STATE OF NEW JERSEY STATE ETHICS COMMISSION Post Office Box 082 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0082 (609) 292-1892

> STATE OF NEW JERSEY STATE ETHICS COMMISSION COMMISSION CASE NO. 44-16

IN THE MATTER OF VIKTORIYA USACHENOK, FORMER PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST 1, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY **Administrative Action**

CONSENT ORDER

WHEREAS, the State Ethics Commission ("Commission") is authorized to initiate, receive, investigate, review and hear complaints regarding violations of the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law, *N.J.S.A.* 52:13D-12 *et seq.* ("Conflicts Law"), applicable rules of the Commission, *N.J.A.C.* 19:61-1.1 *et seq.*, the Uniform Ethics Code, and any agency code of ethics, by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee; and

WHEREAS, this matter was brought before the Commission by a complaint filed with the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Commission conducted an investigation of all matters and issues raised by the complaint; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the investigation, the Commission and Viktoriya Usachenok ("Usachenok") desire to enter into a final and complete resolution of all matters and issues raised thereby;

IT IS THEREFORE agreed by the parties as follows:

- Usachenok was employed as Procurement Specialist 1, Department of the Treasury ("Treasury"), Division of Purchase and Property ("DPP") from August 2014 through June 2016.
- 2. As Procurement Specialist at DPP, Usachenok was involved in managing State contracting processes, including Requests for Quotes (RFQs), Requests for Proposal (RFPs), and responses to RFQs and RFPs submitted by third parties.
- 3. On January 29, 2015, Usachenok received an email attaching seven (7) responses to an RFQ issued by DPP.
- 4. On February 9, 2015, Usachenok forwarded the January 29, 2015 email, including the RFQ responses, to her husband. According to Usachenok, her husband, a municipal attorney, was considering doing consulting work, and she thought it would be helpful for him in preparing his résumé to see the structure and formatting of the consultant résumés contained in the RFQ responses.
- 5. At the time Usachenok forwarded the RFQ responses to her husband, the responses contained information that was not readily available to the public, such as pricing, strategy, business tax identification numbers, résumés and home addresses. As such, the RFQ responses contained confidential information.
- 6. It is the Commission's position that Usachenok's disclosure of confidential information to her husband to assist him with a personal matter violated sections 23(e)(3), 23(e)(7) and 25 of the Conflicts of Interest Law.
- 7. It is Usachenok's position that her husband had no intention to participate in any State contracting work and that the email was not sent to her husband with any intent to disclose confidential information or to gain any financial advantage. Usachenok emphasizes that this

inadvertent disclosure of confidential information was an isolated event. Usachenok acknowledges, however, that forwarding the confidential information to her husband violated sections 23(e)(3), 23(e)(7) and 25 of the Conflicts of Interest Law.

- 8. In consideration of the above, Usachenok agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$200.00, which shall be due within thirty (30) days of the date on which this Consent Order is fully executed;
- 9. The parties agree to enter into this Consent Order in settlement of all matters and issues arising from the State Ethics Commission's Complaint against Usachenok. Nothing contained herein shall prejudice Usachenok from any other claims or damages as it relates to any other matter.

Viktoriya Usachenok

Dated:

State Ethics Commission

y: Andrew S. Berns, Chair

State Ethics Commission

By: Susana E. Guerrero, Executive Director

Dated: 2/15/17

Dated: 12/27/2016