

## **ACTS OF CHARITY IN RESPONSE TO A CATASTROPHIC OR EXTRAORDINARY EVENT**

**Q:** A Commonwealth employee injured or harmed by a catastrophic or extraordinary event receives unsolicited donations from members of the community, including individuals or entities that are covered persons under Executive Order 2015-01. May the employee accept the donations consistent with the Gift Ban?

**A:** Yes. Individuals and entities often engage in acts of charity following catastrophic or extraordinary events. Whether a particular event affects many (such as flood or other natural disaster), a few (such as a house or apartment fire), or only one (such as a trooper injured in the line of duty), Commonwealth employees may be the beneficiaries of those acts of charity. As a general matter, EO 2015-10 should not be understood or interpreted in a manner to prevent acceptance of such charity.