

Evan Smith (Bar No. SBN 242352) 1 BRODSKY & SMITH, LLC. 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900 2 ALAMEDA COUNTY Beverly Hills, CA 90212 Tel: (877) 534-2590 3 JUL 0 8 2021 Fax: (310) 247-0160 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT 4 Attorneys for Plaintiff 5 6 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 10 Case No.: RG20074696 11 ANTHONY FERREIRO, CONSENT JUDGMENT 12 Plaintiff, Judge: Jeffrey Brand 13 ٧. Dept.: 22 Hearing Date: December 15, 2020 FRICK PAPER COMPANY D/B/A PAPER 14 Hearing Time: 2:30 PM MART, LLC, Reservation #: R-2215378 15 Defendant. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

CONSENT JUDGMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- The Parties. This Consent Judgment is entered into by and between Anthony Ferreiro acting on behalf of the public interest (hereinafter "Ferreiro") and Frick Paper Company d/b/a Paper Mart, LLC ("Frick Paper" or "Defendant"), with Ferreiro and Defendant collectively referred to as the "Parties" and each of them as a "Party." Ferreiro is an individual residing in California that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Frick Paper is alleged to be a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 et seq. ("Proposition 65").
- 1.2 **Allegations and Representations.** Ferreiro alleges that Defendant has exposed individuals to di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) from its import, manufacture, distribution, and/or sales of vinyl zipper bags/pouches/cases in the State of California without providing a clear and reasonable exposure warning pursuant to Proposition 65. DEHP is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity.
- 1.3 **Notice of Violation/Complaint.** On or about September 13, 2019, Ferreiro served Frick Paper and various public enforcement agencies with documents entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) (the "Notice"), alleging that Defendant violated Proposition 65 for failing to warn consumers and customers that use of the Covered Products exposes users in California to DEHP. To the best of the Parties' knowledge, no public enforcer has brought and is diligently prosecuting the claims alleged in the Notice. On September 10, 2020, Ferreiro filed a complaint (the "Complaint") in this matter.
- 1.4 For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the Parties stipulate that this Court has jurisdiction over Defendant as to the allegations contained in the Complaint filed in this matter, that venue is proper in the County of Alameda, and that this Court has jurisdiction to approve, enter, and oversee the enforcement of this Consent Judgment as a full, final and binding resolution of all claims which were or could have been raised in the Complaint based on the facts alleged therein

and/or in the Notice.

1.5 Defendant denies the material factual and legal allegations contained in Ferreiro's Notice and Complaint and maintains that it has not violated Proposition 65. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law; nor shall compliance with this Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law, or violation of law, such being specifically denied by Defendant. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and duties of Defendant under this Consent Judgment.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 **Covered Products.** The term "Covered Products" means vinyl zipper bags/pouches/cases that are manufactured, distributed, imported, sold and/or offered for sale in California by Frick Paper.
- 2.2 **Effective Date.** The term "Effective Date" means the date this Consent Judgment is entered as a Judgment of the Court.

3. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNINGS</u>

- Reformulation of Covered Products. Commencing ninety (90) days after the Effective Date, and continuing thereafter, Covered Products that Frick Paper directly manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California shall either: (a) be Reformulated Products pursuant to § 3.2, below; or (b) be labeled with a clear and reasonable exposure warning pursuant to §§ 3.3 and 3.4, below. For purposes of this Consent Judgment, a "Reformulated Product" is a Covered Product that is in compliance with the standard set forth in § 3.2 below. The warning requirement set forth in §§ 3.3 and 3.4 shall not apply to any Reformulated Product.
- 3.2 **Reformulation Standard.** "Reformulated Products" shall mean Covered Products that contain concentrations less than or equal to 0.1% (1,000 parts per million (ppm)) of DEHP when analyzed pursuant to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A

and 8270C or other methodology utilized by federal or state government agencies for the purpose of determining the phthalate content in a solid substance.

