CITY ATTORNEY DENNIS J. HERRERA CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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In the matter of:

corporation

ALAN VARELA, an individual,

WILLIAM GILMARTIN III, an

MANAGEMENT INC., a California

individual, and PROVEN

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ORDER OF SUSPENSION BY THE CITY ATTORNEY UNDER SAN FRANCISCO

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 28

Dennis J. Herrera, City Attorney of the City and County of San Francisco ("San Francisco" or "City"), issues this **Order of Suspension** to Alan Varela, William Gilmartin, III, and ProVen Management Inc.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") filed charges against Alan Varela and William Gilmartin III, on September 17, 2020, in a federal criminal complaint ("Criminal Complaint") alleging a violation of 18 U.S.C. 666(a)(2), bribery of a local official, a felony. (Exhibit 1.) The Criminal Complaint was supported by the sworn affidavit of James A. Folger, Special Agent, FBI ("Federal Affidavit"). (Id.) The Federal Affidavit contains the following statement in support of a criminal complaint against Alan Varela and William Gilmartin:

> On or about February 18, 2019, in the Northern District of California, Alan VARELA and William GILMARTIN, aided and abetted each other, did corruptly give, offer, and agree to give a thing of value to [Mohammed Nurul, namely a tractor worth approximately \$40,000, intending to influence and reward NURU in connection with a transaction and series of transactions of the City and County of San Francisco involving \$5,000 or more.

(Federal Affidavit at ¶ 11.)

Alan Varela founded ProVen Management Inc. in 1991, and was the President at the time of the filing of the Criminal Complaint. (Id. ¶ 18.) William Gilmartin was the Vice President of ProVen Management Inc. at the time of the filing of the Criminal Complaint. (Id.) "ProVen has received a number of public contracts from the City and County of San Francisco." (Id.)

City Attorney Dennis J. Herrera is an authorized Charging Official who can issue this Order of Suspension on Alan Varela, William Gilmartin III, and ProVen Management, Inc. (San Francisco Administrative Code §§ 28.1, 28.2.)

A Suspension is the ineligibility of a contractor to participate in the procurement process for contracts or from entering into contracts or grants at any tier, directly or indirectly, with or for San Francisco. (San Francisco Administrative Code §§ 28.1, 28.11(c).)

Until this Order of Suspension is lifted, amended, or terminated, Alan Varela, William Gilmartin III, and ProVen Management Inc. are Suspended.

Factual Background

Parties to be Suspended

Alan Varela is an individual who at all times relevant to this Order of Suspension was the owner, responsible managing corporate officer, or responsible managing employee of a California corporation that held contracts (directly or indirectly) with San Francisco.

William Gilmartin III is an individual who at all times relevant to this Order of Suspension was the owner, responsible managing corporate officer, or responsible managing employee of a California corporation that held contracts (directly or indirectly) with San Francisco.

ProVen Management Inc. is California corporation number C1940071. It registered with the California Secretary of State on May 19, 1995. Alan Varela was the incorporator.

(Exhibit 2.) From registration through at least the date of the filing of the Federal Complaint, Alan Varela was the Chief Executive Officer, the Secretary, the Chief Financial Officer, a Director, and the Agent for Service of Process for ProVen Management Inc. (*Id.* at 2.) From registration through at least the date of the filing of the Federal Complaint, William Gilmartin a Director of ProVen Management Inc. (*Id.* at 3.) ProVen Management Inc. was a San Francisco vendor who participated in the procurement process and obtained, direct or indirect, contracts with San Francisco. (Federal Affidavit ¶ 18.)

The Criminal Complaint

On September 17, 2020 the Criminal Complaint in the matter of *United States of America v. Alan Varela and William Gilmartin III*, United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Case No. 3:20-mj71327 was filed. (Exhibit 1.) It was approved by an Assistant United States Attorney, charging the offense of 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2) – Bribery of Local Official, a felony. (*Id.*)

Alan Varela founded ProVen Management ("ProVen") in 1991, a Bay Area civil engineering and construction firm that specializes in large-scale infrastructure projects. [Alan Varela] is the President of ProVen and [William Gilmartin] is the Vice President. [Alan Varela and William Gilmartin] also share ownership in several construction-related businesses. ProVen has received a number of public contracts from the City and County of San Francisco.

(*Id.* at ¶ 18.)

FBI agents intercepted and/or reviewed multiple communications regarding a scheme to win contracts through San Francisco Department of Public Works to operate an asphalt plant on land owned by the Port of San Francisco – an effort that which lasted years and was still ongoing until Mohammed Nuru's arrest in January 2020. (*Id.* ¶ 20.) The scheme involved obtaining the contract for ProVen Management Inc. (*Id.* ¶¶ 28, 69, 79.) William Gilmartin paid for extravagant dinners for Nuru and appears to have subsidized material for Nuru's ranch. (*Id.* ¶¶ 21, 29, 97, 98, 105, 108.) On or about February 19, 2019, as part of the bribery scheme, Alan Varela and William Gilmartin arranged to purchase and deliver to Nuru a tractor and attachments valued at approximately \$40,000. (*Id.* ¶¶ 22, 112, 115, 119.)

Legal Basis for Suspension

San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 28 sets forth the grounds and procedures for administrative Suspension. (**Exhibit 3**.)

Suspension is defined as the "Ineligibility of a Contractor that is the subject of an arrest, indictment, or other criminal civil charge by a governmental entity (federal, state, or local), as specified in greater detail in Section 28.3(b) from participating in the procurement process for contracts or from entering into contracts directly or indirectly with, applying for or receiving grants from, the City." (San Francisco Administrative Code § 28.1.)

Contractor is defined as

Any individual person, business entity, or organization that submits a qualification statement, proposal, bid, or grant request, or that contracts directly or indirectly with the City for the purpose of providing any goods or services or construction work to or for, or applies for or receives a grant from, the City including without limitation any Contractor, subcontractor, consultant, subconsultant or supplier at any tier, or grantee. The term "Contractor" shall include any responsible managing corporate officer, or responsible managing employee, or other owner or officer of a Contractor who has personal involvement and/or responsibility in seeking or obtaining a contract with the City or in supervising and/or performing the work prescribed by the contract or grant."

(*Id.*) Here, Alan Varela founded ProVen Management Inc. in 1991, and was the President at the time of the filing of the Criminal Complaint. (*Id.* ¶ 18.) William Gilmartin was the Vice President of ProVen Management Inc. at the time of the filing of the Criminal Complaint. (*Id.*) "ProVen has received a number of public contracts from the City and County of San Francisco." (*Id.*)

Alan Varela and William Gilmartin's criminal charge for 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2) qualifies as a basis for a suspension of ProVen Management Inc., Alan Varela, and William Gilmartin III.

Any Charging Official may issue an Order of Suspension to a Contractor on the basis that the Contractor has been arrested or indicted, or become the subject of a criminal, civil or administrative complaint issued by a government entity, where the arrest or indictment, criminal, civil, or administrative complaint alleges that the Contractor has violated a civil or criminal law or regulation against any government entity relevant to the Contractor's ability or capacity honestly to perform under or comply with the terms and conditions of a City contract or grant including, but not limited to, the grounds for Debarment set forth in Section 28.3(a).

(San Francisco Administrative Code § 28.3(b).) The charge is a criminal complaint by the Federal Government relevant to Alan Varela and William Gilmartin and their company's ability or capacity honestly to perform under a City contract, and if the charges are true, would provide grounds for Debarment.

The Administrative Code provides in pertinent part that a contractor shall be debarred upon a finding of:

any willful misconduct with respect to any City bid, request for qualifications, request for proposals, grant request, purchase order and/or contract or grant award. Such willful misconduct may include, but need not be limited to the following: (1) submission of false information in response to an advertisement or invitation for bids or quotes, a request for qualifications or a request for proposals; (2) failure to comply with the

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terms of a contract or with provisions of the Municipal Code; (3) a pattern and practice of disregarding or repudiating terms or conditions of City contracts, including without limitation repeated unexcused delays and poor performance; (4) failure to abide by any rules and/or regulations adopted pursuant to the San Francisco Municipal Code; (5) submission of false claims as defined in this Administrative Code, Chapter 6, Article V, or Chapter 21, Section 21.35, or other applicable federal, state, or municipal false claims laws; (6) a verdict, judgment, settlement, stipulation or plea agreement establishing the Contractor's violation of any civil or criminal law against any government entity relevant to the Contractor's ability or capacity honestly to perform under or comply with the terms and conditions of a City contract or grant; (7) collusion in obtaining award of any City contract or grant, or payment or approval thereunder; and/or (8) the offer or provision of any gift or money to a public official, if that public official is prohibited from accepting the gift or money by any law or regulation.

(San Francisco Administrative Code § 28.3 (a).)

This is a non-exclusive list which requires only that Alan Varela, William Gilmartin and ProVen Management Inc. fall under one of the prongs. But their unlawful actions fall under at least three prongs:

- subdivision (2) "failure to comply with the terms of a contract or with provisions of the Municipal Code,"
- subdivision (7) "collusion in obtaining award of any City contract or grant, or payment or approval thereunder," and,
- subdivision (8) "the offer or provision of any gift or money to a public official, if that public official is prohibited from accepting the gift or money by any law or regulation."

Ground 1: Failure to Abide by San Francisco's Municipal Code

Alan Varela and William Gilmartin's gifts would violate the San Francisco Municipal Code and its regulations, as well as the terms of its contracts. The Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code is part of the San Francisco Municipal Code. It contains a "Prohibition on Bribery. No person shall offer or make, and no officer or employee shall accept, any gift with the intent that the City officer or employee will be influenced thereby in the performance of any official act." Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 3.216(a). "The phrase "intent to influence" means any communication made for the purpose of supporting, promoting, influencing, modifying, opposing, delaying or advancing a governmental decision." Regulation

Order of Suspension

3.216(b)-2. The City contracts require that vendors comply with the laws of San Francisco. If the allegations in the Federal Affidavit are true, William Gilmartin gave gifts of meals to Nuru worth thousands of dollars, and William Gilmartin and Alan Varela gave Nuru a tractor worth at least \$40,000 with the intent to win more work for their companies, including operating an asphalt plant

That would violate the San Francisco Municipal Codes, which would be a ground for Debarment. It is therefore a basis for Suspension.

Ground 2: Unlawful Collusion in the Award of a City Contract

Alan Varela and William Gilmartin's conduct also constitutes unlawful collusion to obtain the benefits of publicly funded contracts.

Collusion has been variously defined as (1) "a deceitful agreement or compact between two or more persons, for the one party to bring an action against the other for some evil purpose, as to defraud a third party of his right"; (2) "a secret arrangement between two or more persons, whose interests are apparently conflicting, to make use of the forms and proceedings of law in order to defraud a third person, or to obtain that which justice would not give them, by deceiving a court or its officers"; and (3) "a secret combination, conspiracy, or concert of action between two or more persons for fraudulent or deceitful purposes.

