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

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

COMMUNITY PHARMACY; BHARGAV PATEL, Owner and Shareholder; RICKY PATEL, Owner and Shareholder,

Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45573,

and

ANITA BHARGAV PATEL,

Pharmacist License No. RPH 36851,

Respondents

Agency Case No. 6762

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Proposed Decision of the Administrative Law Judge 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 August 26, 2020.

It is so ORDERED on July 27, 2020.

BOARD OF PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ay n Lippe

By

Greg Lippe Board President

1	XAVIER BECERRA		
2	Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ELAINE YAN		
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 277961		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6683 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126		
7	E-mail: Elaine.Yan@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant		
8			
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF PHARMACY		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11			
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6762	
13	COMMUNITY PHARMACY; BHARGAV	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
14	PATEL, Owner and Shareholder; RICKY PATEL, Owner and Shareholder	DISCIPLINARY ORDER FOR PUBLIC REPROVAL	
15	10401 Lakewood Blvd. Downey, CA 90241	[Bus. & Prof. Code § 495]	
16	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45573,		
17	and		
18	ANITA BHARGAV PATEL		
19	6481 E. Camino Grande Anaheim Hills, CA 92807		
20	Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 36851		
21	Respondents.		
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23		EED by and between the parties to the above-	
24	entitled proceedings that the following matters are	e true:	
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PARTIES

- 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 Elaine Yan, Deputy Attorney General.
- 2. Respondent Community Pharmacy (Respondent Pharmacy) and Respondent Anita Patel (Respondent Patel) are represented in this proceeding by attorney Tony Park, whose address is: 55 Cetus, 1st Floor, Irvine, CA 92618.

JURISDICTION

- 3. On or about October 30, 2001, the Board issued Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45573 to Respondent Pharmacy. The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 6762 and will expire on October 1, 2020, unless renewed.
- 4. On or about February 2, 1982, the Board issued Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 36851 to Respondent Patel. The Registered Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in First Amended Accusation No. 6762 and will expire on January 31, 2022, unless renewed.
- 5. First Amended Accusation No. 6762 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondents. The First Amended Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on February 10, 2020. Respondents timely filed their Notices of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 6762 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

6. Respondents have carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understand the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 6762. Respondents have also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understand the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval.

- 7. Respondents are fully aware of their legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended 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.
- 8. Respondents voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waive and give up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent Pharmacy and Respondent Patel understand and agree that the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 6762, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon their Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45573 and Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 36851, respectively.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the First Amended 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 First Amended Accusation, and that Respondents hereby give up their right to contest those charges.
- 11. Respondent Pharmacy agrees that its Pharmacy Permit is subject to discipline and it agrees to be bound by the Disciplinary Order below.
- 12. Respondent Patel agrees that her Registered Pharmacist License is subject to discipline and she agrees to be bound by the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

13. 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

IT IS ALSO HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 36851 issued to Respondent Anita Patel (Respondent Patel) shall be publicly reproved by the Board of Pharmacy under Business and Professions Code section 495 in resolution of First Amended Accusation No. 6762, attached as exhibit A.

Remedial Education. No later than twelve months from the effective date of the public reproval, Respondent Patel, at her own expense, shall enroll, successfully complete and submit verification of ten hours of live webinar or in person continuing education training on the role of the pharmacist-in-charge, inventory control, and physical operations. Respondent Patel shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent Patel shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above-required course(s). If Respondent Patel fails to comply with this term, Respondent Patel shall not be allowed to renew her Registered Pharmacist License. Failure to comply with this term shall constitute cause for discipline and will result in further action by the Board.

Cost Recovery. Respondent Pharmacy and Respondent Patel shall pay a total of \$6,500.00 to the Board for its costs associated with the investigation and enforcement of this matter. Respondents shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board. If Respondents fail to pay the Board costs as ordered, Respondents shall not be allowed to renew their Pharmacy Permit and Registered Pharmacist License until Respondents pay costs in full.

Full Compliance. As a resolution of the charges in First Amended Accusation No. 6762, this stipulated settlement is contingent upon Respondents' full compliance with all conditions of this Order. If Respondents fail to satisfy any of these conditions, such failure to comply constitutes cause for discipline, including outright revocation, of Respondent Pharmacy's Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45573 and Respondent Patel's Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 36851.

Record of Discipline. This Decision and Order constitutes a record of discipline and shall become a part of Respondents' license history with the Board.

