

TOWN OF VERNON

Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

www.Vernon-CT.gov



Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator

Dawn R. Maselek
Assistant Town Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 4, 2020

Press Contacts:

Shaun Gately, Economic Development Director
(860) 870-3637

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE WELCOMES OCEAN STATE JOB LOT TO VERNON

Thanks company for donation of personal protective equipment to Vernon first responders

(VERNON, CT) – Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne celebrated the opening of the new Ocean State Job Lot store in Vernon on Thursday, September 3, 2020, and thanked the company for its donation of more than \$11,000 worth of personal protective equipment to Vernon’s first responders.

Ocean State Job Lot opened its store on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2020. It is the company’s 28th store in Connecticut and occupies a portion of the former Kmart store at 295 Hartford Turnpike.

“I am pleased to welcome Ocean State Job Lot to Vernon and appreciate its generous contribution of personal protective equipment to our police officers, volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel,” Mayor Champagne said. “It is also great to see Ocean State Job Lot become an anchor store in a very important shopping center here in Vernon. Customers who travel to the new store will very likely be drawn to the other top-notch businesses we have in Vernon.”



Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Ocean State Job Lot Store Leader Bill Polino cut a ceremonial ribbon to mark the opening of the store at 295 Hartford Turnpike. They were joined by several local officials.

Mayor Champagne and Ocean State Job Lot Store Leader Bill Polino cut a ceremonial ribbon to mark the store's opening.

Ocean State Job Lot's donation of personal protective equipment went to the Vernon Police Department and the Town of Vernon Fire Department.

"Each department received 1,600 KN-95 face masks, 3,000 surgical masks, 20 gallons of hand sanitizer, 15 infrared non-contact thermometers and 10 plastic face shields," Polino said. "Since the coronavirus pandemic emerged, the Ocean State Job Lot Foundation has contributed personal protective equipment to first responders in the communities where we have stores."



Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Vernon Community Policing Officer Mike Anthony load hand sanitizer into a police SUV.



Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Fire Marshal Dan Wasilewski, left, and Fire Chief Steve Eppler load face masks into a fire department vehicle.

"This is really a big help," Captain John Kelley of the Vernon Police Department said. "Every day our officers interact with residents and having additional personal protective equipment available will ensure our officers and the community we serve remain safe."

"As we learned when the coronavirus pandemic hit, you cannot have too much personal protective equipment," Fire Chief Steve Eppler said. "This donation will help keep our firefighters and ambulance personnel safe as they work to keep our community safe."

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and well-being of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in "New England's Knowledge Corridor" with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Recently designated as a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870-3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

###