(Andrade v. Jennings, 54 Cal. App. 4th 307, 327 (1997).) If the allegations are true, Alan Varela, William Gilmartin and Nuru engaged in an ongoing scheme to provide favors: for Nuru to provide favors to Alan Varela and William Gilmartin's companies, and for Alan Varela and William Gilmartin to provide favors to Nuru. As a public contractor, Alan Varela and William Gilmartin had no legal basis to provide tens of thousands of dollars' worth of secret gifts for the personal benefit of Nuru. If true, this collusion undermines public trust in City contracting, is unfair to the taxpayers, and unfair to legitimate contractors competing for public contracts, and would be the ground for Debarment. It is therefore the basis for Suspension.

Ground 3: The Provision of Gift or Money to a Public Official, Where That Public Official is Prohibiting from Accepting the Gifts or Money

San Francisco law requires that "no officer or employee of the City and County shall solicit or accept any gift or loan from a person who the officer or employee knows or has reason to know is a restricted source." Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 3.216(b). The

definition of a "restricted source" includes "a person doing business with or seeking to do business with the department of the officer or employee." Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code § 3.216(b)(1). "The phrase 'doing business' with the department of the officer or employee means entering into or performing pursuant to a contract with the department of the officer or employee." Regulation 3.216(b)-1. At all relevant times, under the Campaign & Governmental Conduct Code and regulations adopted thereunder, Alan Varela, William Gilmartin and ProVen Management Inc. were a restricted source for Nuru. It was unlawful for Nuru to accept any gift worth more than \$25 from them. But William Gilmartin and Alan Varela are alleged to have given gifts worth at least in excess of \$45,000. Because it would be unlawful for Nuru to have accepted those gifts, the provision of those gifts would be a ground for Debarment. It is therefore a basis for Suspension.

Order of Suspension

For all of these reasons, Dennis J. Herrera, as the Charging Official, hereby issues this Order of Suspension on Alan Varela, William Gilmartin and ProVen Management Inc.

This Order of Suspension is self-executing; it is in effect from today's date until the Charging Official lifts the Order of Suspension under Section 28.6(b), or a hearing officer terminates the Order of Suspension under Section 28.10(e).

Further, Section 28.7 in which the failure to request a hearing constitutes an admission of the facts in counts and allegations *not does apply* to this Order of Suspension. The failure to seek a hearing of an Order of Suspension does not at any time constitute an admission of the facts in an Order of Suspension. Instead, at any time during the term of Suspension, Alan Varela, William Gilmartin or ProVen Management Inc. may together or separately submit a written request of the Charging Officer to lift the Order of Suspension. (San Francisco Administrative Code § 28.6(b).) Finally, at any time the Charging Official may move to debar Alan Varela, William Gilmartin or ProVen Management Inc., and if they are so debarred, the period of Suspension shall count towards the period of Debarment. (San Francisco Administrative Code § 28.11(b).)

Pursuant to this Order of Suspension Alan Varela, William Gilmartin or ProVen Management Inc. are ineligible to participate in the procurement process for contracts or from entering into contracts or grants at any tier, directly or indirectly, with or for San Francisco. (San Francisco Administrative Code §§ 28.1, 28.11(c).)

Dated: March 1, 2021

Dennis J. Herrera

City Attorney
City and County of San Francisco

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of California

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Sep 17 2020

SUSAN Y. SOONG CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO

United States of America v. ALAN VARELA and WILLIAM GILMARTIN III,)))))	Case No. 3-20-71327 TSH
Defendant(s)		

)		
Defend	dant(s)	,		
	CRIMINAL (COMPLAINT		
I, the complainant	in this case, state that the following	ng is true to the best of my	knowledge and belief.	
On or about the date(s) of	February 18, 2019	in the counties of	Napa and Sonoma	in the
Northern District	of, the	e defendant(s) violated:		
Code Section		Offense Descript	ion	
18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(2)	Bribery of Local Off	ficial		
	Maximum Penalties	\$250,000 fine or not mo gross gain or twice the 3 years' supervised rele \$100 special assessme	ore than the greater of tw gross loss ease	ice the
This criminal comp	plaint is based on these facts:			
Please see the attached af	fidavit of FBI Special Agent Jame	es A Folger.		
,				
▼ Continued on th	e attached sheet.			
			/s/ via telephone	
1	S 40 ·	Co	omplainant's signature	
Approved as to form	AUSA Scott Joiner		Folger, Special Agent, FI	31
		I	Printed name and title	
Attested to by the applicant with the requirements of Fe	t by telephone in accordance ed. R. Crim. P. 4.1.			
Date: September 16, 2	2020	The	Judge's signature	
City and state:	San Francisco, CA		S. Hixson, U.S. Magistrate	Judge

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AFFIDAVIT FILED UNDER SEAL

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, James A. Folger, Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, being duly sworn, hereby depose and state the following:

I. INTRODUCTION AND AGENT QUALIFICATIONS

- 1. I submit this affidavit in support of a criminal complaint against Alan Varela ("VARELA") and William "Bill" Gilmartin III ("GILMARTIN"). As set forth below, there is probable cause to believe VARELA and GILMARTIN bribed Mohammed NURU, the former Director of San Francisco Public Works, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2).
- 2. I am a Special Agent of the FBI and have been so employed since entering the FBI Academy in August 2012. I am sworn and empowered to investigate criminal activity involving violations of federal law. I am currently assigned to FBI's San Francisco Division Public Corruption Squad, which investigates abuse of public office in violation of criminal law, which includes fraud, bribery, extortion, conflicts of interest, and embezzlement. My investigative experience includes, but is not limited to: conducting wire communication interceptions; interviewing subjects, targets and witnesses; executing search and arrest warrants; handling and supervising confidential human sources; conducting surveillance; and analyzing phone records and financial records. Additionally, I received *juris doctor* and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of San Francisco in 2012.
- 3. During my employment with the FBI, I have received formal classroom and field training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia and graduated from the New Agent Training Program. My training and experience includes, but is not limited to: public corruption, fraud against the government, drug trafficking, gangs, organized crime, and RICO investigations. I have also received additional formal and on-the-job training from the FBI, as well as from the United States Attorney's Office and other federal agents who have done extensive work in the areas of financial crimes and public corruption. I have participated in several investigations involving public corruption, bribery, and fraud, and I have been the lead agent on several of those cases. I have worked on multiple wiretaps while investigating public corruption and criminal gangs. I have received formal training in wiretaps at the FBI academy in Quantico, Virginia as well as on the job training while working on wiretaps in active

investigations. I have also received training on phone records and cell tower analysis from members of the Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST) and have used this knowledge in numerous investigations.

- 4. To successfully conduct these investigations, I have utilized a variety of investigative techniques and resources including, but not limited to: physical and electronic surveillance, witness interviews, various types of infiltration to include confidential human sources, and cooperating sources. I have utilized pen register and trap and trace devices, mail covers, pole cameras, stationary video recording vehicles, undercover operations, and audio and audio/video recording devices.
- 5. I make this Affidavit based upon personal knowledge derived from my participation in this investigation and upon information I believe to be reliable from the following sources, among others:
 - a. my experience investigating honest services wire fraud, bribery, and other illegal activity relating to public corruption;
 - b. oral and written reports about this investigation that I have received from members of the FBI;
 - c. physical surveillance conducted by the FBI, the results of which have been reported to me either directly or indirectly;
 - d. information obtained from undercover agents;
 - e. recorded conversations; and
 - f. confidential human sources.
- 6. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the purpose of establishing probable cause in support of the requested Complaint, it does not set forth each and every fact that I, or others, have learned during the course of the investigation. Rather, I have set forth only those facts I believe are necessary to establish probable cause and to provide the Court with an overview of the facts that establish VARELA and GILMARTIN's pattern of corrupt conduct and intent to influence or reward NURU in connection with a transaction or series of transactions with the City and County of San Francisco that involved \$5,000 or more.
- 7. Unless otherwise indicated, where actions, conversations, and statements of others are described below, they are related in substance and in part. In addition, unless otherwise noted, wherever

in this Affidavit I assert a statement was made, the information was provided by another FBI agent, law enforcement officer, recording, or witness who may have had either direct or hearsay knowledge of that statement and to whom I or others have spoken, or whose reports I have reviewed.

8. The conversations I summarize below were derived in large part from various intercepted communications. Collectively, these communications were documented in FBI reports and summaries. These reports and summaries describe recorded conversations involving subjects of the investigation, during which the subjects at times use code words and/or cryptic language to disguise conversations about their criminal schemes and related activities. The reports are summarized based on agents' interpretations of the conversations. Some of these reports and summaries contain interpretations of coded words, cryptic language, and vague identifiers. It may be that subsequent review of the recorded conversations and verbatim transcripts may show changes from the summaries initially prepared. Quotations from the recordings are based on informal transcriptions of portions of certain key recordings, which may not be exactly the same as formal transcriptions that are later prepared.

II. COUNT 1: BRIBERY OF LOCAL OFFICIAL (18 U.S.C. §§ 666 (a)(2) AND 2)

- 9. At all times material to this Complaint, the City and County of San Francisco (also referred to below as the "City"), was a local government that received federal assistance in excess of \$10,000 during a one-year period within twelve months before or after February 18, 2019.
- 10. At all times material to this Complaint, Mohammed NURU was the Director of Public Works (DPW) for the City and County of San Francisco. Based on publicly available data, the total DPW budget regularly encompassed hundreds of millions of dollars. As Director, NURU had great official influence over contracts and construction projects granted by DPW. He also had significant

¹ According to the Budget and Appropriations Ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors on July 25, 2017, for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2018, 5.1% of all funds appropriated for use by City departments came from federal funding, a total in excess of \$400 million. This included \$55 million in federal grant money passed-through to DPW. Federal funding also constituted 5.1% of the City's general fund, a total in excess of \$260 million. *See* File No. 170653, Ordinance No. 156-17 (Budget and Appropriation Ordinance) (available at https://sfbos.org/ordinances).

For the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019, 4.4% of all funds appropriated for use by City departments came from federal funding, a total in excess of \$480 million. Federal funding also constituted 5.1% of the City's general fund, a total in excess of \$270 million. *See* File No. 180574, Ordinance No. 181-18 (Budget and Appropriation Ordinance) (available at https://sfbos.org/ordinances).

influence with other City departments.²

- 11. On or about February 18, 2019, in the Northern District of California, Alan VARELA and William GILMARTIN, aided and abetted by each other, did corruptly give, offer, and agree to give a thing of value to NURU, namely a tractor worth approximately \$40,000, intending to influence and reward NURU in connection with a transaction and series of transactions of the City and County of San Francisco involving \$5,000 or more.
- 12. As described below, this bribe was part of a much larger pattern and course of conduct in which GILMARTIN, VARELA, and Balmore HERNANDEZ³ repeatedly provided items of value to NURU, intending to influence and reward NURU in connection with his help steering City business their way or otherwise resolving issues they encountered in connection with City contracts and approvals.

III. APPLICABLE LAW

- 13. Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2), prohibits bribery of local officials who are agents of an organization receiving federal funds. The elements of the offense include the following:
 - a. A person was an agent of an organization, a state, local or tribal government, or an agency of a state, local, or tribal government.⁴
 - b. The organization, state or local government received federal assistance in excess of \$10,000 in a one-year period.
 - c. The one-year period of federal assistance was within twelve months before or after the commission of the offense.

