in the Closing Stores notifying customers that the Additional Agent Goods have been included in the Store Closing Sale.

34. All transactions relating to the Additional Agent Goods are, shall be construed as, and are acknowledged by the Debtors to be, a true consignment from the Agent to the Debtors under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (the "<u>UCC</u>") and not a consignment for security purposes. Subject solely to Agent's obligations to pay to the Debtors the Additional Agent Goods Fee (as defined in the Agency Agreement), at all times and for all purposes the Additional Agent Goods and their proceeds shall be the exclusive property of the Agent, and no other person or entity (including, without limitation, the Debtors, or any third person claiming a security interest in the Debtors' property, including any of the Debtors' secured lenders) shall have any claim

against any of the Additional Agent Goods or the proceeds thereof. The Additional Agent Goods shall at all times remain subject to the exclusive control of the Agent. The Debtors shall, at Agent's sole cost and expense, insure the Additional Agent Goods and, if required, promptly file any proofs of loss with regard thereto. The Agent shall be responsible for payment of any deductible under any such insurance in the event of any casualty affecting the Additional Agent Goods.

35. The Agent is hereby granted a first priority security interest in and lien upon (a) the Additional Agent Goods and (b) the Additional Agent Goods proceeds, less the Additional Agent Goods Fee, and which security interest shall be deemed perfected without the requirement of filing UCC financing statements or providing notifications to any prior secured parties (provided that the Agent is hereby authorized to deliver all required notices and file all necessary financing statements and amendments thereof under the applicable UCC identifying the Agent's interest in the Additional Agent Goods as consigned goods thereunder and the Debtors as the consignee therefor, and the Agent's security interest in and lien upon such Additional Agent Goods and the Additional Agent Goods proceeds).

#### VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- 36. Nothing in this Interim Order shall be deemed to constitute a postpetition assumption of any agreement under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 37. Subject to entry of the Final Order, any transfers by the Debtors to the Agent prior to the Petition Date (including, without limitation, any proceeds under the Agency Agreement and the valid, binding, and enforceable security interests granted to the Agent solely in respect of the Additional Agent Goods and the proceeds therefrom (subject to the Agent's payment of the Additional Agent Goods Fee)) are not subject to avoidance.

- 38. No later than seven (7) days prior to the Objection Deadline, the Agent shall file a declaration disclosing connections to the Debtors, their creditors, and other parties in interest in these Chapter 11 Cases, and the Debtors shall serve the same on the U.S. Trustee, any official committee of unsecured creditors appointed in these cases, and all parties who have filed requests for service under Bankruptcy Rule 2002.
- Agreement and related documents by the parties may be made in accordance with the terms thereof without further order of this Court; *provided that* any such modifications, amendment or supplements are not adverse to the Debtors or their estates, the interest of the landlords under the applicable Leases are not adversely affected, or as otherwise ordered by this Court; *provided further that* the Debtors shall provide counsel to Wells Fargo and counsel to the Prepetition Term Loan Agent copies of any such modifications, amendments, or supplements at least two (2) business days prior to the effectiveness thereof, which such modification(s), amendment(s), or supplement(s) shall be effective unless Wells Fargo or the Prepetition Term Loan Agent delivers a written objection to the Debtors' counsel, with a copy to any statutory committee (email being sufficient) prior to the expiration of such two (2) business day period.
- 40. Neither the Agent nor any of its respective affiliates (whether individually, as part of a joint venture, or otherwise), shall be precluded from providing additional services to the Debtors or bidding on the Debtors' assets in connection with any other future process that may or may not be undertaken by the Debtors to close stores; *provided that* any such services and/or sales are approved by separate order of this Court.
- 41. Nothing contained in any plan confirmed in these Chapter 11 Cases or any order of this Court confirming such plan or in any other order in these Chapter 11 Cases (including any

order entered after any conversion of this case to a case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code) shall alter, conflict with, or derogate from, the provisions of the Agency Agreement or the terms of this Interim Order.

- 42. The Debtors are authorized and permitted to transfer to the Agent personal information in the Debtors' custody and control solely for the purposes of assisting with and conducting the Store Closing Sales and only to the extent necessary for such purposes, *provided* that Agent removes such personal information from the FF&E prior to the abandonment of the same.
- 43. The Agent shall not be liable for any claims against the Debtors, and the Debtors shall not be liable for any claims against Agent, in each case, other than as expressly provided for in the Agency Agreement. The Agent shall have no successor liability whatsoever with respect to any Encumbrances or claims of any nature that may exist against the Debtors, including, without limitation, the Agent shall not be, or to be deemed to be: (a) a successor in interest or within the meaning of any law, including any revenue, successor liability, pension, labor, ERISA, bulk-transfer, products liability, tax or environmental law, rule or regulation, or any theory of successor or transferee liability, antitrust, environmental, product line, de facto merger or substantial continuity or similar theories; or (b) a joint employer, co-employer or successor employer with the Debtors, and the Agent shall have no obligation to pay the Debtors' wages, bonuses, severance pay, vacation pay, WARN act claims (if any), benefits or any other payments to employees of the Debtors, including pursuant to any collective bargaining agreement, employee pension plan, or otherwise, except as expressly set forth in the Agency Agreement.

- 44. Notwithstanding the relief granted herein and any actions taken hereunder, except with respect to the Agent, nothing contained herein shall create, nor is intended to create, any rights in favor of, or enhance the status of any claim held by, any person.
- 45. Nothing in this Interim Order is intended to affect any rights of any Applicable Governmental Unit to enforce any law affecting the Debtors' conduct of the Store Closing Sales prior to the Petition Date.
- 46. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), to the extent applicable, this Interim Order shall be effective and enforceable immediately upon entry hereof.
- 47. The requirements set forth in Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) are satisfied because the relief set forth in this Interim Order is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm.
- 48. The Debtors are authorized and empowered to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement the relief granted in this Interim Order. The failure to specifically include any particular provision of the Agency Agreement in this Interim Order shall not diminish or impair the effectiveness of such provisions, it being the intent of this Court that the Agency Agreement and all of its provisions, payments, and transactions, be and hereby are authorized and approved as and to the extent provided for in this Interim Order.
- 49. To the extent that there is any conflict between this Interim Order, the Sale Guidelines, and the Agency Agreement, the terms of this Interim Order shall control over all other documents, and the Sale Guidelines shall control over the Agency Agreement.
- 50. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation or enforcement of this Interim Order.

## EXHIBIT 1

**Agency Agreement** 



November 5, 2024

#### **VIA EMAIL**

Forever 21 OpCo, LLC 110 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A500 Los Angeles, CA 90079

Attn: Brad Sell

Email: <u>brad.s@forever21.com</u>

Re: Letter Agreement Governing Inventory Disposition

Dear Brad:

By executing below, this letter shall serve as an agreement ("<u>Agreement</u>") between Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC, on the one hand ("<u>Agent</u>" or a "<u>Party</u>"), and Forever 21 OpCo, LLC, on the other hand ("<u>Merchant</u>" or a "<u>Party</u>" and together with the Agent, the "<u>Parties</u>"), under which Agent shall act as the exclusive agent for the purpose of conducting a sale of certain Merchandise (as defined below) at (i) the Merchant's eleven (11) stores as set forth on <u>Exhibit A</u> hereto, and (ii) any other stores or facilities designated for disposition by Merchant from the date of this Agreement (each a "<u>Store</u>" and collectively, the "<u>Stores</u>") through a "Store Closing", "Everything Must Go", "Everything on Sale" or similar themed sale (the "<u>Sale</u>").

#### A. <u>Merchandise</u>

For purposes hereof, "Merchandise" shall mean all goods, saleable in the ordinary course, located in the Stores on the Sale Commencement Date (defined below) or goods that, upon mutual agreement between the Parties, Merchant ships to the Stores subsequent to the Sale Commencement Date for inclusion in the Sale. "Merchandise" does not mean and shall not include: (1) goods that belong to sublessees, licensees or concessionaires of Merchant; (2) owned furnishings, trade fixtures, equipment and improvements to real property that are located in the Stores (collectively, "FF&E"); or (3) damaged or defective merchandise that cannot be sold.

#### B. Sale Term

For each Store, the Sale shall commence on November 7, 2024 or such later date as agreed by the Parties (the "Sale Commencement Date") and conclude no later than February 28, 2025 (the "Sale Termination Date"); provided, however, that the Parties may mutually agree in writing to extend or terminate the Sale at any Store prior to the Sale Termination Date. The Parties also intend to conduct sales at additional stores to be identified, and may agree to extended or separate sale termination dates for such stores. The period between the Sale Commencement Date and the Sale Termination Date shall be referred to as the "Sale Term." At the conclusion of the Sale, Agent shall surrender the premises for each Store to Merchant in broom clean condition and in accordance with the lease requirements for such premises; provided, however, Merchant shall bear all costs and expenses associated with surrendering the premises in accordance with the lease requirements for such

premises according to a budget mutually agreed to between the Agent and Merchant. At the conclusion of the Sale at each Store, Agent shall photographically document the condition of each such Store.

#### C. Project Management

#### (i) Agent's Undertakings

During the Sale Term, Agent shall, in collaboration with Merchant, (a) provide qualified supervisors (the "Supervisors") engaged by Agent to oversee the management of the Stores; (b) determine appropriate point-of-sale and external advertising for the Stores, approved in advance by Merchant; (c) determine appropriate discounts of Merchandise, staffing levels for the Stores, approved in advance by Merchant, and appropriate bonus and incentive programs, if any, for the Stores' employees, approved in advance by Merchant; (d) oversee display of Merchandise for the Stores; (e) to the extent that information is available, evaluate sales of Merchandise by category and sales reporting and monitor expenses; (f) maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary or non-public information regarding Merchant in accordance with the provisions of the confidentiality agreement signed by the Parties; (g) assist Merchant in connection with managing and controlling loss prevention and employee relations matters; (h) determine the necessity for obtaining any applicable permits and governmental approvals to conduct the Sale, including working with Merchant to obtain each in a timely and orderly fashion and preparing or causing to be prepared all forms necessary to assist in Merchant's securing any applicable permits and governmental approvals necessary to conduct the Sale, the costs and expenses of which shall be paid by Merchant and shall be in addition to the costs and expenses set forth on the Expense Budget; (i) implement Agent's affiliate CareerFlex program for Merchant's Store level and other employees; and (j) provide such other related services deemed necessary or appropriate by Merchant and Agent.

The Parties expressly acknowledge and agree that Merchant shall have no liability to the Supervisors for wages, benefits, severance pay, termination pay, vacation pay, pay in lieu of notice of termination or any other liability arising from Agent's hiring or engagement of the Supervisors, and the Supervisors shall not be considered employees of Merchant.

#### (ii) Merchant's Undertakings

During the Sale Term, Merchant shall (a) be the employer of the Stores' employees, other than the Supervisors; (b) pay all taxes, costs, expenses, accounts payable, and other liabilities relating to the Stores, the Stores' employees and other representatives of Merchant; (c) prepare and process all tax forms and other documentation; (d) collect all sales taxes and pay them to the appropriate taxing authorities for the Stores; (e) use reasonable efforts to cause Merchant's employees to cooperate with Agent and the Supervisors; (f) execute all agreements determined by the Merchant and Agent to be necessary or desirable for the operation of the Stores during the Sale; (g) arrange for the ordinary maintenance of all point-of-sale equipment required for the Stores; (h) apply for and obtain, with Agent's assistance and support, all applicable permits and authorizations (including landlord approvals and consents) for the Sale; (i) assist Agent with implementing the CareerFlex program for Merchant's Store level and other employees; and (j) ensure that Agent has quiet use and enjoyment of the Stores for the Sale Term in order to perform its obligations under this Agreement.

Merchant shall provide throughout the Sale Term central administrative services necessary for the Sale, including (without limitation) customary POS administration, sales audit, cash reconciliation, accounting, and payroll processing, all at no cost to Agent.

The Parties expressly acknowledge and agree that Agent shall have no liability to Merchant's employees for wages, benefits, severance pay, termination pay, vacation pay, pay in lieu of notice of termination or any other liability arising from Merchant's employment, hiring or retention of its employees, and such employees shall not be considered employees of Agent.

#### D. The Sale

All sales of Merchandise shall be made on behalf of Merchant. Agent does not have, nor shall it have, any right, title or interest in the Merchandise. All sales of Merchandise shall be by cash, gift card, gift certificate, merchandise credit, debit card, or credit card and, at Merchant's discretion, by check or otherwise in accordance with Merchant's policies, and shall be "final" with no returns accepted or allowed, unless otherwise directed by Merchant.

#### E. Agent Fee and Expenses in Connection with the Sale

In consideration of its services hereunder, Agent shall earn a fee equal to 2% of the Gross Proceeds of Merchandise sold at the Stores. For purposes of this Agreement, "Gross Proceeds" means gross receipts calculated using the "gross rings" method, net of applicable sales taxes.

Merchant shall be responsible for all expenses of the Sale, including (without limitation) all Store level operating expenses, all costs and expenses related to Merchant's other retail store operations, and Agent's other reasonable, documented out of pocket expenses. To control expenses of the Sale, Merchant and Agent have established an initial budget (the "Expense Budget") of certain delineated expenses, including (without limitation) payment of the costs of supervision (including (without limitation) Supervisors' wages, fees, travel, and deferred compensation) and advertising costs (including signage and the shipping, freight, and sales tax related thereto where applicable). The Expense Budget for the Sale is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The Expense Budget may only be modified by mutual agreement of Agent and Merchant. The costs of supervision set forth on Exhibits B include, among other things, industry standard deferred compensation. Should Merchant decide to add additional stores to the scope of this Agreement, the Parties shall agree on an incremental expense budget and sale term for such additional stores through an amendment to this Agreement.

All accounting matters (including, without limitation, all fees, expenses, or other amounts reimbursable or payable to Agent) shall be reconciled on every Wednesday for the prior week and shall be paid within seven (7) days after each such weekly reconciliation. The Parties shall complete a final reconciliation and settlement of all amounts payable to Agent and contemplated by this Agreement (including, without limitation, Expense Budget items, and fees earned hereunder) no later than forty five (45) days following the Sale Termination Date for the last Store.

Upon execution of this Agreement, the Merchant shall pay by wire transfer to the Agent an advance payment of costs and expenses delineated in the Expense Budget of \$85,000.00 (the "Expense Advance"). The Expense Advance shall be held by Agent and applied towards Expense Budget items as incurred. Any portion of the Expense Advance not so used shall be returned to Merchant within three days following the final reconciliation.

#### F. <u>Indemnification</u>

#### (i) Merchant's Indemnification

Merchant shall indemnify, defend, and hold Agent and its consultants, members, managers, partners, officers, directors, employees, attorneys, advisors, representatives, lenders, potential coinvestors, principals, affiliates, and Supervisors (collectively, "Agent Indemnified Parties") harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, demands, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or related to: (a) the willful or negligent acts or omissions of Merchant or the Merchant Indemnified Parties (as defined below); (b) the material breach of any provision of this Agreement by Merchant; (c) any liability or other claims, including, without limitation, product liability claims, asserted by customers, any Store employees (under a collective bargaining agreement or otherwise), or any other person (excluding Agent Indemnified Parties) against Agent or an Agent Indemnified Party, except claims arising from Agent's negligence, willful misconduct or unlawful behavior; (d) any harassment, discrimination or violation of any laws or regulations or any other unlawful, tortuous or otherwise actionable treatment of Agent's Indemnified Parties or Merchant's customers by Merchant or Merchant's Indemnified Parties; and (e) Merchant's failure to pay over to the appropriate taxing authority any taxes required to be paid by Merchant during the Sale Term in accordance with applicable law.

#### (ii) Agent's Indemnification

Agent shall indemnify, defend and hold Merchant and its consultants, members, managers, partners, officers, directors, employees, attorneys, advisors, representatives, lenders, potential coinvestors, principals, and affiliates (other than the Agent or the Agent Indemnified Parties) (collectively, "Merchant Indemnified Parties") harmless from and against all liabilities, claims, demands, damages, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or related to (a) the willful or negligent acts or omissions of Agent or the Agent Indemnified Parties; (b) the breach of any provision of, or the failure to perform any obligation under, this Agreement by Agent; (c) any liability or other claims made by Agent's Indemnified Parties or any other person (excluding Merchant Indemnified Parties) against a Merchant Indemnified Party arising out of or related to Agent's conduct of the Sale, except claims arising from Merchant's negligence, willful misconduct, or unlawful behavior; (d) any harassment, discrimination or violation of any laws or regulations or any other unlawful, tortuous or otherwise actionable treatment of Merchant Indemnified Parties, or Merchant's customers by Agent or any of the Agent Indemnified Parties and (e) any claims made by any party engaged by Agent as an employee, agent, representative or independent contractor arising out of such engagement.

