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Lori H. Flanery
Secretary

SECRETARY'S ORDER 11-004

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET

Vendor Document Disclosure

WHEREAS, in order to promote accountability and transparency in governmental operations, the Finance and Administration Cabinet believes that a mechanism should be created which would provide for review and assistance to an Executive Branch agency if said agency cannot obtain access to documents that it deems necessary to conduct a review of the records of a private vendor that holds a contract to provide goods and/or services to the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in order to promote accountability and transparency in governmental operations, the Finance and Administration Cabinet believes that a mechanism should be created which would provide for review and assistance to an Executive Branch agency if said agency cannot obtain access to documents that it deems necessary during the course of an audit, investigation or any other inquiry by an Executive Branch agency that involves the review of documents; and

WHEREAS, KRS 42.014 and KRS 12.270 authorizes the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet to establish the internal organization and assignment of functions which are not established by statute relating to the Finance and Administration Cabinet; further, KRS Chapter 45A.050 and 45A.230 authorizes the Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet to procure, manage and control all supplies and services that are procured by the Commonwealth and to intervene in controversies among vendors and state agencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by KRS 42.014, KRS 12.270, KRS 45A.050, and 45A.230, I, Lori H. Flanery, Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, do hereby order and direct the following:

- I. Upon the request of an Executive Branch agency, the Finance and Administration Cabinet ("FAC") shall formally review any dispute arising where the agency has requested documents from a private vendor that holds a state contract and the vendor has refused access to said documents under a claim that said documents are not directly pertinent or relevant to the agency's inquiry upon which the document request was predicated.
- II. Upon the request of an Executive Branch agency, the FAC shall formally review any situation where the agency has requested documents that the agency deems necessary to

conduct audits, investigations or any other formal inquiry where a dispute has arisen as to what documents are necessary to conclude the inquiry.

- III. Upon receipt of a request by a state agency pursuant to Sections I & II, the FAC shall consider the request from the Executive Branch agency and the position of the vendor or party opposing the disclosure of the documents, applying any and all relevant law to the facts and circumstances of the matter in controversy. After FAC's review is complete, FAC shall issue a Determination which sets out FAC's position as to what documents and/or records, if any, should be disclosed to the requesting agency. The Determination shall be issued within 30 days of receipt of the request from the agency. This time period may be extended for good cause.
- IV. If the Determination concludes that documents are being wrongfully withheld by the private vendor or other party opposing the disclosure from the state agency, the private vendor shall immediately comply with the FAC's Determination. Should the private vendor or other party refuse to comply with FAC's Determination, then the FAC, in concert with the requesting agency, shall effectuate any and all options that it possesses to obtain the documents in question, including, but not limited to, jointly initiating an action in the appropriate court for relief.
- V. Any provisions of any prior Order that conflicts with the provisions of this Order shall be deemed null and void.