

March 4th, 2009

Release of Information

CertifiChecks Goes Out of Business!

The Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce **unexpectedly** received notification Tuesday March 3rd that CertifiChecks, Inc., the company administering Chamber of Commerce gift certificate programs locally and nationally ceased operations citing woes of the national economy. (See Notification Letter Attached)

This means an unfortunate end to what has been a popular Chamber gift certificate program. It also means that effective immediately, the gift certificates showing our local Chamber name will no longer be recognized nor redeemed by CertifiChecks.

The Indiana Chamber Executives Association reported during a conference call Tuesday afternoon that CertifiChecks (the Dayton, Ohio based company) handled gift certificates for dozens of Chambers in Indiana and more than 350 Chambers of Commerce in the U.S. It is estimated that more than 60,000 businesses participated in the program.

Locally, our Chamber sold more than \$100,000 worth of gift certificates annually that could be used at approximately 100 participating Chamber member businesses. We have notified those businesses to discontinue accepting the gift certificates immediately.

In the cursory notice we received from CertifiChecks, gift certificate holders who had not yet used their certificates were directed to send unredeemed gift certificates to **CertifiChecks, Inc., Attn.: Redemption Dept., PO Box 13603, Dayton, Ohio 45413** for possible redemption of the certificates. Merchants and customers were also directed to the CertifiChecks website www.certifichecks.com for further instructions.

Businesses or individuals holding gift certificates obtained through the Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce may attempt to seek reimbursement directly from CertifiChecks per their instructions. However, businesses and individuals holding unredeemed gift certificates obtained from our Chamber may also bring the unredeemed gift certificates to the local Chamber office. We will give you a receipt for your certificate or make a copy of your certificate for our records and we will aggressively seek reimbursement on your behalf.

We must point out that although the local Chamber name appears on all certificates, your local Chamber never handled nor held the sale proceeds from the sale of these certificates in any manner, and any monies even collected locally were sent on to CertifiChecks. Because it did become a part of our local benefits package, however, it is the intent of the Chamber to assist in every way possible our members and/or local residents to pursue every possible remedy in getting their certificates redeemed.

Whether businesses and individuals seek reimbursement directly from CertifiChecks or through our Chamber, everyone is encouraged to let us know the number and amount of unredeemed gift certificates in their possession.

Businesses and individuals may do so in person at 33 South 7th Street, by calling 962-1511, or by registering the information on our website @ www.rwchamber.org.

We hope to determine, as accurately as possible, the total amount of potentially unredeemable CertifiChecks in circulation as a result of purchases from our Chamber and/or purchases direct from CertifiChecks on-line or via their 800 number.

This information will be helpful in the event legal action is necessary.

As we assist our local businesses and consumers seek reimbursement, we will also seek reimbursement of unsold gift certificates we purchased and have in stock which now represents a direct loss to the Chamber.

In addition to our individual efforts, we are in communication with Chamber colleagues around the state and country to monitor best responses to this matter. We are also exploring combined efforts through our state and national associations.

We deeply regret the inconvenience CertifiChecks sudden announcement and unexpected closure may cause our businesses and consumers. We will do all we can do to protect our membership and to rectify the local situation to the best of our ability.

Dennis Andrews
Chamber President and CEO

489-6200

Rec'd:
3/3/2009

February 27, 2009

Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce
33 S 7th St Ste 2
Richmond, Indiana 47374-5462

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Dear Merchant/Partner,

Due to an extremely difficult economic environment, CertifiChecks, Inc., has ceased operations, effective immediately. CertifiChecks will no longer administer your gift certificate program. Gift certificate sales have been halted.

Do not deposit CertifiChecks gift certificates in the bank as they will be returned.

Please instruct your merchants to stop accepting gift certificates and to remove all door and register decals. Please direct any merchants or customers to our website for further instructions: www.certifichcks.com

If you have CertifiChecks gift certificates for which payment has been made, please send them in for potential reimbursement. The redemption address is listed below.

CertifiChecks, Inc.
Attn: Redemption Dept.
PO Box 13603
Dayton, Ohio 45413