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² While still serving as Director of DPW, NURU was charged by Criminal Complaint with Honest Services Wire Fraud (18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1346) on January 15, 2020, and by a separate Criminal Complaint with False Statement in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 on January 28, 2020.

³ HERNANDEZ was charged on June 4, 2020, by Complaint with one count of Bribery, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(2). He has agreed to enter a guilty plea to a single count of Conspiracy to Commit Honest Services Wire Fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1346 and 1349. As a condition of that plea agreement, HERNANDEZ has agreed to cooperate with the government's investigation.

⁴"Agent" is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 666(d)(1). An "agent" need not have direct authority over the day-to-day decisions; "general authority" to act for the agency and control its funds is sufficient. *See*, *e.g.*, *United States v. Shoemaker*, 2014 WL 1226719 (5th Cir. Mar. 25, 2014); *see also United States v. Fernandez*, 2013 WL 3215461 (1st Cir. June 26, 2013) (state legislator).

AFFIDAVIT FILED UNDER SEAL

- d. The defendant gave, offered, or agreed to give a thing of value to any person.
- e. The defendant intended to influence or reward the agent of the organization or agency in connection with a transaction or series of transactions of the organization or agency that involved \$5,000 or more.
- f. The defendant acted corruptly.
- 14. Title 18, United States Code, Section 2, provides that "[w]hoever commits an offense against the United States or aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces or procures its commission, is punishable as a principal."
- 15. The bribe need not be completed or successful. *See United States v. Kimbrew*, 944 F.3d 810, 815 (9th Cir. 2019) (liability for bribery of a public official, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(2)(A), "does not depend on an outcome; the offense is complete at the moment of agreement, and that agreement need not even be accompanied by the bribe recipient's genuine intentions to follow through.").
- 16. In addition, "[i]n order to obtain jurisdiction of a defendant under section 666, the government need not prove that the funds actually stolen by the defendant were of federal origin. So long as the [official] is an agent of an organization that receives more than \$10,000 in federal benefits in any given year, it is not necessary that the particular funds stolen be among those 'benefits.'" *United States v. Wyncoop*, 11 F.3d 119, 122 (9th Cir. 1993). *See also Sabri v. United States*, 541 U.S. 600, 605–06 (2004) (funds subject to abuse by bribed agent need not be traceable to federal funds)
- be tied to specific official acts (or omissions). Bribery requires the intent to effect an exchange of money (or gifts) for specific official action (or inaction), but each payment need not be correlated with a specific official act." *See United States v. Jennings*, 160 F.3d 1006, 1014 (4th Cir. 1998). The requirement of the statute is satisfied "so long as the evidence shows a 'course of conduct of favors and gifts flowing to a public official in exchange for a pattern of official actions favorable to the donor.' *Id.* (citation omitted). Payments may be made "with the intent to retain the official's services on an 'as needed' basis, so that whenever the opportunity presents itself the official will take specific action on the payor's behalf." *Id. See also United States v. Kemp*, 500 F.3d 257, 282 (3d Cir. 2007); *United States v.*

Menendez, 291 F. Supp. 3d 606, 613 (D.N.J. 2018). ⁵

IV. FACTS ESTABLISHING PROBABLE CAUSE

A. Individuals

- 18. Alan VARELA founded ProVen Management ("ProVen") in 1991, a Bay Area civil engineering and construction firm that specializes in large-scale infrastructure projects. VARELA is the President of ProVen and GILMARTIN is the Vice President. VARELA and GILMARTIN also share ownership in several construction-related businesses. ProVen has received a number of public contracts from the City and County of San Francisco.
- 19. Balmore HERNANDEZ is the CEO and Vice President of AzulWorks, Inc. (AzulWorks), which has received numerous contracts with the City and County of San Francisco, including contracts with DPW in 2018 worth millions of dollars. Prior to forming AzulWorks, Inc., HERNANDEZ was a longtime employee of DPW. I have learned over the course of this investigation that NURU and HERNANDEZ have a close relationship. They were in frequent contact during the relevant time periods described below. I have also learned HERNANDEZ and VARELA have a close relationship.

B. Overview

20. Agents have intercepted and/or reviewed multiple communications concerning items of value given to NURU by GILMARTIN, HERNANDEZ and/or VARELA in exchange for NURU's assistance with business with the City. The scheme to bribe NURU focused heavily, though not exclusively, on an attempt to win a contract through DPW to operate an asphalt plant on land owned by the Port of San Francisco – an effort which lasted years and was still ongoing until NURU's arrest in January 2020. The bribes were frequently connected to NURU's vacation home in Northern California on Lodoga Stonyford Road in Stonyford.⁶ The home, which NURU and HERNANDEZ often referred to as the "ranch," was built from scratch by contractors largely from San Francisco or the Bay Area.

⁵ Other courts, including the Ninth Circuit, have held that bribery under 18 U.S.C. § 666 does not require a quid pro quo. *See United States v. Garrido*, 713 F.3d 985, 996 (9th Cir. 2013) (citing *United States v. McNair*, 605 F.3d 1152, 1187–89 (11th Cir.2010)).

⁶ Although the home is technically located in Stonyford, intercepted communications show that NURU and other subjects often refer to the vacation home as being in "Ladoga" or "Lodoga" (Lodoga, CA is next to Stonyford, CA). For purposes of this affidavit, I use both Stonyford and Lodoga to refer to NURU's vacation home/ranch.

HERNANDEZ paid for and provided a substantial portion of the labor and materials to build the house 2 3 5 6 7

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and improve the property (which consists of two adjacent 10-acre parcels). Based on my review of intercepted communications and records from AzulWorks, Inc., I estimate that between late 2016 and the end of 2018, HERNANDEZ supplied in excess of \$250,000 in labor and materials to help NURU build the home and related improvements at the ranch.⁷ The investigation has analyzed known financial accounts for NURU. Although the investigation identified more than \$200,000 that NURU spent on home improvement (between approximately January 2017 and May 2019), no payments to HERNANDEZ or AzulWorks have been identified.

- During the relevant period, GILMARTIN also paid for extravagant dinners for NURU 21. and HERNANDEZ and appears to have subsidized some of the materials for NURU's ranch. After reviewing business records, I estimate that GILMARTIN spent in excess of \$20,000 on meals with NURU using a ProVen company credit card.
- On or about February 18, 2019, as part of the bribery scheme, VARELA and 22. GILMARTIN arranged to purchase and deliver to NURU a tractor and attachments valued at approximately \$40,000. Based on my review of business records, the tractor was financed through one of VARELA's and GILMARTIN's companies along with other construction equipment, thereby indicating a business purpose rather than a personal one. VARELA, GILMARTIN and HERNANDEZ then coordinated delivery of the tractor to NURU, telling NURU that they had listed the contact for the delivery under NURU's girlfriend's first name rather than NURU's name. Based on my training and experience and the facts described below, I believe they did so to conceal and disguise the nature and existence of the bribe payment.

Corrupt Intent to Influence NURU in Connection With City Business C.

HERNANDEZ acted as the primary contact between NURU and GILMARTIN and 23. VARELA. His actions, both during the scheme and when confronted by the FBI, provide strong evidence of the trio's corrupt intent.

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⁷ This number does not include the tractor and related attachments (described below) that VARELA, GILMARTIN and HERNANDEZ helped provide NURU in February 2019. Based on my review of business records and publicly available data, I believe the tractor and attachments delivered to NURU in February 2019 are worth in excess of \$40,000.

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- 24. On January 27, 2020, another FBI agent and I interviewed HERNANDEZ at his home in Burlingame, CA. HERNANDEZ confirmed he had known NURU for fifteen to twenty years and they talked several times per month, including on the previous day. HERNANDEZ stated he first met NURU while working at DPW. HERNANDEZ had worked at DPW as a civil engineer for 24 years before leaving for the private sector. HERNANDEZ then made the following false and misleading statements, among others, which I believe provide evidence of HERNANDEZ's consciousness of guilt and corrupt intent:
 - a. HERNANDEZ said he had not done any construction work on NURU's vacation home in Lodoga.
 - b. HERNANDEZ claimed his assistance with the vacation home was "as a friend," and had been limited to reviewing construction plans and paying two invoices – one for approximately \$10,000 worth of lumber and the other for approximately \$10,000 of electrical work.
 - c. HERNANDEZ claimed he did not expect anything in return for his assistance.
- 25. These statements were each false or highly misleading, as HERNANDEZ later confirmed after he began cooperating with the investigation. Based on my review of time sheets and copies of checks from AzulWorks, HERNANDEZ paid more than \$100,000 for labor at NURU's Lodoga property between at least as early as December 2016 and September 2018. His work crews often spent multiple days or weeks at a time working on the property. I have also reviewed dozens of text messages between NURU and HERNANDEZ over the same period of time where the two exchanged photos and other updates about the progress of the work on NURU's vacation home. Records provided by AzulWorks further indicate HERNANDEZ spent more than \$100,000 on materials for NURU's ranch, including tiles, stone, doors, windows, and PVC pipe. According to AzulWorks receipts, HERNANDEZ spent more than \$35,000 on windows alone, and close to \$10,000 on patio doors for NURU.
- 26. HERNANDEZ's claim that he expected nothing in return from NURU is contradicted by his own communications with NURU. For example, on April 14, 2017, during a trip to China, NURU texted HERNANDEZ a photo. NURU wrote "Getting ready to start heading home. How are you?

Picture is me getting watered down with blessings of good luck in the new year. Greetings to everyone.

Thanks." HERNANDEZ replied, "Bring me some blessings. I need some jobs."

27. At the same time HERNANDEZ was texting "Bring me some blessings. I need some jobs," AzulWorks had a crew at NURU's ranch in Lodoga. Company records show AzulWorks issued a check on the same day of the text, for \$5,802, to cover work performed for NURU. On April 21, 2017, AzulWorks issued two more checks, totaling \$15,191.25, for work on the ranch. The corresponding time sheet shows the payment covered a team of eleven workers who logged hours between April 10 and April 15, 2017.8

D. Bribes in Connection with Asphalt Plant Project

- 28. The investigation has revealed that at least as early as 2013, HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN, began planning to use HERNANDEZ's relationship with NURU to win a contract through DPW to operate an asphalt plant on land owned by the Port of San Francisco. VARELA was later included on emails from HERNANDEZ passing along inside information from NURU.
- 29. The efforts appear to have begun as early as February 2013. In an internal email explaining expenses for accounting purposes, GILMARTIN wrote that an \$812.10 charge at Morton's on February 8, 2013, was for "dinner with Mohammad head of DPW and Balmore HERNANDEZ discussing asphalt plant deal."
- 30. On May 16, 2013, GILMARTIN expressed his appreciation for HERNANDEZ's efforts pursuing the deal, writing: "I have used you to help negotiate this deal because of your ability to understand and present our proposal without making the other side nervous. For this you are entitled to ownership."
- 31. Communications concerning the asphalt plant and NURU (via email, text, and phone) continued between GILMARTIN and HERNANDEZ from 2013 through at least 2019. As noted above, VARELA was also involved in early communications about the asphalt plant project and later helped

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⁸ Based on my training and experience, I believe the payment was split into two parts to bring the amount under \$10,000 to avoid bank reporting requirements and potential scrutiny from government authorities, which further underscores HERNANDEZ's efforts to conceal the corrupt nature of his dealings with NURU. AzulWorks issued the checks to the same person on the same day – one for \$8,000 and the other for \$7,191.25. Together the checks match the timesheet total for work performed at Lodoga between April 10, 2017 and April 15, 2017.

