Notice To Vendors: Receipt of Gifts and Event Attendance

As the holiday season approaches, it is important to remind our many valued vendors about the State Uniform Ethics Code and NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission's ("NJ-CRC") Supplemental Ethics Code provisions that prohibit State officers and employees or special State officers and employees from accepting any gift, favor, service or other thing of value related in any way to their public duties. The State has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for the acceptance of gifts. In other words, Commission members, employees, and special State employees may not accept anything, including inexpensive items, from anyone in the course of their public duties. In addition, State rules prohibit vendors from offering gifts to State officers and employees or special State officers and employees. While we certainly value the relationships that we have established with our vendors, please understand, as public agencies, we simply cannot accept any gifts.

Accordingly, any gift offered to or received by a Commission member, employee, and special State employee, or a gift offered to or received by his/her spouse, immediate family member, partner or associate, must be immediately reported by the member, employee, or special State employee and remitted to the agency's Ethics Liaison Officer, Arundhati Mohankumar. These gifts will be returned to the giver or donated to an approved charitable organization if the item is perishable or if the return is not practical.

Ethics rules also prohibit Commission members, employees, and special State employees from accepting invitations to attend purely social events or functions, including holiday parties, sponsored by interested parties. Attendance at such events usually creates an ethics appearance issue and may not be appropriate.

The State Ethics Commission rules define an "Interested Party" as:

1. Any person, or employee, representative or agent thereof, who is or may reasonably be anticipated to be subject to the regulatory, licensing or supervisory authority of the State official's agency;
2. Any supplier, or employee, representative or agent thereof;
3. Any organization that advocates or represents the positions of its members to the State official's agency; or
4. Any organization a majority of whose members are as described in paragraphs 1 through 3 above.

We ask that all vendors please respect these rules and refrain from sending any gifts or inviting Commission members, employees, and special State employees to purely social functions.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. We wish you a happy holiday season.