#### G. Insurance

#### (i) Merchant's Insurance Obligations

Merchant shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, liability insurance policies (including, without limitation, products liability (to the extent currently provided), comprehensive public liability insurance and auto liability insurance) covering injuries to persons and property in or in connection

with the Stores, and shall cause Agent to be named an additional insured with respect to all such policies. At Agent's request, Merchant shall provide Agent with a certificate or certificates evidencing the insurance coverage required hereunder and that Agent is an additional insured thereunder. In addition, Merchant shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, in such amounts as it currently has in effect, workers compensation insurance in compliance with all statutory requirements.

#### (ii) Agent's Insurance Obligations

As an expense of the Sale, Agent shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, liability insurance policies (including, without limitation, products liability/completed operations, contractual liability, comprehensive public liability and auto liability insurance) on an occurrence basis in an amount of at least Two Million dollars (\$2,000,000) and an aggregate basis of at least five million dollars (\$5,000,000) covering injuries to persons and property in or in connection with Agent's provision of services at the Stores. Agent shall name Merchant as an additional insured and loss payee under such policy, and upon execution of this Agreement provide Merchant with a certificate or certificates evidencing the insurance coverage required hereunder. In addition, Agent shall maintain throughout the Sale Term, workers compensation insurance compliance with all statutory requirements. Further, should Agent employ or engage third parties to perform any of Agent's undertakings with regard to this Agreement, Agent will ensure that such third parties are covered by Agent's insurance or maintain all of the same insurance as Agent is required to maintain pursuant to this paragraph and name Merchant as an additional insured and loss payee under the policy for each such insurance.

#### H. Representations, Warranties, Covenants and Agreements

- (i) Merchant warrants, represents, covenants and agrees that (a) Merchant is a company duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its state of organization, with full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform its obligations hereunder, and maintains its principal executive office at the address set forth herein, (b) the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement has been duly authorized by all necessary actions of Merchant and this Agreement constitutes a valid and binding obligation of Merchant enforceable against Merchant in accordance with its terms and conditions, and the consent of no other entity or person is required for Merchant to fully perform all of its obligations herein, (c) all ticketing of Merchandise at the Stores has been and will be done in accordance with Merchant's customary ticketing practices; (d) all normal course hard markdowns on the Merchandise have been, and will be, taken consistent with customary Merchant's practices, and (e) the Stores will be operated in the ordinary course of business in all respects, other than those expressly agreed to by Merchant and Agent.
- (ii) Agent warrants, represents, covenants and agrees that (a) Agent is a company duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its state of organization, with full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement and to perform the Agent's obligations hereunder, and maintains its principal executive office at the addresses set forth herein, (b) the execution, delivery and performance of this Agreement has been duly authorized by all necessary actions of Agent and this Agreement constitutes a valid and binding obligation of Agent enforceable against Agent in accordance with its terms and conditions, and the consent of no other entity or person is required for Agent to fully perform all of its obligations herein, (c) Agent shall comply with and act in accordance with any and all applicable state and local laws, rules, and regulations, and other

legal obligations of all governmental authorities, (d) no non-emergency repairs or maintenance in the Stores will be conducted without Merchant's prior written consent, and (e) Agent will not take any disciplinary action against any employee of Merchant.

#### I. <u>Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment</u>

Agent shall sell the FF&E in the Stores from the Stores themselves. Merchant shall be responsible for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Agent in connection with the sale of FF&E, which costs and expenses shall be incurred pursuant to a budget or budgets to be established from time to time by mutual agreement of the Parties. Agent shall have the right to abandon at the Stores any unsold FF&E.

In consideration for providing the services set forth in this section I, Agent shall be entitled to a commission from the sale of the FF&E equal to 17.5% of the Gross Proceeds of the sale of the FF&E.

Agent shall remit to Merchant all Gross Proceeds from the sale of FF&E. During each weekly reconciliation described in section E above, Agent's FF&E fee shall be calculated, and Agent's calculated FF&E fee and all FF&E costs and expenses then incurred shall paid within seven (7) days after each such weekly reconciliation.

#### J. Termination

The following shall constitute "Termination Events" hereunder:

- (a) Merchant's or Agent's failure to perform any of their respective material obligations hereunder, which failure shall continue uncured seven (7) days after receipt of written notice thereof to the defaulting Party;
- (b) Any representation or warranty made by Merchant or Agent is untrue in any material respect as of the date made or at any time and throughout the Sale Term; or
- (c) the Sale is terminated or materially interrupted or impaired for any reason other than an event of default by Agent or Merchant.

If a Termination Event occurs, the non-defaulting Party (in the case of an event of default) or either Party (if the Sale is otherwise terminated or materially interrupted or impaired) may, in its discretion, elect to terminate this Agreement by providing seven (7) business days' written notice thereof to the other Party and, in the case of an event of default, in addition to terminating this Agreement, pursue any and all rights and remedies and damages resulting from such default. If this Agreement is terminated, Merchant shall be obligated to pay Agent all amounts due under this Agreement through and including the termination date.

#### K. Notices

All notices, certificates, approvals, and payments provided for herein shall be sent by fax or by recognized overnight delivery service as follows: (a) To Merchant: at the address listed above with a copy to scott.hampton@forever21.com; (b) To Agent: c/o Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC,

One Northbrook Place, 5 Revere Drive, Suite 206, Northbrook, IL 60062, Fax: 847-313-4799, Attn: T. Kellan Grant; or (c) such other address as may be designated in writing by Merchant or Agent.

#### L. <u>Independent Consultant</u>

Agent's relationship to Merchant is that of an independent contractor without the capacity to bind Merchant in any respect. No employer/employee, principal/agent, joint venture or other such relationship is created by this Agreement. Merchant shall have no control over the hours that Agent or its employees or assistants or the Supervisors work or the means or manner in which the services that will be provided are performed and Agent is not authorized to enter into any contracts or agreements on behalf of Merchant or to otherwise create any obligations of Merchant to third parties, unless authorized in writing to do so by Merchant.

#### M. Non-Assignment

Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights hereunder may be transferred or assigned by either Party without the prior written consent of the other Party. No modification, amendment or waiver of any of the provisions contained in this Agreement, or any future representation, promise or condition in connection with the subject matter of this Agreement, shall be binding upon any Party to this Agreement unless made in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative or agent of such Party. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Agent shall have the right to syndicate the transaction contemplated by this Agreement by providing Merchant with written notice of such syndication. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, legal representatives, successors and permitted assigns.

#### N. Severability

If any term or provision of this Agreement, as applied to either Party or any circumstance, for any reason shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, unenforceable, inoperative or otherwise ineffective, that provision shall be limited or eliminated to the minimum extent necessary so that this Agreement shall otherwise remain in full force and effect and enforceable. If the surviving portions of the Agreement fail to retain the essential understanding of the Parties, the Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent of the Parties.

#### O. Governing Law, Venue, Jurisdiction and Jury Waiver

This Agreement, and its validity, construction and effect, shall be governed by and enforced in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Delaware (without reference to the conflicts of laws provisions therein). Merchant and Agent waive their respective rights to trial by jury of any cause of action, claim, counterclaim or cross-complaint in any action, proceeding and/or hearing brought by either Agent against Merchant or Merchant against Agent on any matter whatsoever arising out of, or in any way connected with, this Agreement, the relationship between Merchant and Agent, any claim of injury or damage or the enforcement of any remedy under any law, statute or regulation, emergency or otherwise, now or hereafter in effect.

#### P. Entire Agreement

This Agreement, together with all additional schedules and exhibits attached hereto, constitutes a single, integrated written contract expressing the entire agreement of the Parties concerning the subject matter hereof. No covenants, agreements, representations or warranties of any kind whatsoever have been made by any Party except as specifically set forth in this Agreement. All prior agreements, discussions and negotiations are entirely superseded by this Agreement.

#### Q. Execution

This Agreement may be executed simultaneously in counterparts (including by means of electronic mail, facsimile or portable document format (pdf) signature pages), any one of which need not contain the signatures of more than one party, but all such counterparts taken together shall constitute one and the same instrument. This Agreement, and any amendments hereto, to the extent signed and delivered by means of electronic mail, a facsimile machine or electronic transmission in portable document format (pdf), shall be treated in all manner and respects as an original thereof and shall be considered to have the same binding legal effects as if it were the original signed version thereof delivered in person.

\* \* \*

If this Agreement is acceptable to you, kindly execute a copy in the space provided, and return a countersigned version to the undersigned. Thank you again for this opportunity -- we look forward to working with you.

Very truly yours,

HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC

By: T. Kellan Grant

Its: EVP Commercial Counsel

AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of the 5th day of November, 2024:

F21 OPCO, LLC

By:

DocuSigned by:

Brad SUL -D9DA973AC102408. Brad Sell

Its: Chief Financial Officer

### **EXHIBIT A**

**Store List** 

## Exhibit B

**Expense Budget** 



December 10, 2024

#### **VIA EMAIL**

Forever 21 OpCo, LLC 110 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A500 Los Angeles, CA 90079

Attn: Brad Sell

Email: brad.s@forever21.com

Re: First Amendment to Letter Agreement

Dear Brad:

Reference is made to that certain Letter Agreement Governing Inventory Disposition (the "<u>Agreement</u>") by and between Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC ("<u>Agent</u>") and Forever 21 OpCo, LLC ("<u>Merchant</u>" and together with Agent, the "<u>Parties</u>")), dated as of November 5, 2024. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Agreement.

The Parties hereby amend the Agreement as follows (the "Amendment"):

As set forth in the Agreement, Agent was engaged to act as the exclusive agent for the purpose of providing certain services in connection with the disposition of the Merchandise and FF&E located at certain of Merchant's retail locations. Agent and Merchant have agreed to amend the Agreement to add the seven (7) additional stores reflected on <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> to this Amendment (the "Additional Stores").

Merchant and Agent hereby further agree that, with respect to the Additional Stores, Agent will assist Merchant in disposing of the Merchandise and FF&E at the Additional Store through the conduct of "Store Closing", "Everything Must Go," "Everything on Sale" or similar themed sales (such sale, the "Supplemental Sale"). The Supplemental Sale will commence on December 12, 2024 (the "Supplemental Sale Commencement Date") and will terminate no later than February 23, 2025 (the "Supplemental Sale Termination Date"); provided, however, that the Parties may mutually agree in writing to extend or terminate the Supplemental Sale at any Additional Store prior to the Supplemental Sale Termination Date. The period from the Supplemental Sale Commencement Date to the Supplemental Sale Termination Date shall be referred to as the "Supplemental Sale Term."

To control expenses of the Supplemental Sale, Merchant and Agent have established an appropriate budget (the "Supplemental Budget," a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B, of certain delineated expenses, including costs of supervision, deferred compensation, advertising (including signage and the shipping, freight, and sales tax related thereto where applicable)).

Both the Agreement and this Amendment shall govern the Supplemental Sale at the Additional Stores. For purposes of interpreting the Agreement and the Amendment with respect to the Supplement Sale, the following defined terms and exhibits shall be replaced in the Agreement with the corresponding defined terms and exhibits in or attached to this Amendment:

Agreement	Amendment
Budget	Supplemental Budget
Sale	Supplemental Sale
Store or Stores	Additional Store or Additional Stores
Sale Commencement Date	Supplemental Sale Commencement Date
Sale Termination Date	Supplemental Sale Termination Date
Sale Term	Supplemental Sale Term

With respect to this Amendment, (i) Merchant hereby reaffirms the representations, warranties, and agreements set forth in section H of the Agreement, and (ii) Agent hereby reaffirms the representations, warranties, and agreements set forth in section H of the Agreement.

This Amendment, together the Agreement, all prior amendments or supplements, and all schedules and exhibits attached hereto and thereto, constitutes a single, integrated written contract expressing the entire agreement of the parties concerning the subject matter hereof. No covenants, agreements, representations or warranties of any kind whatsoever have been made by any party to this Amendment except as specifically set forth in this Amendment or the Agreement.

If this Amendment is acceptable to you, kindly execute a copy in the space provided, and return a countersigned version to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC

By: T. Kellan Grant

Its: EVP Commercial Counsel

AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of the 12th day of December, 2024:

FORFVER 21OpCo, LLC

Brad Sell

Its: Chief Financial Officer

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Exhibit A	Forever 21.2024.4	Store List
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Forever 21

	17,384	3,494	53,430	),268	,500	3,638	.16,298	1,002
Gross Sq. Ft.	17	•	53	20	17	16	116	%
Closure Date	2/16/2025	2/16/2025	2/23/2025	1/25/2025	2/16/2025	2/23/2025	2/16/2025	
Start Date	12/18/24	12/18/24	12/18/24	12/12/24	12/18/24	12/18/24	12/18/24	
Landlord	Simon Property Group, Inc.	SIMON	NOMIS	Kimco Realty	NOMIS	Brookfield	SIMON	
Zip	92821	77433	37214	33183	33559	45236	32256	
State	CA	¥	N	చ	긤	НО	긤	
City	Brea	Cypress	Nashville	Kendall	Lutz	Cincinnati	Jacksonville	
Address	1025 Brea Mall	29300 Hempstead Road, Suite 882	504 Opry Mills Dr. #352	8268 Mills Dr. #114	2224 Grand Cypress Dr. Suite 730	7875 Montgomery Rd. #1150	10306 Southside Blvd.	
Name	Brea Mall	Houston Premium Outlets	Opry Mills Mall	Palms at Town & Country	Tampa Premium Outlets	Kenwood Towne Center	The Avenues	
F21 Loc Number	20	387	414	628	638	715	3532	7

12/10/2024

# Forever 21 Exhibit B

#### Expense Budget (1)

	1st Week	Subsequent Weeks
Advertising		
Digital & Media	2,422	2,422
Signs (2)	33,404	-
Sign Walkers	-	
Subtotal Advertising	35,825	2,422
Supervision		
Fees / Wages / Expenses (3)	19,407	15,807
Subtotal Supervision	19,407	15,807
Miscellaneous		
Miscellaneous /Legal (4)		-
Subtotal Miscellaneous	-	-
Total Expenses	55,232	18,229

#### Notes:

- 1. This Expense Budget contemplates a sale term of December, 12, 2024 through February 23, 2025. The Expense Budget remains subject to modification in the event that this term is extended, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties.
- 2. Includes Sales Tax.
- 3. Includes Deferred Compensation and Insurance.
- 4. Any legal expenses associated with issues raised by or disputes with landlords, including (without limitation) negotiations in respect of landlord side letters, shall be in addition to and not part of the budgeted legal expenses.



February 12, 2025

#### **VIA EMAIL**

F21 OpCo, LLC 110 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A500 Los Angeles, CA 90079

Attn: Brad Sell

Email: brad.s@forever21.com

Re: Second Amendment to Letter Agreement

Dear Brad:

Reference is made to that certain Letter Agreement Governing Inventory Disposition by and between Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC ("<u>Hilco</u>") and F21 OpCo, LLC ("<u>Merchant</u>" and together with Agent (as defined below), the "<u>Parties</u>"), dated as of November 5, 2024 (as amended and revised, the "<u>Agreement</u>"). Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Agreement.

The Parties hereby further amend the Agreement as follows (this "Amendment"):

As set forth in the Agreement, Hilco was engaged to act as the exclusive agent for the purpose of providing certain services in connection with the disposition of the Merchandise and FF&E located at certain of the Merchant's retail locations. Hilco and Merchant have agreed to amend the Agreement to add (i) the 355 additional stores reflected on Exhibit A to this Amendment (in waves as may be reflected on Exhibit A), (ii) any other stores or facilities designated for disposition by Merchant subsequent to execution of this Amendment (collectively, the "Additional Stores"), and (iii) Gordon Brothers Retail Partners, LLC ("Gordon Brothers") and SB360 Capital Partners, LLC ("SB360" and, together with Gordon Brothers and Hilco, "Agent"), to which Hilco has syndicated certain responsibilities, as Parties to the Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, following the effective date of this Amendment, Gordon Brothers and SB360 shall be bound by the terms of the Agreement (including this Amendment) and Merchant shall have the right to enforce the Agreement against them in the event of any breach.