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- 32. In their communications, HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN usually referred to NURU only as "our friend," and the group appears to almost always have met at the same restaurant in San Mateo (RESTAURANT 1). Based on credit card statements, text messages, and recorded phone calls, the dinner meetings appear to have occurred for a number of years, at times on what appears to be almost a monthly or bi-monthly basis.
- 33. By the end of 2013, email and text communications among HERNANDEZ, VARELA, GILMARTIN, and NURU indicate NURU was providing inside information on how DPW and the Port of San Francisco ("Port") were approaching a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ-P or RFP) for the asphalt plant on Port land. Based on my training and experience and witness interviews conducted in this investigation, I know this type of information is generally sensitive and can provide an unfair competitive advantage to bidders who receive it before it is made public or shared with other bidders.
- 34. For example, on October 3, 2013, NURU forwarded an internal DPW email about the carbon impact of the contemplated asphalt plant from his work account to his personal email account. Three days later he then sent it to HERNANDEZ from his personal email account and added "This may interest you." HERNANDEZ forwarded the email three minutes later to GILMARTIN writing "Fyi There is also a company in San Jose proposing cold asphalt paving. We need to address both if [sic] these issues in our proposal."
- 35. On December 11, 2013, HERNANDEZ sent VARELA and GILMARTIN an email re "Asphalt RFP" and wrote:

This DRAFT is very close to the final product but it has substantial changes from the previous version that may not be in our best interest. Let's review it carefully, and provide a page by page commentary for the changes we need to implement. For example, this RFP makes reference to the City Standards for mix designs which in turn makes reference to CALTRANS RAP percentages which are much lower than we had discussed. Let's put together a schedule for getting back to them with comments

- 36. I believe this email contained an internal draft RFP from DPW about the asphalt plant that had not yet been publicly released.
- 37. The following day, GILMARTIN responded to the December 11, 2013 email with

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AFFIDAVIT FILED UNDER SEAL statements for GILMARTIN reflect a charge at RESTAURANT 1 for \$667.66 on March 20, 2014.

- 44. Based on the investigation and my training and experience, I believe GILMARTIN and HERNANDEZ provided NURU with an expensive dinner in connection with their efforts to obtain his continued assistance with the asphalt plant and other City business.
- 45. Roughly one month later, on April 15, 2014, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "We are getting a list of bidders for the asphalt plant and if we were 2nd, he will ask to call us for negotiations." On April 21, 2014, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Please review the info on the asphalt plant and provide me with any comments. Take a look at the proposed lay-outs."
- 46. On May 22, 2014, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Spoke with our friend and he made a call. Call me."
- 47. At that point, GILMARTIN appears to have felt increasingly confident that they would obtain the asphalt plant deal and that it would be profitable. He also acknowledged the clandestine "back channel" nature of their efforts. In a May 23, 2014 email to a work colleague, he wrote:

"the back channels of negotiating are in full swing for the candlestick phase 2. I need to send a PDF file of the asphalt plant and concrete plant to [well known business person]. This will be done through back channels from Mohammad. Could you send again to me for the 10th time our proposal for the plants, a PDF file excluding the financial performas. [sic] This will be forwarded through various ways to get to him this am.

Just so you know there was a a [sic] meeting last night that figured out the left hand needs to work with the right hand and two hands are better the one!!! Please keep this information between you and me. All deals can blow up. Loose lips sink ships.

It's not a done deal, keep your figures crossed this could be great for us"

- 48. In the summer of 2014, HERNANDEZ went on a trip to Africa with NURU, their families, and others.
- 49. In the fall of 2014, communications increased concerning the asphalt plant. On September 10, 2014, NURU emailed HERNANDEZ electrical plans for his Lodoga vacation property.
- 50. Then, on September 16, 2014, NURU forwarded an internal email from his work account to his personal account. The email concerned an internal discussion among City employees and summary of suggested next steps for an environmental assessment of the proposed Pier 94 asphalt batch plant, among other things. NURU then forwarded the email (Fwd: SW Environmental Analysis –

Outcomes") from his personal account to HERNANDEZ, writing "Going to Port Commission in two weeks." HERNANDEZ forwarded the email to GILMARTIN, who replied the following day: "Thanks. I hope all of our efforts pay off some day. It seems that it is close."

51. NURU appears to have met with HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN again at RESTAURANT 1 on October 22, 2014. On October 20, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN:

BH: Our friend is available on Wednesday to meet for dinner, does it work for you? GILMARTIN: Yes absolutely [RESTAURANT 1] again??

BH: Yes I am with him now so it is confirmed.

- 52. Credit card records show a charge on GILMARTIN's credit card statement from RESTAURANT 1 on October 22, 2014, for \$287.08.
- 53. On November 20, 2014, HERNANDEZ sent GILMARTIN an internal City email chain between DPW and Port staff concerning the asphalt plant that ultimately went to NURU. I believe HERNANDEZ obtained this email from NURU. Based on the email chain it appears NURU had asked DPW employees for information on the asphalt plant on November 5, 2014. A DPW employee responded to NURU the same day with a number of internal documents and also described various specifications that were under consideration for the RFP. HERNANDEZ forwarded the email to GILMARTIN with the message: "Here is the complete package fyi." Attachments to the forwarded email included an executive summary, draft RFP, appendices to the RFP, and a draft Memorandum of Understanding between DPW and the Port.
- 54. On December 1, 2014, HERNANDEZ forwarded another internal Port email which he had received from NURU. Among other items, the email contained internal communications between Port staff and a Port Commissioner discussing the Port's reaction to DPW's request for a 10-acre site as opposed to 4.7 acres for the asphalt plant, including what the Port expected to charge for rent.
- 55. On December 16, 2014, NURU forwarded another internal DPW email about the asphalt plant from his DPW account to his personal email, and then to HERNANDEZ. The email concerned the proposed site of the asphalt plant.
- 56. On January 28, 2015, NURU sent HERNANDEZ an electrical layout plan for his Lodoga property. Two days later, on January 30, 2015, NURU forwarded an internal DPW/Port email (subject:

"RFQ/P with draft Port edits") from his work email to his personal email, then sent it to HERNANDEZ, who sent it to GILMARTIN. HERNANDEZ wrote: "[P]lease review this FINAL DRAFT. As you can see, the Port is moving to request authorization for DPW to issue the RFP. Mark it up with your comments and lets meet early next week to discuss. Next week is our last chance to suggest changes."

- 57. The attachment to the email was titled "DRAFT-Asphalt-Concrete-Production-Lease-Opportunity-Request-For-Proposal....docx" and was originally forwarded by DPW staff to NURU and others (after DPW staff received it from Port staff with the message "Attached please find the draft RFP with proposed Port edits").
- 58. On February 2, 2015, NURU again forwarded an internal DPW/Port email ("Form of Asphalt and Concrete Batch Plant Transaction") from his work account to his personal email, then to Balmore HERNANDEZ. Within minutes, HERNANDEZ forwarded it to GILMARTIN. The email described plans for the Port and DPW to enter into a transaction for a concrete and asphalt batch plant. The originating DPW employee wrote to NURU and one other senior DPW employee: "Reference email below. After speaking with their attorney, below is what the Port feels works best. They would handle the lease negotiations and lease; and public works would handle the supply contract. Currently, they plan to go before the Port Commission on 2/10 to clear Item #1 approval. If ok, I'll respond... and provide a schedule."
- 59. That same day, GILMARTIN forwarded the email to a work colleague. After the colleague expressed concern about being fully prepared for the Port Commission meeting, GILMARTIN responded: "don't worry ... this is set up for us to win."
- 60. On February 5, 2015, NURU again forwarded an internal email to HERNANDEZ that he previously forwarded from his work account to his personal account. HERNANDEZ then forwarded it to GILMARTIN. The email attached a redline draft memo of the February 10 Port Commission Staff Report concerning the asphalt and concrete facilities. DPW staff had received it from Port staff and forwarded it to NURU and another senior DPW employee writing: "FYI...providing comments by the end of the day to the Port's memo to the Port Commission on the Asphalt and Concrete facilities (attached draft memo)." When forwarding the email, HERNANDEZ wrote to GILMARTIN: "Review and call me or send me comments. We need to provide comments today by end of day."

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- 61. Four days later, on February 9, 2015, NURU emailed HERNANDEZ an invoice for electrical work performed at his Lodoga property for \$10,244.44. A balance of \$5,244.44 remained outstanding according to the document.
- 62. On February 10, 2015, the San Francisco Port Commission passed Resolution 15-07, which requested authorization for San Francisco Public Works, in consultation with Port staff, to issue a Competitive Solicitation for an Asphalt and Concrete Batching Plant at Seawall Lot 352 (located along Amador Street) with a Bulk Maritime Terminal Component at Pier 94.
- 63. The following morning, on February 11, 2015, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Everything went well last night. It is up to us when to issue RFP." Based on my training and experience and the context of the investigation, I believe this text shows the extent to which HERNANDEZ, GILMARTIN, and VARELA were able to control the structure and timing of the RFP for the asphalt plant through NURU.
- 64. It appears NURU met HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN again for dinner on March 4, 2020. On March 3, 2015, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Confirmed for tomorrow at 730 at the same place." GILMARTIN responded: "Ok great I'll see you then." Credit card statements for GILMARTIN show a charge of \$344.93 at RESTAURANT 1 on March 4, 2015.
- 65. The RFP for the asphalt plant was ultimately issued by DPW on April 7, 2015. It was later revised on May 13, 2015.
- 66. On May 21, 2015, NURU placed a purchase order for a manufactured home from a company in Chico, CA. The invoice listed a cost of \$138,551.48 and an unpaid balance of \$128,051.48 after the down payment.
- 67. On June 7, 2015 (nine days before final bids were submitted), GILMARTIN emailed VARELA about the asphalt plant: "Why are we even involved? Because I've pursued this for 3 plus years and the deal is finally here[.] We Don't [sic] have the capital or the experience to do this deal but we are in the middle of it... The city people insist this is our deal to have. If I walk away I may lose credibility in the city, part of me says so what." He concluded by asking for help thinking through who they should partner with on the deal.