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1	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>	
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public	
3	Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tony J. Park. I understand the stipulation	
4	and the effect it will have on my Pharmacy Permit. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and	
5	Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be	
6	bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.	
7		
8	DATED:	
9	BHARGAV PATEL, Owner and Shareholder On behalf of COMMUNITY PHARMACY Respondent	
10	·	
11	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public	
12	Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tony J. Park. I understand the stipulation	
13	and the effect it will have on my Registered Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated	
14	Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently,	
15	and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.	
16		
17	DATED:	
18	ANITA PATEL Respondent	
19	•	
20	I have read and fully discussed with Respondents the terms and conditions and other	
21	matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval.	
22	I approve its form and content.	
23	DATED:	
24	TONY J. PARK Attorney for Respondent	
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	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>	
	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public	
	Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tony J. Park. I understand the stipulation	
	and the effect it will have on my Pharmacy Permit. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and	
:	Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be	
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8		
9	On behalf of COMMUNITY PHARMACY	
10	Respondent	
11	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public	
12	12 Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tony J. Park. I understand the stipulation	
13	and the effect it will have on my Registered Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated	
14	Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently,	
15	and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.	
16		
17	DATED: 06/18/2020 Anita Bharfar Pater	
18	ANITA PATEL Respondent	
19	respondent	
20	I have read and fully discussed with Respondents the terms and conditions and other	
21		1
22	matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reprov	al
- 1	I approve its form and content.	
23	DATED: TONY J. PARK	
24	Attorney for Respondent	
25	///	
26	///	
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1	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>	
2	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public	
3	Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tony J. Park. I understand the stipulation	
4	and the effect it will have on my Pharmacy Permit. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and	
5	Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be	
6	bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.	
7		
8	DATED:	
9	BHARGAV PATEL, Owner and Shareholder On behalf of COMMUNITY PHARMACY	
10	Respondent	
11	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public	
12	Reproval and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Tony J. Park. I understand the stipulation	
13	and the effect it will have on my Registered Pharmacist License. I enter into this Stipulated	
14	Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently,	
15	and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Pharmacy.	
16		
17	DATED:	
18	ANITA PATEL Respondent	
19		
20	I have read and fully discussed with Respondents the terms and conditions and other	
21	matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval	
22	I approve its form and content.	
23	DATED: 06/18/2020 Inc. Tark	
24	TONY J. PARK Attorney for Respondent	
25	///	
26	///	
27	///	
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1	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>	
2	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby	
3	respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of	
4	Consumer Affairs.	
5	DATED: Respectfully submitted,	
6	DATED: Respectfully submitted, XAVIER BECERRA	
7	AAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK	
8	Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
9		
10	ELAINE YAN	
11	Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant	
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ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for Public Reproval is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Consumer Affairs. DATED: <u>June 18, 2020</u> Respectfully submitted, XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California SHAWN V. COOV. Survivising Deputy Attorney General ELAINE YAN Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant LA2019502803 63342837.docx

Exhibit A

First Amended Accusation No. 6762

1 2	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California SHAWN P. COOK	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General ELAINE YAN	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 277961	
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013	
6	Telephone: (213) 269-6683 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126	
7	E-mail: Elaine. Yan@doj.ca.gov Attorneys for Complainant	
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9	BEFOR BOARD OF F	
10	DEPARTMENT OF CO STATE OF C	ONSUMER AFFAIRS
11		
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 6762
13	COMMUNITY PHARMACY; BHARGAV	- C. 1. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0. 0.
14	PATEL, Owner and Shareholder; RICKY PATEL, Owner and Shareholder	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION
15	10401 Lakewood Blvd. Downey, CA 90241	
16	Pharmacy Permit No. PHY 45573,	
17	and	
18	ANITA BHARGAV PATEL	
19	6481 E. Camino Grande Anaheim Hills, CA 92807	
20	Registered Pharmacist License No. RPH 36851	
21	Respondents.	
22	D. D.	
23	PART	
24		s this Accusation solely in her official capacity
25	as the Executive Officer of the Board of Pharmac	•
26		ard of Pharmacy (Board) issued Pharmacy
27	Permit Number PHY 45573 to Community Pharm	
28	Bhargav Patel, Owner and Shareholder; Ricky Pa	tel, Owner and Shareholder (Respondent
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Pharmacy). The Pharmacy Permit was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on October 1, 2019, unless renewed.