Merchant and Agent hereby further agree that, with respect to the Additional Stores, Agent will assist Merchant in disposing of the Merchandise and FF&E at the Additional Stores through the conduct of "Store Closing", "Everything Must Go," "Everything on Sale" or similar themed sales (such sale, the "Supplemental Sale"). The Supplemental Sale will commence on February 12, 2025 (the "Supplemental Sale Commencement Date") and will terminate no later than April 30, 2025 (the "Supplemental Sale Termination Date"); provided, however, that the Parties may mutually agree in writing to extend or terminate the Supplemental Sale at any Additional Store prior to the Supplemental Sale Termination Date, and that different Additional Stores may have different Supplemental Sale Commencement Dates or Supplemental Sale Termination Dates as set forth in Exhibit A. The period from the Supplemental Sale Commencement Date to the Supplemental Sale Termination Date shall be referred to as the "Supplemental Sale Term."

To control expenses of the Supplemental Sale, Merchant and Agent have established an appropriate budget (the "Supplemental Budget," a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B, of certain delineated expenses, including costs of supervision, deferred compensation, advertising (including signage and the shipping, freight, and sales tax related thereto where applicable)).

Both the Agreement and this Amendment shall govern the Supplemental Sale at the Additional Stores. For purposes of interpreting the Agreement and this Amendment with respect to the Supplement Sale, the following defined terms and exhibits shall be replaced in the Agreement with the corresponding defined terms and exhibits in or attached to this Amendment:

Agreement	Amendment
Budget	Supplemental Budget
Sale	Supplemental Sale
Store or Stores	Additional Store or Additional Stores
Sale Commencement Date	Supplemental Sale Commencement Date
Sale Termination Date	Supplemental Sale Termination Date
Sale Term	Supplemental Sale Term

Moreover, the first paragraph of section E of the Agreement is hereby replaced and reinstated as follows:

In consideration of its services hereunder, the Agent shall earn a base fee equal to two (2.0%) of the Gross Proceeds (as defined below) of Merchandise sold at the Stores during the Sale Term (the "Merchandise Fee"). Agent shall earn a base wholesale fee of seven and one half percent (7.5%) of the Gross Proceeds of Merchandise sold through Agent's wholesale channels (the "Wholesale Fee"). For purposes of this Agreement, "Gross Proceeds" means gross receipts (including, without limitation, as a result of the redemption of any gift card, or gift certificates issued by the Merchant), calculated using the "gross rings", from sales of Merchandise during the Sale Term, net of applicable sales taxes. For the purposes of calculating Gross Proceeds, the Merchant and the Agent shall keep (a) a strict count of gross register receipts less applicable sales taxes; and (b) cash reports of sales within each Store.

In addition to the Merchandise Fee, and not in lieu thereof, the Merchant shall pay to the Agent from Gross Proceeds of such Merchandise (but not Gross Proceeds of Merchandise sold through wholesale channels) an additional fee based upon the Gross Recovery Percentages achieved as set forth in the following table (the "Additional Incentive Compensation"). The Additional Incentive Compensation shall be equal to the aggregate sum of the percentages set forth in the "Additional Incentive Compensation" column of the table (e.g., calculated back to first dollar) for the corresponding Gross Recovery Percentage achieved; provided, however, no Additional Incentive Compensation shall be earned or payable where the Gross Recovery Percentage is less than 138.9%:

Gross Recovery Percentage	Additional Incentive Compensation
Between 138.9% and 140.9%	An additional 0.25% of Gross
	Proceeds (total fee equal to 2.25% of
	Gross Proceeds)
Above 140.9%	An additional 0.25% of Gross
	Proceeds (total fee equal to 2.5% of Gross
	Proceeds)

For purposes of the Additional Incentive Compensation:

"Cost Value" with respect to each item of Merchandise sold shall mean the lower of (i) the lowest per unit vendor cost in the File or in the Merchant's books and records, maintained in the ordinary course consistent with historic practices; or (ii) the Retail Price.

"File" shall mean shall mean Merchant's "01.Inventory listing as of Week 49 by Store (Category Level)" files and all subsequent files received by Agent.

"Gross Recovery Percentage" shall mean the Gross Proceeds divided by the sum of the aggregate Cost Value of all of the Merchandise sold during the Sale Term at the Stores.

"Retail Price" shall mean with respect to each item of Merchandise sold, the retail price reflected at the register for such item, excluding the discount granted in connection with such sale.

In addition to the foregoing, Merchant shall (a) pay \$242,545 on account of accrued and unpaid invoice amounts owing to Agent by Merchant and (b) provide an additional Expense Advance (as defined in the Agreement) of \$1,477,093 promptly upon execution of this Amendment. The Expense Advance shall be adjusted to ensure that Agent's outstanding fees and expenses owed under the Agreement shall be paid current prior to Merchant commencing a proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code. The Expense Advance shall be held by Agent and applied towards Expense Budget items as incurred. Any portion of the Expense Advance not so used shall be returned to Merchant within three days following the final reconciliation. [In addition, Merchant shall fund to Agent \$75,000 as a legal deposit to be held by Agent and applied to Agent's legal fees as they are incurred. All amounts due to the Agent under the Agreement shall be payable upon receipt of invoice by Merchant. The remainder of section E shall continue in full force and effect. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Agreement or this Amendment, Merchant's obligations to pay any fees, expenses, or other amounts due to Agent shall only be owed to Hilco.

Moreover, section I of the Agreement is hereby replaced and reinstated as follows:

"Agent shall sell the FF&E in the Stores from the Stores themselves, and shall sell FF&E from Merchant's corporate offices and, as applicable and only upon express direction from Merchant, its distribution center(s). Merchant shall be responsible for all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by Agent in connection with the sale of

FF&E, which costs and expenses shall be incurred pursuant to the Budget, as may be modified from time to time by mutual agreement of the Parties. Agent shall have the right to abandon any unsold FF&E. For the avoidance of doubt, Agent shall be the exclusive agent for FF&E sales from any facilities designated for disposition by Merchant during the term of this Agreement.

In consideration for providing the services set forth in this section I, Agent shall be entitled to a commission from the sale of the FF&E equal to 17.5% of the Gross Proceeds of the sale of the FF&E.

Agent shall remit to Merchant all Gross Proceeds from the sale of FF&E. During each weekly reconciliation described in section E above, Agent's FF&E fee shall be calculated, and Agent's calculated FF&E fee and all FF&E costs and expenses then incurred shall paid within seven (7) days after each such weekly reconciliation."

Moreover, section N of the Agreement is hereby replaced and reinstated as follows:

"Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights hereunder may be transferred or assigned by either Party without the prior written consent of the other Party. No modification, amendment or waiver of any of the provisions contained in this Agreement, or any future representation, promise or condition in connection with the subject matter of this Agreement, shall be binding upon any Party to this Agreement unless made in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative or agent of such Party. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective legal representatives, successors and permitted assigns. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Agent shall have the right to syndicate the transaction contemplated by this Agreement with additional entities so long as such relationships do not impose any additional cost or liability to Merchant, Agent provides Merchant with written notice of such syndication, and such partner(s) are reputable firms with experience and resources similar to those of Agent. Merchant acknowledges that as of February 12, 2025, Hilco has syndicated certain responsibilities under this Agreement to Gordon Brothers and SB360, who collectively serve as "Agent" hereunder. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective heirs, legal representatives, successors and permitted assigns."

Additionally, new paragraph R is added to the Agreement as follows:

#### R. Bankruptcy

"If the Merchant commences a case under Chapter 11 of title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), with a bankruptcy court (the "Bankruptcy Court"), the Merchant shall promptly file a motion to assume sections of this Agreement under section 365 and/or 363 of the Bankruptcy Code, and utilize its reasonable best efforts to ensure that such motion is approved by an order that approves, among other things, as follows (the "Approval Order"): (i) the payment of all fees and reimbursement of expenses under this Agreement is approved without further order of the court; (ii) all such payments of fees and reimbursement of expenses related to such Approval Order

shall be made on a weekly basis without further order of the Bankruptcy Court and otherwise in accordance with this Agreement; (iii) the payment of all fees and reimbursement of expenses to Agent related to such Approval Orders shall be included in any approved debtor-in-possession, cash collateral, or other post-petition financing budget as a condition to the assumption of this Agreement; (iv) the conduct of the Sale without the necessity of complying with state and local rules, laws, ordinances and regulations, including, without limitation, permitting and licensing requirements, that could otherwise govern the Sale; (v) the conduct of the Sale notwithstanding restrictions in leases, reciprocal easement agreements or other contracts that purport to restrict the Sale or the necessity of obtaining any third party consents; (vi) the Sale through the conduct of "Going out of Business" or similar themed sales, in addition to the Sale themes set forth in the Agreement; (vii) the sale of Additional Agent Goods in accordance with the terms and conditions hereof; and (viii) Merchant in taking all further actions as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The Bankruptcy Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any issues arising under this Agreement. In such event, any legal action, suit or proceeding arising in connection with this Agreement shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court having jurisdiction over the Merchant, and each Party waives any defenses or objections based on lack of jurisdiction, improper venue, and/or forum non conveniens. From and after entry of the Approval Order, Agent shall conduct the Sale in accordance with the terms of the Approval Order in all material respects. If any objections are received prior to entry of the Approval Order, Agent will use commercially reasonable efforts to assist Merchant in negotiating a consensual resolution of such objection with the objecting party."

Additionally, new paragraph S is added to the Agreement as follows:

#### T. Additional Agent Goods

"Agent shall have the right, at Agent's sole cost and expense, to supplement the Merchandise in the Sale at the Stores with additional goods procured by Agent which are of like kind, and no lesser quality to the Merchandise in the Sale at the Stores ("Additional Agent Goods"); provided, further, that the cost of Additional Agent Goods shall not exceed 20% of the aggregate Cost Value of Merchandise in the Sale. The Additional Agent Goods shall be purchased by Agent as part of the Sale, and delivered to the Stores at Agent's sole expense (including as to labor, freight and insurance relative to shipping such Additional Agent Goods to the Stores). Sales of Additional Agent Goods shall be run through Merchant's cash register systems; provided however, that Agent shall mark the Additional Agent Goods using either a "dummy" SKU or department number, or in such other manner so as to distinguish the sale of Additional Agent Goods from the sale of Merchandise. Agent and Merchant shall also cooperate so as to ensure that the Additional Agent Goods are marked in such a way that a reasonable consumer could identify the Additional Agent Goods as non-Merchant goods. Additionally, Agent shall provide signage in the Stores notifying customers that the Additional Agent Goods have been included in the Sale.

Agent shall pay to Merchant an amount equal to five percent (5%) percent of the gross proceeds (excluding Sale Taxes) from the sale of the Additional Agent Goods (the

"Additional Agent Goods Fee"), and Agent shall retain all remaining amounts from the sale of the Additional Agent Goods. Agent shall pay Merchant its Additional Agent Goods Fee in connection with each weekly sale reconciliation with respect to sales of Additional Agent Goods sold by Agent during each then prior week (or at such other mutually agreed upon time).

Agent and Merchant intend that the transactions relating to the Additional Agent Goods are, and shall be construed as, a true consignment from Agent to Merchant in all respects and not a consignment for security purposes. Subject solely to Agent's obligations to pay to Merchant the Additional Agent Goods Fee, at all times and for all purposes the Additional Agent Goods and their proceeds shall be the exclusive property of Agent, and no other person or entity shall have any claim against any of the Additional Agent Goods or their proceeds. The Additional Agent Goods shall at all times remain subject to the exclusive control of Agent.

Merchant shall, at Agent's sole cost and expense, insure the Additional Agent Goods and, if required, promptly file any proofs of loss with regard to same with Merchant's insurers. Agent shall be responsible for payment of any deductible under any such insurance in the event of any casualty affecting the Additional Agent Goods.

Merchant acknowledges, and the Approval Order shall provide, that the Additional Agent Goods shall be consigned to Merchant as a true consignment under Article 9 of the Code. Agent is hereby granted a first priority security interest in and lien upon (i) the Additional Agent Goods and (ii) the Additional Agent Goods proceeds *less* the Additional Agent Goods Fee, and which security interest shall be deemed perfected pursuant to the Approval Order without the requirement of filing UCC financing statements or providing notifications to any prior secured parties (provided that Agent is hereby authorized to deliver all required notices and file all necessary financing statements and amendments thereof under the applicable UCC identifying Agent's interest in the Additional Agent Goods as consigned goods thereunder and the Merchant as the consignee therefor, and Agent's security interest in and lien upon such Additional Agent Goods and Additional Agent Goods proceeds).

Notwithstanding anything in this Agreement to the contrary, "Merchandise" shall not include Additional Agent Goods."

With respect to this Amendment, (i) Merchant hereby reaffirms the representations, warranties, and agreements set forth in section H of the Agreement, and (ii) Agent hereby reaffirms the representations, warranties, and agreements set forth in section H of the Agreement.

This Amendment, together with the Agreement, all prior amendments or supplements, and all schedules and exhibits attached hereto and thereto, constitutes a single, integrated written contract expressing the entire agreement of the parties concerning the subject matter hereof. No covenants, agreements, representations or warranties of any kind whatsoever have been made by any party to this Amendment except as specifically set forth in this Amendment or the Agreement.

If this Amendment is acceptable to you, kindly execute a copy in the space provided, and return a countersigned version to the undersigned.

Brad Sell

Chief Financial Officer

By:

Its:

	Very truly yours,
	HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC
	T. Kellan Grant
	By: T. Kellan Grant Its: EVP Commercial Counsel
AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of of February, 2025, intending to be	f the 12th day bound to the terms of the Agreement:
	GORDON BROTHERS RETAIL PARTNERS, LLC
	By: Its:
	SB360 CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC
	By: Its:
AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of of February, 2025:	f the 12 <sup>th</sup> day
F21 OpCo, LLC Brad Sul	

	Very truly yours, HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC
	By: T. Kellan Grant Its: EVP Commercial Counsel
AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of of February, 2025, intending to be	the 12th day bound to the terms of the Agreement:
	GORDON BROTHERS RETAIL PARTNERS, LLC
	By: Its:  SB360 CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC
	By: Aaron S. Miller Its: President
AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of of February, 2025:	the 12 <sup>th</sup> day
F21 OpCo, LLC	

Brad Sell

Chief Financial Officer

By:

Its:

Chief Financial Officer

Its:

	Very truly yours,
	HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC
	By: T. Kellan Grant Its: EVP Commercial Counsel
AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of of February, 2025, intending to be	the 12th day bound to the terms of the Agreement:
	GORDON BROTHERS RETAIL PARTNERS, LLC
	By: Richard P. Edwards  By: Head of NA Retail
	SB360 CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC
	By:
	Its:
AGREED AND ACCEPTED as of february, 2025:	f the 12 <sup>th</sup> day
F21 OpCo, LLC	
By: Brad Sell	

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Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC

Forever 21 Exhibit A

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Northridge El Cajon
2250U 10WR LITCHE, SUITE 1030 NY 9301 Tampa Ave., #4 N 415 Parkway Plaza #357 El
22500 Town Circle, Suite 9301 Tampa Ave., #4 415 Parkway Plaza #357 2249 Stoneridee Mall Rd.

