#### LAW OFFICES

#### **BRODSKY & SMITH, LLC**

9595 WILSHIRE BLVD., STE. 900 BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212 877.534.2590 www.brodskysmith.com

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#### January 12, 2023

| President/CEO Big Lots, Inc. c/o Corporation Service Company 3366 Riverside Drive, Suite 103 Upper Arlington, OH 43221 | Member/Manager Big Lots Stores, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company 3366 Riverside Drive, Suite 103 Upper Arlington, OH 43221  |
|--|--|
| Member/Manager Big Lots Stores, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808        | Member/Manager Big Lots Stores, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company Which Will Do Business In California As CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, CA 95833 |

60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act1

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") represents Precila Balabbo ("Balabbo"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Balabbo has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

#### I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

- Enforcer: Precila Balabbo, 285 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 209, San Pedro, CA 90731; (Ph) 818-434-4023.
- 2. Alleged Violator(s): Big Lots, Inc.; Big Lots Stores, LLC
- 3. Time Period of Exposure: Violations have been occurring since at least January 12, 2023 and are continuing to this day.
- **4.** Listed Chemical: Lead. Lead is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity.

#### 5. Product:

| Product <sup>2</sup> | Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product |  |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Pie Plate            | Holiday Pie Plate                      |  |
|                      | UPC# 481057954902                      |  |

6. Description of Exposure: The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through ingestion and dermal absorption exposure. When used for its intended purpose, the Product will be in contact with foods. The Listed Chemical will leach into the foods it comes into contact with. When foods contaminated with the Listed Chemical are consumed, ingestion of the Listed Chemical will occur which will increase BLLs. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

#### II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

#### III. RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Brodsky Smith intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit on behalf of Balabbo against the alleged Violator(s) unless such Violator(s) agree in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall Products already sold; (2) provide Proposition 65 compliant exposure warnings for Products sold in the future or reformulate the Products to eliminate exposures to the Listed Chemical; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and the desire to have these violations of California law quickly rectified, Balabbo is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of the claims in this Notice without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The specifically identified example of the Product in this Notice is to assist the recipients' investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the definition of Products. This example is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product. It is Balabbo's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other Products that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violators' custody or control) during the relevant period to ensure that requisite health hazard warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase and use.

Balabbo has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this Notice. Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my attention at Brodsky & Smith, LLC, 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (877) 534-2590, esmith@brodskysmith.com.

Sincerely,

Evan J. Smith

#### Attachments

Certificate of Merit Certificate of Service

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:

I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 2 Bala Plaza, Suite 805, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. I am employed in Montgomery County where the mailing occurred.

On January 12, 2023, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq.; Certificate of Merit; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary on the following entities and individuals listed below by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the person or entity listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

| President/CEO Big Lots, Inc. c/o Corporation Service Company 3366 Riverside Drive, Suite 103 Upper Arlington, OH 43221 | Member/Manager Big Lots Stores, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company 3366 Riverside Drive, Suite 103 Upper Arlington, OH 43221  |
|--|--|
| Member/Manager Big Lots Stores, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808        | Member/Manager Big Lots Stores, LLC c/o Corporation Service Company Which Will Do Business in California As CSC – Lawyers Incorporating Service 2710 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150N Sacramento, CA 95833 |

On January 12, 2023, I served the following documents: Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq.; Certificate of Merit; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary on each of the individuals on the service list attached hereto as Appendix B by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the person or entity listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with postage fully prepaid for delivery by Priority Mail.