3. On or about February 2, 1982, the Board of Pharmacy issued Registered Pharmacist License Number RPH 36851 to Anita Bhargav Patel (Respondent Patel). The Registered Pharmacist License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on January 31, 2020, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.
- 5. Section 118, subdivision (b), of the Code provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender, or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.
- 6. Section 4300.1 of the Code states, "The expiration, cancellation, forfeiture, or suspension of a board-issued license 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."
 - 7. Section 4307, subsection (a), of the Code states:

"Any person who has been denied a license or whose license has been revoked or is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a manager, administrator, owner member, officer, director, associate, or partner of any partnership, corporation, firm, or association whose application for a license has been denied or revoked, is under suspension or has been placed on probation, and while acting as the manger, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner had knowledge or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the license was denied, revoked, suspended, or

- (b) Each pharmacy licensed by the board shall maintain its facilities, space, fixtures, and equipment so that drugs are safely and properly prepared, maintained, secured and distributed. The pharmacy shall be of sufficient size and unobstructed area to accommodate the safe practice of pharmacy.
- (c) The pharmacy and fixtures and equipment shall be maintained in a clean and orderly condition. The pharmacy shall be dry, well-ventilated, free from rodents and insects, and properly lighted. The pharmacy shall be equipped with a sink with hot and cold running water for pharmaceutical purposes."
 - 12. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1715, states,
- "(a) The pharmacist-in-charge of each pharmacy as defined under section 4029 or section 4037 of the Business and Professions Code shall complete a self-assessment of the pharmacy's compliance with federal and state pharmacy law. The assessment shall be performed before July 1 of every odd-numbered year. The primary purpose of the self-assessment is to promote compliance through self-examination and education.
- (b) In addition to the self-assessment required in subdivision (a) of this section, the pharmacist-in-charge shall complete a self-assessment within 30 days whenever:
 - (1) A new pharmacy permit has been issued, or
- (2) There is a change in the pharmacist-in-charge, and he or she becomes the new pharmacist-in-charge of a pharmacy.
 - (3) There is a change in the licensed location of a pharmacy to a new address.
- (c) The components of this assessment shall be on Form 17M-13 (Rev. 10/14) entitled "Community Pharmacy Self-Assessment Hospital Outpatient Pharmacy Self-Assessment" and on Form 17M-14 (Rev. 10/14) entitled "Hospital Pharmacy Self-Assessment" which are hereby incorporated by reference to evaluate compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.
- (d) Each self-assessment shall be kept on file in the pharmacy for three years after it is performed."

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FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct – Failure to Comply with Pharmacy Law)

19. Respondent Pharmacy and Respondent Patel are subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301, subsection (o), in that Respondents violated California Health and Safety Code section 111295 by holding and storing 280 containers of expired medications on the medication storage shelves. Paragraphs 16 to 18 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Unprofessional Conduct – Failure to Comply with Regulations)

- 20. Respondent Pharmacy and Respondent Patel are subject to disciplinary action under Section 4301, subsection (o), in that Respondents failed to comply with the following sections of the California Code of Regulations, title 16:
- a. <u>Section 1715, subsection (a)</u>: Respondent Patel failed, and Respondent Pharmacy allowed her to fail, to complete a self-assessment in 2017.
- b. <u>Section 1714, subsections (b) and (c)</u>: Respondents failed to maintain its facilities, space, fixtures, and equipment in a clean and orderly condition so that drugs are safely and properly prepared, maintained, secured, and distributed. Respondent Pharmacy's shelves were dusty, and the toilet bowl in the bathroom was not clean.

Paragraphs 16 to 19 are re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.

OTHER MATTERS

- 21. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45573 issued to Community Pharmacy, Community Pharmacy shall be prohibited from serving as a manager, administrator, owner, member, officer, director, associate, or partner of a licensee for five years if Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45573 is placed on probation or until Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45573 is reinstated if it is revoked.
- 22. Pursuant to Code section 4307, if discipline is imposed on Pharmacy Permit Number PHY 45573 issued to Community Pharmacy while Bhargav C. Patel and/or Ricky Patel have been an officer and owner and had knowledge of or knowingly participated in any conduct for which the licensee was disciplined, Bhargav C. Patel and Ricky Patel shall be prohibited from serving as

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1	6.	Taking such other and fu	arther action as deemed necessary and proper.
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3		February 4, 2020	anne Sodergran
4	DATED:	1, 2020	ANNE SODERGREN
5			Executive Officer Board of Pharmacy
6 7			Board of Pharmacy Department of Consumer Affairs State of California Complainant
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