## BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE 1 STATE OF NEVADA 2 3 SHARATH CHANDRA, Administrator, REAL ESTATE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT Case No. 2020-492, AP21.045.S 4 OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA, 5 Petitioner. APR 1 1 2024 6 V\$. **NEVADA COMMISSION OF APPRAISERS** 7 THOMAS L. WITHERBY 8 (License No. A.0001528-CR), 9 Respondent. 10 11 PETITIONER'S MOTION TO DISMISS RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO RECONSIDER REVOCATION ORDER 12 13 The REAL ESTATE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY 14 OF THE STATE OF NEVADA ("Division"), by and through its attorneys of record, Aaron D. Ford, 15 Attorney General, and Christal P. Keegan, Deputy Attorney General, timely brings this Motion to 16 Dismiss Respondent's untimely Motion to Reconsider Revocation Order pursuant to NAC 645C.490(3). 17 DATED this 11th day of April 2024. 18 AARON D. FORD Attorney General 19 20 By: CHRISTAL P. KEEGAN, ESQ. 21 Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No. 12725 22 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 Reno, Nevada 89511 23 (775) 687-2141 ckeegan@ag.nv.gov 24 Attorney for Real Estate Division 25 26 27 28

### I. BACKGROUND

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It has been nearly a year since the Division filed its Complaint on May 19, 2023.<sup>1</sup> The Commission has heard this matter twice already: at its October 3, 2023 Commission Meeting where it proceeded with a default when Witherby chose not to attend his hearing<sup>2</sup>, and at its January 16, 2024 Meeting where it denied his Petition for Rehearing<sup>3</sup>. The Commission has effectively stood by its default Order, and the District Court dismissed Witherby's Petition for Judicial Review, thereby affirming the Commission October 10, 2023 Order. Therefore, there is no reason that the Commission should change its course of action at this point.

#### II. LEGAL ARGUMENT

NRS 645C and NAC 645C do not provide a procedure for a reconsideration request. Therefore, we need to look at the Nevada Administrative Procedures Act under NRS 233B for guidance, specifically NRS 233B.130, in relevant part under subsection 4 addresses the timeliness of such requests:

NRS 233B.130 Judicial review; requirements for petition and crosspetition; statement of intent to participate; petition for rehearing or reconsideration; service; dismissal of certain agencies and persons from proceedings concerning final decision of State Contractors' Board; exclusive means.

4. A petition for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed within 15 days after the date of service of the final decision. An order granting or denying the petition must be served on all parties at least 5 days before the expiration of the time for filing the petition for judicial review. If the petition is granted, the subsequent order shall be deemed the final order for the purpose of judicial review.

Also relevant, NRS 233B.135(2), places the burden of proof upon the party attacking or resisting the decision to show that the final decision is invalid, and therefore it is Witherby's burden.

A. Witherby Admits his Motion for Reconsideration is Untimely, and Therefore it Must be DISMISSED.

The law clearly excludes untimely requests.<sup>4</sup> Despite admitting his motion is untimely, Witherby continues to disregard our administrative procedures and makes his request anyway.<sup>5</sup> On this time-

Respondent's Motion to Reconsider Revocation Order, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 1 Complaint dated May 19, 2023.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 4, October 10, 2023 Order.
 Exhibit A, April 3, 2024 Cout Minutes, Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Review is DENIED, and Order Denying Petition for Judicial Review Filed April 11, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> NRS 233B.130(4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, p. 4, lines 21-23.

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<sup>8</sup> Id, and Exhibit B, Order Denying Motion for Rehearing, Fuled January 26, 2024.

barred basis alone, the Commission must dismiss it. Since the matter has been placed on the April 23-25, 2024 Commission Meeting agenda, the Commission should deny his request because it risks invalidating its final decision.6

Further, Witherby, or his current counsel who was retained *prior* to the January 16, 2024 Meeting, could have made this reconsideration request for the January Commission Meeting, so the untimeliness is completely unreasonable. (emphasis added). Since the matter has been placed on the April 2024 Commission Meeting agenda, the Commission should deny his request as it sets an unintended precedent that respondents can pile upon the Commission's docket meritless requests to no end, months, even years, later.