- Oate, and continuing thereafter, a clear and reasonable exposure warning as set forth in this §§ 3.3 and 3.4 must be provided for all Covered Products that Defendant manufacturers, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale in California that is not a Reformulated Product. There shall be no obligation for Defendant to provide a warning for Covered Products that enter the stream of commerce up to and through ninety (90) days after the Effective Date. The warning shall consist of either the Warning or Alternative Warning described in §§ 3.3(a) or (b), respectively:
 - (a) Warning. The "Warning" shall consist of the statement:
 - ⚠ WARNING: This product can expose you to chemicals including di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.
- (b) **Alternative Warning**: Frick Paper may, but is not required to, use the alternative short-form warning as set forth in this § 3.3(b) ("**Alternative Warning**") as follows:

⚠ WARNING: Cancer and Reproductive Harm - www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

3.4 A Warning or Alternative Warning provided pursuant to § 3.3 must print the word "WARNING:" in all capital letters and in bold font, followed by a colon. The warning symbol to the left of the word "WARNING:" must be a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a black outline, except that if the sign or label for the Covered Product does not use the color yellow, the symbol may be in black and white. The symbol must be in a size no smaller than the height of the word "WARNING:". The warning shall be affixed to or printed on the Covered Product's packaging or labeling, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or electronic device or automatic process, providing that the warning is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use. The warning may be contained in the same section of the packaging, labeling, or instruction booklet that states other safety

warnings, if any, concerning the use of the Covered Product and shall be at least the same size as those other safety warnings.

If Frick Paper sells Covered Products via an internet website to customers located in California, the foregoing warning requirements shall be provided by including either the warning or a clearly marked hyperlink using the word "WARNING" on the product display page, or by otherwise prominently displaying the warning to the purchaser prior to completing the purchase.

3.5 Compliance with Warning Regulations. Defendant shall be deemed to be in compliance with the warning requirements of this Consent Judgment by either adhering to §§ 3.3 and 3.4 of this Consent Judgment or by complying with warning requirements adopted by the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") as of or after the Effective Date.

4. MONETARY TERMS

- 4.1 **Civil Penalty.** Frick Paper shall pay \$2,500.00 as a Civil Penalty pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), to be apportioned in accordance with California Health & Safety Code § 25192, with 75% of these funds remitted to OEHHA and the remaining 25% of the Civil Penalty remitted to Ferreiro, as provided by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.12(d).
- 4.1.1 Within ten (10) days of the Effective Date, Frick Paper shall issue two separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment to (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of \$1,875.00; and to (b) "Brodsky & Smith, LLC in Trust for Ferreiro" in the amount of \$625.00. Payment owed to Ferreiro pursuant to this Section shall be delivered to the following payment address:

Evan J. Smith, Esquire Brodsky & Smith, LLC Two Bala Plaza, Suite 805 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Payment owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486) pursuant to this Section shall be delivered directly to OEHHA (Memo Line "Prop 65 Penalties") at one of the following address(es):

For United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics Fiscal Operations Branch Chief Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

P.O. Box 4010 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010

For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:

Mike Gyurics Fiscal Operations Branch Chief Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

A copy of the check payable to OEHHA shall be mailed to Brodsky & Smith, LLC at the address set forth above as proof of payment to OEHHA.

4.2 **Attorneys' Fees.** Within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, Frick Paper shall pay \$22,500.00 to Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") as complete reimbursement for Ferreiro's attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to Frick Paper's attention, litigating and negotiating and obtaining judicial approval of a settlement in the public interest, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

5. RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

5.1 This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between Ferreiro acting on his own behalf, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, and successors and/or assignees, and on behalf of the public interest ("Releasors"), and Frick Paper, and its parents, shareholders, members, directors, officers, managers, employees, representatives, agents, attorneys, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, partners, sister companies, and affiliates, and their predecessors, successors and assigns ("Defendant Releasees"), and all entities from whom they obtain and to whom they directly or indirectly distribute or sell Covered Products, including but not limited to manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, marketplace hosts, wholesalers, customers, licensors, licensees, retailers, franchisees, and cooperative members, including but not limited to Walmart Inc. ("Downstream Releasees"), of all claims for violations of Proposition 65 based on exposure to DEHP with respect to any Covered Products manufactured, distributed, imported, offered for sale and/or sold by Frick Paper prior to and through ninety (90) days after the Effective Date. This Consent Judgment shall have preclusive effect such that no other person or entity, whether purporting to act in his, her, or its interests or the public interest shall be permitted to

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pursue and/or take any action with respect to any violation of Proposition 65 that was alleged in the Complaint, or that could have been brought pursuant to the Notice against Frick Paper, the Defendant Releasees and the Downstream Releasees of the Covered Products ("Proposition 65 Claims"). Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with regard to the Covered Products.

