STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF BANKING AND SECURITIES

In the matter of:)	ORDER NO: 15-6737-B
Alaska Prepaid Card, LLC d/b/a Quyana Card)	ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST IMPOSING A CIVIL PENALTY
	Respondent.)	and CONSENT TO ORDER

The Director of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Banking and Securities ("Department"), has conducted an investigation into the conduct of Alaska Prepaid Card, LLC ("Respondent") and has determined that Respondent violated certain provisions of AS 06.50 et seq. ("Alaska Deferred Deposit Advances Act").

Respondent agrees that the Department has jurisdiction over Respondent and these matters pursuant to the Alaska Deferred Deposit Advances Act.

Respondent wishes to resolve and settle this matter with the Department. As evidenced by the authorized signature on this Order, Respondent consents to the entry of this Order imposing a civil penalty based on the Conclusions of Law and Order. Respondent waives its right to a hearing.

I. FACTS

- 1. Respondent is a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Alaska. Debra Peacock is a 51% member and Lahka Peacock is a 49% member of Alaska Prepaid Card, LLC, d/b/a Quyana Card.
 - 2. Respondent is located at 214 W. Front Street, Ste. 325, Nome, Alaska, 99762, with a

mailing address of P.O. Box 1303, Nome, Alaska, 99762.

- 3. Respondent is not licensed in the State of Alaska to make, or offer to make, deferred deposit advances (payday loans) in Alaska.
- 4. Respondent is licensed in the State of Alaska as a money transmitter under license number AK MT 10082, issued by the Department on February 26, 2014. Respondent's primary business is distributing, marketing and selling its prepaid card product, the Quyana Card. The Quyana Card was developed for, and primarily marketed to, customers in rural areas of Alaska who have limited access to traditional banking services or who do not maintain an account through a bank.
- 5. On October 30, 2015, the Department received a report that Respondent had been making payday loans to its customers.
- 6. On December 16, 2015, Lahka Peacock admitted to the Department that Respondent had made an estimated one hundred to two hundred advance loans to customers (advance recipients) from July 2014 through December 14, 2015. The advances were made by loading the money onto each advance recipient's Quyana Card. The terms of the advance generally included 15% interest for each \$100.00 of an advance, with a \$5.00 fee added to each advance. The advance, plus interest and fees, would be debited at the time of the advance recipient's next direct deposit to the Quyana Card. Additional interest and fees were charged every two weeks on unpaid advances.
- 7. On December 16, 2015, Mr. Peacock admitted to the Department that the advance recipients had not been required to sign an advance agreement or a disclosure statement in order to obtain an advance. The advances, and the renewal of the advances, were all made by a verbal agreement between the advance recipients and Respondent. There was nothing in writing to document the amount of the advance, interest and fees charged, or when the

advance was due.

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- 8. On December 16, 2015, Mr. Peacock admitted to the Department that Respondent had collected costs and damages awarded in small claims court against advance recipients who had defaulted on their loan.
 - 9. On December 16, 2015, Mr. Peacock voluntarily agreed to stop making payday loans.
- 10. On December 16, 2015, Mr. Peacock agreed to refund all fees and finance charges to each advance recipient and to provide documentation to the Department of all refunds made. Refunds also include all costs, fees, damages and interest recovered as a result of judgments received in small claims court.
- 11. On January 20, 2016, Mr. Peacock provided a spreadsheet to the Department of his best estimate of all advances made. The spreadsheet includes: the name and contact information of each advance recipient (address and phone number), the estimated date and dollar amount of each advance, and the estimated dollar amount of interest and finance fees to be reimbursed to each advance recipient.
- 12. On February 1, 2016, Mr. Peacock provided a spreadsheet to the Department of all small claims court actions taken against advance recipients who defaulted on their advance. The spreadsheet includes: the name and contact information of each advance recipient (address and phone number), the dollar amount of the principal advanced, the dollar amount collected as a result of the court action, and the dollar amount to be reimbursed to each advance recipient.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. From July 2014 to December 14, 2015, Respondent made deferred deposit advances in Alaska as that term is defined in AS 06.50.900(4).
 - 2. From July 2014 to December 14, 2015, Respondent made deferred deposit advances

in Alaska without a deferred deposit advance license in violation of AS 06.50.010.