B. Witherby's Motion for Reconsideration of Revocation Order Should be DISMISSED Because the Commission Lacks Jurisdiction.

The Commission did not deny Witherby, nor his counsel, the ability to also file for reconsideration when he untimely filed his Petition for Rehearing on December 21, 2023, nor when his counsel filed its Opposition to Motion to Dismiss on January 10, 2024. Witherby should not be able to petition this Commission in the alternative again and again because he doesn't like the Commission's decision, or the District Court's decisions for that matter either. Once the Commission issued its Order Denying Motion for Rehearing filed January 26, 2024, the jurisdiction of this matter transferred to the District Court where his appeal was denied (Case No. A-24-887290-J). The District Court did not order this case remanded back to the Commission, and therefore, the Commission lacks jurisdiction over this case anymore and should deny his request. (emphasis added).

The Commission Properly Exercised its Discretion in the Discipline Ordered and it C. Should not be Disturbed.

NAC 645C.502 clearly recognizes the Commission's discretion to accept the charges specified in the complaint as true when a party fails to appear. Witherby even admits it is wholly within the

<sup>6</sup> NRS 233B.130(4), and Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 4,

October 10, 2023 Order. Exhibit A, April 3, 2024 Cout Minutes, Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Review is DENIED, and Order Denying Petition for Judicial Review Filed April 11, 2024.

Exhibit A, April 3, 2024 Cout Minutes, Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Review is DENIED, and Order Denying Petition for Judicial Review Filed April 11, 2024.

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Commission's discretion to impose the disciplinary action it so Ordered. 10 Further, pursuant to NRS 645C.215(d) the Commission must consider any other facts or circumstances that it deems relevant in determining the appropriate amount of the administrative fine.

While Witherby included selective pages of October 2, 2023 Commission Meeting transcript, a casual inspection of the entire transcript reveals a sufficient deliberation process as the Commissioners determined his license revocation and the full amount of administrative fines were warranted:

> Commissioner O'Brien: "So it would just be like if he moved to Florida and said, I'm never studying, put in the state again because I moved. So really, the point that it appears that we're acting on is, do we move from that closed status to potentially revocation, which would trigger, or discipline there to thus create a notification event across the country. 11 (emphasis added).

> Commissioner Kreuger: I will second. [to Commissioner O'Brien's Motion to approve the recommended discipline which includes revocation of said license, the fees of \$60,000, and the costs, payable within 180 days.]<sup>12</sup>

> Commissioner Gandy: I understand, I was able to review some of this, and unfortunately this person had an opportunity at AARC, dropped the ball, revocation, the underlying case itself is quality considerations for townhouses and competing. I understand the revocation need, it sends an alert through the system since he is licensed actively in Florida. ... I do agree in the revocation, if you don't defend, you can't expect someone to defend for you. I certainly agree with the Division's costs and maybe something punitive. 13 (emphasis added).

> Commissioner O'Brien: I am concerned that this particular respondent has wasted the time of AARC, wasted the time of our staff in the last session, of which we provided a last minute continuance. ... This is Case No. 2020, it has seemed to have gone through the delay process everywhere through the process, and let us not remember that there was someone damaged potentially in the general public, and our goal is to protect the public trust. So since the respondent, cannot even show up to defend their work, they know that this happening, they engaged their insurance company. This is to me is an inappropriate fine, and if we are petitioned in the future to reconsider it, I am open to the defendant coming, and explaining through this process, but now this seems to be just be a way of running from the complaint, and I believe that the full amount is warranted and supported.14

> Commissioner Ivey: I, you know, at first thought, I thought \$60,000 was really unreasonable, but after further reflection, I agree with Commissioner...<sup>15</sup>

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, p. 5, lines 3-4.