Executed on January 12, 2023, in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

Evan J. Smith

## CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

#### Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

#### I, Evan J. Smith, hereby declare:

- (1) This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- (2) I am the attorney for the noticing party, Precila Balabbo.
- (3) I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the action.
- (4) Based on the information obtained through these consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator(s) will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- (5) The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: January 12, 2023

Evan J. Smith

Attorney for Precila Balabbo

# **SERVICE LIST**

| The Honorable Nancy O'Malley   | The Honorable Stacey Montgomery  | The Honorable Candice Hooper   | The Honorable Gregg Cohen  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Alameda County District Attorney   | Lassen County District Attorney  | San Benito County District Attorney  | Tehama County District Attorney  |
| 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900   | 220 South Lassen Street, Ste. 8  | 419 4th Street, Second Floor   | 444 Oak Street, Room L   |
| Oakland, CA 94612  | Susanville, CA 96130   | Holllster, CA 95203  | Red Bluff, CA 96080  |
| The Honorable Terese Drabec  | The Honorable Jackie Lacey   | The Honorable Michael Ramos  | The Honorable Eric Heryford  |
| Alpine County District Altorney  | Los Angeles County District Attorney   | San Bernardino County District Attorney  | Trinity County District Attorney   |
| 270 Laramle Street, PO BOX 248   | 211 West Temple Street, Suile 1200   | 303 West 3rd Street, 6th Floor   | P.O. Box 310   |
| Markleeville, CA 96120   | Los Angeles, CA 90012  | San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502  | Weaverville, CA 96093  |
| The Honorable Todd Riebe   | The Honorable David Linn   | The Honorable Bonnle Dumanis   | The Honorable Tim Ward   |
| Amador County District Attorney  | Madera County District Attorney  | San Dlego County District Attorney   | Tulare County District Attorney  |
| 708 Court Street   | 209 West Yosernite Avenue  | 330 W. Broadway Street   | 221 South Mooney Boulevard, Rm 224   |
| Jackson, CA 95642  | Madera, CA 93637   | San Diego, CA 92101  | Visalia, CA 93291-4593   |
| The Honorable Michael Ramsey   | The Honorable Edward Berberian   | The Honorable George Gascon  | The Honorable Laura Krieg  |
| Butte County District Attorney   | Marin County District Attorney   | San Francisco County District Attorney   | Tuolumne County District Attorney  |
| 25 County Center Drive   | 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130  | 850 Bryant Street, Room 322  | 423 North Washington Street  |
| Oroville, CA 95965   | San Rafael, CA 94903   | San Francisco, CA 94103  | Sonora, CA 95370   |
| The Honorable Barbara Yook   | The Honorable Thomas Cooke   | The Honorable Torl Verber Salazar  | The Honorable Gregory Totten Ventura County District Attorney 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009  |
| Calaveras County District Attorney   | Mariposa County District Attorney  | San Joaquin County District Attorney   |  |
| 891 Mountain Ranch Road  | 5101 Jones Street, P.O. Box 730  | 222 East Weber Avenue, Room 202  |  |
| San Andreas, CA 95249  | Mariposa, CA 95338   | Stockton, CA 95201   |  |
| The Honorable John Poyner  | The Honorable C. David Eyster  | The Honorable Dan Dow  | The Honorable Jeff Reisig  |
| Colusa County District Attorney  | Mendocino County District Attorney   | San Luis Obispo County District Atty   | Yolo County District Attorney  |
| 346 Fifth Street   | 100 North State Street, P.O. Box 1000  | 1035 Palm Street, 4th Floor  | 301 Second Street  |
| Colusa, CA 95932   | Ukiah, CA 95482  | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408  | Woodland, CA 95695   |
| The Honorable Mark Peterson  | The Honorable Larry Morse II   | The Honorable Stephen Wagstaffe  | The Honorable Patrick McGrath  |
| Contra Costa County District Attorney  | Merced County District Attorney  | San Mateo County District Attorney   | Yuba County District Attorney  |
| 900 Ward Street  | 550 W. Main Street   | 400 County Center, Third Floor   | 215 Fifth Street   |
| Martinez, CA 94553   | Merced, CA 95340   | Redwood City, CA 94063   | Marysville, CA 95901   |