- 68. VARELA responded, "Let's talk about this. I want to make sure we do this for us and not for others. I also know we are shirt in [sic] cash and we also have not run an asphalt plant or concrete plant."
- 69. On or about June 16, 2015, four bids were submitted for the asphalt plant, including a bid from a proposed joint venture involving ProVen VARELA and GILMARTIN's company.
- 70. That same night GILMARTIN texted HERNANDEZ: "It's in now we cross our fingers that we get the entire deal [development company] and the rfp. Your help has been key to the entire deal, thank you. Tell our friend thanks for the opportunity. The way this all came down was maybe the most ironic deal I've ever been involved with. You and I hopefully played this like a fine violin. Time now will tell. I'll see you in the am. I'm going to go get drunk now !!!"
- 71. On June 19, 2015, GILMARTIN exchanged text messages with HERNANDEZ about the status if the RFP. HERNANDEZ responded with information about the composition of the selection panel:

GILMARTIN: Any news on the rfp

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HERNANDEZ: No [sic] yet

Finishing panel selection before they can start review

Panel is 2 from DPW, 1 PUC, 1 PORT

1mta

GILMARTIN: Just do your thing and make it ALL happen!!

- 72. On August 3, 2015, text messages between HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN indicated they were again planning to meet with NURU for dinner, who they referred to as their "friend." HERNANDEZ texted "How about dinner with our friend this Wednesday. We are here together." GILMARTIN replied that Wednesday was good, and HERNANDEZ texted "We have some info to prep you. Same place at 7:30."
- 73. Based on my training and experience, my review of other evidence in this investigation, and the context and timing of this communication, I believe NURU and HERNANDEZ were meeting

with GILMARTIN to prepare him for an interview with the panel that was reviewing bids on the asphalt plant.

- 74. Credit card statements for GILMARTIN show a charge of \$394.07 at RESTAURANT 1 on Wednesday, August 5, 2015.
- 75. The next day, on August 6, 2015, NURU sent HERNANDEZ a copy of the manufactured home purchase order (dated 5/21/15 and referenced above) from a company in Chico, CA for \$138,551.48. The unpaid balance after down payment was \$128,051.48. In the same email, NURU included related documents and an updated agreement with the same company, dated 8/1/2015, with a higher cost of \$194,257.91.
- 76. On August 11, 2015, at 8:16 AM, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN "Good luck today!!!!!"
- 77. On August 21, 2015, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN "The scoring is done and it is all good." I believe this refers to the scoring performed by the panel on the bids for the asphalt plant and that NURU provided this information to HERNANDEZ before it was publicly available.
- 78. Credit card statements for GILMARTIN and text messages between HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN indicate they again met for dinner with NURU at RESTAURANT 1 on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN on September 2, 2015: "Our friend will meet you on Tuesday at the same place at 7pm." The total this time, according to GILMARTIN's credit card records, was \$547.84.
- 79. Two weeks later, on September 22, 2015, the San Francisco Port Commission selected VARELA and GILMARTIN's joint venture as the most responsive bid and directed Port staff to enter into an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with the venture.
- 80. Based on my review of email communications and other records, I believe VARELA and GILMARTIN's joint venture may not have been the most qualified bidder, and benefitted significantly (and was intended to benefit significantly) from NURU's influence on the process in exchange for the items of value conferred on NURU by VARELA, HERNANDEZ, and GILMARTIN.
- 81. For example, in the June 7, 2015 email regarding the asphalt plant to VARELA (described above), GILMARTIN wrote "Why are we even involved? Because I've pursued this for 3

- plus years and the deal is finally here[.] We Don't [sic] have the capital or the experience to do this deal but we are in the middle of it." He concludes by asking for help thinking through who they should partner with on the deal. VARELA responded, "Let's talk about this. I want to make sure we do this for us and not for others. I also know we are shirt in [sic] cash and we also have not run an asphalt plant or concrete plant."
- 82. On October 25, 2015, following the Port's September decision to enter into an Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with VARELA and GILMARTIN's joint venture, NURU texted HERNANDEZ pictures of the work completed at his Lodoga property and wrote: "Thanks so much for all the help this weekend. We definitely moved the project to another level. There's no way we could have gotten this far without your leadership. God will bless you and your family for your kindness."
- 83. Text messages between HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN and credit card receipts indicate they met with NURU again at RESTAURANT 1 on November 5, 2015. The November meal cost \$394.34.
- 84. An email from GILMARTIN to a business associate about another venture the following day, on November 6, 2015, shows the bribery scheme with NURU extended beyond the asphalt plant. After discussing the other venture, GILMARTIN described the leverage he wielded though NURU: "Our biggest strength is our access to San Francisco. I had dinner with Mohammad last night and discussed this project. He is on board to help expedite this project and he's on board to delay the project."
- 85. There was another dinner at RESTAURANT 1 in December. On December 22, 2015, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Our friend would like to meet, let me know when you are available." GILMARTIN replied and agreed to meet at 7:00 "at the same place" the following day.
- 86. The following day, December 23, 2015, GILMARTIN texted HERNANDEZ: "I'm here we have a booth tonight important!!! Bottle of opus ready when our friend is here!" Credit card statements show a charge to GILMARTIN from RESTAURANT 1 of \$475.85.
- 87. An entry on NURU's calendar, titled "Asphalt RFQ/P Update & Presentation," indicates he met at City Hall with GILMARTIN and other principals from the joint venture, DPW, and the Port, to discuss the asphalt plant a few weeks later, on January 19, 2016.

1	88.	On February 23, 20	16, the Port Commission formally adopted an exclusive negotiation		
2	agreement with VARELA and GILMARTIN's joint venture.				
3	89.	On June 10, 2016, 0	GILMARTIN emailed a business contact about his relationship with		
4	NURU, writi	ng "we currently do n	ot have any contracts with DPW. We are negotiating with DPW for		
5	supply contracts for the new asphalt plant. I have a very close relationship with Mohammad Nuru. I can				
6	call him or visit his office on any given moment or day."				
7	90.	Text messages and	credit card statements show the group again met for dinner at		
8	RESTAURANT 1 on August 11, 2016. The charge to GILMARTIN was \$367.33.				
9	91.	On November 22, 2	016, texts and credit card statements show GILMARTIN and		
0	HERNANDEZ met for dinner in "the back private room" at RESTAURANT 1. Based on the pattern				
1	described above, I believe NURU was with them. The charge to GILMARTIN's credit card for this				
12	meal was \$519.78.				
13	92.	Text messages betw	veen HERNANDEZ and GILMARTIN and credit card receipts		
4	indicate expensive dinners with NURU at RESTAURANT 1 continued as negotiations on the asphalt				
15	plant among	DPW, the Port, and G	ILMARTIN and VARELA's joint venture stretched on for years		
16	without resol	ution. ⁹ HERNANDE2	Z also continued to provide labor and materials for NURU's ranch.		
17	93.	On February 21, 20	17, HERNANDEZ texted NURU:		
18		"I am at Home Dep	ot working on your windows		
19		And doors			
20		Lots of work"			
21	Then, on February 28, 2017, HERNANDEZ again texted with NURU:				
22		HERNANDEZ:	The guys are working up there now Keep working on the wood.		
23		NURU:	Thank you		
24		HERNANDEZ:	I will need a favor from you this week		
25		NURU:	For sure		
26		HERNANDEZ:	Maybe we can meet today after work		
27					
28	9 Add	itional investigation r	evealed that, following NURU's January 2020 arrest and resignation,		

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100. As noted above, negotiations between DPW, the Port, and the joint venture regarding the supply contract and other issues remained ongoing and unresolved through early 2020.

101. On August 5, 2017, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN:

HERNANDEZ: Our friend's window and door order is ready to process. Let me

know if you would like to process directly. It has a job number

only

GILMARTIN: Best way let's meet up Monday

HERNANDEZ: I won't be in town until next Sunday

But let's meet the following Monday

Thanks

GILMARTIN: Okav

Wednesday that week I'm out Monday Tuesday

HENANDEZ: Ok let's meet at our spot for 7:30

Thanks

GILMARTIN: Got it

are set for Monday." The following Monday was August 21, 2017.

102. Business records show that on August 25, 2017, HERNANDEZ spent \$47,020.45 on patio doors and Andersen windows at Home Depot. This expenditure appears to have followed another expensive dinner with NURU and GILMARTIN at RESTAURANT 1.

- 103. On August 16, 2017, GILMARTIN texted HERNANDEZ to let him know that he could not make the meeting. The two then decided to change it to the following Monday, with HERNANDEZ writing "Our friend prefers Monday." The same day, HERNANDEZ texted with NURU: "[GILMARTIN] needs to reschedule to next week Monday Tuesday or Wednesday" and then later "We
- 104. On August 21, 2017, GILMARTIN texted HERNANDEZ to confirm the 7:30 dinner. He then wrote: "Balmore specially [sic] How do they guarantee the payment of the deficiency fee if they do not take the 100,000 tons per year? How is that payment guaranteed? Does the BOS have to approve that expenditure every year, or can the long term lease/supply agreement bind them to that commitment? When will we be able to enter into the supply agreement to confirm all of this in writing?" Based on the other facts described in this affidavit, and the timing and context of this communication, I believe

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GILMARTIN was alerting HERNANDEZ to the issues he wanted to raise with NURU at dinner so NURU could help them finalize the supply contract for the asphalt plant on favorable terms.

- GILMARTIN's credit card statement shows a charge from RESTAURANT 1 dated August 23, 2017 in the amount of \$1,696.29. I believe this charge was for the dinner on August 21, 2017 described above.
- 106. On November 16, 2016, NURU emailed HERNANDEZ a bill from Home Depot regarding replacement doors. The amount was approximately \$1,400. NURU wrote: "I think this was meant for you, as we discussed yesterday on the phone. Okay, thanks."
- On November 28, 2017, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN and asked: "Do we need to meet with our friend?..." GILMARTIN responded: "Yes, let's schedule next week..."
- 108. On November 30, 2017, HERNANDEZ texted NURU: "We are in the back room." Credit card records for GILMARTIN show a charge of \$1,543.76 at RESTAURANT 1 on the same day.
- The materials I have reviewed, including text messages, emails, intercepted phone calls 109. and credit card records, indicate the pattern of dinners with HERNANDEZ, GILMARTIN and NURU at RESTAURANT 1 continued through at least early 2019 and likely later, all while negotiations on the asphalt plant continued without full resolution. The cost of the dinners at RESTAURANT 1 during the relevant period, which I believe NURU attended, totals approximately \$20,000.

E. **VARELA Delivers the John Deere Tractor**

- 110. As noted above, GILMARTIN's business partner, VARELA, was involved in early email communications and had knowledge of the internal City drafts of the RFP for the asphalt plant that HERNANDEZ was sharing in 2013. In the fall of 2018, VARELA also traveled to South America with NURU and Walter WONG. WONG is providing information to the government in this investigation pursuant to a plea agreement related to his bribes of NURU and others and is seeking a benefit in his eventual sentence.
- VARELA's communications with WONG in the Fall of 2018 make clear VARELA was 111. concerned about being seen in public with NURU. On September 18, 2018, VARELA and WONG emailed about setting up a dinner with NURU. According to the email from WONG, NURU had suggested RESTAURANT 1. WONG wanted to know if VARELA had any other suggestions.