3. Pursuant to AS 06.01.035(g), Respondent is subject to a civil penalty because it violated AS 06.50.010.

III. ORDER

Pursuant to AS 06.01.030 and AS 06.01.035, and on the basis of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Respondent's consent to the entry of this Order, Respondent agrees to:

- 1. CEASE AND DESIST from engaging in the business of making deferred deposit advances in Alaska without a deferred deposit advance license.
- 2. Within 60 days of the execution of this Order, pay a civil penalty in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), plus six hundred dollars (\$600) to reimburse the Department for the costs of its investigation, for a total amount of twenty-five thousand six hundred dollars (\$25,600), with twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) suspended for a period of five (5) years. If Respondent commits any violation of the Alaska Deferred Deposit Advances Act, the suspended portion of the civil penalty will be immediately due.
- 3. Within 60 days of the execution of this Order, notify in writing and make refunds of fees and finance charges to the advance recipients who received an advance from July 2014 through December 14, 2015 and provide evidence of such to the Department either in the form of: a copy of the printed receipt of refunds loaded onto the advance recipient's Quyana Card, or a copy of the refund check made out to each advance recipient and a postmarked certified receipt of each check mailed, or by a copy of the receipt of the cash amount received bearing the signature of the advance recipient. Refunds should include all additional transaction fees associated with loading the refunds onto the advance recipient's Quyana Card, if any.

- 4. Within 60 days of the execution of this Order, make refunds of all costs, fees, damages and interest recovered as a result of judgments received in small claims court against advance recipients and provide evidence of such to the Department either in the form of: a copy of the printed receipt of refunds loaded onto the advance recipient's Quyana Card, a copy of each refund check made out to each advance recipient and a postmarked certified receipt of each check mailed, or by a copy of the receipt of the cash amount received bearing the signature of the advance recipient. Refunds should include all additional transaction fees associated with loading the refunds onto the advance recipient's Quyana Card, if any.
- 5. Within 3 years of the execution date of this Order, make refunds of fees and finance charges to any additional advance recipients that come forward with verifiable claims that an advance had been made where interest and fees were collected. Respondent must provide evidence of such to the Department either in the form of: a copy of the printed receipt of refunds loaded onto the advance recipient's Quyana Card, a copy of each refund check made out to each advance recipient and a postmarked certified receipt of each check mailed, or by a copy of the receipt of cash amount received bearing the signature of the advance recipient. Refunds should include all additional transaction fees associated with loading the refunds onto the advance recipient's Quyana Card, if any.
- 6. Within 30 days of the execution date of this Order, contact the Department of Revenue, Treasury Division, Unclaimed Property Program (Unclaimed Property Program), for guidance in adhering to the requirements set out in AS 34.45.010, *et seq.*, and AS 34.45.190, in particular, with respect to any refund(s) remaining unclaimed after Respondent has exerted due diligence to locate and deliver the refund(s) to the advance recipient(s). Within 90 days of the execution of this Order, Respondent must provide written verification to the Department from the Unclaimed Property Program regarding Respondent's

satisfaction of the fulfillment of such requirements. IT IS SO ORDERED. 2 3 Chris Hladick, Commissioner Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development 4 5 03.21.2016 /s/ Kevin Anselm 6 Date Kevin Anselm, Director Division of Banking and Securities 7 8 **Consent to Entry of Order** 9 Lahka Peacock, as authorized representative of Alaska Prepaid Card, LLC ("Respondent"), acknowledges that he has read the foregoing Order and that he agrees with 11 the terms contained in the Order; that Respondent voluntarily and without any force or 12 duress, consents to the entry of this Order as settlement of the issues contained in this Order; 13 that Respondent expressly waives any right to a hearing in this matter; that Respondent 14 understands that the Department reserves the right to take further actions to enforce this 15 Order or to take appropriate action upon discovery of other violations of the Alaska Deferred Deposit Advances Act, and that Respondent will fully comply with the terms and conditions 17 stated herein. 18 Respondent further assures the Department that Respondent and its managers, 19 employees and agents will only affect deferred deposit advances in Alaska in full compliance with the terms of this Order and by license under the Alaska Deferred Deposit Advances Act. 20 21 Respondent acknowledges that this Order is a publicly disclosable document. 22 03.07.2016 /s/ Lahka Peacock 23 Lahka Peacock Date 24 Alaska Prepaid Card, LLC

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 7th day of March, 2016 at

Nome, Alaska.

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/s/ E.M. Lillie Notary Public in and for ALASKA

E.M. Lillie Notary Printed Name

My commission expires: <u>09/07/2017</u>

Contact Person: Julia Winchell Investigator