- 5.2 In addition to the foregoing, Ferreiro, on behalf of himself and Releasors, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, and successors and/or assignees, and <u>not</u> in his representative capacity, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases Frick Paper, Defendant Releasees, and Downstream Releasees from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, claims, demands, rights, suits, obligations, debts, contracts, agreements, promises, liabilities, damages, charges, losses, costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees, of any nature whatsoever, known or unknown, in law or equity, fixed or contingent, now or in the future, with respect to any alleged violations of Proposition 65 related to or arising from Covered Products manufactured, distributed, imported, offered for sale and/or sold by Frick Paper, Defendant Releasees or Downstream Releasees.
- 5.3 With respect to the foregoing waivers and releases in this paragraph, Ferreiro hereby specifically waives any and all rights and benefits which he now has, or in the future may have, conferred by virtue of the provisions of § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

5.4 Frick Paper waives any and all claims against Ferreiro, his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Ferreiro and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against it in this matter.

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5.5 The Parties agree that compliance by Frick Paper with this Consent Judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to alleged exposure to DEHP from use of the Covered Products.

6. <u>INTEGRATION</u>

6.1 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

7. **GOVERNING LAW**

7.1 The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to Covered Products, then Defendant shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment with respect to, and to the extent that, Covered Products are so affected.

8. NOTICES

8.1 Unless specified herein, all correspondence and notices required to be provided pursuant to this Consent Judgment shall be in writing and personally delivered or sent by: (i) first-class, (registered or certified mail) return receipt requested; or (ii) overnight courier on any party by the other party at the following addresses:

For Defendant:

John Teeter Paper Mart 2164 N. Batavia St. Orange, CA 92865

With copy to:

Ann G. Grimaldi Jennifer K. Singh Grimaldi Law Offices 75 Broadway Street, Suite 202 San Francisco, CA 94111

And

For Ferreiro:

Evan Smith Brodsky & Smith, LLC 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Any party, from time to time, may specify in writing to the other party a change of address to which all notices and other communications shall be sent.

9. <u>COUNTERPARTS; FACSIMILE SIGNATURES</u>

9.1 This Consent Judgment may be executed in counterparts and by facsimile, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which, when taken together, shall constitute one and the same document.

10. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(f)/COURT APPROVAL</u>

- 10.1 Ferreiro agrees to comply with the requirements set forth in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f) and to promptly bring a Motion for Approval of this Consent Judgment. Defendant agrees it shall reasonably support approval of such Motion.
- This Consent Judgment shall not be effective until it is approved and entered by the Court and shall be null and void if, for any reason, it is not approved by the Court. In such case, the Parties agree to meet and confer on how to proceed and if such agreement is not reached within 30 days, the case shall proceed on its normal course.
- 10.3 If the Court approves this Consent Judgment and is reversed or vacated by an appellate court, the Parties shall meet and confer as to whether to modify the terms of this Consent Judgment. If the Parties do not jointly agree on a course of action to take, the case shall proceed on its normal course on the trial court's calendar.

11. MODIFICATION

11.1 This Consent Judgment may be modified only by further stipulation of the Parties and the approval of the Court or upon the granting of a motion brought to the Court by either Party.

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1	12.	12. ATTORNEY'S FEES		
2 12.1 A Party who unsuccessfully brings or contests an action arising			r contests an action arising out of this Consent	
3	Judgment shall be required to pay the prevailing party's reasonable attorney's fees and costs.			
4		12.2 Nothing in this Section shall preclud	le a Party from seeking an award of sanctions	
5	pursuant to law.			
6	13. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION			
7		13.1. This Court shall retain jurisdiction	of this matter to implement or modify the	
8	Consent Judgment.			
9	14. <u>AUTHORIZATION</u>			
10	14.1 The undersigned are authorized to execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their			
11	respective Parties and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this			
12	document and certify that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to execute			
13	the Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented and legally bind that Party. Except as			
14	explicitly provided herein each Party is to bear its own fees and costs.			
15		AGREED TO:	AGREED TO:	
16		AUREUD IV.	Addice to.	
17	By: Conthony Fernine By: ANTHONY FERREIRO FRICK PAPER COMPANY DA		Date:	
18			By:	
19			FRICK PAPER COMPANY D/B/A	
20			PAPER MART, LLC	
21	ITISS	IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:		
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23	Dated:			
24			Judge of Superior Court	
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