2/10/2025

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Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC

Forever 21 Exhibit A

Foc #	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Landlord	Gross Sq. Ft.	Selling Sq. Ft.	Planned Store Commencement Date
150	Palm Desert	72840 Highway 111, Ste. T-393	Palm Desert	5	92260	Pacific Retail Capital Partners	21,944	17,020	2/12/2025
153	Zona Rosa	7121 N. West 86 Terrace #117	Kansas City	MO	64153	Trademark Property Company	17,224	11,183	2/12/2025
156	Plaza @ King of Prussia	160 N. Gulph Rd, Ste #1910	King of Prussia	PA	19406	Simon Property Group, Inc.	31,275	25,567	2/12/2025
162	Fox River	4301 W. Wisconsin Ave. #902	Appleton	M	54913	Brookfield Properties	14,369	11,680	2/27/2025
165	Jordan Creek Town Center	101 Jordan Creek Parkway	West Des Moines	٧	50266	Brookfield Properties	10,951	8,090	2/27/2025
167	Victoria Gardens	12482 N. Main St.	Rancho Cucamonga	CA	91739	Brookfield Properties	6,985	4,556	2/27/2025
172	Willow Grove Park	2500 Moreland Rd, Ste 2001	Willow Grove	PA	19090	PREIT Services, LLC	17,165	13,060	2/27/2025
176	Park Meadows	8557 Park Meadows Center Drive	Lone Tree	8	80124	Brookfield Properties	31,596	23,123	2/12/2025
179	Southland	343 Southland Mall Drive, Space #76	Hayward	CA	94545	Brookfield Properties	14,045	11,355	2/12/2025
181	<b>Bridgewater Commons</b>	400 Commons Way	Bridgewater	Z	08807	Bridgewater Commons Mall II, LLC	4,339	2,645	2/27/2025
183	Imperial Valley Mall	3451 dogwood Ave, #1117	El Centro	8	92243	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	13,346	9,926	2/27/2025
184	Grapevine Mills	3000 Grapevine Mills Parkway	Grapevine	X	76051	Simon Property Group, Inc.	25,814	18,850	2/12/2025
186	Mall of New Hampshire	1500 S. Willow St, Space S117B	Manchester	H	03103	Simon Property Group, Inc.	11,104	8,177	2/12/2025
188	Pembroke Lakes Mall	11401 Pines Blvd #576	Pembroke Pines	급	33026	Brookfield Properties	13,518	10,533	2/27/2025
190	Emerald Square	999 S. Washington Street	North Attleborough	MA	02760	Summit Properties USA	11,102	9,092	2/27/2025
191	Square One Mall	1201 Broadway W132	Saugus	MA	01906	Simon Property Group, Inc.	10,042	5,016	2/12/2025
192	Town Center @ Cobb	400 Ernest Barrett Parkway, Space #252A	Kennesaw	ВA	30144	Kohan Retail Investment Group	23,081	18,319	2/27/2025
194	Northlake Mall	9801 Northlake Mall Drive Space #201	Charlotte	NC	28216	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	21,086	16,685	2/27/2025
195	The Shops @ La Cantera	15900 La Cantera Parkway, Ste 12050	San Antonio	X	78256	Brookfield Properties	23,130	16,815	2/27/2025
198	North Point Mall	1000 North Point Circle Ste 1170	Alpharetta	ВA	30022	Trademark Property Company	13,399	9,928	2/12/2025
200	Sawgrass Mills	12801 W. Sunrise Blvd Ste 555	Sunrise	귙	33323	Simon Property Group, Inc.	59,397	48,335	2/27/2025
202	Cottonwood Mall	10000 Coors Blvd, #B21A	Albuquerque	ΣZ	87114	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	13,909	10,565	2/27/2025
202	Riverchase Mall	2700 Riverchase Galleria, Space 2701	Birmingham	ΑΓ	35244	Brookfield Properties	28,528	19,702	2/12/2025
207	Altamonte Mall	451 E. Altamonte Drive Suite 2113	Altamonte Springs	చ	32701	Brookfield Properties	26,285	18,304	2/27/2025
500	Franklin Park	5001 Monroe Street Unit 1800	Toledo	НО	43623	Pacific Retail Capital Partners	21,932	14,370	2/12/2025
210	Ocean County Mall	1201 Hooper Ave #1087A	Toms River	Z	08753	Simon Property Group, Inc.	6,500	5,130	2/12/2025
211	Battlefield Mall	2825 S. Glenstone, Suite #S03B	Springfield	MO	65804	Simon Property Group, Inc.	15,410	12,128	2/12/2025
212	Great Northern	560 Great Northern Mall	North Olmsted	НО	44070	Starwood Retail Partners LLC	20,488	16,099	2/27/2025
213	Valley River Center	293 Valley River Center	Eugene	OR	97401	Macerich	12,466	8,393	2/12/2025
214	Florence Mall	2028 Florence Mall #2070	Florence	Κ	41042	Namdar Realty Group LLC	2,966	4,416	2/27/2025
216	St. Clair Square	134 St. Clair Square #112	Fairview Heights	1	62208	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	12,289	8,848	2/27/2025
218	First Colony	16535 SW Freeway #550	Sugar Land	¥	77479	Brookfield Properties	10,022	7,626	2/27/2025
219	Patrick Henry Mall	12300 Jefferson Ave., Ste #100	Newport News	۸۸	23602	PREIT Services, LLC	21,017	17,263	2/12/2025
225	Mayfair Mall	2500 North Mayfair Road, Space # 624	Wauwatosa	M	53226	Brookfield Properties	8,475	5,751	2/27/2025
228	Arizona Mills	5000 S. Arizona Mills Circle, Suite #590	Tempe	ΑZ	85282	Simon Property Group, Inc.	30,822	25,412	2/12/2025
231	Discover Mills	5900 Sugarloaf Parkway, Space 531	Lawrenceville	ВA	30043	Simon Property Group, Inc.	20,152	15,446	2/27/2025
232	Town Center at Boca Raton	6000 West Glades Road, Space #1166E	Boca Raton	చ	33431	Simon Property Group, Inc.	19,670	14,088	2/12/2025
233	Miami International	1455 NW 107 Ave, Suite 560A	Doral	긤	33172	Simon Property Group, Inc.	12,876	9,748	2/27/2025
234	Mall of Georgia	3333 Buford Drive, Space #1058A	Buford	ВA	30519	Simon Property Group, Inc.	18,258	13,878	2/12/2025
235	Orland Square	288 Orland Square Dr.	Orland Park	=	60462	Simon Property Group, Inc.	9,716	6,650	2/12/2025
236	The Mall at Rockingham Park	99 Rockingham Park Boulevard, W-143B	Salem	I	03079	Simon Property Group, Inc.	11,414	9,082	2/27/2025
238	Sherman Oaks Fashion Square		Sherman Oaks	Q V	91423	Westfield LLC	22,158	17,256	2/12/2025
239	Brandon Town Center	566 Brandon Town Center	Brandon	చ	33511	Centercorp Management Services Limited	11,179	9,032	2/27/2025
252	Glenbrook Square	4201 Coldwater Rd., #D04	Fort Wayne	Z	46805	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	11,900	8,410	2/12/2025
253	Capital City	3506 Capital City Mall Drive #0808	Camp Hill	PA	17011	PREIT Services, LLC	13,894	9,418	2/27/2025
255	Harlem & Irving	4146-E North Harlem Ave.	Norridge	=	90209	The Harlem Irving Co.	14,187	10,270	2/27/2025
256	Vancouver Mall	8700 NE Vancouver Mall Dr., #138	Vancouver	WA	98662	Centennial Real Estate Company	11,420	8,984	2/27/2025

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Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC

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Planned Store Commencement Date	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025	2/12/2025	2/27/2025
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Selling Sq. Ft.	22,572	14,912	11,731	11,591	8,124		6,824				10,116	22,967		13,088	` '																		` '						6,650	8,286	9,726	8,091	31,442	4,724	12,611		15,463
Gross Sq. Ft.	28,195	19,805	15,558	14,994	10,000	8,553	9,900	12,018	8,673	9,281	12,986	28,879	11,910	16,307	20,539	12,617	12,950	14,910	16,240	16,814	8,616	16,107	13,735	9,726	9,328	30,796	11,323	9,188	9,304	15,419	8,887	12,500	18,012	11,866	12,145	13,717	18,552	15,837	10,276	10,229	13,793	12,000	37,644	7,350	17,005	23,170	18,158
Landlord	Brookfield Properties	Brookfield Properties	Brookfield Properties	Wilmorite Management Group, LLC	Simon Property Group, Inc.	Simon Property Group, Inc.	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	Pyramid Management Group	Simon Property Group, Inc.	Brookfield Properties	Simon Property Group, Inc.	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	Summit Properties USA	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	Oakland Mall, LLC	E3 Realty MA Advisors, LLC	Macerich	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	Simon Property Group, Inc.	The Feil Organization	Brookfield Properties	Brookfield Properties	Namdar Realty Group LLC	Brookfield Properties	Simon Property Group, Inc.	Brookfield Properties	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	Macerich	Westfield LLC	Simon Property Group, Inc.	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	Simon Property Group, Inc.	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	Simon Property Group, Inc.	Brookfield Properties	Brookfield Properties	Namdar Realty Group LLC	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	Brookfield Properties	Washington Prime Group	Efonalledes (Plaza Las Americas S. E.)	Simon Property Group, Inc.	Pyramid Management Group	RED Development	Washington Prime Group
Zip	32605	34102	76132	14564	92173	18052	89014	12601	46545	27427	38133	15146	49024	44136	48083	01752	85296	48038	06042	27103	92868	60546	75150	61820	72703	68114	74133	31406	77584	79414	91355	32819	35801	01501	77840	67207	17601	83704	06385	28303	99216	10598	00918	02601	10941	89434	95207
State	FL	F	Χ̈́	×	CA	PA	Ž	×	Z	NC	N L	PA	Σ	НО	Ξ	MA	AZ	Ξ	CT	NC	CA	=	×	=	AR	N H	ŎĶ	ВA	¥	X	CA	귙	AL	MA	Ϋ́	KS	PA	Q	CT	NC	WA	×	PR	MA	ž	Ž	8
City	Gainesville	Naples	Fort Worth	Victor	San Diego	Whitehall	Henderson	Poughkeepsie	Mishawaka	Greensboro	Memphis	Monroeville	Portage	Strongsville	Troy	Marlborough	Gilbert	Clinton Township	Manchester	Winston-Salem	Orange	North Riverside	Mesquite	Champaign	Fayetteville	Omaha	Tulsa	Savannah	Pearland	Lubbock	Valencia	Orlando	Huntsville	Auburn	College Station	Wichita	Lancaster	Boise	Waterford	Fayetteville	Spokane Valley	Yorktown Heights	San Juan	Hyannis	Middletown	Sparks	Stockton
Address	6419 Newberry Rd., Space #B16	1704 Tamiami Trail North, Ste A19	4800 S. Hulen Street, Space #1125	7979 Pittsford-Victor Rd., Suite #140	4201 Camino De La Plaza, Suite #138	230 Lehigh Valley Mall #2087A	1300 Sunset Road Space 1230	2001 South Rd. #181	6501 N. Grape Rd. #274	410 Four Seasons Town Centre, Space #111	2760 N. Germantown Pkwy, Ste 163	266 Monroeville Mall, Suite 226	6650 South Westnedge Ave #139	500 Southpark Center #HL54	460 W. 14 Mile Road	601 Donald Lynch Blvd. #N133A	2268 E. Williams Field Rd #101	17360 Hall Road #191	194 Buckland Hills Dr. Ste. 1038	3320 Silas Creek Pkwy #DL450	20 City Blvd. West #R11	7501 West Cermak Rd. STE F9			4201 N. Shiloh Dr. #1150	10000 California Street, Suite #2156	7021 S. Memorial Dr. #143B	7804 Abercorn Street, Space #81	11200 Broadway St. #340	6002 Slide Rd #G5	24201 W. Valencia Blvd. #139	4951 International Drive, Suite #1C06	2801 Memorial Parkway SW #211	385 Southbridge St., #N500A	1500 Harvey Road, Space #7012	7700 East Kellogg Drive, Unit 857	828 Park Ciy Center (Space A-828)	350 N. Milwaukee, #2060	850 Hartford Turnpike #R219A	425 Cross Creek Mall #TA-04	14700 East Indiana Ave., Space #2144	650 Lee Blvd. #D118	525 Ave F.D. Roosevelt #326	769 Lyannough Road	1 Galleria Dr., Space #D207	1420 Scheels Dr.	4950 Pacific Ave
Name	The Oaks	Coastland	Hulen Mall	Eastview	The Shops at Las Americas	Lehigh Valley Mall	Galleria at Sunset	Poughkeepsie Galleria	University Park Mall	Four Seasons Town Centre	Wolfchase Galleria	Monroeville Mall	The Crossroads Mall	Southpark Mall	Oakland Mall	Solomon Pond Mall	San Tan Village	Partridge Creek	Buckland Hills	Hanes Mall	The Block @ Orange	North Riverside Park Mall	Town East	Market Place Shopping Center	Northwest Arkansas Mall	Westroads Mall	Woodland Hills Mall	Oglethorpe Mall	Pearland Town Center	South Plains Mall	Valencia Town Center	Prime Outlets Int'l	Parkway Place	Auburn Mall	Post Oak Mall	Towne East Square	Park City Center	Boise Towne Center	Crystal Mall	Cross Creek Mall	Spokane Valley Mall	Jefferson Valley	Plaza Las America	Cape Cod Mall	Gallera at Crystal Run	Legends at Sparks	Weberstown
#OC#	259	260	261	263	264	269	270	272	273	275	276	277	278	282	283	284	287	289	291	294	295	297	298	300	301	302	302	306	310	311	314	315	316	318	319	320	322	324	325	331	332	333	334	335	336	338	340