| The Honorable Dale Trigg Del Norte County District Attorney 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531                 | The Honorable Jordan Funk<br>Modoc County District Attorney<br>204 S. Court Street, Suite 202<br>Alturas, CA 96101     | The Honorable Joyce Dudley<br>Santa Barbara County District Attorney<br>1112 Santa Barbara Street<br>Santa Barbara, CA 93101 | The Honorable Mike Feuer<br>Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles<br>800 City Hall East<br>200 North Main Street<br>Los Angeles, CA 90012                             |
| The Honorable Vern Pierson   | The Honorable Tim Kendall  | The Honorable Jeffrey Rosen  | The Honorable James Sanchez  |
| El Dorado County District Attorney   | Mono County District Attorney  | Santa Clara County District Attorney   | Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento  |
| 778 Pacific Street   | P.O. Box 617   | 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing  | 915 I Street, 4th Floor  |
| Placerville, CA 95667  | Bridgeport, CA 93517   | San Jose, CA 95110   | Sacramento, CA 95814   |
| The Honorable Lisa Smittcamp   | The Honorable Dean Flippo  | The Honorable Jeff Rosell  | The Honorable Jan Goldsmith  |
| Fresno County District Attorney  | Monterey County District Attorney  | Santa Cruz County District Attorney  | Office of the City Attorney, San Diego   |
| 2220 Tulare Street, #1000  | P.O. Box 1131  | 701 Ocean Street, Room 200   | 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620  |
| Fresno, CA 93721   | Salinas, CA 93902  | Santa Cruz, CA 95060   | San Diego, CA 92101  |
| The Honorable Dwayne Stewart<br>Glenn County District Attorney<br>P.O. Box 430<br>Willows, CA 95988                        | The Honorable Allison Haley<br>Napa County District Attorney<br>1127 First Street, Suite C<br>Napa, CA 94559           | The Honorable Stephen Carlton<br>Shasta County District Attorney<br>1355 West Street<br>Redding, CA 96001                    | The Honorable Dennis Herrera<br>Office of the City Attorney, San<br>Francisco<br>1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place<br>San Francisco, CA 94102                              |
| The Honorable Maggie Fleming   | The Honorable Clifford Newell  | The Honorable Lawrence Allen   | The Honorable Richard Doyle  |
| Humboldt County District Attorney  | Nevada County District Attorney  | Sierra County District Attomey   | Office of the City Attorney, San Jose  |
| 825 5th Street, Fourth Floor   | 201 Commercial Street  | 100 Courthouse Square  | 200 East Santa Clara Street,16th Floor   |
| Eureka, CA 95501   | Nevada City, CA 95959  | Downleville, CA 95936  | San Jose, CA 95113   |
| The Honorable Gilbert Otero<br>Imperial County District Attorney<br>940 West Main Street, Sulte 102<br>El Centro, CA 92243 | The Honorable Tony Rackauckas<br>Orange County District Attorney<br>401 Clvic Center Drive West<br>Santa Ana, CA 92701 | The Honorable James Kirk Andrus<br>Siskiyou County District Attorney<br>P.O. Box 986<br>Yreka, CA 96097                      | Office of the California Attorney General<br>Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting<br>ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator<br>1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000<br>Oakland, CA 94612-0550 |
| The Honorable Thomas Hardy   | The Honorable R. Scott Owens   | The Honorable Krishna Abrams   |  |
| Inyo County District Attorney  | Placer County District Attorney  | Solano County District Attorney  |  |
| P.O. Drawer D  | 10810 Justice Center Drive, Sulte 240  | 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500   |  |
| Independence, CA 93526   | Roseville, CA 95678  | Fairfield, CA 94533  |  |
| The Honorable Lisa Green   | The Honorable David Hollister  | The Honorable Jill Ravitch   |  |
| Kern County District Attorney  | Plurnas County District Attorney   | Sonoma County District Attorney  |  |
| 1215 Truxtun Avenue  | 520 Main Street, Room 404  | 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J  |  |
| Bakersfield, CA 93301  | Quincy, CA 95971   | Santa Rosa, CA 95403   |  |
| The Honorable Keith Fagundas   | The Honorable Michael Hestrin  | The Honorable Birgit Fladager  |  |
| Kings County District Attorney   | Riverside County District Attorney   | Stanislaus County District Attorney  |  |
| 1400 West Lacey Boulevard  | 3960 Orange Street   | 832 12th Street, Suite 300   |  |
| Hanford, CA 93230  | Riverside, CA 92501  | Modesto, CA 95354  |  |
| The Honorable Donald Anderson  | The Honorable Anne Marie Schubert  | The Honorable Amanda Hopper  |  |
| Lake County District Attorney  | Sacramento County District Attorney  | Sutter County District Attorney  |  |
| 255 North Forbes Street  | 901 G Street   | 463 Second Street, Sulte 102   |  |
| Lakeport CA 95453  | Sacramento CA 95814  | Yuba City CA 95991   |  |

### ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE LIST

| E                                     | E  | Fr. I. A New Cabulant               |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| The Honorable Nancy O'Malley          | The Honorable Tori Verber Salzar             | Honorable Anne Marie Schubert       |
| Alameda County District Attorney      | San Joaquin County District Attorney         | Sacramento County District Attorney |
| 7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650        | 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202                | 901 G Street                        |
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| The Honorable Allison Haley           | The Honorable Jeffrey S. Rosell              | The Honorable Summer Stephan        |
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| Yolo County District Attorney         | Lassen County                                | City of San Diego                   |
| 301 Second Street                     | 220 S. Lassen Street                         | 1200 Third Avenue                   |
| Woodland, CA 95695                    | Susanville, CA 96130                         | San Diego, CA 92101                 |
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| Bud Porter                            | Alethea M. Sargent                           | Christopher Dalbey,                 |
| Supervising Deputy District Attorney  | Assistant District Attorney                  | Deputy District Attorney            |
| Santa Clara County                    | San Francisco District Attorney's Office     | Santa Barbara County                |
| 70 W Hedding Street                   | 350 Rhode Island Street                      | 1112 Santa Barbara Street           |
| San Jose, CA 95110                    | San Francisco, CA 94103                      | Santa Barbara, CA 93101             |
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| Stacey Grassini                       | Eric J. Dobroth                              | Jeannine M. Pacioni                 |
| Deputy District Attorney              | Deputy District Attorney                     | Deputy District Attorney            |
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| Inyo County District Attorney         | Tulare County District Attorney              | Nevada County District Attorney     |
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| Independence, CA 93526                | Visalia, CA 95370                            | Nevada City, CA 95959               |
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| The Honorable Paul E. Zellerbach      | The Honorable Stephan Passalacqua            | The Honorable David Hollister       |
| Riverside County District Attorney    | Sonoma County District Attorney              | Plumas County District Attorney     |
| 3072 Orange Street                    | 600 Administration Drive                     | 520 Main Street, Room 404           |
| Riverside, CA 92501                   | Sonoma, CA 95403                             | Quincy, CA 95971                    |
| Prop65@rivcoda.org                    | ibarnes@sonoma-county.org                    | davidhollister@countyofplumas.com   |
| The Honorable Walter W. Wall          | The Honorable Kimberly Lewis                 | The Honorable Morgan Briggs Gire    |
| Mariposa County District Attorney     | Merced County District Attorney              | Placer County District Attorney     |
| P.O. Box 730                          | 550 West Main Street                         | 10810 Justice Center Drive          |
| Mariposa, CA 95338                    | Merced, CA 95340                             | Roseville, CA 95678                 |
| mcda@mariposacounty.org               | Prop65@countyofmerced.com                    | prop65@placer.ca.gov                |
| Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney        | Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney         |                                     |
| 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor | 2100 Tulare Street                           |                                     |
| San Jose, CA 96113                    | Fresno, CA 93721                             |                                     |
| Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov    | consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov        |                                     |
| ropositionositotreesigesatifoseca.gov | postantier protection agricano county cargov |                                     |

## ELECTRONIC UPLOAD SERVICE LIST

Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550 https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice