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<<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>
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August 9, 2023

## Dear <<FIRST NAME>> <<LAST NAME>>:

Vermont Christmas Company ("VCC") is notifying you of an event involving our third-party vendor, CommerceV3. VCC uses CommerceV3's e-commerce platform to process payment card information when an order is placed on our <a href="https://www.vermontchristmasco.com">www.vermontchristmasco.com</a> or <a href="https://www.vecwholesale.com">www.vecwholesale.com</a> websites. Although this event did not affect our systems, we wanted to provide you with information about the resources that are available to you to help protect your personal information, should you feel it is appropriate to do so.

We take the confidentiality, privacy, and security of personal information very seriously. After receiving notice from CommerceV3, we took and are continuing to take steps to understand the impact of the CommerceV3 event on VCC and our customer information. As part of our ongoing commitment to data security, we are reviewing our policies and procedures regarding third-party vendors, and we are notifying relevant regulatory authorities. We understand that CommerceV3 has implemented a series of additional security measures to protect customer information. CommerceV3 also shared that they notified law enforcement and worked with the major card brands and merchant banks during their investigation.

CommerceV3 advised that the potentially impacted customer information may include: name, billing address, email address, payment card number, CVV code, and expiration date. Below are resources you may consider to protect this information.

## Additional Steps You May Take to Help Protect Personal Information

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order a free credit report, visit <a href="www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. Consumers may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of their credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If consumers are the victim of identity theft, they are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should consumers wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a "credit freeze" on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer's express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in a consumer's name without consent. However, consumers should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the

personal and financial information in their credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application they make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, consumers cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on their credit report. To request a credit freeze, individuals may need to provide some or all of the following information:

- 1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;
- 5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, etc.);
- 7. Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2; and
- 8. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

Should consumers wish to place a credit freeze or fraud alert, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/
credit-report-services/		<u>credit-help</u>
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	9554, Allen, TX 75013	2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O.	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O.
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

<u>Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident.</u> <u>If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.</u>

You may further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; <a href="www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General.

## **For More Information**

Please note, Massachusetts law does not allow us to include certain information in this notification. However, if you have additional questions, please contact 1-888-498-1633, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Eastern (excluding U.S. holidays).

Sincerely,

Vermont Christmas Company