Forever 21 Exhibit A

Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Landlord	Sq. Ft.	Sq. Ft.	Commencement Date
Scottsdale Fashion Square 7014 E. Ca	7014 E. Camelback Rd., #2433	Scottsdale	AZ	85251	Macerich	15,369	12,508	2/12/2025
3251 20th	3251 20th Ave., Space #136	San Francisco	8	94132	Brookfield Properties	9,640	7,109	2/12/2025
2186 St. L	2186 St. Louis Galleria	St. Louis	MO	63117	Brookfield Properties	11,798	8,563	2/12/2025
191 Chica	191 Chicago Ridge Mall Dr., #F-7	Chicago Ridge	=	60415	Jones Lang LaSalle Americas, Inc.	12,595	9,750	2/12/2025
Camarillo Premium Outlets 630 Ventu	630 Ventura Blvd. #1203	Camarillo	5	93010	Simon Property Group, Inc.	16,419	15,912	2/12/2025
3450 Wrig	3450 Wrightsboro Rd., #1200	Augusta	ВA	30909	Brookfield Properties	16,101	11,703	2/12/2025
4343 Beld	4343 Belden Village Mall, #A4	Canton	НО	44718	Starwood Retail Partners LLC	11,318	6,097	2/12/2025
Promenade in Temecula 40820 Wii	40820 Winchester Road, Ste #1050	Temecula	8	92591	Brookfield Properties	19,124	15,272	2/12/2025
6600 Men	6600 Menaul Blvd NE, Space #N-011	Albuquerque	ΣN	87110	Brookfield Properties	21,183	17,751	2/27/2025
1706 Fran	1706 Franklin Mills Cir	Philadelphia	PA	19154	Simon Property Group, Inc.	52,013	44,960	2/12/2025
5725 John	5725 Johnston St, Space #D-164	Lafayette	Ρ	70503	Namdar Realty Group LLC	13,870	11,248	2/12/2025
3902 13th	3902 13th Ave South, Ste #1629	Fargo	ND	58103	West Acres Development, LLP	19,873	16,355	2/12/2025
250 Grani	250 Granite Street, #1300	Braintree	MA	02184	Simon Property Group, Inc.	33,976	26,490	2/12/2025
1800 Galle	1800 Galleria Blvd, Ste #2520	Franklin	N	37067	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	17,154	13,568	2/12/2025
26300 Cec	26300 Cedar Road	Beachwood	НО	44122	Brookfield Properties	9,371	6,700	2/12/2025
1750 Dept	1750 Deptford Center Rd, Space #2111	Deptford Township	2	96080	Macerich	20,243	15,208	2/12/2025
100 Colun	100 Columbiana Circle	Columbia	SC	29212	Brookfield Properties	15,290	11,532	2/12/2025
18 W. Ligh	18 W. Lightcap Rd. Space #101	Pottstown	PA	19464	Simon Property Group, Inc.	8,995	6,299	2/12/2025
1000 Rout	1000 Route 611. Suite G200	Tannersville	PA	18372	Simon Property Group, Inc.	14,274	10.086	2/27/2025
4634 Fact	4634 Factory Stores Blvd, #EE160	Myrtle Beach	SC	29579	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	10,956	7,629	2/12/2025
8155 Arro	8155 Arroyo Circle #1	Gilrov	Š	95020	Simon Property Group, Inc.	10,000	7,040	2/12/2025
701 Lincoln Road	In Road	Miami Beach	F	33139	COMCO, LLC	37,873	22,751	2/12/2025
Rockaway Town Square 301 Mt. H	301 Mt. Hope Ave., Ste #2094A	Rockaway	2	07866	Simon Property Group, Inc.	17,701	14,095	2/12/2025
	2000 Artic Ave., Suite #500	Atlantic City	2	08401	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	9,937	7,056	2/12/2025
55 Parson	55 Parsonage Rd., Space #1614A	Edison	Z	08837	Simon Property Group, Inc.	20,299	16,986	2/12/2025
3393 Pea	3393 Peachtree Rd NE, Ste 3136	Atlanta	GA	30326	Simon Property Group, Inc.	27,413	22,336	2/12/2025
6910 Faye	6910 Fayetteville Rd., Suite #105	Durham	NC	27713	Brookfield Properties	19,614	13,075	2/12/2025
1101 Meli	1101 Melbourne Rd, Suite 4020	Hurst	ĭ	76053	Simon Property Group, Inc.	25,226	20,501	2/12/2025
Ave. Jesus	Ave. Jesus M. Fargoso	Carolina	PR	00983	Simon Property Group, Inc.	34,913	26,517	2/12/2025
3401 Nich	3401 Nicholasville Rd., Suite A100	Lexington	×	40503	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	19,036	16,318	2/12/2025
3000 1841	3000 184th St. SW, Ste 910	Lynnwood	WA	98037	Brookfield Properties	24,320	18,237	2/12/2025
2055 S. M	2055 S. Mooney Blvd. #1608	Visalia	S	93277	Brookfield Properties	12,554	10,374	2/27/2025
1251 US F	1251 US Highway 31N Space G-15	Greenwood	Z	46142	Simon Property Group, Inc.	26,107	22,908	2/12/2025
5085 Wes	5085 Westheimer Road	Houston	¥	77056	Simon Property Group, Inc.	26,997	19,159	2/27/2025
800 N. Gr	800 N. Green River Road, Space #318A	Evansville	Z	47715	Macerich	17,472	14,639	2/12/2025
6594 Dou	6594 Douglas Blvd.	Douglasville	ВA	30135	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	25,841	21,762	2/27/2025
15575 Starfish St.	arfish St.	Panama City Beach	చ	32413	Simon Property Group, Inc.	23,205	19,631	2/12/2025
1 Bellis Fa	1 Bellis Fair Parkway, Ste #532	Bellingham	WA	98226	4th Dimension Properties	10,000	7,730	2/27/2025
1901 NW	1901 NW Expressway Suite #1889	Oklahoma City	ŏ	73118	Simon Property Group, Inc.	31,255	23,301	2/12/2025
10300 W.	10300 W. Forest Hill Blvd., Ste 191	West Palm Beach	႕	33414	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	21,295	17,513	2/27/2025
Folsom Premium Outlets 13000 Fol	13000 Folsom Blvd., Ste #607	Folsom	S	95630	Simon Property Group, Inc.	6,004	4,420	2/12/2025
1200 12th	1200 12th Street SW, Ste 692	Rochester	Ζ	55902	Brookfield Properties	12,686	10,407	2/12/2025
2050 Pon	2050 Ponce By Pass Suire	Ponce	PR	00717	Efonalledes (Plaza Las Americas S. E.)	21,257	17,010	2/12/2025
1001 Arné	1001 Arney Road Suite #1000	Woodburn	OR	97071	Simon Property Group, Inc.	3,950	2,966	2/27/2025
80-40 Coc	80-40 Cooper Ave., Suite #4-002	Glendale	N	11385	Macerich	14,724	12,270	2/12/2025
	5170 Meadowood Mall Circle, Ste. F120A	Reno	ž	89502	Simon Property Group, Inc.	20,022	15,338	2/12/2025
10000 110 0000 1100 0111	10600 Onil Cada Riva Suita #924	Tulalin	14/4	17,000	Carlo	000		1000/07/0

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Rio Grande Valley Premium Ot 5001 East Expressway 83, Ste 800	Mercedes	Ϋ́	78570	Simon Property Group, Inc.	13,405	10,951	2/12/2025
4403 Black Horse Pike	Mays Landing	2	08330	Namdar Realty Group LLC	35,169	30,087	2/12/2025
5220 Fashion Outlet Way, Suite #1005	Rosemont	=	60018	Macerich	27,819	21,360	2/12/2025
7850 Mentor Avenue, Suite #806B	Mentor	НО	44060	Washington Prime Group	15,261	12,320	2/27/2025
700 Haywood Road	Greenville	SC	29607	Simon Property Group, Inc.	26,854	22,745	2/12/2025
3080 NW Federal Highway	Jensen Beach	긥	34957	Simon Property Group, Inc.	21,228	17,753	2/27/2025
8249 Vineland Ave., Unit 2201	Orlando	Ч	32821	Simon Property Group, Inc.	24,048	19,646	2/12/2025
1365 N. Dupont Highway, Suite 4004-A	Dover	DE	19901	Simon Property Group, Inc.	11,570	8,806	2/27/2025
7000 Arundel Mills Circle	Hanover	MD	21076	Simon Property Group, Inc.	25,211	20,653	2/12/2025
188 North East Promontory, Space J-120	Farmington	Ţ	84025	CenterCal Properties, LLC	11,173	8,438	2/12/2025
4861 Firestone Blvd	South Gate	CA	90280	Federal Realty Investment Trust	18,000	14,357	2/27/2025
301 South Hills Village, Space 2330A	Pittsburgh	PA	15241	Simon Property Group, Inc.	12.451	9.420	2/12/2025
5800 Peach St. Unit #450	Frie	Δ Δ	16565	Cafaro Management Company	18 901	14 847	2/2/2025
2000 F. Cacil 3t. Office #430	2 0	374	00000		10,01	7,0,0,	300/20/
Drive ste 105	reari	SIN:	39208	Spectrum Capital K/E	15,120	12,414	5707/17/7
2950 E. Texas Street Box 704 Suite D	Bossier City	ΓA	/1111	Kohan Retail Investment Group	33,544	27,443	2/12/2025
700 East Expressway 83, Suite C	McAllen	¥	78503	Mimco Inc.	22,500	17,730	2/12/2025
1795 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. #W500	West Palm Beach	F	33401	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	15,475	12,153	2/12/2025
353 Jacksonville Mall, Suite L7	Jacksonville	NC	28546	PREIT Services, LLC	14,117	11,157	2/27/2025
140 University Town Center Dr. Suite 215	Sarasota	F	34243	The Taubman Company	10,757	7,818	2/12/2025
6531 Springfield Mall	Springfield	۸۸	22150	PREIT Services, LLC	24,335	16,656	2/27/2025
Fashion Outlets of Niagara Fall 1965 Fashion Blvd. Suite 238	Niagara Falls	ž	14304	Macerich	19,059	15,612	2/12/2025
2060 Southlake Mall	Merrillville	Z	46410	Pacific Retail Capital Partners	23,096	17,201	2/27/2025
1695 Rutherford Street, Space A010	Tulare	CA	93274	Craig Realty Group	7,343	5,934	2/12/2025
21100 Dulles Town Circle, Suite 206	Dulles	۸۸	20166	Centennial Real Estate Company	13,580	9,942	2/27/2025
7701 West Interstate 40, Ste. 542	Amarillo	¥	79121	Namdar Realty Group LLC	11,705	8,586	2/27/2025
100 Viewmont Mall, Space 804	Scranton	PA	18508	PREIT Services, LLC	15,133	11,871	2/27/2025
200 Tanger Mall Drive, Suite 201	Riverhead	×	11901	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	8,700	5,882	2/12/2025
4015 Interstate 35th Frontage Road # 740	San Marcos	¥	28666	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	9,000	7,562	2/12/2025
2615 Medical Center Parkway, Ste. 2300	Murfreesboro	N L	37129	Big V Property Group	14,251	10,956	2/12/2025
48650 Seminole Drive, Suite 900	Cabazon	CA	92230	Simon Property Group, Inc.	7,189	6,224	2/27/2025
3501 Manchester Expressway Space 53	Columbus	В	31909	Brookfield Properties	10,418	7,448	2/12/2025
PR52 Esquina PR156, Suite 611	Caguas	PR	00725	Urban Edge Properties	13,773	10,126	2/12/2025
1 Premium Outlets Blvd	Barceloneta	PR	00617	Simon Property Group, Inc.	10,349	7,511	2/12/2025
San Francisco Premium Outlet 3620 Livermore Outlets Drive	Livermore	CA	94551	Simon Property Group, Inc.	7,742	5,734	2/12/2025
80 Bay Street	Long Beach	S	90802	Site Centers Corp.	12,379	9,299	2/12/2025
2000 East Rio Salado Parkway, Suite 1016	Tempe	AZ	85281	Vestar Property Management	12,705	9,304	2/12/2025
455 Trolley Line Blvd. Suite 170	Mashantucket	C	06338	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	8,166	690'9	2/12/2025
8166 Park Lane, Ste. 110	Dallas	¥	75231	Northwood Retail, LLC	19,603	14,652	2/12/2025
620 Center View Blvd.	Kissimmee	Я	34741	O'Connor Capital Partners	24,663	20,072	2/27/2025
121 Pavilion Pkwy, Ste. A	Fayetteville	В	30214	Crawford Square Property Management	20,000	15,336	2/12/2025
3049 Daniel Rd. Unit 220C	Winter Garden	Я	34787	Site Centers Corp.	20,158	13,685	2/12/2025
6401 W. Marana Center Blvd. Ste. 815	Tucson	AZ	85742	Simon Property Group, Inc.	10,000	6,801	2/12/2025
200 Tanger Outlets Blvd. Ste. 191	Pooler	ВA	31322	Tanger Factory Outlet Centers, Inc.	14,000	10,527	2/12/2025
2529 Main Street, Ste. 128	Union Gap	WA	98903	CenterCal Properties, LLC	12,564	8,351	2/12/2025
Hillside Village Aka Uptown Vil 305 West 1382	Cedar Hill	¥	75104	PREP Property Group	17,484	12,589	2/27/2025
2693 Countryside Drive	Turlock	CA	95380	GRE Management Services	18,000	14,158	2/12/2025
4250 Cerrillos Rd. #1030	Santa Fe	ΣZ	87507	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	15,724	10.993	2/27/2025

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Address	City	State	Zip	Landlord	Sq. Ft.	Sq. Ft.	Commencement Date
400 Bald Hill Road	Warwick	R	02886	Bliss Properties, Inc.	15,844	11,522	2/27/2025
1000 Southlake Circle	Morrow	ВA	30260	Vintage Real Estate, LLC	23,620	18,265	2/27/2025
6191 State St., Ste. 1930	Murray	TO	84107	Brookfield Properties	10,135	7,177	2/27/2025
520 Town Center Drive	Oxnard	CA	93036	CenterCal Properties, LLC	16,182	12,258	2/12/2025
215 E. Foothills Pkwy # 620	Fort Collins	00	80525	Prism Places, Inc.	15,309	11,465	2/27/2025
8500 Beverly Blvd., Ste 835	Los Angeles	8	90048	The Taubman Company	33,232	21,968	2/12/2025
5 Woodfield Mall, Space D116	Schaumburg	=	60173	Simon Property Group, Inc.	21,628	16,155	2/27/2025
4200 Conroy Rd Ste #206	Orlando	Я	32839	The Forbes Company	17,605	13,673	2/12/2025
313 Smith Haven Mall, Space #MO5	Lake Grove	λ	11755	Simon Property Group, Inc.	17,592	10,977	2/12/2025
1100 S. Hayes St.	Arlington	۸۸	22202	Simon Property Group, Inc.	23,317	16,707	2/12/2025
7925 FM 1960 Rd West	Houston	¥	77070	Brookfield Properties	19,655	15,183	2/27/2025
11025 Carolina Place Parkway	Pineville	NC	28134	Brookfield Properties	18,485	14,614	2/27/2025
173 Woodbridge Center Drive	Woodbridge	2	07095	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	21,687	17,834	2/12/2025
5488 S. Padre Island Dr.	Corpus Christi	¥	78411	Trademark Property Company	24,261	17,402	2/27/2025
3525 W. Carson St. #184	Torrance	CA	90503	Simon Property Group, Inc.	20,217	14,333	2/12/2025
9601 SW Washington Square Rd	Tigard	OR	97223	Macerich	18,329	10,875	2/27/2025
575 E. University Parkway #E91	Orem	TO	84097	Woodbury Corporation	20,438	14,625	2/27/2025
4999 Old Orchard Center #J6	Skokie	=	22009	Westfield LLC	20,009	16,208	2/12/2025
2800 N. Main St. #201	Santa Ana	CA	92705	Centennial Real Estate Company	13,860	9,694	2/12/2025
6801 Hollywood Blvd. #2C-271	Los Angeles	CA	90028	DJM Capital Partners, Inc	11,000	7,875	2/12/2025
4325 Glenwood Ave #1093	Raleigh	NC	27612	Pacific CVM Management, LLC	21,176	17,256	2/27/2025
3301 Veterans Memorial Blvd Space #54F	Metairie	۲	70002	The Feil Organization	15,094	12,632	2/12/2025
6000 W. Markham St. #1050	Little Rock	AR	72205	The Woodmont Company	24,926	19,486	2/12/2025
197 Westbank Expressway #1013	Gretna	≤	70056	Brookfield Properties	25,000	19,657	2/12/2025
1 Garden State Plaza, Space #B11	Paramus	2	07652	Westfield LLC	38,218	30,844	2/12/2025
11799 W. 95th St.	Overland Park	KS	66214	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	21,301	15,947	2/27/2025
1429 Cumberland Mall	Atlanta	ВA	30339	Brookfield Properties	25,748	20,653	2/27/2025
3111 West Chandler Blvd	Chandler	AZ	85226	Macerich	29,198	23,079	2/27/2025
11750 Fair Oaks #H227	Fairfax	۸ ۲	22033	Olshan Properties	23,723	18,006	2/12/2025
4400 Ashford Dunwoody Rd., Space #1315	Atlanta	ВA	30346	Brookfield Properties	13,211	9,129	2/27/2025
701 Lynnhaven Parkway, Space #E07A	Virginia Beach	۸	23452	Brookfield Properties	25,035	17,646	2/12/2025
5870 E. Broadway Boulevard	Tucson	AZ	85711	Pacific Retail Capital Partners	18,449	14,940	2/12/2025
836 Southcenter Mall	Tukwila	WA	98188	Westfield LLC	26,611	2,069	2/12/2025
1842 Willowbrook Mall, Space #1275	Wayne	2	07470	Brookfield Properties	15,555	13,220	2/27/2025
3030 Plaza Bonita Rd., #2100	National City	CA	91950	Westfield LLC	20,000	13,810	2/12/2025
100 Robinson Centre Dr., Space #2800	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	Kohan Retail Investment Group	15,833	11,972	2/12/2025
3811 S. Cooper St. #1020	Arlington	¥	76015	Brookfield Properties	39,750	34,070	2/12/2025
825 Dulaney Valley Rd., Space #1405	Towson	MD	21204	Brookfield Properties	25,210	20,854	2/27/2025
6155 Eastex Freeway, Suite D-420	Beaumont	¥	27706	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	23,999	20,898	2/12/2025
6401 Bluebonnet Blvd., Space 1002	Baton Rouge	۲	70836	Brookfield Properties	26,885	20,362	2/12/2025
13860 City Center Dr., Space #5085	Chino Hills	5	91709	Chino Dunhill, LLC	20,880	15,732	2/27/2025
1068 Fox Valley Center Dr., Space #G08	Aurora	=	60504	Centennial Real Estate Company	10,721	8,840	2/12/2025
69 Chestnut St., Space #B112 & #B212	Beavercreek	НО	45440	Olshan Properties	21,051	15,041	2/12/2025
2855 Stevens Creek Blvd, Unit #2522	Santa Clara	8	95050	Westfield LLC	15,362	11,571	2/12/2025
9 West County Center	Des Peres	MO	63131	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	20,000	15,451	2/12/2025
210 Andover Street, Space #W169B	Peabody	MA	01960	Simon Property Group, Inc.	40,000	29,420	2/12/2025
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Store List

