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# BEFORE THE COMMISSION FOR COMMON-INTEREST COMMUNITIES AND CONDOMINIUM HOTELS STATE OF NEVADA

Sharath Chandra, Administrator, Real Estate Division, Department of Business & Industry, State of Nevada,

Petitioner.

vs.

Leslie White,

Respondent.

Case Nos. 2016-3229; 2016-3078; 2016-3079; 2016-2920;

2016-3363

FILED

MAY 16 2017

NEVADA COMMISSION OF COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITIES AND CONDOMINIUM HOTELS

# COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY

## ACTION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry, State of Nevada (the "Division"), by and through its counsel, Adam Paul Laxalt, Attorney General of the State of Nevada, and Michelle D. Briggs, Senior Deputy Attorney General, hereby notifies Respondent LESLIE WHITE (the "RESPONDENT" or "WHITE") of an administrative hearing before the Commission for Common-Interest Communities and Condominium Hotels, State of Nevada, which is to be held pursuant to Chapters 233B and Chapters 116 and 116A of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and Chapters 116 and 116A of the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC"). The purpose of the hearing is to consider the allegations stated below and to determine if an administrative penalty will be imposed on WHITE pursuant to the provisions of NRS and NAC including, but not limited to, NRS 116A.900 and NAC 116A.360.

#### JURISDICTION AND NOTICE

- 1. At all relevant times mentioned in this complaint, WHITE engaged in the management of a common-interest community as defined by NRS 116A.110 in the state of Nevada.
  - 2. WHITE is subject to the provisions of Chapters 116 and 116A of both the

Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC") and is subject to the jurisdiction of the Division, and the Commission for Common-Interest Communities and Condominium Hotels.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 3. On September 22, 2015, this Commission accepted a settlement with WHITE whereby WHITE voluntarily surrendered her community manager certificate, No. CAM.0000070.SUPR.
- 4. WHITE'S daughter, Audra Collins, and her son-in-law, Ryon Collins, surrendered their community manager certificates as well.
- 5. The settlement involved multiple investigations of the Division some of which had resulted in complaints before this Commission and some had not yet been filed.
- 6. The settlement detailed investigations of the Division involving approximately 21 associations which, among other things, alleged that WHITE provided forged contracts and checks to the Division; managed associations without board members for several years; managed associations without a management contract for several years; provided false information to the Division over the course of several years regarding the associations; took multiple payments over the course of several years by electronic transfer; and was the sole signor on multiple association checks.
- 7. The settlement required payment of an administrative fine and costs in the amount of \$41,000.
- 8. WHITE had been providing community management services under her company NCF Corporation, doing business as, Associated Community Management.
- 9. After surrendering her certificate, WHITE hired two community managers to work for her under her new name, Path Community Management.
- 10. The Division requested contracts and other documents from the new community managers to determine compliance with NRS 116.
  - 11. The community managers hired by WHITE, Jodi Mehr (CAM.0001214) and

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Yvonne Jones (CAM.0001220-SUPR), eventually provided documentation requested by the Division.

- 12. Upon inspection of the documents, the Division determined that income and expense statements provided to board members did not match bank records for the associations.
- 13. Path Community Management was paid in excess of its contract for virtually every association it managed.
- 14. Both Jodi Mehr and Yvonne Jones denied any knowledge of the extra payments to Path Community Management and said WHITE controlled the bank accounts and financial records for all the associations.
- 15. Yvonne Jones terminated her employment with WHITE on or about May 20, 2016.
- 16. Jodi Mehr terminated her employment with WHITE on or about August 10, 2016.
- 17. By letter dated August 12, 2016, the Division issued a cease and desist order to WHITE directing her to stop providing community management services to associations.
- 18. According to the associations' financial records, after the settlement was approved by this Commission in September of 2015, WHITE took funds from the following associations (hereinafter collectively, the "Associations") without authority and in excess of her contracts in the amount of approximately \$570,000, as follows:

\$7.892.

\$12,163.

		<b>,</b> . <b>,</b>
2.	Amber Wood Homeowners Association:	\$12,400.
3.	Avignon Homeowners Association:	\$21,500.
4.	Avila Court Homeowners Association:	\$9,841.
5.	Bella Lago Homeowners Association:	\$27,400.