Exhibit C, Hearing, October 3, 2023, Transcript, p. WIT00021, lines 19-25.
 Exhibit C, Hearing, October 3, 2023, Transcript, p. WIT00024 –WIT00025, lines 22-10.

Exhibit C, Hearing, October 3, 2023, Transcript, p. WIT00025-WIT00026, lines 12-3. <sup>14</sup> Exhibit C, Hearing, October 3, 2023, Transcript, p. WIT00027–WIT00028, lines 15-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Exhibit C, Hearing, October 3, 2023, Transcript, p. WIT00028, lines 15-17.

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#### Witherby's Claimed "Harm" is Unsupported and therefore, Fails to Establish a D. Basis for the Commission to Disturb its Disciplinary Order.

Even the District Court could not find that Witherby had demonstrated such harm to justify the Court to grant a Stay and DENIED his Motion to Stay Enforcement of the Commission's Order. 16 Witherby has not been deprived of his alleged "entire livelihood" because by his own admission he continues to work as an appraiser in Florida.<sup>17</sup> Witherby admits "I am currently doing very minimal work with my license..." and that he "currently still holds an appraiser license in Florida". 18 By last checks, Witherby's Florida appraisal license continues to show "Current, Active" with a natural expiration date of November 30, 2024.<sup>19</sup>

Witherby's claim that he has been denied the ability to become an insurance adjuster in Florida is unsubstantiated.<sup>20</sup> Not only is an insurance adjuster license obviously different than an appraisal license, but the Notice of Denial Letter for his application for a Florida Resident All Lines (06-20) adjuster, fails to provide any proof that he exhausted the administrative opportunities afforded to him by the Florida Department of Financial Services ("Department").21

Similarly, his claim that his Florida appraisal license will soon be revoked is speculative.<sup>22</sup> Nowhere in the April 4, 2024 letter regarding the Florida Administrative Complaint does it say his Florida appraisal license will be revoked.<sup>23</sup> In fact, the letter says it "could" result in disciplinary action, and that is corroborated by the Florida Administrative Complaint which does not say that due to the Nevada Commission's Order, his Florida appraisal license will automatically be revoked.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Exhibit D, Order Denying Motion to Stay Enforcement of the Order, Filed March 25, 2024, p. 2, lines 3-10.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 3, Declaration of Thomas Witherby, p. 5, lines 17-18, Item #43.

Id., and p. 5, lines 5-6, Item #37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Exhibit E, Florida Appraisal License Search, April 9, 2024, 2:33 PM, Thomas Leroy Witherby, RD8455 Cert Res Appr Current, Active 11/30/2024.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, p. 6, lines 3-5.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 6, Notice of Denial (See, Page Three of the Notice of Denial, which clearly indicates the Notice is not final and that Witherby has the right to contest the action within 21 days.)

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, p. 6, lines 6-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 7, Administrative Complaint by State of Florida, Case No. 2023-057938.

Again, Witherby fails to acknowledge that pursuant to his Election of Rights, he can respond to the Florida Complaint within 21 days.<sup>25</sup> Again, he has failed to provide any proof that he intends to or has exhausted the administrative opportunities afforded him by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. In summary, Witherby's allegations of harm are based on speculation and those unsupported claims are outweighed by the interest in protecting the appraisal industry as a whole.

## E. The Public will Likely be Harmed if the Commission Grants Witherby's Request.

Let's not forget this matter came to the Commission by way of a citizen's complaint<sup>26</sup>, and as further reflected in the record:

The complainant, through her 11 years of real estate experience, reported that the Respondent's Appraisal Report was the worst appraisal she's ever seen, and the Division substantiated the Respondent's appraisal is one that is filled with errors, omissions, and no support for the opinions and conclusions he made.<sup>27</sup>

Let's not forget that Witherby has a history of producing derelict appraisal reports and/or work files, which are relied upon by the intended users and the members of the public.<sup>28</sup> The complaints against Witherby and prior discipline history demonstrate members of the public have relied on his work product have been harmed. We respect the Commission's legislatively vested discretion and authority, and pray it will stand by its Order in furtherance of protecting the appraisal industry and the public.