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	Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Landlord	Gross Sq. Ft.	Selling Sq. Ft.	Planned Store Commencement Date
	Yorktown Center	300 Yorktown Center	Lombard	1	60148	Pacific Retail Capital Partners	33,193	24,185	2/12/2025
	Walden Galleria	1 Walden Galleria #TH110	Buffalo	ž	14225	Pyramid Management Group	35,098	21,442	2/12/2025
	Water Tower Place	835 N. Michigan, Space #6035 & 7025	Chicago	۳	60611	M&J Wilkow Property LLC	35,739	26,184	2/12/2025
	Times Square	1540 Broadway	New York	ž	10036	Vornado Realty Trust	91,257	40,195	2/12/2025
	Tucson Mall	4500 North Oracle Road	Tucson	AZ	85705	Brookfield Properties	14,677	10,893	2/27/2025
	Mall Del Norte	5300 San Dario Ave, Suite 2004	Laredo	Ϋ́	78041	CBL & Associates Properties, Inc.	19,398	14,693	2/27/2025
	Montebello Town Center	1800 Montebello Town Center	Montebello	Q V	90640	Spinoso Real Estate Group, LLC	81,619	33,473	2/12/2025
	Lakewood Center Mall	326 Lakewood Center Mall	Lakewood	Q V	90712	Macerich	80,688	58,956	2/12/2025
	Cerritos	200 Los Cerritos Center	Cerritos	5	90703	Macerich	85,691	43,831	2/12/2025
	Inland Center	200 Inland Dr.	San Bernardino	S	92408	Macerich	51,420	32,063	2/12/2025
	Fresno Fashion Fair	755 East Shaw Ave.	Fresno	5	93710	Macerich	56,674	44,009	2/12/2025
	Valley Plaza	2801 Ming Ave.	Bakersfield	S	93304	Brookfield Properties	97,311	49,566	2/12/2025
	Fashion Show	3200 Las Vegas Blvd	Las Vegas	2	89109	Brookfield Properties	111,220	81,159	2/12/2025
	The Woodlands Mall	1201 Lake Woodland Dr., Ste #100	The Wooslands	¥	77380	Brookfield Properties	85,150	65,767	2/12/2025
	Baybrook Mall	1408 Baybrook Mall	Friendswood	¥	77546	Brookfield Properties	81,772	63,319	2/12/2025
	North Star Mall	7400 San Pedro Avenue	San Antonio	¥	78216	Brookfield Properties	31,290	24,410	2/27/2025
	Mall St. Matthews	5000 Shelbyville Road	Louisville	₹	40207	Brookfield Properties	27,470	22,089	2/27/2025
	Tacoma Mall	4502 S. Steele St., Ste #426B	Tacoma	WA	98409	Simon Property Group, Inc.	15,867	11,347	2/12/2025
	Galleria at Tyler	3700 Galleria at Tyler Mall	Riverside	CA	92503	Macy's West Stores, LLC	155,414	65,043	2/12/2025
	The Shops At Mission Viejo	555 The Shops at Mission Viejo	Mission Viejo	CA	92691	Simon Property Group, Inc.	13,040	8,622	2/12/2025
	Deerbrook Mall	20131 Highway 59 North, Suite #2290	Humble	논	77338	Brookfield Properties	41,937	29,953	2/12/2025
	Santa Anita	400 South Baldwin Avenue	Arcadia	Q V	91007	Avison Young Southern California Ltd	117,817	48,559	2/12/2025
	Freehold Raceway	3710 Route 9, Suite #1000	Freehold	2	07728	Macerich	19,586	14,503	2/12/2025
	Sun Valley	329 Sun Valley Mall, Suite #121	Concord	CA	94520	The Taubman Company	23,608	19,611	2/12/2025
	South Coast Plaza	3333 Bristol Ave.	Costa Mesa	8	92926	S-Tract Property	43,011	31,837	2/12/2025
	Natick Mall	1245 Worcester St., Suite 3030	Natick	MA	01760	Brookfield Properties	33,288	22,970	2/12/2025
								102	1/0/1900
355							21,215	15,503	

# Forever 21 Exhibit B

## **Expense Budget (1)**

Advertising	
Digital & Media	2,122,500
Signs (2)	300,000
Sign Walkers	586,875
Subtotal Advertising	3,009,375
Supervision	
Fees / Wages / Expenses (3)	3,287,229
Subtotal Supervision	3,287,229
Miscellaneous	
Miscellaneous /Legal (4)	75,000
Subtotal Miscellaneous	75,000
Total Expenses	6,371,604

#### Notes:

- 1. This Expense Budget contemplates a sale term of February, 12, 2025 through April 30, 2025. The Expense Budget remains subject to modification in the event that this term is extended, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties.
- 2. Includes Sales Tax.
- 3. Includes Deferred Compensation and Insurance.
- 4. Any legal expenses associated with issues raised by or disputes with landlords, including (without limitation) negotiations in respect of landlord side letters, shall be in addition to and not part of the budgeted legal expenses.

# EXHIBIT 2

**Sale Guidelines** 

#### SALE GUIDELINES<sup>1</sup>

- A. The Store Closing Sales shall be conducted so that the Closing Stores in which sales are to occur will remain open no longer than during the normal hours of operation provided for in the respective leases for the Closing Stores.
- B. The Store Closing Sales shall be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local "Blue Laws", where applicable, so that no Store Closing Sales shall be conducted on Sunday unless the Merchant had been operating such Closing Store on a Sunday.
- C. On "shopping center" property, the Agent shall not distribute handbills, leaflets or other written materials to customers outside of any Closing Stores' premises, unless permitted by the lease or, if distribution is customary in the "shopping center" in which such Store is located; *provided* that Agent may solicit customers in the Closing Stores themselves. On "shopping center" property, the Agent shall not use any flashing lights or amplified sound to advertise the Store Closing Sales or solicit customers, except as permitted under the applicable lease or agreed to by the landlord.
- D. The Merchant and the Agent may advertise the Sale as a "store closing" "sale on everything", "everything must go", or similar themed sale, or "going out of business." The Agent may also have a "countdown to closing" sign prominently displayed in a manner consistent with these Sale Guidelines.
- E. Agent shall be permitted to utilize display, hanging signs, and interior banners in connection with the Store Closing Sales; provided, however, that such display, hanging signs, and interior banners shall be professionally produced and hung in a professional manner. The Merchant and the Agent shall not use neon or day-glo on its display, hanging signs, or interior banners. Furthermore, with respect to enclosed mall locations, no exterior signs or signs in common areas of a mall shall be used unless otherwise expressly permitted in these Sale Guidelines. In addition, the Merchant and the Agent shall be permitted to utilize exterior banners at (i) non-enclosed mall Closing Stores and (ii) enclosed mall Closing Stores to the extent the entrance to the applicable Closing Store does not require entry into the enclosed mall common area; provided, however, that such banners shall be located or hung so as to make clear that the Store Closing Sales is being conducted only at the affected Closing Store, shall not be wider than the storefront of the Closing Store. In addition, the Merchant and the Agent shall be permitted to utilize sign walkers and Aframes in a safe and professional manner and in accordance with the terms of the Interim Order. Nothing contained in these Sale Guidelines shall be construed to create or impose upon the Agent any additional restrictions not contained in the applicable lease agreement.
- F. Conspicuous signs shall be posted in the cash register areas of each of the affected Closing Stores to effect that "all sales are final."
- G. Except with respect to the hanging of exterior banners, the Agent shall not make any alterations to the storefront or exterior walls of any Closing Stores, except as authorized by the applicable lease.
- H. The Agent shall not make any alterations to interior or exterior Closing Store lighting, except as authorized by the applicable lease. No property of the landlord of a Closing Store shall be removed or sold

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the *Debtors'* Motion for Entry of (I) Interim Order Authorizing (A) the Conduct of the Store Closing Sales, With Such Sales to be Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, and Encumbrances and (B) Granting Related Relief, and (II) Final Order Authorizing (A) the Debtors to Assume the Agency Agreement, (B) the Conduct of the Store Closing Sales, With Such Sales to be Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, and Encumbrances, and (C) Granting Related Relief or Agency Agreement, as applicable.

during the Store Closing Sales. The hanging of exterior banners or in-store signage and banners shall not constitute an alteration to a Closing Store.

- I. The Agent shall keep Closing Store premises and surrounding areas clear and orderly consistent with present practices.
- J. The Agent, at the direction of the Debtors, and the landlord of any Store are authorized to enter into Side Letters without further order of the Court, provided that such agreements do not have a material adverse effect on the Debtors or their estates.
- K. Subject to the provisions of the Agency Agreement, the Agent shall have the right to sell all furniture, fixtures, and equipment located at the Closing Stores and the corporate office (the "FF&E"). The Agent may advertise the sale of the FF&E in a manner consistent with these guidelines at the Closing Stores and or if the Merchant otherwise agrees, the corporate office. The purchasers of any FF&E sold during the sale shall be permitted to remove the FF&E either through the back shipping areas at any time, or through other areas after Store business hours; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to de minimis FF&E sales made whereby the item(s) can be carried out of the Closing Store in a shopping bag or shopping cart. For the avoidance of doubt, as of the Sale Termination Date, the Agent may abandon, in place and without further responsibility, any FF&E.
- L. The Agent shall be entitled to include Additional Agent Goods in the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of the Interim Order and the Agency Agreement.
- M. At the conclusion of the Store Closing Sales at each Closing Store, pending assumption or rejection of applicable leases, the landlords of the Closing Stores shall have reasonable access to the Closing Stores' premises as set forth in the applicable leases. The Merchant, the Agent and their agents and representatives shall continue to have exclusive and unfettered access to the Closing Stores.
- N. The rights of landlords against Merchant for any damages to a Closing Store shall be reserved in accordance with the provisions of the applicable lease; provided that to the extent certain leases of Closing Stores require written confirmation of receipt of a key to effectuate surrender, this requirement is waived.
- O. If and to the extent that the landlord of any Closing Store affected hereby contends that the Agent or Merchant is in breach of or default under these Sale Guidelines, such landlord shall email or deliver written notice by overnight delivery on the Merchant's counsel and the Agent's counsel as follows:

If to the Merchant:

F21 OpCo, LLC 110 E. 9th Street, Suite A500 Los Angeles, California 90079 Attention: Michael Brown mbrown@thinkbrg.com

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## With copies to:

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP 1000 North King Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801 Attention: Andrew Magaziner, Esq.(amagaziner@ycst.com) and S. Alexander Faris, Esq. (afaris@ycst.com)

## If to the Agent:

HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC c/o Ropes & Gray LLP 191 North Wacker Drive, 32nd Floor Chicago, IL 60606, Attn: Stephen Iacovo (stephen.iacovo@ropesgray.com)

# EXHIBIT B

**Proposed Final Order** 

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

	Ref: Docket Nos &
Debtors.	(Jointly Administered)
F21 OPCO, LLC, et al., 1	Case No. 25-10469 (
In re:	Chapter 11

FINAL ORDER AUTHORIZING (I) THE DEBTORS TO ASSUME THE AGENCY AGREEMENT, (II) THE CONDUCT OF THE STORE CLOSING SALES, WITH SUCH SALES TO BE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL LIENS, CLAIMS, AND ENCUMBRANCES, AND (III) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF

Upon the motion (the "Motion")<sup>2</sup> of the Debtors for entry of a final order (this "Final Order") (a) authorizing the Debtors, upon entry of the Final Order, to assume the Agency Agreement, (b) authorizing the Debtors to conduct store closing or similar themed sales in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, with such sales to be free and clear of all liens, claims, and encumbrances, and (c) granting certain related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and the First Day Declaration; and this Court having previously entered that certain *Interim Order Authorizing* (I) the Conduct of the Store Closing Sales, with Such Sales to be Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, and Encumbrances and (II) Granting Related Relief [D.I. \_\_] (the "Interim Order"); and this Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Amended Standing Order of Reference from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012; and this Court having

The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are: F21 OpCo, LLC (8773); F21 Puerto Rico, LLC (5906); and F21 GiftCo Management, LLC (6412). The Debtors' address for purposes of service in these Chapter 11 Cases is 110 East 9th Street, Suite A500, Los Angeles, CA 90079.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Motion.

found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2) and that this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and this Court having found that venue of this proceeding and the Motion in this district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and it appearing that proper and adequate notice of the Motion has been given and that no other or further notice is necessary; and upon the record herein; and after due deliberation thereon; and this Court having determined that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest, it is hereby

## FOUND, CONCLUDED AND DETERMINED THAT:<sup>3</sup>

- A. The Debtors' decision to (i) enter into the Agency Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**, and (ii) perform under and make payments required by the Agency Agreement, is a reasonable exercise of the Debtors' sound business judgment consistent with their fiduciary duties and is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, their creditors, and all other parties in interest.
- B. The Agency Agreement was negotiated, proposed, and entered into by the Agent and the Debtors without collusion, in good faith, and from arm's length bargaining positions.
- C. Time is of the essence in effectuating the Agency Agreement and continuing with the Store Closing Sales contemplated therein without interruption. The conduct of the Store Closing Sales will provide an efficient means for the Debtors to dispose of the Store Closing Assets. The Store Closing Sales under the Agency Agreement must be permitted to continue to

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The findings and conclusions set forth herein constitute this Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 7052, made applicable to this proceeding pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9014. To the extent any of the following findings of fact constitute conclusions of law, they are adopted as such. To the extent any of the following conclusions of law constitute findings of fact, they are adopted as such.

maximize the value that the Agent may realize from the Store Closing Sales and the value that the Debtors may realize from assuming the Agency Agreement.

- D. The Agent is not an "insider" as that term is defined in section 101(31) of the Bankruptcy Code. No common identity of directors or controlling stockholders exists between the Agent and the Debtors.
- E. The Sale Guidelines, as described in the Motion and attached as **Exhibit 2** hereto, are reasonable and appropriate and will maximize the returns on the Store Closing Assets for the benefit of the Debtors' estates and creditors.
- F. The Store Closing Sales, in accordance with the Sale Guidelines and with the assistance of the Agent, will provide an efficient means for the Debtors to liquidate and dispose of the Store Closing Assets as quickly and effectively as possible, and are in the best interests of the Debtors' estates.
  - G. The Resolution Procedures are fair and reasonable, and comply with applicable law.
- H. The Debtors have represented that, pursuant to the Motion, they are not seeking to either sell or lease personally identifiable information during the course of the Store Closing Sales at the Closing Stores; *provided*, *however*, that the Agent will be authorized to distribute emails and promotional materials to the Debtors' customers consistent with the Debtors' existing policies on the use of consumer information.f
- I. No sale, transfer or other disposition of the Store Closing Assets pursuant to the Agency Agreement or entry into the Agency Agreement will subject the Agent to any liability for claims, obligations or Encumbrances asserted against the Debtors or the Debtors' interests in such Store Closing Assets by reason of such transfer under any laws, including, without limitation, any bulk-transfer laws or any theory of successor or transferee liability, antitrust, environmental,

product line, de facto merger or substantial continuity or similar theories. The Agent is not a successor to the Debtors or their respective estates.

- J. The relief set forth herein is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors and their estates, and the Debtors have demonstrated good, sufficient, and sound business purposes and justifications for the relief approved herein.
- K. The entry of this Final Order is in the best interest of the Debtors, their estates and creditors, and all other parties in interest herein.

### ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED on a final basis, as set forth herein.
- 2. All objections to the entry of this Final Order, to the extent not withdrawn or settled, are overruled.

#### I. ASSUMPTION OF THE AGENCY AGREEMENT

3. The Agency Agreement is hereby assumed pursuant to section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors are authorized to act and perform in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement, including, but not limited to, making payments required by the Agency Agreement to the Agent without the need for any application of the Agent or a further order of this Court. Notwithstanding this or any other provision of this Final Order, nothing shall prevent or be construed to prevent any of the Agent (individually, as part of a joint venture, or otherwise) or any of their affiliates from bidding on the Debtors' other assets pursuant to an agency agreement or otherwise, and Agent is hereby authorized to bid on and guarantee or otherwise acquire such assets notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Bankruptcy Code or other applicable law, provided that such guarantee, transaction or acquisition is approved by separate order of this Court.

4. Subject to the restrictions set forth in this Final Order and the Sale Guidelines, the Debtors and the Agent are authorized to take any and all actions as may be necessary or desirable to implement the Agency Agreement and the Store Closing Sales; and each of the transactions contemplated by the Agency Agreement.

