Case 25-10469-MFW Doc 441 Eilad U8/13/32 Page 1 of 7 Docket #0441 Date Filed: 06/13/2025

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: Chapter 11

Case No. 25-10469 (MFW) F21 OPCO, LLC, et al., 1

> Debtors. (Jointly Administered)

> > **Hearing Date:** July 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. (ET) Objection Deadline: June 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)

DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER EXTENDING THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE DEBTORS MAY REMOVE ACTIONS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1452

F21 OpCo, LLC and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (these "Chapter 11 Cases"), hereby submit this motion (this "Motion") for entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Proposed Order"), extending the period within which the Debtors may remove actions pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452 (the "Removal Deadline") by ninety (90) days, through and including September 15, 2025. In 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 Debtors

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.



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, 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 28 U.S.C. § 1452, and Rules 9006 and 9027 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules").

BACKGROUND

- 4. On March 16, 2025 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors commenced a voluntary case under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101–1532 (the "Bankruptev Code"). The Debtors continue to manage and operate their businesses as debtors in possession under sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. On March 26, 2025, the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware (the "U.S. Trustee") appointed an official committee of unsecured creditors (the "Committee") [D.I. 115]. No trustee or examiner has been requested 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 *Declaration of Stephen Coulombe in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Pleadings* [D.I. 2].

RELIEF REQUESTED

6. By this Motion, the Debtors seek entry of the Proposed Order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, authorizing the Debtors to extend the period within which the Debtors may remove actions and related proceedings by ninety (90) days, through and including,

September 15, 2025,² without prejudice to the rights of the Debtors and their estates to seek further extensions of time within which to remove actions and related proceedings.³

BASIS FOR RELIEF

7. Bankruptcy Rule 9027 and 28 U.S.C. § 1452 govern the removal of pending civil actions. Specifically, section 1452(a) provides that:

[a] party may remove any claim or cause of action in a civil action other than a proceeding before the United States Tax Court or a civil action by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's police or regulatory power, to the district court for the district where such civil action is pending, if such district court has jurisdiction of such claim or cause of action under section 1334 of this title.

28 U.S.C. § 1452(a). Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) further provides, in pertinent part that:

[i]f the claim or cause of action in a civil action is pending when a case under the [Bankruptcy] Code is commenced, a notice of removal may be filed in the bankruptcy court only within the longest of (A) 90 days after the order for relief in the case under the Code, (B) 30 days after entry of an order terminating a stay, if the claim or cause of action in a civil action has been stayed under § 362 of the Code, or (C) 30 days after a trustee qualifies in a chapter 11 reorganization case but not later than 180 days after the order for relief.

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9027(a)(2).

8. Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b) provides that the Court may extend unexpired time periods, such as the Debtors' removal period, without notice:

[W]hen an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified period by [the Bankruptcy Rules] or by a notice given thereunder or by order of court, the court for cause shown may at any time in its discretion ... with or without motion or notice order the period enlarged if the request therefor is made before the

Ninety days from the current Removal Deadline is Saturday, June 14, 2025. Accordingly, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(a)(1)(C), the requested extension of the current Removal Deadline would be to Monday, September 15, 2025.

Pursuant to Local Rule 9006-2, the filing of this Motion before the expiration of the current Removal Deadline of June 14, 2025, shall automatically extend the current Removal Deadline until the Court acts on this Motion without the necessity for entry of a bridge order.

expiration of the period originally prescribed or as extended by a previous order.

Id. at 9006(b)(1). Accordingly, the Court is authorized to grant the relief requested herein. See Raff v. Gordon, 58 B.R. 988 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 1986) (stating that period in which to file motion to remove may be expanded pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006); Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp. v. City of New York (In re Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp.), 106 B.R. 48 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989) (same); see also, Doan v. Loomis (In re Fort Dodge Creamery Co.), 117 B.R. 438 (Bankr. N.D. Iowa 1990) (implying that time period in which removal motion may be filed may be extended pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006); In re Boyer, 108 B.R. 19 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. 1988) (same).

- 9. The Debtors are parties to actions currently pending in the courts of certain states and federal districts (each, an "<u>Action</u>" and, collectively, the "<u>Actions</u>"), and believe that it is prudent to seek an extension of the time established by Bankruptcy Rule 9027 to protect the rights of the Debtors and their estates to remove the Actions.
- 10. The Debtors submit that extending the current Removal Deadline is essential and in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and their creditors. Since the commencement of these Chapter 11 Cases, the Debtors' management and professional advisors have devoted substantial time and effort towards maximizing the value of their estates for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- 11. In addition, over the past two months, the Debtors have, among other things: (a) complied with U.S. Trustee reporting requirements, including by filing their Rule 2015.3 report [D.I. 237]; (b) obtained entry of a bar date order [D.I. 145] establishing deadlines for submitting proofs of claim and provided notice thereof to all parties; (c) filed the *Debtors' Joint Plan Pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code* (the "Plan") [D.I. 123] and two revised versions of the Plan [D.I. 311, and 426]; (d) filed the *Disclosure Statement for Debtors' Joint Plan Pursuant to Chapter*

11 of the Bankruptcy Code (as amended, supplemented, or modified, the "Disclosure Statement")

[D.I. 124, 312]; (e) obtained entry of an order approving the Disclosure Statement [D.I. 335] and commenced solicitation of the Plan; (f) retained professionals; (g) worked with the U.S. Trustee and the Committee on various matters, including responding to various diligence requests; (h) responded to various creditor inquiries; and (i) handled various other tasks related to the administration of the Debtors' estates and these Chapter 11 Cases.