#### III. CONCLUSION

To date, Witherby has not paid even \$1 towards his total amount due (\$63,897.22) which became due on April 8, 2024.<sup>29</sup> Witherby is currently working, receives social security benefits, and has credit cards but fails to explain why he has not even attempted to pay his administrative fine.<sup>30</sup> Witherby admits he has errors and omissions insurance, but fails to confirm availability of insurer funds, nor has he presented any plan based on his financial ability to reasonably pay back the total amount due.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 7, Administrative Complaint by State of Florida, Case No. 2023-057938.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Exhibit F, Statement of Fact, Dated May 19, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Exhibit B, Hearing, October 3, 2023, Transcript, p. WIT00008, lines 2-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Exhibit G, Appraisal Case Analysis, Submitted July 21, 2021.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 4, October 10, 2023 Order.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 3, Declaration of Thomas Witherby, p. 4, lines 12-14, Item #31, p. 5, lines 10-11, Item #40, p. 5, lines 17-18, Item #43.

Motion to Reconsider Revocation, Filed April 9, 2024, Exhibit 3, Declaration of Thomas Witherby, p. 1, lines 19-21, Item #8.

Instead, in blind faith, Witherby asks this Commission to reduce his fine, when he has not 1 2 demonstrated he intends to follow any order of the Commission. Witherby asks the Commission to reverse its revocation when he has demonstrated indifference to such disciplinary action when he 3 decidedly chose not to attend his disciplinary hearing. 4 The Division respects it is the Commission's discretion to decide what to do, but for the reasons 5 stated herein, we request the Commission DENY his request and affirm, for the third time now, the 6 7 revocation of Witherby's Nevada appraisal license, and uphold the administrative fines and costs it 8 properly ordered. Thank you. 9 DATED this \_\_\_\_ day of April 2024. DATED this 11th day of April 2024. 10 AARON D. FORD 11 STATE OF NEVADA Department of Business and Industry Attorney General Real Estate/Division 12 13 By: P. KEEGAN, ESO. CHARVEZ FOGER Deputy Administrator 14 Nevada Bar No. 12725 Deputy Attorney General 3300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 350 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 15 Reno, Nevada 89511 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 (775) 687-2141 16 ckeegan@ag.nv.gov 17 Attorney for Real Estate Division 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

## **EXHIBIT A**

# **EXHIBIT A**

# DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

A-24-887290-J Thomas Witherby, Petitioner(s)
vs.
Real Estate Division, Department of
Business and Industry, State of Nevada,
Respondent(s)

COURT MINUTES

April 03, 2024

April 03, 2024

9:00 AM

**All Pending Motions** 

**HEARD BY:** Kierny, Carli

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 12B

COURT CLERK:

Jessica Sancen

RECORDER: Jessica Kirkpatrick

REPORTER:

**PARTIES** 

PRESENT:

Keegan, Christal P.

Attorney

Lucero, Ellsie E.

Attorney

## **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO DISMISS PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW... EXPARTE MOTION TO RECONSIDER ORDER DENYING MOTION TO STAY ENFORCEMENT OF ORDER... MOTION TO STAY ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME

Court stated it advanced Respondent's Motion to Dismiss and would rule on the Merits. Arguments by counsel. COURT ORDERED, PETITIONER'S PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW IS DENIED, which ultimately serves as a dismissal of the Petition for Judicial Review. COURT FURTHER ORDERED, as a decision was made on the Petition for Judicial Review, the MOTION TO STAY is MOOT. Court DIRECTED Ms. Keegan to prepare the order.

CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order has been updated to reflect changes of "COURT ORDERED,"
PETITIONER S PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW IS DENIED, which ultimately serves as a
dismissal of the Petition for Judicial Review. COURT FURTHER ORDERED, as a decision was made
PRINT DATE: 04/09/2024 Page 1 of 2 Minutes Date: April 03, 2024

## A-24-887290-J

on the Petition for Judicial Review, the MOTION TO STAY is MOOT." - js 4/9/24

#### ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 4/11/2024 10:28 AM

Electronically Filed 04 11 2024 10:27 AM CLERK OF THE COURT

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AARON D. FORD

Attorney General

CHRISTÁL P. KEEGAN (Bar No. 12725)

3 || Deputy Attorney General

State of Nevada Office of the Attorney General

4 | 5420 Kietzke Lane, #202

Reno, Nevada 89511

5 (775) 687-2141 (phone) (775) 688-1822 (fax)

ckeegan@ag.nv.gov

Attorneys for Respondents

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THOMAS L. WITHERBY,

Petitioner.

Case No.:

Dept. No.: 2

A-24-887290-J

ll vs.

13 | REAL ESTATE DIVISION,

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND

14 INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA and SHARATH CHANDRA in his capacity as

15 Administrator of the REAL ESTATE

DIVISION; NEVADA COMMISSION OF

16 APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE and JOHN WRIGHT in his capacity as

17 President of the COMMISSION OF

18 APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE,

Respondents.

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ORDER DENYING PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

Respondents Real Estate Division, Department of Business and Industry and Sharath Chandra's, as Administrator of the Division, (collectively "Division") motion to dismiss petitioner Thomas L. Witherby's petition for judicial review, and petitioner's ex parte motion to reconsider this Court's order denying motion to stay came for hearing on April 3, 2024. At the same time, the Court advanced its decision on the merits of petitioner's petition for judicial review. Ellsie Lucero, of the law firm Kaempfer Crowell,

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Page 1 of 3

Case Number: A-24-887290-J

appeared on behalf of petitioner, and Christal P. Keegan, Deputy Attorney General, 1 2 appeared on behalf of the Division. 3 Upon review and consideration of the arguments, pleadings, and papers on file, and 4 for good cause appearing: I. 5 **FINDINGS** 6 7 Pursuant to NRS 233B.135(1)(b), this Court's review is confined to the record, 1. 8 with great deference given to the agency. Witherby had proper notice of the disciplinary proceeding against him before 9 2. the Nevada Commission of Appraisers of Real Estate ("Commission") but failed to appear 10 such that the Commission entered an order against him by default. 11 3. The Commission then heard Petitioner's Petition Request for Rehearing at its 12 January 16, 2024 Meeting, and having reviewed the matter twice, Witherby's rights were 13 14 not substantially prejudiced. Pursuant to NRS 233B.135(3), the record demonstrates substantial evidence 15 to support the Commission's Order such that this Court will not disturb it. 16 17 5. The Court denies Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Review, and as such, his 18 Motion to Reconsider Order Denying Petitioner's Motion to Stay Enforcement of Order is 19 moot. 20 2122 23 24 25 26 27 28

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IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petitioner's application for Judicial Review is hereby denied, and the Commission's Order dated October 10, 2023, shall remain in full force and effect.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2024

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

210 88C D4DA B04F Carli Kierny Appistrict Court Judge

KAEMPFER CROWELL

By: /s/Ellsie Lucero
Ellsie Lucero, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 15272
1980 Festival Plaza, Suite 650
Las Vegas, Nevada 89135
elucero@kcnvlaw.com
Attorneys for Petitioner

## 1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Thomas Witherby, Petitioner(s) CASE NO: A-24-887290-J 6 VS. DEPT. NO. Department 2 7 Real Estate Division, Department 8 of Business and Industry, State of 9 Nevada, Respondent(s) 10 11 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 13 Court. The foregoing Order Denying was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 4/11/2024 15 16 lmiller@kcnvlaw.com Lesley Miller 17 Tera Carlstrom tcarlstrom@kcnvlaw.com 18 elucero@kcnvlaw.com Ellsie Lucero 19 dendres@kcnvlaw.com Desiree Endres 20 Kimberly Rupe krupe@kcnvlaw.com 21 Christal Keegan ckeegan@ag.nv.gov 22 23 24 25 26 27