VARELA responded: "Hi Walter, [RESTAURANT 1] in San Mateo might be better considering that this way we will not be meeting with Mohammed in SF." Based on my training and experience, and the context of this communication within the larger bribery scheme described above, I believe this email shows VARELA was concerned about being seen in San Francisco with NURU because it might give rise to suspicions about the group's corrupt activities.

- 112. My conclusion is further supported by VARELA's role in purchasing and delivering a tractor and attachments to NURU at his ranch on or about February 18, 2019, after the trip to South America. Based on my review of business records and publicly available data, I believe the tractor and attachments delivered to NURU are worth in excess of \$40,000. In addition, based on my review of business records, the tractor was financed through one of VARELA's and GILMARTIN's companies. VARELA also was the individual who signed the relevant documents to purchase the tractor and was the one who dealt with the company that sold the tractor.
- 113. According to statements provided by HERNANDEZ to investigators, during their dinners at RESTAURANT 1, NURU indicated to GILMARTIN and HERNANDEZ several times that he wanted a tractor for his ranch.¹⁰ Ultimately, HERNANDEZ coordinated the delivery of the tractor to NURU with VARELA.
- 114. The arrangement described by HERNANDEZ is corroborated through text messages and other intercepted communications.
- 115. For example, on May 9, 2018, HERNADEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Our friend is reminding me of the piece of equipment that was promised Can you check." GILMARTIN replied "I thought you were going to send a model number i will take care of it."
 - 116. On July 9, 2018, HERNANDEZ again texted GILMARTIN:

HERNANDEZ: Dinner on Wednesday or Thursday

He is also asking about the equipment

GILMARTIN: Either day

HERNANDEZ: You pick a day and let's meet

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¹⁰ HERNANDEZ provided this information to investigators as part of a proffer session. He is cooperating with the investigation as part of ongoing plea negotiations.

1 GILMARTIN: Ok 2 3 Wednesday 4 HERNANDEZ: Ok good 5 Same place at 7:30 6 117. I have reviewed communications showing VARELA was emailing with a sales 7 representative about purchasing the tractor for NURU in November 2018. On November 15, 2018, 8 VARELA identified the tractor model and attachments he wanted to purchase and emailed the sales representative the following day that it would need to be delivered to "Colusa," but he still needed to get 9 the exact address. 11 Employees at the company who sold the tractor to VARELA recall he was in a rush 10 to get it delivered. The company offices that sold and delivered the tractor are located in Napa and 11 Sonoma counties. 12 13 118. Business and email records indicate the invoice for the tractor was dated December 5, 14 2018, and a version signed by VARELA was emailed back to the sales representative on December 13, 15 2018. 16 119. Business records also show VARELA executed documents supporting the loan to purchase the tractor on or about December 31, 2018, and January 9, 2019. The tractor was not delivered 17 18 to NURU, however, until February 2019. 19 On January 18, 2019, HERNANDEZ texted VARELA the address for NURU's ranch 120. and asked VARELA in Spanish if they could talk. 20 21 121. On February 6, 2019, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: 22 HERNANDEZ: Dinner next week? 23 GILMARTIN: Yes Tuesday or Wednesday I'm heading out Thursday but 24 important to meet 25 HERNANDEZ: Tuesday at 7:00 pm same place 26 Anything on the tractor? 27 ¹¹ The same email communications show VARELA was purchasing a slightly cheaper model of 28

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the same tractor at the same time and having it delivered to his personal residence in Napa.

1		GILMARTIN:	Ready for delivery		
2		HERNANDEZ:	We will see you Tuesday		
3		GILMARTIN:	Great		
4	122.	The following day, or	n February 7, 2019, at approximately 4:32 PM, NURU called		
5	HERNANDE:	Z. HERNANDEZ told	NURU that he "spoke with Alan [VARELA] and the John Deere is		
6	ready. You ne	ed to give me two day	s, available days, on weekdays in the next two weeks, he uh, John		
7	Deere have to deliver and teach you how to operate it, so you need to give me two days and they'll pick				
8	one of those d	ays to make it work fo	r you."		
9	123.	On February 11, 2019	9, NURU and HERNANDEZ had the following text message		
10	exchange about arranging dinner with GILMARTIN and coordinating the tractor delivery:				
11		HERNANDEZ:	Bill [GILMARTIN] can not change his appointment on		
12			Wednesday as he has a client flying in for Europe		
13			Either tomorrow or next week		
14			Please let me know		
15		NURU:	Next week is better if tomorrow doesn't work.		
16			Can't do Tuesday, next week is better		
17			Next Wednesday, February 20th is good		
18		HERNANDEZ:	Ok let me check		
19		NURU:	Will bet [sic] ranch 18 & 19		
20		HERNANDEZ:	Ok		
21			You can coordinate directly with Alan [VARELA] if you wish		
22		NURU:	Best you handle this unless you advise otherwise.		
23		HERNANDEZ:	Ok I will		
24			Confirmed dinner for next Wednesday		
25	124.	Following this last te	xt, at approximately 11:28 AM, NURU called HERNANDEZ.		
26	HERNANDE	Z confirmed the arrang	gements described above. NURU would be at his vacation home on		
27	the following	Tuesday and Wednesd	lay so he could receive delivery of the John Deere tractor. During		
28	the exchange,	NURU also said he th	ought it was better if HERNANDEZ dealt directly with who I		
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1	believe to be VARELA and GILMARTIN:					
2 3		NURU:	Okay. That's good, I got that down. And then, let them know I picked those two days, so I'll be up there. I took Tuesday off, so I'll be up there, so.			
4		HERNANDEZ:	Okay, yeah, I'm trying to confirm that, it's just, this guy's hard to pin down man, so.			
5 6		NURU:	I know, I know. That's why, better you deal with them because I - yeah, so, yeah, um, yeah so I'll be there. you know, I'll go Saturday night and I'll stay there until Tuesday.			
7 8		HERNANDEZ:	Okay.			
9	125.	On February 13, 2019	9, NURU and HERNANDEZ spoke by phone about the delivery of			
10	the tractor at noon on February 18, 2019. HERNANDEZ made clear to NURU that they were using					
11	someone else	's name for the deliver	y:			
12		HERNANDEZ:	The the equipment is scheduled for the 18th at noontime, ok, at 12			
13		NURU:	oh 12			
14		HERNANDEZ:	They're gonna ask for Sandra, we give a Sandra's name, ok? ¹²			
15		NURU:	Ok, no problem, no problem			
16		HERNANDEZ:	Ok, if anything changes, let me know, ok?			
17 18		NURU	Ok ok, that's good, that's good, I'll be up there, so I'll be there for sure, yeah			
19	126.	On February 14, 2019	9, HERNANDEZ texted VARELA "Gracias"			
20	127.	On February 18, 2019	9, NURU texted HERNANDEZ a photo of a John Deere tractor			
21	being unloaded from a truck and wrote "Works begins at the ranch."					
22	128. On the same day NURU also texted VARELA "Thank You." He also called VARELA at					
23	approximately 11:56 AM:					
24		NURU:	Mr. Alan.			
25		VARELA:	Hey how are you?			
26		NURU:	Man did you see that brother? very nice very very nice			
27		VARELA:	Ok good			
28	12 "Sai	ndra" is the first name	of NURU's girlfriend at the time.			
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NURU: Yeah beautiful machine

After discussing how beautiful NURU's new tractor was, VARELA said "I am going to make another trip um probably next week to bring the attachments....so I got one more attachment that is a bore attachment, another attachment that is a grading attachment for spreading rock and leveling things, ok, I'm glad they made it over there." NURU responded "Nice, nice. I just finished my training course (laughs)" and VARELA replied "Good. That is the only reason I wanted to coordinate. Otherwise, I wouldn't have told them to deliver it, but uh, there are a few things that need to be, go over, and how things connect and that stuff."

129. The two then ended their conversation with VARELA indicating they would talk again soon (as described below, it appears the group met at RESTAURANT 1 two days later):

NURU: Ok nice nice Ok ok just wanted to say thank you so much. I'll send

you a picture. It's got a a nice house in my ranch where I am going to keep

it. I will send you the picture right now. You see it in the garage haha

VARELA: Awesome that is good. It's got air conditioning right?

NURU: Oh yeah its beautiful air condition and heater. Oh yeah man its good.

Work now. No excuse now but to work. We can work now haha

VARELA: Good alright Mohammed. Have a great day. Enjoy your day. Glad that

thing showed up and uh

NURU: Thank you

VARELA: We will talk shortly

130. NURU had a similar conversation with HERNANDEZ the following day, February 19, 2019, at approximately 7:46 AM. The two of them discussed NURU's new tractor and HERNANDEZ asked if NURU was happy with it. NURU responded "Yeah, yeah, very nice. It's a nice tractor. Very nice, you know, it's a modern tractor for sure."

131. The following day, February 20, 2019, HERNANDEZ texted NURU: "Are we on for dinner tonight?" NURU responded "Yes." They also spoke by phone after NURU returned HERNANDEZ's call:

1		NURU:	Hey, so tonight what time?
2		BH:	Uhh 7, 7:30, what time do you want?
3		NURU:	7:30 okay, okay, I got it.
4		BH:	Yeah Bill [GILMARTIN] wants to confirm that's all
5		NURU:	Okay, okay, alright, alright.
6		BH:	Alright, we'll see you there
7	132.	Consistent w	th the pattern established above, credit card records show a charge to
8	GILMARTIN	's credit card a	at RESTAURANT 1 for \$716.80 on the same day.
9	133.	Two days late	er, NURU called HERNANDEZ and referenced what I believe to be the
10	dinner meetin	g and asphalt p	plant negotiations:
11	ВН:	I'll be	around this weekend ya know, Sunday uh, we can get together for a little
12		bit if	you have time I mean you're not tired. Get together for drinks or something?
13	NURU	J: Okay.	Alright that sounds (talking over each other)
14	ВН:	I'll be	around.
15	NURU: Okay, a		alright, yeah. I'm good.
16	BH: Let me		e know. (UI) that was a good meeting this week, I think we had a good
17		meeti	ng, so. (talking over each other) (UI) pick up those meetings and continue
18		movin	ng.
19	NURU	J: Let m	e, I'm working to find out from [] why is it taking so long, ya know?
20	ВН:	Yeah.	
21	NURU	J: You k	know they keep on saying when Bill [GILMARTIN] changes the site or (UI),
22		but I'l	I find out what's going on.
23	ВН:	Okay	
24	NURU	J: Yep,	we're good. We're good. Yeah.
25	Based on the t	timing and the	context of this call, and the pattern described above, I believe NURU had
26	dinner with H	ERNANDEZ :	and GILMARTIN on February 20, 2019, shortly after delivery of the tractor,
27	to again discuss the asphalt plant and how NURU could help them resolve the still ongoing negotiations		
28	with the Port	and DPW, whi	ch had at this point been dragging on for several years.
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134. On February 26, 2019, HERNANDEZ texted GILMARTIN: "Working on it, message 1 passed We will get feedback and instructions." 2 3 V. **CONCLUSION** 4 135. Based on the foregoing facts and my training and experience, I respectfully submit there 5 is probable cause to believe, after establishing a continuing course of conduct in which thousands of dollars were spent on lavish meals for NURU, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor and 6 7 material were provided to NURU in exchange for his official acts as the Director of DPW, 8 GILMARTIN and VARELA bribed NURU with a tractor worth approximately \$40,000, in violation of 9 Title 18, United States Code, Sections 666(a)(1)(B) and 2, intending to influence and reward NURU in connection with a transaction and series of transactions of the City and County of San Francisco 10 11 involving \$5,000 or more. 12 13 /s/ via telephone JAMES A. FOLGER 14 Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation 15 16 Sworn to before me over the telephone and signed by me pursuant to Fed.R.Crim.P 4.1 and 4(d) 17 this 16th day of September, 2020. 18 19 HON, THOMAS S. HIX 20 United States Magistrate Judge 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

1940071

MAY 1 9 1995

ProVen Management INC.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

0 F

The name of this corporation is ProVen Management INC.