Alterra Homeowners Association:

Benton Homeowners Association:

7. Bonita Vista Homeowners Association: \$17,000.

1	8.	Brighton Homeowners Association:	\$5,621.
2	9.	Calabria Homeowners Association:	\$19,000.
3	10.	Carmel Ridge Homeowners Association:	\$19,354.
4	11.	Centennial and Lamb Association:	\$28,318.
5	12.	Chatham Hills Homeowners Association:	\$31,500.
6	13.	Cherry Lane Homeowners Association:	\$21,075.
7	14.	Country Glen Homeowners Association:	\$14,100.
8	15.	Crestwood Homeowners Association:	\$2,700.
9	16.	Cumberland Homeowners Association:	\$14,800.
10	17.	Fiore Homeowners Association:	\$23,000.
11	18.	Greenwood Homeowners Association:	\$17,350.
12	19.	Hillcrest Homeowners Association:	\$6,980.
13	20.	La Siena Homeowners Association:	\$18,215.
14	21.	Manchester Homeowners Association:	\$46,800.
15	22.	Mesa Verde Homeowners Association:	\$17,950.
16	23.	Moreno Homeowners Association:	\$32,300.
17	24.	Murano Homeowners Association:	\$10,000.
18	25.	Newbury Homeowners Association:	\$20,886.
19	26.	Paloma Homeowners Association:	\$14,740.
20	27.	Pinecrest Homeowners Association:	\$20,947.
21	28.	Sheffield Homeowners Association:	\$1,800.
22	29.	Somerset Landscape Maintenance	
23		Association:	\$13,853.
24	30.	Sterling Court Homeowners Association:	\$4,579.
25	31.	Sunrise Valley Estates Homeowners	
26		Association:	\$2,200.
27	32.	Terraza Homeowners Association:	\$23,750.
28	33.	Trailwood Homeowners Association:	\$6,137.

- 34. Whisper Rock Homeowners Association: \$23,461.
- 19. The Associations' checks paid to the management company reflected electronic signatures of board members, but were not authorized by the board members.
- 20. RESPONDENT received approximately \$1,014,101.57 in compensation and other payments from the Associations between October 2015 and August 2016, after her certificate was surrendered.
- 21. Based on records received from the Associations, WHITE received more than \$1,072,000 in excess of her contracted fee from January 2014 through September 2015.
- 22. For virtually all the transactions made in 2014 and up to the settlement date in September 2015, WHITE took the Associations' funds by electronic transfers.
- 23. Most of the Associations did not have a contract with WHITE'S company to provide management services for 2014 through October 2015.
- 24. On or about February 10, 2017, WHITE filed for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy protection for her company, NCF Corporation.
- 25. The bankruptcy petition lists approximately 25 homeowners' associations as unsecured creditors with over \$600,000 in liability owed to them.

#### VIOLATIONS OF LAW

- 26. WHITE violated NRS 116A.400(1) by engaging in the management of a common-interest community without a community manager certificate from the Division from October 2015 through August 2016.
- 27. WHITE violated NAC 116A.355(1)(a)(1) (NAC 116A.355(2)(c)) more than 100 times by committing unprofessional conduct by engaging in deceitful, fraudulent or dishonest conduct from 2014 through September 2015 by receiving money from the Associations by way of automatic transfers.
- 28. WHITE violated NAC 116A.355(1)(a)(1) (NAC 116A.355(2)(c)) more than 100 times by committing unprofessional conduct by engaging in deceitful, fraudulent or dishonest conduct from 2014 through September 2015 by receiving money from the Associations in excess of the amount authorized by a management contract.

- 29. WHITE violated NAC 116A.355(1)(a)(1) (NAC 116A.355(2)(i)) more than 100 times by committing unprofessional conduct by exceeding the authority granted to her by the Associations from 2014 through September 2015.
- 30. WHITE violated NAC 116A.355(1)(a)(2) (NAC 116A.355(3)(a)) more than 100 times by engaging in conduct constituting professional incompetence by demonstrating a significant lack of ability, knowledge or fitness to perform a duty or obligation owed to the Associations from 2014 through September 2015.
- 31. WHITE violated NAC 116A.355(1)(a)(2) (NAC 116A.355(3)(b)) more than 100 times by engaging in conduct constituting professional incompetence by failing to exercise reasonable skill and care with respect to a duty or obligation owed to the Associations from 2014 through September 2015.
- 32. WHITE violated NAC 116A.355(1)(a)(2) (NAC 116A.355(4)(g)) more than 100 times by engaging in conduct constituting professional incompetence by failing to act in the best interests of the Association from 2014 through September 2015.
- 33. WHITE violated NRS 116A.620 and NAC 116A.325 by failing to have a valid management contract with the Associations for 2014 and 2015.
- 34. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(1)(a) more than 100 times by failing to act as a fiduciary in her relationship with the Associations from 2014 through September 2015.
- 35. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(1)(b) more than 100 times by failing to exercise ordinary and reasonable care in the performance of her duties for the Associations from 2014 through September 2015.
- 36. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(2) more than 100 times by failing to comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances from 2014 through September 2015.
- 37. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(6)(a) by failing to ensure that the financial transactions of the Associations are current, accurate and properly documented from 2014 through September 2015.