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# **EXHIBIT B**

**EXHIBIT B** 

JOE LOMBARDO Governor



DR. KRISTOPHER SANCHEZ
Director

SHARATH CHANDRA

Administrator

CHARVEZ FOGER
Deputy Administrator

# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY REAL ESTATE DIVISION

January 26, 2024

Thomas L. Witherby. 5921 N. Lamp Post Dr. Beverly Hills, FL 34465 Certified No. 7017 3040 0000 4529 4417

Lesley Miller, Esq. Kaempfer Crowell 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 650 Las Vegas, NV 89135 Certified No. 7017 3040 0000 4529 4462

Re: NRED v. Thomas L. Witherby Case No.: 2020-492 AP20.045.S

Enclosed herewith you will find the <u>ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR REHEARING</u> entered by the Nevada Commission for Appraisers of Real Estate at the meeting held January 16, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Commission has ordered the following:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Respondent's petition Request for Rehearing is DENIED pursuant to NAC 645C.505 because the Respondent's Petition failed to demonstrate any causes or grounds for a rehearing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Orders filed on October 10, 2023 in case No. 2020-492 AP21.045.S is AFFIRMED.

Sincerely,

Maria Gallo

Commission Coordinator Telephone: (702) 486-4074 Email: mgallo@red.nv.gov cc: Sharath Chandra, Administrator
Christal Keegan, Deputy Attorney General
Licensing Section
Compliance Section

# BEFORE THE COMMISSION OF APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF NEVADA

vs.

THOMAS L. WITHERBY (License No. A.0001528-CR),

SHARATH CHANDRA, Administrator,

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND

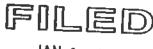
INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA,

REAL ESTATE DIVISION.

Respondent.

Petitioner.

Case No. 2020-492, AP21.045.S



JAN 26 2024

NEVADA COMMISSION OF APPRAISERS

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR REHEARING

On December 21, 2023, Respondent Thomas L. Witherby filed his Petition for Rehearing. On December 29, 2023, the Petitioner Sharath Chandra, Administrator of the Real Estate Division, Department of Business and Industry of the State of Nevada ("Division") filed its Motion to Dismiss Respondent's Petition for Rehearing. On January 10, 2024, Respondent filed his Opposition to Petitioner's Motion to Dismiss Respondent's Petition for Rehearing.

The matter came before the Nevada Commission of Appraisers of Real Estate ("Commission") for hearing on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Respondent appeared and was represented by counsel Leslie Miller (Bar No. 7897). Deputy Attorney General, Christal P. Keegan, appeared on behalf of the Division.

The matter having been submitted for decision based on the Commission's consideration of the oral arguments presented during the hearing and the filed documents, the Commission now enters its Order.

#### ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Respondent's Petition Request for Rehearing is DENIED pursuant to NAC 645C.505 because the Respondent's Petition failed to demonstrate any causes or grounds for a rehearing.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Orders filed on October 10, 2023 in Case No. 2020-492, AP21.045.S is AFFIRMED.

DATED this 26 the day of January 2024.