- 12. As a result of the foregoing efforts and various others, the Debtors have not had sufficient time to determine if any Action should be removed pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a). Accordingly, the Debtors submit that extending the current Removal Deadline is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and creditors. The extension sought will afford the Debtors an opportunity to make more fully informed decisions concerning the removal of any Action, and will assure that the Debtors and their estates do not forfeit the valuable rights afforded to them under 28 U.S.C. § 1452. Furthermore, the Debtors submit that granting the extension requested herein will not prejudice the rights of any other parties to the Actions because such parties may not prosecute them absent relief from the automatic stay. In addition, nothing herein will prejudice any party to an Action that the Debtors may ultimately attempt to remove from seeking the remand of such action under 28 U.S.C § 1452(b) at the appropriate time.
- 13. For the reasons set forth above, the Debtors submit that extending the current Removal Deadline through and including September 15, 2025, is necessary, prudent, and in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates, and creditors.

NOTICE

14. Notice of this Motion will be given to: (a) the U.S. Trustee; (b) counsel to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Prepetition ABL Administrative Agent; (c) counsel to Pathlight Capital as Prepetition Term Loan Agent; (d) counsel to Simon Blackjack Consolidated Holdings, LLC as

Prepetition Subordinated Loan Agent; (e) counsel to the Committee; (f) the parties to the Actions and their counsel, if known; and (g) all parties entitled to notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002 as of the filing of this Motion. The Debtors submit that, under the circumstances, no other or further notice of this Motion is required.

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

Dated: June 13, 2025 YOUNG CONAWAY STARGATT & TAYLOR, LLP

/s/ Sarah Gawrysiak

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)

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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

In re: Chapter 11

F21 OPCO, LLC, et al., 1 Case No. 25-10469 (MFW)

Debtors. (Jointly Administered)

Hearing Date: July 8, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. (ET)
Objection Deadline: June 27, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)

NOTICE OF MOTION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "**Debtors**") have filed the *Debtors' Motion for Entry of an Order Extending the Period Within Which the Debtors May Remove Actions Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452* (the "Motion") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "**Court**").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, any responses or objections to the Application must be filed on or before <u>June 27 at 4:00 p.m. (ET)</u> (the "<u>Objection Deadline</u>") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware 19801. At the same time, you must serve a copy of the objection or response upon the undersigned proposed counsel to the Debtors so as to be received on or before the Objection Deadline.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATION IS SCHEDULED FOR <u>JULY 8, 2025 AT 11:30 A.M. (ET)</u> BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARY F. WALRATH, IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE, 824 N. MARKET STREET, 5TH FLOOR, COURTROOM NO. 4, WILMINGTON.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, IF NO OBJECTIONS OR RESPONSES TO THE APPLICATION ARE TIMELY FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS NOTICE, THE COURT MAY GRANT THE RELIEF REQUESTED IN THE APPLICATION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE OR A HEARING.

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.

Dated: June 13, 2025 YOUNG CONAWAY STARGATT & TAYLOR, LLP

/s/ Sarah Gawrysiak

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EXHIBIT A

Proposed Order

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

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

ORDER, PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY RULES 9006 AND 9027, EXTENDING THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH THE DEBTORS MAY REMOVE ACTIONS PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1452

Upon consideration of the motion (the "Motion")² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") for entry of an order (this "Order"), extending the period within which the Debtors may remove actions pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452 through and including September 15, 2025, as more fully set forth in the Motion; and this Court having jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the Amended Standing Order; and this Court having found that this is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and this Court having found 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 this Court having found that the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and this Court having found that the Debtors' notice of the

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² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Motion.

Motion and opportunity for a hearing on the Motion were appropriate under the circumstances and no other notice need be provided; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested therein at a hearing before this Court (the "Hearing"), if any; and this Court having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and upon all of the proceedings had before this Court; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Motion is granted as set forth herein.
- 2. The time period provided by Bankruptcy Rule 9027 within which the Debtors and their estates may file notices of removal of claims and causes of action is hereby extended through and including September 15, 2025 (the "Removal Deadline").
- 3. This Order shall be without prejudice to (a) the rights of the Debtors to seek further extensions of the Removal Deadline, and (b) any position the Debtors may take regarding whether section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code applies to stay any Action.
- 4. The Debtors are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Motion.
- 5. This Court retains jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and enforcement of this Order.