II

The purpose of this corporation is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which a corporation may be organized under the General Corporation Law of California other than the banking business, the trust company business or the practice of a profession permitted to be incorporated by the California Corporations Code.

Ш

The name and address in the State of California of this corporation's initial agent for service of process is:

> Alan Varela 111 Myrtle St. #204 Oakland, CA 94607

> > IV

This corporation is authorized to issue only one class of shares of stock; and the total number of shares which this corporation is authorized to issue is 10,000.

Alan Varela, Incorporator



Secretary of State Statement of Information

118

SI-550

(California Stock, Agricultural Cooperative and Foreign Corporations)

IMPORTANT — Read instructions before completing this form.

Fees (Filing plus Disclosure) - \$25.00;

Copy Fees – First page \$1.00; each attachment page \$0.50; Certification Fee - \$5.00 plus copy fees FILED Secretary of State State of California

JUN - 5 2017

Corporation Name (Enter the exact name of the corporation as it is recorded with the California Secretary of State. Note: If you registered in California using an assumed name, see instructions.)				This Space For Office Use Only				
Proven Management, Inc.				2. 7-Digit Secretary of State File Number C1940071				
								3. Business Addresses
a. Street Address of Principal Execution 225 3rd St.	ut ve Office - Do not list a P.O. Box			City (no abbrevi Oakland	ations)	State Zip Code CA 94607		
b, Mailing Address of Corporation, I	if different than Item 3a			City (no abbrevi	alions)	State Zip Code		
c. Street Address of Principal California Office, if any and if different than Item 3a - Do not list a P.O. Box			P.O Box	City (no abbrevi	ations)	State Zip Code		
4. Officers	The Corporation is required Financial Officer may be add					Executive	Officer and	d Chief
a. Chief Executive Officer/ Alan	First Name	Middle Name		Last Name Varela				Suffix
Address 225 3rd St.				City (no abbrevi Oakland	ations)	State CA	Zip Code 94607	
t Secretary Alan	•			Last Name Varela			Suffix	
Address 225 3rd St.				1 1 - 1		Zip Code 94607		
c. Chief Financial Officer/ Alan				Last Name Vareia			Suffix	
Address 225 3rd St.						Zip Code 94607		
5. Director(s)	California Stock and Agricu Corporation has additional of	Itural Cooperative Cor irectors, enter the nam	porations ONLY e(s) and address	: Item 5a: At le ses on Form SI-5	east one name <u>and</u> a i50A (see instructions)	ddress mu	st be listed	. If the
a. First Name Alan		Middle Name		Last Name Varela				Suffix
Address 225 3rd St.				City (no abbrevi Oakland	ations)	State CA	Zip Code 94607	
b. Number of Vacancies on the Box	ard of Directors, if any							
·	st provide either Individual OR Co							
	ems 6a and 6b only. Must include	agent's full name and		address.	T'		-	I a
a. California Agent's First Name (if Alan	agent is not a corporation)		Middle Name		Varela			Suffix
1			Oakland	_ '		Zip Code 94607		
CORPORATION - Complet	te Item 6c only. Only include the	name of the registered	agent Corporation	on.				
c California Registered Corporate	Agent's Name (if agent is a corporat	ion) - Do not complete t	tem 6a or 6b					
7. Type of Business								
Describe the type of business or se	rvices of the Corporation							
General Contractor						_		

05/09/2017

Alan Varela

Type or Print Name of Person Completing the Form

8. The Information contained herein, including in any attachments, is true and correct.

President

Signature

Voide

2017 California Secretary of State www.sos.ca.gov/business/be

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16.3.	
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Attachment to Statement of Information

(California Stock and Agricultural Cooperative Corporations)

SI-550A Attachment

A. Corporation Name

Proven Management, Inc.

B. 7-Digit Secretary of State File Number

C1940071

This Space For Office Use Only

C. List of Additional Director(s) - If the corporation has more than one director, enter the additional directors' names and addresses.

5b. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
William		Gilmartin		III	
Address	City (no abbreviations)	•	State	Zip Code	
225 3rd St	225 3rd St. Oakland CA		CA	94607	
Sc. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
1					
Address	City (no abbreviations)		State	Zip Code	
5d. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)		State	Zip Code	
5e. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)	ummanada e e e este e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	State	Zip Code	
5f. First Name	Middle Name	I,ast Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)	THE REPORT AND THE PARTY OF THE	State	Zip Code	
5g. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)		State	Zip Code	
5h. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)	I	State	Zip Code	
5i. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)		State	Zip Code	
5j. First Name	Middle Name	Last Name		Suffix	
Address	City (no abbreviations)	ggagagan Januaran maranan maran antara (n. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	State	Zip Code	

CHAPTER 28:

ADMINISTRATIVE DEBARMENT PROCEDURE

Sec. 28.0.	Findings.
Sec. 28.1.	Definitions.
Sec. 28.2.	Debarment and Suspension Authority.
Sec. 28.3.	Grounds for Debarment and Suspension.
Sec. 28.4.	Initiating Debarment Proceedings; Counts and Allegations.
Sec. 28.5.	Service of the Counts and Allegations or Suspension Order.
Sec. 28.6.	Request for a Hearing.
Sec. 28.7.	Failure to Request a Hearing or to Appear.
Sec. 28.8.	Appointment of the Hearing Officer.
Sec. 28.9.	Pre-Hearing Procedure.
Sec. 28.10.	Hearings and Determinations.
Sec. 28.11.	Term and Effect of Administrative Debarment or Order of Suspension; Violation of Order
Sec. 28.12.	Publication and Reports of Debarment or Suspension.

SEC. 28.0. FINDINGS.

- (a) The Board of Supervisors finds that: (1) contracting with the City is an important municipal affair, and that the award of contracts to Contractors who fail to deal with the City in good faith compromises the integrity of the contracting process and results in the improper expenditure of public funds, and (2) the public contracting process is for the benefit of the public, not Contractors, and it serves the public interest to empower the City to Debar or Suspend a Contractor that has engaged in conduct that undermines the integrity of the public contracting process.
- (b) The Board of Supervisors recognizes that the City must afford Contractors due process in any determination that precludes any individual or business entity from participating in the contracting process. This Chapter 28 does not apply to a determination of nonresponsibility for a single contract or identifiable group of contracts, but rather to the broader determination of irresponsibility of a Contractor for the general purpose of contracting with the City for a specified period. The Board of Supervisors therefore adopts this Chapter to prescribe standard procedures for the prosecution, determination, and implementation of administrative Debarments and Suspensions.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.1. DEFINITIONS.

The following definitions apply for only the purposes of this Chapter 28:

Affiliate. Any individual person or business entity related to a Contractor where such individual or business entity, directly or indirectly, controls or has the power to control the other, or where a third person controls or has the power to control both. Indicia of control include, but are not limited to: interlocking management or ownership; identity of interests among family members; shared facilities and equipment; common use of employees or a business entity organized following the Suspension, Debarment, bankruptcy, dissolution or reorganization of a person which has the same or similar management; and/or ownership or principal employee as the Contractor.

Charging Official. Any City department head or the President of any board or commission authorized to award or execute a contract under the Charter or the Administrative Code, the Mayor, the Controller, the City Administrator, the Director of Administrative Services, or the City Attorney. All Charging Officials are authorized to act on behalf of the City in prosecuting any administrative Debarment proceeding and in issuing an Order of Debarment or issuing an Order of Suspension under this Chapter 28.

City. The City and County of San Francisco.

Contractor. Any individual person, business entity, or organization that submits a qualification statement, proposal, bid, or grant request, or that contracts directly or indirectly with the City for the purpose of providing any goods or services or construction work to or for, or applies for or receives a grant from, the City including without limitation any Contractor, subcontractor, consultant, subconsultant or supplier at any tier, or grantee. The term "Contractor" shall include any responsible managing corporate officer, or responsible managing employee, or other owner or officer of a Contractor who has personal involvement and/or responsibility in seeking or obtaining a contract with the City or in supervising and/or performing the work prescribed by the contract or grant.

Day. A calendar day unless otherwise specified.

Debarment. The administrative determination against a Contractor declaring such Contractor irresponsible and disqualified from participating in the procurement process for contracts, or from entering into contracts, directly or indirectly, with or applying for or receiving grants or other benefits from the City for a period specified in the Debarment order.

Suspension. Ineligibility of a Contractor that is the subject of an arrest, indictment, or other criminal or civil charge by a governmental entity (federal, state or local), as specified in greater detail in Section 28.3(b) from participating in the procurement process for contracts or from entering into contracts directly or indirectly with, or applying for or receiving grants from, the City.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.2. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION AUTHORITY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Administrative Code, any Charging Official shall have authority to issue Orders of Debarment or Suspension against any Contractor in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Chapter 28.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.3. GROUNDS FOR DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION.

(a) **Debarment.** A Charging Official shall issue an Order of Debarment for any Contractor who the hearing officer, based on evidence presented, finds to have engaged in any willful misconduct with respect to any City bid, request for qualifications, request for proposals, grant request, purchase order and/or contract,

or grant award. Such willful misconduct may include, but need not be limited to the following: (1) submission of false information in response to an advertisement or invitation for bids or quotes, a request for qualifications, or a request for proposals; (2) failure to comply with the terms of a contract or with provisions of the Municipal Code; (3) a pattern and practice of disregarding or repudiating terms or conditions of City contracts or grants, including without limitation repeated unexcused delays and poor performance; (4) failure to abide by any rules and/or regulations adopted pursuant to the Municipal Code; (5) submission of false claims as defined in this Administrative Code, Chapter 6, Article V, or Chapter 21, Section 21.35, or other applicable federal, state, or municipal false claims laws; (6) a verdict, judgment, settlement, stipulation, or plea agreement establishing the Contractor's violation of any civil or criminal law or regulation against any government entity relevant to the Contractor's ability or capacity honestly to perform under or comply with the terms and conditions of a City contract or grant; (7) collusion in obtaining award of any City contract or grant, or payment or approval thereunder; and/or (8) the offer or provision of any gift or money to a public official, if that public official is prohibited from accepting the gift or money by any law or regulation.