- 38. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(6)(b) by failing to ensure that there are policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurances in the reliability of the financial reporting from 2014 through September 2015.
- 39. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(7) by failing to prepare or cause to be prepared interim and annual financial statements to allow the Division, the unit owners and board members to determine whether the financial position of the Associations are fairly presented in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations from 2014 through September 2015.
- 40. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(15) by failing to maintain internal accounting controls, including without limitation, segregation of incompatible accounting functions from 2014 through September 2015.
- 41. WHITE violated NRS 116A.630(18) by failing to take direction from the Associations from 2014 through September 2015.

### DISCIPLINE AUTHORIZED

Pursuant to the provisions of NRS 116A.900, for the violation of NRS 116A.400(1), the Commission has discretion to impose discipline as it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to one or more of the following actions:

- 1. Impose a fine not to exceed the amount of any gain or economic benefit RESPONDENT derived from the violation or \$10,000, whichever is greater.
- 2. Require the RESPONDENT to pay the costs of the investigation and hearing; and
  - 3. Take such other disciplinary action as the Commission deems appropriate.

The Commission may order one or any combination of the discipline described above.

For all other violations of law, pursuant to the provisions of NAC 116A.360, the Commission has discretion to impose discipline as it deems appropriate, including, but not limited to one or more of the following actions:

1. Revoke or suspend the certificate;

- 2. Refuse to renew or reinstate the certificate;
- 3. Place the community manager on probation;
- 4. Issue a reprimand or censure to the community manager;
- 5. Impose a fine of not more than \$5,000 for each violation of a statute or regulation;
  - 6. Require the community manager to pay restitution;
- 7. Require the community manager to pay the costs of the investigation and hearing;
- 8. Require the community manager to obtain additional education relating to the management of common-interest communities; and
  - 9. Take such other disciplinary action as the Commission deems appropriate.

    The Commission may order one or any combination of the discipline described above.

# NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that a disciplinary hearing has been set to consider this Administrative Complaint against the above-named RESPONDENT in accordance with Chapters 233B and 116 and 116A of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Chapters 116 and 116A of the Nevada Administrative Code.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE at the Commission meeting scheduled for June 27-29, 2017, beginning at approximately 9:00 a.m. each day, or until such time as the Commission concludes its business. The Commission meeting will be held at the Nevada State Business Center, 3300 W. Sahara Avenue, Nevada Room, Suite 400, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 with videoconferencing to Department of Business & Industry, Director's Office, 1830 East College Parkway, Suite 100, Carson City, Nevada 89706.

STACKED CALENDAR: Your hearing is one of several hearings that may be scheduled at the same time as part of a regular meeting of the Commission that is expected to take place on June 27-29, 2017. Thus, your hearing may be continued until later in the day or from day to day. It is your responsibility to be present when your case

 is called. If you are not present when your hearing is called, a default may be entered against you and the Commission may decide the case as if all allegations in the complaint were true. If you need to negotiate a more specific time for your hearing in advance because of coordination with out of state witnesses or the like, please call Claudia Rosolen, Commission Coordinator, at (702) 486-4606.

YOUR RIGHTS AT THE HEARING: Except as mentioned below, the hearing is an open meeting under Nevada's open meeting law, and may be attended by the public. After the evidence and arguments, the commission may conduct a closed meeting to discuss your alleged misconduct or professional competence. A verbatim record will be made by a certified court reporter. You are entitled to a copy of the transcript of the open and closed portions of the meeting, although you must pay for the transcription.

As a RESPONDENT, you are specifically informed that you have the right to appear and be heard in your defense, either personally or through your counsel of choice. At the hearing, the Division has the burden of proving the allegations in the complaint and will call witnesses and present evidence against you. You have the right to respond and to present relevant evidence and argument on all issues involved. You have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, and cross-examine opposing witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues involved.

You have the right to request that the Commission issue subpoenas to compel witnesses to testify and/or evidence to be offered on your behalf. In making this request, you may be required to demonstrate the relevance of the witness' testimony and/or evidence. Other important rights and obligations, including your obligation to answer the complaint, you have are listed in NRS Chapters 116 and 116A and NAC 116 and 116A, including without limitation, NRS 116.770 through 116.780, and NAC 116.500 through NAC 116.635 and NRS Chapter 233B.

Note that under NAC 116.575, not less than five (5) working days before a hearing, RESPONDENT must provide to the Division a copy of all reasonably available documents that are reasonably anticipated to be used to support his or her position, and a list of

witnesses RESPONDENT intends to call at the time of the hearing. Failure to provide any document or to list a witness may result in the document or witness being excluded from a RESPONDENT'S defense. The purpose of the hearing is to determine if the RESPONDENT has violated the provisions of NRS Chapter 116A, and to determine what administrative penalty is to be assessed against RESPONDENT.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2017.

REAL ESTATE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA

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