BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

WALGREENS #04517,
Original Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 53062; and

WALGREENS #02445,
Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit No. NRP 1949; and

WALGREENS #21147,
Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit No. NRP 2073,

Respondents

Agency Case No. 6906

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby adopted by the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2021.

It is so ORDERED on June 28, 2021.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By

Seung W. Oh, Pharm.D. Board President

1	MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ		
2	Acting Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 196360 1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550		
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5			
6	Telephone: (510) 879-0818 Facsimile: (510) 622-2270		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE		
9	BOARD OF PHARMACY		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6906	
13	WALGREENS #04517	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC	
14	2600 Mowry Ave. Fremont, CA 94538	REPROVAL	
15 16	Original Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 53062,	[Bus. & Prof. Code § 495]	
17	WALGREENS #02445		
18	8337 S. Park Circle Orlando, FL 32819		
19	Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit No. NRP 1949,		
20	and		
21	WALGREENS #21147		
22	2225 S. Price Road Chandler, AZ 85286		
23	Non-Resident Pharmacy		
24	Permit No. NRP 2073		
25	Respondents.		
26	IT IS HEDEDY STIDLIL ATED AND A CREED by and between the most of the street		
27	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above- entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
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PARTIES

- 1. Anne Sodergren (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmacy (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Aspasia A. Papavassiliou, Deputy Attorney General.
- 2. Respondent Walgreens #04517, Respondent Walgreens #02445, and Respondent Walgreens #21147 are represented in this proceeding by attorney Sweta H. Patel, whose address is: Klein, Hockel, Iezza & Patel, P.C., 1981 North Broadway, Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-3877.

JURISDICTION

- 3. On or about December 31, 2014, the Board of Pharmacy issued Original Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 53062 to Walgreens #04517 (Respondent Walgreens #04517). The Original Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 6906 and will expire on December 1, 2021, unless renewed.
- 4. On or about March 13, 2017, the Board of Pharmacy issued Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit Number NRP 1949 to Walgreens #02445 (Respondent Walgreens #02445). The Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought Accusation No. 6906 and will expire on March 1, 2022, unless renewed.
- 5. On or about December 21, 2017, the Board of Pharmacy issued Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit Number NRP 2073 to Walgreens #21147 (Respondent Walgreens #21147). The Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 6906 will expire on December 1, 2021, unless renewed.
- 6. Accusation No. 6906 was filed before the Board of Pharmacy (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs and is currently pending against Respondents. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondents on August 4, 2020.

Respondents timely filed their Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 6906 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 7. Respondents have carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understand the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 6906. Respondents have also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understand the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval.
- 8. Respondents are fully aware of their legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at their own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against them; the right to present evidence and to testify on their own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 9. Respondents voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waive and give up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 10. Respondents understand and agree that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 6906, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon their Original Permit and Non-Resident Pharmacy Permits.
- 11. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondents agree that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondents hereby give up their right to contest those charges.
- 12. Respondents agree that their Original Permit and Non-Resident Pharmacy Permits are subject to discipline and they agree to be bound by the Disciplinary Order below.
- 13. If, however, a subsequent Accusation is filed against any of the Respondents alleging similar violations as alleged in Accusation No. 6906, then the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 6906 shall be deemed to be true and correct regarding the Respondent(s).

RESERVATION

14. The admissions made by Respondents in this stipulation are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Board or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

- 15. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Board of Pharmacy. Respondents understand and agree that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Pharmacy may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondents or their counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondents understand and agree that they may not withdraw their agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 16. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 17. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is intended by the parties to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final, and exclusive embodiment of their agreement. It supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, discussions, negotiations, and commitments (written or oral). This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval may not be altered, amended, modified, supplemented, or otherwise changed except by a writing executed by an authorized representative of each of the parties.
- 18. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

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DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Original Permit No. PHY 53062 issued to Respondent Walgreens #04517, Non-Residency Pharmacy Permit No. 1949 issued to Respondent Walgreens #02445, and Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit No. 2073 issued to Respondent Walgreens #21147, shall be publicly reproved by the Board of Pharmacy under Business and Professions Code section 495 in resolution of Accusation No. 6906, attached as exhibit A.

Cost Recovery. Respondents shall pay, jointly and severally, a total of \$6,928.75 to the Board for its costs associated with the investigation and enforcement of this matter. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board. If Respondent fails to pay the Board costs as ordered, Respondent shall not be allowed to renew their Original Permit and Non-Resident Pharmacy Permits until Respondent pays costs in full.

Full Compliance. As a resolution of the charges in Accusation No. 6906, this stipulated settlement is contingent upon Respondent's full compliance with all conditions of this Order. If Respondent fails to satisfy any of these conditions, such failure to comply constitutes cause for discipline, including outright revocation, of Original Permit No. PHY 53062 issued to Respondent Walgreens #04517, Non-Residency Pharmacy Permit No. 1949 issued to Respondent Walgreens #02445, and Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit No. 2073 issued to Respondent Walgreens #21147.

ACCEPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval and have fully discussed it with attorney Sweta H. Patel. I am authorized to sign for Respondents Walgreens #04517, Walgreens #02445, and Walgreens # 21147 and I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on their Original Permit and Non-Resident Pharmacy Permits. On behalf of the Respondents, I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary ///

1	Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the		
2	Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.		
3			
4	DATED: 3/24/2021		
5	Rina Shah, Pharm.D., as Vice President, Pharmacy Operations, for:		
6	WALGREENS #04517 WALGREENS #02445		
7	WALGREENS #21147 Respondents		
8	respondents		
9	I have read and fully discussed with an authorized representative of Respondent Walgreens		
10	#04517, Respondent Walgreens #02445, and Respondent Walgreens #21147, the terms and		
11	conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order		
12	for Public Reproval. I approve its form and content.		
13			
14	DATED: March 25, 2021 SWETA H. PATEL		
15	Attorney for Respondents		
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17	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
18	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby		
19	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of		
20	Consumer Affairs.		
21	DATED: March 26, 2021 Respectfully submitted,		
22	XAVIER BECERRA		
23	Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF		
24	Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
25	Arretono		
26	ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU		
27	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant		
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 6906

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California DIANN SOKOLOFF Supervising Deputy Attorney General ASPASIA A. PAPAVASSILIOU Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 196360 1515 Clay Street, 20th Floor P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550 Telephone: (510) 879-0818 Facsimile: (510) 622-2270 E-mail: Aspasia.Papavassiliou@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
11	STATE OF C.	
12	In the Metter of the Acquestion Assincts	Com No. 6006
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6906
14	WALGREENS #04517 2600 Mowry Ave.	A CONTRACTOR
15	Fremont, CA 94538	ACCUSATION
16	Original Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 53062,	
17 18	WALGREENS #02445 8337 S. Park Circle Orlando, FL 32819	
19	Non-Resident Pharmacy	
20	Permit No. NRP 1949,	
21	and	
22	WALGREENS #21147 2225 S. Price Road	
23	Chandler, AZ 85286	
24	Non-Resident Pharmacy Permit No. NRP 2073	
25	Respondents.	
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(WALGREENS #04517, WALGREENS #02445, and WALGREENS #21147) ACCUSATION

1	its discretion may deem proper.	
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2	(e) The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with	
3 4	Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code, and the board shall have all the powers granted therein. The action shall be final, except that the propriety of the action is subject to review by the	
5	superior court pursuant to Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure.	
6	7. Section 4300.1 of the Code states:	
	The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license	
7 8	by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, the placement of a license on a retired status, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licensee shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to commence or proceed with any investigation of, or action or disciplinary proceeding against, the licensee or to render a decision suspending or revoking the license.	
9		
10	STATUTORY PROVISIONS	
11	8. Section 4301 of the Code states, in pertinent part:	
12	The board shall take action against any holder of a license who is guilty of	
13	unprofessional conduct or whose license has been issued by mistake. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:	
14		
15	(d) The clearly excessive furnishing of controlled substances in violation of subdivision (a) of Section 11153 of the Health and Safety Code.	
16		
17		
18	(o) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of or conspiring to violate any provision or term of this chapter	
19	or of the applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing pharmacy, including regulations established by the board or by any other state or federal regulatory agency.	
20	regulatory agency.	
21	9. Section 11153 of the Health and Safety Code states, in pertinent part:	
22	(a) A prescription for a controlled substance shall only be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of	
23	his or her professional practice. The responsibility for the proper prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances is upon the prescribing practitioner, but a	
24	corresponding responsibility rests with the pharmacist who fills the prescription. Except as authorized by this division, the following are not legal prescriptions: (1) an	
25	order purporting to be a prescription which is issued not in the usual course of professional treatment or in legitimate and authorized research	
26	professional treatment of in legitimate and authorized research	
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On or about November 22, 2017, Respondents dispensed 30 tablets of 10 mg

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 16. Respondents Walgreens #02445 and #21147 contributed to the improper dispensing of the prescriptions by having a multi-step verification process where multiple pharmacists were involved in the dispensing of one controlled substance prescription. Moreover, the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) pharmacists at Walgreens #02445 and #21147 were not licensed in California, and thus did not have access to CURES, but Walgreens #02445 and #2117 required those pharmacists to participate in the verification process of controlled substances, even though the pharmacists were unable to determine whether patients were doctor or pharmacy shopping or obtaining early fills of their controlled substances at pharmacies other than Walgreens.

FIRST CAUSE FOR CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Clearly Excessive Furnishing of Controlled Substances)

17. Respondents Walgreens #04517, Walgreens #02445, and Walgreens #21147, are subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 4301, subdivision (d), due to excessive furnishing of controlled substances in violation of Health and Safety Code section 11153. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 14-16, above.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct: Violation of Regulation--Erroneous or Uncertain Prescriptions)

18. Respondents Walgreens #04517, Walgreens #02445, and Walgreens #21147, are subject to disciplinary action for unprofessional conduct under Code section 4301, subdivision (o), due to violation of a Board regulation. Specifically, Respondents violated California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1761, in that they dispensed erroneous or uncertain prescriptions. The circumstances are set forth in paragraphs 14-16, above.

DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- 19. As disciplinary considerations, Respondent further alleges that Walgreens #04517 has been the subject of a Board citation and a public reproval, as described below.
- A. On or about July 16, 2018, the Board issued Citation No. CI 2017 77833, now final, to Respondent Walgreens #04517 for variation from a prescription in violation of California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1716. This citation did not impose a fine, but the same