(b) **Suspension.** Any Charging Official may issue an Order of Suspension to a Contractor on the basis that the Contractor has been arrested or indicted, or become the subject of a criminal, civil or administrative complaint issued by a government entity, where the arrest or indictment, criminal, civil, or administrative complaint alleges that the Contractor has violated a civil or criminal law or regulation against any government entity relevant to the Contractor's ability or capacity honestly to perform under or comply with the terms and conditions of a City contract or grant including, but not limited to, the grounds for Debarment set forth in Section 28.3(a).

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.4. INITIATING DEBARMENT PROCEEDINGS; COUNTS AND ALLEGATIONS.

- (a) Any Charging Official may initiate an administrative Debarment proceeding by issuing Counts and Allegations. A Charging Official may issue Counts and Allegations against any Contractor relating to any matter consistent with the grounds for debarment as stated in Section 28.3(a). A Charging Official may issue Counts and Allegations regardless whether such Charging Official awarded, was responsible for, or was involved in any way with the underlying contract or circumstances leading to the Counts and Allegations.
- (b) The Charging Official shall append to the Counts and Allegations a photocopy of this Chapter 28 of the Administrative Code. Failure to append this Chapter 28, however, shall not affect the force or validity of the Counts and Allegations.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.5. SERVICE OF THE COUNTS AND ALLEGATIONS OR SUSPENSION ORDER.

(a) **Debarment Counts and Allegations.** The Charging Official shall serve the Counts and Allegations on each named individual person or business entity in a manner ensuring confirmation of delivery. For example, the Charging Officer may achieve service by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested or with other delivery confirmation, hand delivery (messenger service), or other commercial delivery service that provides written confirmation of delivery.

The Charging Official shall also serve the Counts and Allegations on the Controller, City Administrator and the City Attorney.

(b) **Suspension Order.** The Charging Official shall serve the Suspension Order on the named Contractor in a manner ensuring confirmation of delivery. For example, the Charging Officer may achieve service by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested or with other delivery confirmation, hand delivery (messenger service), or other commercial delivery service that provides written confirmation of delivery.

The Charging Official shall also serve the Suspension Order on the Controller, City Administrator and the City Attorney.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.6. REQUEST FOR A HEARING.

- (a) **Debarment Counts and Allegations.** Within 15 business days after receipt of the Counts and Allegations, the Contractor may submit a written request for an administrative hearing. The Contractor may make such request through counsel or other authorized representative. The Contractor shall file any such request with the Controller with copies to the Charging Official, the City Attorney, and the City Administrator.
- (b) **Order of Suspension.** At any time during a period of Suspension, a suspended Contractor may submit a written request to the Charging Official requesting the official to lift the Order of Suspension on the grounds that the Contractor's alleged conduct does not meet the legal requirement for Suspension, or based on facts or circumstances unknown to the Charging Official, or based on new facts, circumstances, or law. The Charging Official shall provide a written response within 14 Days. If the Charging Official's written response declines to lift the Order of Suspension, or the Charging Official fails to provide a written response within 14 Days, the suspended Contractor may submit in writing within 7 Days a request for an administrative hearing. The suspended Contractor may make such request through counsel or other authorized representative. The suspended Contractor shall file any such request with the Controller with copies to the Charging Official, the City Administrator, and the City Attorney.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.7. FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING OR TO APPEAR.

Failure of the Contractor to submit to the City a written request to be heard within the time required by this Chapter 28, or failure of the Contractor or the Contractor's representative to appear for a requested hearing that has been duly noticed, shall be deemed admission by the Contractor to the Counts and Allegations.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.8. APPOINTMENT OF THE HEARING OFFICER.

- (a) A Charging Official shall request either the Controller or the City Administrator ("City Representative") to appoint a hearing officer for any Debarment or Suspension proceeding. If either the Controller or the City Administrator is the Charging Official, then that City Representative shall request the other to appoint the hearing officer.
- (b) Within 14 Days of the Charging Official's request, the City Representative shall appoint a hearing officer and notify the Contractor and the Charging Official of the appointment. The appointed hearing officer shall be an attorney licensed to practice in California, with not less than five years experience. The notice of

appointment shall include the name of the hearing officer. The Contractor or the Charging Official may object to the appointed hearing officer within five business days of the notification. If the City Representative, at the City Representative's sole discretion, appoints a new hearing officer, then the City Representative shall notify the Contractor and the Charging Official as soon as practicable but not more than 14 Days after receipt of the objection.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.9. PRE-HEARING PROCEDURE.

- (a) Within 14 Days of appointment, the hearing officer shall notify each Contractor named in the Counts and Allegations or Suspension Order and the Charging tt¹ Official, the Controller, the City Administrator and the City Attorney of the scheduled hearing date. The hearing date shall be set at the hearing officer's sole discretion except, for a Debarment hearing, the hearing must commence within 120 Days of the date the Charging Official served the Counts and Allegations; a Suspension hearing must commence within 30 Days of the date the Suspended Contractor requested a hearing pursuant to Section 28.6(b) ¹ The hearing officer may extend the deadline for holding a hearing only upon good cause shown; proceeding as expeditiously as possible is in the public's best interests.
- (b) Discovery pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure is not applicable to this administrative debarment or suspension procedure.
- (c) The hearing officer shall have the sole discretionary authority to direct any named Contractor and the ccCharging ¹ Official to submit in advance of the hearing statements, legal analyses, lists of witnesses, exhibits, documents or any other information the hearing officer deems pertinent. The hearing officer may request the respective parties to submit rebuttals to such information. The hearing officer may limit the length, scope, or content of any such statement, analysis, list, rebuttal, document, or other requested information. The hearing officer shall set firm due dates for all written presentations.
- (d) If the hearing officer determines, with the written agreement of each named Contractor and the Charging Official, that the hearing shall be by written presentation, all final writings shall be due no later than 120 Days of the date the Charging Official served the Counts and Allegations or Order of Suspension.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

CODIFICATION NOTE

1. So in Ord. 239-20.

SEC. 28.10. HEARINGS AND DETERMINATIONS.

- (a) Hearings may occur in person, on an electronic meeting platform if deemed necessary by the hearing officer, or in writing, as set forth in the foregoing Section 28.09. ¹ If the hearing is to occur in person or on an electronic meeting platform, the hearing officer shall specify the time and place for the Charging Official to present the case and for the Contractor to rebut the charges. The hearing officer shall have the sole discretion to allow offers of proof, set time limitations, and limit the scope of evidence presented based on relevancy.
- (b) The Charging Official shall present evidence in support of the Debarment or Suspension to the hearing officer. The Contractor may present evidence in defense and/or mitigation. Each side shall be entitled to call witnesses, and the hearing officer may allow cross-examination of witnesses. The hearing officer may ask questions of any party.

- (c) The hearing officer shall consider the evidence submitted by the Charging Official and the Contractor. Within 14 Days of the hearing, or of the date final written presentations are due, the hearing officer shall issue Findings and a Decision. The hearing officer shall serve the Findings and Decision on the Charging Official, the named Contractor(s), and/or their respective counsels or authorized representatives, and shall submit the same to the Controller, City Administrator, and City Attorney.
- (d) If the hearing officer finds that the named Contractor has committed willful misconduct as described in Section 28.3 and orders a term of Debarment, the Charging Official shall issue an Order of Debarment consistent with the hearing officer's decision. The Charging Official shall serve the Order on each named Contractor, their counsel or authorized representative, if any, the City Attorney, the City Administrator, and the Controller. An Order of Debarment under this Chapter 28 shall be the final administrative determination by the City in the matter.
- (e) For a Suspended Contractor, the hearing officer may consider evidence and argument by the Contractor to support its assertion that the City should terminate the Order of Suspension, provided that the Charging Official shall be entitled to offer evidence and argument in opposition to the Contractor's assertion. If the Contractor establishes that the underlying basis of the Order of Suspension has been finally resolved without a verdict, judgment, settlement agreement or plea agreement against the Contractor, the hearing officer shall terminate the Order of Suspension. An Order of Suspension upheld by a hearing officer under this Chapter shall be the final administrative determination by the City in the matter. Any termination of an Order of Suspension shall not preclude a Charging Officer from initiating Debarment proceedings against the Contractor based on the underlying conduct of the Suspension Order pursuant to section 28.4 following termination of the Order of Suspension.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

CODIFICATION NOTE

■ 1. So in Ord. <u>239-20</u>.

SEC. 28.11. TERM AND EFFECT OF ADMINISTRATIVE DEBARMENT OR ORDER OF SUSPENSION; VIOLATION OF ORDER.

- (a) An Order of Debarment shall provide for a term of Debarment not to exceed five years from the date of the Order. An Order of Suspension shall remain in effect until the Contractor establishes to the Charging Officer or the City Administrator that the underlying basis of the Order of Suspension has been finally resolved without a verdict, judgment, or plea agreement against Contractor.
- (b) At any time during the pendency of an Order of Suspension, the City may initiate debarment proceedings against the Contractor. If the City suspends and later debars a Contractor for the same underlying conduct, the period of Suspension shall count towards the period of Debarment.
- (c) An Order of Debarment or Suspension shall prohibit any named Contractor and the Contractor's affiliates from participating in any contract or grant at any tier, directly or indirectly, with or for the City; any Contractor and the Contractor's affiliates named in an Order of Debarment shall be deemed irresponsible and disqualified for the purposes of all City contracts and grants. Upon such Order, any department head, board, or commission may cancel any existing contract or grant with a Suspended or Debarred Contractor or direct the cancellation of an existing subcontract to which a Suspended Debarred Contractor¹ is a party. In the event of such cancellation, the Suspended or Debarred Contractor's recovery under the contract or grant shall be limited to compensation for work satisfactorily completed as of the date of cancellation.

- (d) Administrative Debarment shall neither exclude nor preclude any other administrative or legal action taken by the City against the Contractor.
- (e) Violation of an Order of Suspension or Debarment, such as by submission of a proposal, bid or sub-bid or grant request, during the Suspension or Debarment period, may be considered a false claim as provided in this Administrative Code and the California Government Code.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; redesignated and amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

CODIFICATION NOTE

1. So in Ord. <u>239-20</u>.

SEC. 28.12. PUBLICATION AND REPORTS OF DEBARMENT OR SUSPENSION.

Any Order of Debarment or Suspension issued under this Chapter 28 shall be a public record. The Controller shall maintain and publish on the City's Internet website a current list of Contractors subject to Orders of Debarment or Suspension and the expiration dates for the respective debarment terms. The Controller shall submit a semi-annual report to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors that includes (a) the Contractors then subject to an Order of Debarment or Suspension and the expiration dates for the respective debarment terms; (b) the status of any pending debarment or suspension matters; and (c) any Order of Debarment or Suspension received by the Controller since the date of the last report.

(Added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; redesignated and amended by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

(Former Sec. 28.12 added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; redesignated as Sec. 28.11 by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. = 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

SEC. 28.13. [REDESIGNATED.]

(Former Sec. 28.13 added by Ord. 8-04, File No. 031503, App. 1/16/2004; redesignated as Sec. 28.12 by Ord. 239-20, File No. 200896, App. 11/25/2020, Eff. 12/26/2020)

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