



**NICOLE GALLOWAY, CPA**  
**Missouri State Auditor**

April 15, 2020

Director Sandra K. Karsten  
Department of Public Safety  
1101 Riverside Drive  
Lewis and Clark Building, 4th Floor West  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Director Karsten:

During the Governor's April 13 COVID-19 briefing, you announced that SEMA is recalling approximately 48,000 KN95 masks your agency sent earlier this month to local law enforcement and fire service personnel across Missouri.

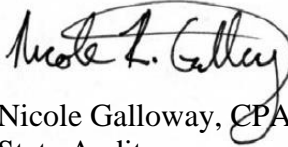
As my office is currently reviewing the accounting of the costs associated with the state's response to COVID-19, we are requesting additional information on the process with which this equipment was procured and purchased. I trust your agency has a complete accounting of which specific law enforcement and fire service agencies received these masks, and in what quantity, in order to aid the recall. As there are obvious concerns for the safety of first responders and the public as a result of the distribution of this faulty personal protective equipment, I am asking that you provide information responsive to the following questions:

- What vendor or vendors provided the recalled masks, and which Missouri state agency was responsible for their procurement and purchase?
- What was the funding mechanism used for the purchase of the masks?
- When were the recalled masks purchased, and when were they received by SEMA?
- If there were distributions of KN95 masks by SEMA in addition to the April 2 and April 8 distributions, is there a potential that those masks, too, did not meet safety standards?
- What was the quality control process for the initial acceptance of the KN95 masks before they were distributed from April 2 - April 8?
- Was the process to evaluate safety masks modified, and how did the state discover the recalled masks did not meet standards?

- Because these masks did not meet standards, what recourse is SEMA pursuing with the vendor or vendors in order to make Missouri taxpayers whole for their cost?

Please send your responses to these questions to my office by Wednesday, April 22.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole L. Galloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Nicole Galloway, CPA  
State Auditor

cc: Office of the Governor  
Office of Administration