#### II. AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN THE STORE CLOSING SALES

- 5. The Debtors are authorized, pursuant to sections 105(a) and 363(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, to immediately continue and conduct the Store Closing Sales in accordance with this Final Order, the Sale Guidelines, the Agency Agreement, and any Side Letter (defined below).
  - 6. The Sale Guidelines are approved in their entirety.
- 7. All entities that are presently in possession of some or all of the Store Closing Assets in which the Debtors hold an interest that are or may be subject to the Agency Agreement or this Final Order hereby are directed to surrender possession of such Store Closing Assets to the Debtors or the Agent.
- 8. Except as provided herein, neither the Debtors nor the Agent nor any of their officers, employees, or agents shall be required to obtain the approval of any third party, including (without limitation) any Governmental Unit or any Landlord, to conduct the Store Closing Sales and any related activities in accordance with the Sale Guidelines.

#### III. ORDER BINDING

9. This Final Order shall be binding upon and shall govern the acts of all entities, including, without limitation, all filing agents, filing officers, title agents, title companies, recorders of mortgages, recorders of deeds, registrars of deeds, administrative agencies, governmental departments, secretaries of state, federal, state and local officials, and all other persons and entities who may be required by operation of law, the duties of their office, or contract,

to accept, file, register or otherwise record or release any documents or instruments, or who may be required to report or insure any title or state of title in or to the Store Closing Assets.

10. This Final Order and the terms and provisions of the Agency Agreement shall be binding on all of the Debtors' creditors (whether known or unknown), the Debtors, the Agent, and their respective affiliates, successors and assigns, and any affected third parties including, but not limited to, all persons asserting an interest in the Store Closing Assets, notwithstanding any subsequent appointment of any trustee, party, entity or other fiduciary under any section of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to the forgoing parties, and as to such trustee, party, entity or other fiduciary, such terms and provisions likewise shall be binding. The provisions of this Final Order and the terms and provisions of the Agency Agreement, and any actions taken pursuant hereto or thereto shall survive the entry of any order which may be entered confirming or consummating any plan(s) of the Debtors or converting the Debtors' cases from chapter 11 to chapter 7, and the terms and provisions of the Agency Agreement, as well as the rights and interests granted pursuant to this Final Order and the Agency Agreement, shall continue in these or any superseding cases and shall be binding upon the Debtors, the Agent and their respective successors and permitted assigns, including any trustee or other fiduciary hereafter appointed as a legal representative of the Debtors under chapter 7 or chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. Any trustee appointed in this case shall be and hereby is authorized to operate the Debtors' business to the fullest extent necessary to permit compliance with the terms of this Final Order and the Agency Agreement, and Agent and the trustee shall be and hereby are authorized to perform under the Agency Agreement upon the appointment of the trustee without the need for further order of this Court.

#### IV. CONDUCTING THE STORE CLOSING SALES

- 11. Except as otherwise provided in the Agency Agreement, pursuant to section 363(f) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Agent is authorized to sell all the Store Closing Assets to be sold pursuant to the Agency Agreement free and clear of any and all liens, claims, encumbrances, and other interests ("Encumbrances"), including, without limitation, the liens and security interests, as the same may have been amended from time to time, of Wells Fargo and the Prepetition Term Loan Agent whether arising by agreement, any statute or otherwise and whether arising before, on or after the date on which these Chapter 11 Cases were commenced; provided, however, that any such Encumbrances shall attach to the proceeds of the sale of the Store Closing Assets with the same validity, in the amount, with the same priority as, and to the same extent that any such liens, claims, and encumbrances have with respect to the Store Closing Assets, subject to (i) the ABL-Term Loan Intercreditor Agreement and (ii) any claims and defenses that the Debtors may possess with respect thereto.
- 12. Other than filings made by Wells Fargo and the Prepetition Term Loan Agent with respect to their liens and security interests in the Store Closing Assets, if any person or entity that has filed financing statements, mortgages, construction or mechanic's liens, lis pendens or other documents or agreement evidencing liens on or interests in the Store Closing Assets shall not have delivered to the Debtors, in proper form for filing and executed by the appropriate parties, termination statements, instruments of satisfaction, or releases of any Encumbrances which the person or entity has with respect to the Store Closing Assets, each such person or entity is hereby directed to deliver all such statements, instruments and releases and the Debtors and the Agent are hereby authorized to execute and file such statements, instruments, releases and other documents on behalf of the person or entity asserting the same and the Agent is authorized to file a copy of

this Final Order which, upon filing, shall be conclusive evidence of the release and termination of such interest. Each and every federal, state and local governmental unit is hereby directed to accept any and all documents and instruments necessary or appropriate to give effect to the Store Closing Sales and related transactions.

- 13. All newspapers and other advertising media in which the Store Closing Sales may be advertised and all Landlords or licensors, as applicable, of the Closing Stores are directed to accept this Final Order as binding authority so as to authorize the Debtors and the Agent to conduct the Store Closing Sales and the sale of Store Closing Assets pursuant to the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, including, without limitation, to conduct and advertise the sale of the Store Closing Assets and the Additional Agent Goods in the manner contemplated by and in accordance with this Final Order, the Sale Guidelines, and the Agency Agreement.
- 14. Nothing nullifies or enjoins the enforcement of any liability to a Governmental Unit under environmental laws or regulations (or any associated liabilities for penalties, damages, cost recovery, or injunctive relief) that any entity would be subject to as the owner, lessor, lessee, or operator of the property after the date of entry of this Final Order. Nothing contained in this Final Order or in the Agency Agreement shall in any way (a) diminish the obligation of any entity to comply with environmental laws, or (b) diminish the obligations of the Debtors to comply with environmental laws consistent with their rights and obligations as debtors in possession under the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing herein shall be construed to be a determination that the Agent is an operator with respect to any environmental law or regulation. Moreover, the sale of the Store Closing Assets shall not be exempt from, and the Debtors and the Agent shall be required to comply with laws and regulations of general applicability, including, without limitation, public health and safety, criminal, tax, labor, employment, environmental, antitrust, fair competition,

traffic and consumer protection laws, including consumer laws regulating deceptive practices and false advertising (collectively, "General Laws"). Nothing in this Final Order shall alter or affect the Debtors' and Agent's obligations to comply with all applicable federal safety laws and regulations. Nothing in this Final Order shall be deemed to bar any Governmental Unit from enforcing General Laws in the applicable non-bankruptcy forum, subject to the Debtors' or the Agent's right to assert in that forum or before this Court that any such laws are not in fact General Laws or that such enforcement is impermissible under the Bankruptcy Code, this Final Order, or otherwise, pursuant to the relief granted hereunder. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Final Order, no party waives any rights to argue any position with respect to whether the conduct was in compliance with this Final Order and/or any applicable law, or that enforcement of such applicable law is preempted by the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing in this Final Order shall be deemed to have made any rulings on any such issues.

- 15. In accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of the Agency Agreement, the Agent shall have the right to use the Closing Stores and all related store services, furniture, fixtures, equipment, and other assets of the Debtors for the purpose of conducting the Store Closing Sales, free and clear of any interference from any entity or person, subject to compliance with the Sale Guidelines (as modified by any Side Letters) and this Final Order.
- 16. Subject to the Resolution Procedures provided herein, the Debtors and the Agent are hereby authorized to take such actions as may be necessary and appropriate to implement the Agency Agreement and to conduct the Store Closing Sales without the need for a further order of this Court, including, but not limited to, advertising the sale as a "store closing," "sale on everything," "everything must go," "liquidation sale," and "going out of business" or similar themed sale through the posting of signs (including the use of exterior banners at non-enclosed

mall Closing Stores, and at enclosed mall Closing Stores to the extent the applicable Store entrance does not require entry into the enclosed mall common area), use of sign-walkers, A-frames, and other street signage, in accordance with the Final Order, Agency Agreement, and Sale Guidelines.

- 17. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, and in view of the importance of the use of sign-walkers, banners, and other advertising to the sale of the Store Closing Assets, to the extent that disputes arise during the course of such sale regarding laws regulating the use of sign-walkers, banners or other advertising and the Debtors and the Agent are unable to resolve the matter consensually with a Governmental Unit, any party may request an immediate telephonic hearing with this Court pursuant to these provisions. Such hearing will, to the extent practicable, be scheduled initially no later than within five (5) business days of such request. This scheduling shall not be deemed to preclude additional hearings for the presentation of evidence or arguments as necessary.
- 18. Except as expressly provided in the Agency Agreement and Sale Guidelines, the sale of the Store Closing Assets shall be conducted by the Debtors and the Agent notwithstanding any restrictive provision of any lease, sublease, license, reciprocal easement agreement, restrictive covenant, or other agreement relative to occupancy affecting or purporting to restrict the conduct of the Store Closing Sales, the rejection of leases or licenses, the necessity of obtaining any third party consents, abandonment of assets, or "going dark" provisions, and such provisions shall not be enforceable in conjunction with the Store Closing Sales. Breach of any such provisions in these chapter 11 cases in conjunction with the Store Closings shall not constitute a default under a lease or provide a basis to terminate the lease. The Agent, along with landlords and licensors, as applicable, of the Closing Stores are authorized to enter into agreements ("Side Letters") between themselves modifying the Sale Guidelines without further order of this Court, and such Side

Letters shall be binding as among the Agent and any such landlords or licensors, as applicable, of the Closing Stores, provided that nothing in such Side Letters affects the provisions of paragraphs 14, 16, 17, and 29 of this Final Order. In the event of any conflict between the Sale Guidelines and any Side Letter, the terms of such Side Letter shall control.

- 19. Except as expressly provided for herein or in the Sale Guidelines, and except with respect to any Governmental Unit (as to which paragraphs 14 and 29 of this Final Order shall apply), no person or entity, including, but not limited to, any landlord, licensor, service providers, utilities, and creditor, shall take any action to directly or indirectly prevent, interfere with, or otherwise hinder the continuation of the Store Closing Sales or the sale of Sale Closing Assets, or the advertising and promotion (including the posting of signs and exterior banners or the use of signwalkers) of such sales, and all such parties and persons of every nature and description, including, but not limited to, any landlord, licensor, service providers, utilities, and creditor and all those acting for or on behalf of such parties, are prohibited and enjoined from (a) interfering in any way with, obstructing, or otherwise impeding, the conduct of the Store Closing Sales and/or (b) instituting any action or proceeding in any court (other than in this Court) or administrative body seeking an order or judgment against, among others, the Debtors, the Agent, or the landlords or licensors, as applicable, at the Closing Stores that might in any way directly or indirectly obstruct or otherwise interfere with or adversely affect the conduct of the Store Closing Sales or sale of the Store Closing Assets or other liquidation sales at the Closing Stores and/or seek to recover damages for breach(es) of covenants or provisions in any lease, sublease, license, or contract based upon any relief authorized herein.
- 20. The Agent shall honor gift cards and gift certificates, that were issued by or on behalf the Debtors prior to the Petition Date through and including April 15, 2025 (the "Gift Card")

<u>Termination Date</u>"). To the extent not already completed, as soon as reasonably practicable after entry of this Order, the Debtors shall post conspicuous signage at their stores and on their website advising customers that gift cards and gift certificates will not be honored after the Gift Card Termination Date.

- 21. All sales of all Store Closing Assets and the Additional Agent Goods, if any, shall be "as is" and final. Conspicuous signs stating that "all sales are final" and "as is" will be posted at the cash register areas at all Stores. However, all state and federal laws relating to implied warranties for latent defects shall be complied with and are not superseded by the sale of said goods or the use of the terms "as is" or "final sales."
- 22. Except as expressly provided for in the Agency Agreement, nothing in this Final Order or the Agency Agreement, and none of the Agent's actions taken in respect of the Store Closing Sales shall be deemed to constitute an assumption by Agent of any of the Debtors' obligations relating to any of the Debtors' employees. Moreover, the Agent shall not become liable under any collective bargaining or employment agreement or be deemed a joint or successor employer with respect to such employees.
- 23. The Agent shall not be liable for sales taxes except as expressly provided in the Agency Agreement, and the Debtors remain responsible for the payment of any and all sales taxes. The Debtors are directed to remit all taxes accruing from the Store Closing Sales to the applicable Governmental Units as and when due, provided that in the case of a bona fide dispute, the Debtors are only directed to pay such taxes upon the resolution of the dispute, if and to the extent that the dispute is decided in favor of the applicable Governmental Unit. For the avoidance of doubt, sales taxes collected and held in trust by the Debtors shall not be used to pay any creditor or any other party, other than the applicable Governmental Unit for which the sales taxes are collected. This

Final Order does not enjoin, suspend or restrain the assessment, levy or collection of any tax under state law, and does not constitute a declaratory judgment with respect to any party's liability for taxes under state law.

- 24. The Debtors shall not sell any personal and/or confidential information about the Debtors' employees and/or customers (the "<u>Confidential Information</u>"). To the extent that the Debtors propose to sell Store Closing Assets that may contain Confidential Information, the Debtors shall remove all such Confidential Information from such Store Closing Assets before they are sold or abandoned.
- 25. The Agent is authorized to sell, without incurring liability to any person or entity, the Store Closing Assets in accordance with the terms of this Final Order, the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines.
- 26. Nothing in this Final Order shall (a) alter or affect the Debtors' obligations to comply with section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code or (b) alter or modify the rights of any lessor or other counterparty to a lease with the Debtors to file an appropriate motion or otherwise seek appropriate relief if the Debtors fail to comply with section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code; provided that the conduct of the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the Sale Guidelines, as may have been modified by Side Letter, shall not be a violation of section 365(d)(3) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 27. During the Store Closing Sales Term, the Agent shall be granted a limited license and right to use the trade names, logos, e-mail lists, mailing lists, customer lists, and e-commerce sites (including (without limitation) websites and social media), including a banner on such sites and a store locator to identify the Closing Stores, relating to and used in connection with the operation of the stores as identified in the Agency Agreement, solely for the purpose of advertising

the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of the Agency Agreement, this FinL aorder, and the Sale Guidelines; *provided, however*, that the Agent shall not receive personally identifiable information from the Debtors.

# V. RESOLUTION PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTES REGARDING LIQUIDATION LAWS

- 28. To the extent that the Store Closing Sales at the Closing Stores are conducted in accordance with this Final Order and the Sale Guidelines, and are therefore conducted under the supervision of this Court, such Store Closing Sales are authorized notwithstanding any federal, state, or local statute, ordinance, rule, or licensing requirement directed at regulating "going out of business," "store closing," similar inventory liquidation sales, bulk sale laws, or fast pay laws, including laws restricting safe, professional and non-deceptive, customary advertising such as signs, banners, posting of signage, and use of sign-walkers in connection with the sale and including ordinances establishing license or permit requirements, waiting periods, time limits or bulk sale restrictions, (collectively, the "Liquidation Laws").
- 29. Provided that the Store Closing Sales are conducted in accordance with the terms of this Final Order, the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, and in light of the provisions in the laws of many Governmental Units that exempt court-ordered sales from their provisions, the Debtors shall be presumed to be in compliance with any Liquidation Laws and, subject to paragraphs 14 and 17 herein, are authorized to conduct the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of this Final Order and the Sale Guidelines without the necessity of further showing compliance with any such Liquidation Laws. To the extent that between the Petition Date and the date of the Final Hearing there is a dispute arising from or relating to the Store Closing Sales, this Final Order, the Agency Agreement, or the Sale Guidelines, which dispute relates to any Liquidation Sales Laws (a "Liquidation Dispute"), the following procedures shall apply:

- The Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to resolve the Liquidation a. Dispute which such Liquidation Dispute will be heard within fourteen (14) days of service of the Dispute Resolution Motion, absent a party obtaining expedited relief. Nothing in this Final Order shall constitute a ruling with respect to any issues to be raised with respect to a Liquidation Dispute. Any Governmental Unit may assert a Liquidation Dispute and shall send a notice (the "Dispute Notice") explaining the nature of the dispute to: (i) the Debtors' proposed counsel, Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Rodney Square, 1000 North King Street, Wilmington, DE 19801, Attn: Andrew L. Magaziner, Esq. (amagaziner@ycst.com) and S. Alexander Faris, Esq. (afaris@ycst.com); (iii) counsel to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. in its capacity as Prepetition ABL Administrative Agent, Otterbourg P.C., 230 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10169, Attn: Chad Simon, Esq. (csimon@otterbourg.com) Daniel and Fiorillo, Esq. (dfiorillo@otterbourg.com); (iv) counsel to Pathlight Capital LP in its capacity as Prepetition Term Loan Agent, Riemer & Braunstein LLP, Times Square Tower, Suite 2506, Seven Times Square, New York, NY 10036, Attn: Steven E. Fox, Esq. (sfox@riemerlaw.com) and Paul D. Bekker, Esq. (pbekker@riemerlaw.com); (v) counsel to Hilco Merchant Resources, LLC, Ropes & Gray LLP, 191 North Wacker Drive, 32nd Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, Attn: Stephen Iacovo (stephen.iacovo@ropesgray.com); and (vi) counsel to any statutory committee, no later than fourteen (14) days following the service of this Final Order.
  - b) If the Debtors, the Agent and the Governmental Unit are unable to resolve the Liquidation Dispute within fourteen (14) days of service of the notice, the aggrieved party may file a motion with this Court requesting that this Court resolve the Liquidation Dispute (a "<u>Dispute Resolution Motion</u>").
  - c) In the event that a Dispute Resolution Motion is filed, nothing in the Interim Order or this Final Order, as applicable, shall preclude the Debtors, a landlord, or any other interested party from asserting (i) that the provisions of any Liquidation Sale Laws are preempted by the Bankruptcy Code, or (ii) that neither the terms of the Interim Order or this Final Order nor the conduct of the Debtors pursuant to the Interim Order or this Final Order, violates such Liquidation Laws. Filing a Dispute Resolution Motion as set forth herein shall not be deemed to affect the finality of the Interim Order or this Final Order or to limit or interfere with the Debtors' or the Agent's ability to conduct or to continue to conduct the Store Closing Sales pursuant to the Interim Order or this Final Order, as applicable, absent further order of the Court. Upon the entry of the Interim Order or this Final Order, the Court grants authority for the Debtors and the Agent to conduct the Store Closing Sales pursuant to the terms of the Interim Order or this Final Order, the Agency Agreement, and the Sale Guidelines (as may be modified by Side Letters, as defined in the Proposed Orders) and to take all actions reasonably related thereto or arising in connection therewith. The

Governmental Unit will be entitled to assert any jurisdictional, procedural, or substantive arguments it wishes with respect to the requirements of its Liquidation Laws or the lack of any preemption of such Liquidation Laws by the Bankruptcy Code. Nothing in the Interim Order or this Final Order will constitute a ruling with respect to any issues to be raised in any Dispute Resolution Motion.

