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WALGREEN CO. TO PAY \$6 MILLION IN PRICE SCANNER AND EXPIRED PRODUCTS CASE

Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today a \$6 million settlement against Illinois-based Walgreen Co. (Walgreens), to resolve price scanner and expired products violations throughout the state. Walgreens operates more than 450 stores in California including 4 stores in Santa Cruz County. This lawsuit included the District Attorneys of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties.

The civil settlement involved allegations that Walgreens violated state law by charging customers more than the lowest posted or advertised price for items, based upon scanner inspections conducted by local Weights and Measures offices, including the office of Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights & Measures.

The settlement also resolved allegations that Walgreens failed to comply with laws prohibiting selling or offering to sell over-the-counter drugs past their expiration date, based on inspections by District Attorney Investigation units, particularly from the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's Office.

Walgreens agreed to pay \$6,000,000 in civil penalties and costs, in which \$644,500 will be payable to Santa Cruz County. Costs in the amount of \$22,331 will be reimbursed to the Santa Cruz County Department of Weights and Measures who provided invaluable expertise in this consumer action.

The present Modified Stipulated Final Judgment "supersedes" a 2018 judgment against Walgreens, by adding new provisions to address the new pricing and expired product violations. The judgment requires Walgreens to institute a compliance program to ensure the removal of infant formula, baby food, and over-the counter drugs prior to the "use by" or "expiration" dates. The program also requires procedures to ensure that consumers are charged accurate prices.

Walgreens cooperated with prosecutors during the investigation and the resolution of this case. This is the sixth judgment against Walgreens addressing price accuracy and second addressing sale or offer for sale of expired drug-fact containing products.

District Attorney Rosell stated, "I am pleased with the outcome of this consumer action as this corporation was held appropriately accountable for its continued violation of consumer protection laws. Our office remains steadfast in its mission of protecting the safety of our consumers and ensuring they are not subject to continued unfair business practices."