30. Within two (2) business days of the entry of this Final Order, the Debtors shall serve copies of this Final Order, which includes the Agency Agreement and the Sale Guidelines, by email, facsimile, or regular mail on the Applicable Governmental Units and the Landlords.

#### VI. SECTIONS 363(m) AND 364(e) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

31. Entry into the Agency Agreement is undertaken by the parties thereto in good faith, as that term is used in sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, and Agent shall be protected by sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code in the event that this Final Order is modified, amended or vacated by subsequent order of the Court or any other court. The modification, amendment or vacatur of the authorization provided herein to enter into the Agency Agreement and consummate the transactions contemplated thereby shall not affect the validity of such transactions (including the enforceability of the Store Closing Sales or the liens or priority authorized or created under the Agency Agreement or this Final Order solely in respect of Additional Agent Goods and proceeds therefrom), unless such authorization is duly stayed pending such appeal. The Agent is entitled to all of the benefits and protections afforded by sections 363(m) and 364(e) of the Bankruptcy Code. The transactions contemplated by the Agency Agreement are not subject to avoidance pursuant to section 363(n) of the Bankruptcy Code.

#### VII. ADDITIONAL AGENT GOODS

32. The Agent is authorized to supplement the Merchandise in the Store Closing Sales with Additional Agent Goods; *provided*, that the Debtors may reasonably object to the inclusion of Additional Agent Goods that are not of like kind and are of lesser quality to the Merchandise in

the Store Closing Sales at the Closing Stores, in which case the Debtors and the Agent shall work in good faith to resolve such objection, which resolution may require the exclusion of such Additional Agent Goods subject to the objection; provided, further, that the cost of Additional Agent Goods shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate Cost Value (as defined in the Agency Agreement) of the Merchandise in the Store Closing Sale. The Additional Agent Goods shall be purchased by the Agent as part of the Store Closing Sales and delivered to the Closing Stores at the Agent's sole expense (including as to labor, freight, and insurance relative to shipping such Additional Agent Goods to the Closing Stores). Sales of Additional Agent Goods shall be run through the Debtors' cash register systems; provided, however, that the Agent shall mark the Additional Agent Goods using either a "dummy" SKU or department number, or in such other manner so as to distinguish the sale of Additional Agent Goods from the sale of Merchandise. The Agent and Debtors shall cooperate to ensure that the Additional Agent Goods are marked in such a way that a reasonable consumer could identify the Additional Agent Goods from the Merchandise. The Agent shall provide signage in the Closing Stores notifying customers that the Additional Agent Goods have been included in the Store Closing Sale.

33. All transactions relating to the Additional Agent Goods are, shall be construed as, and are acknowledged by the Debtors to be, a true consignment from the Agent to the Debtors under Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (the "<u>UCC</u>") and not a consignment for security purposes. Subject solely to Agent's obligations to pay to the Debtors the Additional Agent Goods Fee (as defined in the Agency Agreement), at all times and for all purposes the Additional Agent Goods and their proceeds shall be the exclusive property of the Agent, and no other person or entity (including, without limitation, the Debtors, or any third person claiming a security interest in the Debtors' property, including any of the Debtors' secured lenders) shall have any claim

against any of the Additional Agent Goods or the proceeds thereof. The Additional Agent Goods shall at all times remain subject to the exclusive control of the Agent. The Debtors shall, at Agent's sole cost and expense, insure the Additional Agent Goods and, if required, promptly file any proofs of loss with regard thereto. The Agent shall be responsible for payment of any deductible under any such insurance in the event of any casualty affecting the Additional Agent Goods.

34. The Agent is hereby granted a first priority security interest in and lien upon (a) the Additional Agent Goods and (b) the Additional Agent Goods proceeds, less the Additional Agent Goods Fee, and which security interest shall be deemed perfected without the requirement of filing UCC financing statements or providing notifications to any prior secured parties (provided that the Agent is hereby authorized to deliver all required notices and file all necessary financing statements and amendments thereof under the applicable UCC identifying the Agent's interest in the Additional Agent Goods as consigned goods thereunder and the Debtors as the consignee therefor, and the Agent's security interest in and lien upon such Additional Agent Goods and the Additional Agent Goods proceeds).

#### VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

- 35. Any transfers by the Debtors to the Agent prior to the Petition Date (including, without limitation, any proceeds under the Agency Agreement and the valid, binding, and enforceable security interests granted to the Agent solely in respect of the Additional Agent Goods and the proceeds therefrom (subject to the Agent's payment of the Additional Agent Goods Fee)) are not subject to avoidance.
- 36. Non-material modifications, amendments, or supplementations to the Agency Agreement and related documents by the parties may be made in accordance with the terms thereof without further order of this Court; *provided that* any such modifications, amendment or

supplements are not adverse to the Debtors or their estates, the interest of the landlords under the applicable Leases are not adversely affected, or as otherwise ordered by this Court; *provided further that* the Debtors shall provide counsel to Wells Fargo and counsel to the Prepetition Term Loan Agent copies of any such modifications, amendments, or supplements at least two (2) business days prior to the effectiveness thereof, which such modification(s), amendment(s), or supplement(s) shall be effective unless Wells Fargo or the Prepetition Term Loan Agent delivers a written objection to the Debtors' counsel, with a copy to any statutory committee (email being sufficient) prior to the expiration of such two (2) business day period.

- 37. Neither the Agent nor any of its respective affiliates (whether individually, as part of a joint venture, or otherwise), shall be precluded from providing additional services to the Debtors or bidding on the Debtors' assets in connection with any other future process that may or may not be undertaken by the Debtors to close stores; *provided that* any such services and/or sales are approved by separate order of this Court.
- 38. The Debtors are authorized and permitted to transfer to the Agent personal information in the Debtors' custody and control solely for the purposes of assisting with and conducting the Store Closing Sales and only to the extent necessary for such purposes, provided that Agent removes such personal information from the FF&E prior to the abandonment of the same.
- 39. Nothing contained in any plan confirmed in these Chapter 11 Cases or any order of this Court confirming such plan or in any other order in these Chapter 11 Cases (including any order entered after any conversion of this case to a case under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code) shall alter, conflict with, or derogate from, the provisions of the Agency Agreement or the terms of this Final Order.

- 40. The Agent shall not be liable for any claims against the Debtors, and the Debtors shall not be liable for any claims against Agent, in each case, other than as expressly provided for in the Agency Agreement. The Agent shall have no successor liability whatsoever with respect to any Encumbrances or claims of any nature that may exist against the Debtors, including, without limitation, the Agent shall not be, or to be deemed to be: (a) a successor in interest or within the meaning of any law, including any revenue, successor liability, pension, labor, ERISA, bulk-transfer, products liability, tax or environmental law, rule or regulation, or any theory of successor or transferee liability, antitrust, environmental, product line, de facto merger or substantial continuity or similar theories; or (b) a joint employer, co-employer or successor employer with the Debtors, and the Agent shall have no obligation to pay the Debtors' wages, bonuses, severance pay, vacation pay, WARN act claims (if any), benefits or any other payments to employees of the Debtors, including pursuant to any collective bargaining agreement, employee pension plan, or otherwise, except as expressly set forth in the Agency Agreement.
- 41. Notwithstanding the relief granted herein and any actions taken hereunder, except with respect to the Agent, nothing contained herein shall create, nor is intended to create, any rights in favor of, or enhance the status of any claim held by, any person.
- 42. Nothing in this Final Order is intended to affect any rights of any Applicable Governmental Unit to enforce any law affecting the Debtors' conduct of the Store Closing Sales prior to the Petition Date.
- 43. Notwithstanding Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), to the extent applicable, this Final Order shall be effective and enforceable immediately upon entry hereof.
- 44. The Debtors are authorized and empowered to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement the relief granted in this Final Order. The failure to specifically include

any particular provision of the Agency Agreement in this Final Order shall not diminish or impair the effectiveness of such provisions, it being the intent of this Court that the Agency Agreement and all of its provisions, payments, and transactions, be and hereby are authorized and approved as and to the extent provided for in this Final Order.

- 45. To the extent there is any conflict between this Final Order, the Sale Guidelines, and the Agency Agreement, the terms of this Final Order shall control over all other documents, and the Sale Guidelines shall control over the Agency Agreement.
- 46. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation or enforcement of this Final Order or the Agency Agreement.

# EXHIBIT 1

**Agency Agreement** 

[Intentionally Omitted]

# EXHIBIT 2

**Sale Guidelines** 

#### SALE GUIDELINES<sup>1</sup>

- A. The Store Closing Sales shall be conducted so that the Closing Stores in which sales are to occur will remain open no longer than during the normal hours of operation provided for in the respective leases for the Closing Stores.
- B. The Store Closing Sales shall be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local "Blue Laws", where applicable, so that no Store Closing Sales shall be conducted on Sunday unless the Merchant had been operating such Closing Store on a Sunday.
- C. On "shopping center" property, the Agent shall not distribute handbills, leaflets or other written materials to customers outside of any Closing Stores' premises, unless permitted by the lease or, if distribution is customary in the "shopping center" in which such Store is located; *provided* that Agent may solicit customers in the Closing Stores themselves. On "shopping center" property, the Agent shall not use any flashing lights or amplified sound to advertise the Store Closing Sales or solicit customers, except as permitted under the applicable lease or agreed to by the landlord.
- D. The Merchant and the Agent may advertise the Sale as a "store closing" "sale on everything", "everything must go", or similar themed sale, or "going out of business." The Agent may also have a "countdown to closing" sign prominently displayed in a manner consistent with these Sale Guidelines.
- E. Agent shall be permitted to utilize display, hanging signs, and interior banners in connection with the Store Closing Sales; provided, however, that such display, hanging signs, and interior banners shall be professionally produced and hung in a professional manner. The Merchant and the Agent shall not use neon or day-glo on its display, hanging signs, or interior banners. Furthermore, with respect to enclosed mall locations, no exterior signs or signs in common areas of a mall shall be used unless otherwise expressly permitted in these Sale Guidelines. In addition, the Merchant and the Agent shall be permitted to utilize exterior banners at (i) non-enclosed mall Closing Stores and (ii) enclosed mall Closing Stores to the extent the entrance to the applicable Closing Store does not require entry into the enclosed mall common area; provided, however, that such banners shall be located or hung so as to make clear that the Store Closing Sales is being conducted only at the affected Closing Store, shall not be wider than the storefront of the Closing Store. In addition, the Merchant and the Agent shall be permitted to utilize sign walkers and Aframes in a safe and professional manner and in accordance with the terms of the Final Order. Nothing contained in these Sale Guidelines shall be construed to create or impose upon the Agent any additional restrictions not contained in the applicable lease agreement.
- F. Conspicuous signs shall be posted in the cash register areas of each of the affected Closing Stores to effect that "all sales are final."
- G. Except with respect to the hanging of exterior banners, the Agent shall not make any alterations to the storefront or exterior walls of any Closing Stores, except as authorized by the applicable lease.
- H. The Agent shall not make any alterations to interior or exterior Closing Store lighting, except as authorized by the applicable lease. No property of the landlord of a Closing Store shall be removed or sold

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the *Debtors'* Motion for Entry of (I) Interim Order Authorizing (A) the Conduct of the Store Closing Sales, With Such Sales to be Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, and Encumbrances and (B) Granting Related Relief, and (II) Final Order Authorizing (A) the Debtors to Assume the Agency Agreement, (B) the Conduct of the Store Closing Sales, With Such Sales to be Free and Clear of All Liens, Claims, and Encumbrances, and (C) Granting Related Relief or Agency Agreement, as applicable.

during the Store Closing Sales. The hanging of exterior banners or in-store signage and banners shall not constitute an alteration to a Closing Store.

- I. The Agent shall keep Closing Store premises and surrounding areas clear and orderly consistent with present practices.
- J. The Agent, at the direction of the Debtors, and the landlord of any Store are authorized to enter into Side Letters without further order of the Court, provided that such agreements do not have a material adverse effect on the Debtors or their estates.
- K. Subject to the provisions of the Agency Agreement, the Agent shall have the right to sell all furniture, fixtures, and equipment located at the Closing Stores and the corporate office (the "FF&E"). The Agent may advertise the sale of the FF&E in a manner consistent with these guidelines at the Closing Stores and or if the Merchant otherwise agrees, the corporate office. The purchasers of any FF&E sold during the sale shall be permitted to remove the FF&E either through the back shipping areas at any time, or through other areas after Store business hours; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to de minimis FF&E sales made whereby the item(s) can be carried out of the Closing Store in a shopping bag or shopping cart. For the avoidance of doubt, as of the Sale Termination Date, the Agent may abandon, in place and without further responsibility, any FF&E.
- L. The Agent shall be entitled to include Additional Agent Goods in the Store Closing Sales in accordance with the terms of the Final Order and the Agency Agreement.
- M. At the conclusion of the Store Closing Sales at each Closing Store, pending assumption or rejection of applicable leases, the landlords of the Closing Stores shall have reasonable access to the Closing Stores' premises as set forth in the applicable leases. The Merchant, the Agent and their agents and representatives shall continue to have exclusive and unfettered access to the Closing Stores.
- N. The rights of landlords against Merchant for any damages to a Closing Store shall be reserved in accordance with the provisions of the applicable lease; provided that to the extent certain leases of Closing Stores require written confirmation of receipt of a key to effectuate surrender, this requirement is waived.
- O. If and to the extent that the landlord of any Closing Store affected hereby contends that the Agent or Merchant is in breach of or default under these Sale Guidelines, such landlord shall email or deliver written notice by overnight delivery on the Merchant's counsel and the Agent's counsel as follows:

If to the Merchant:

F21 OpCo, LLC 110 E. 9th Street, Suite A500 Los Angeles, California 90079 Attention: Michael Brown mbrown@thinkbrg.com

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## With copies to:

Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP 1000 North King Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801 Attention: Andrew Magaziner, Esq.(amagaziner@ycst.com) and S. Alexander Faris, Esq. (afaris@ycst.com)

## If to the Agent:

HILCO MERCHANT RESOURCES, LLC c/o Ropes & Gray LLP 191 North Wacker Drive, 32nd Floor Chicago, IL 60606, Attn: Stephen Iacovo (stephen.iacovo@ropesgray.com)