NEVADA COMMISSION OF APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE

President, John Wright Nevada Commission of Appraisers of Real Estate

# **EXHIBIT C**

# **EXHIBIT C**

- 1 Item 4, disciplinary action regarding, discussion of
- 2 possible action by the Commission in NRED v. Thomas L.
- 3 | Witherby, Case No. 2020-492 AP20.45.S, License No.
- 4 A.0001528-CR (Closed).
- 5 CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Yes. Good morning,
- 6 | Commissioners. That's Deputy Attorney General Crystal
- 7 | Keegan here. This is my case. I haven't heard from the
- 8 respondent, and so I'm just wondering if he's here today.
- 9 I don't see him there in person or virtually.
- 10 KELLY VALDEZ: Virtually. There is a phone
- 11 | number that's joined the meeting. I'm not quite sure it
- 12 | says restricted. Mr. Witherby, or is there anyone
- 13 | representing Mr. Witherby that is present virtually? If
- 14 | so, please press star 3 to unmute yourself, or star 3
- 15 | would raise your hand, star 6 unmute yourself, and state
- 16 your name. Mr. Witherby, or anyone representing Mr.
- 17 | Witherby, are you present virtually? I'm not recognizing
- 18 | anyone in attendance for Mr. Witherby.
- JOHN WRIGHT: Okay, with that being said, Ms.
- 20 | Keegan, do you want to proceed?
- 21 CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Yes, I would. I'll just
- 22 proceed as a default proceeding. Just briefly, this case
- 23 | was referred to AARC at the respondent's request, but then
- 24 he never showed up. Therefore, AARC referred this case to
- 25 | the Commission for possible action. This case came to the

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Division from complaints by the buyer's real estate agent. The complainant, through her 11 years of real estate experience, reported that the Respondent's Appraisal Report was the worst appraisal she's ever seen, and the Division substantiated the Respondent's appraisal is one that is filled with errors, omissions, and no support for the opinions and conclusions he made. The Respondent's license expired in March of 2022, and is in closed status. To give a brief procedural background, since Mr. Witherby is not here, nor his counsel, it appears we'll be moving through a default procedure. The Division filed its complaint on May 19, 2023, and the Respondent never filed his answer. This case was originally noticed for the July hearings, but his attorney asked for a continuance for the next hearings in October today, and the Commission granted that. Despite efforts extended on the State's part, we have not heard from the respondent, nor his attorney, through his insurer, nor any local attorney. respondent or his counsel have not asked for a second continuance from this case, and since he and or his attorney decided not to show up today, the State would like to go ahead with default procedure. Therefore, the division calls Ms. Maria Gallo to offer proof of service. MARIA GALLO: I'm here.

JOHN WRIGHT: Please raise your right hand.

1 MARIA GALLO: Yes.

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CHRISTAL KEEGAN: And did you send them certified mail to the Respondent's last known address according to the Division's records?

MARIA GALLO: Yes.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: And you have proof of mailing and the status of the documents mailed via certified mail?

MARIA GALLO: Yes.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: And the Division served meeting re-notices upon the Respondent, correct?

MARIA GALLO: That is correct.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Can you explain the status of the proof of mailings for the re-notices?

MARIA GALLO: It was mailed out on October 30, 2023, and per USPS website, it's unclaimed and being returned to sender, and that was sent to the respondent at his home address.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Okay, thank you. So, first, the division moves to admit its exhibits Bates stamped 1 through 364 into the record, please.

JOHN WRIGHT: Yes. So, we were asked not to open them until you brought them forward. So, I personally have not looked at them. Ms. Keegan, could you possibly walk us through these real quickly, with the Bates Stamp pages?

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establishing through Ms. Gallo's testimony that these were the documents mailed, and so we're just moving to admit them. But, otherwise, these documents are, I mean 1 through 364, they include the statement of stat, and the documents from the complainant as well as the appraisal report and work file from the respondent, and, lastly, they include the Division's investigative report and records, as well as the Standard 3 Reviewer.

SCOTT KRUEGER: President Wright, if you mind, may I pose an administrative question?

JOHN WRIGHT: Sure.

SCOTT KRUEGER: Ms. Keegan, could you differentiate how a default process is different than a standard case process, just because I don't think we've heard one in a couple of years? That might help us just understand where the different exit ramps will be. So, we can just get our heads wrapped around this because I don't think we heard a default in my three years on the Commission. So I think it would be good, just a 2-minute overview of the differentiation of process.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Sure, of course. The governing regulation for default proceedings is under NAC 645C.513, and basically we offer proof of service which we did with Ms. Gallo's testimony, once she establishes that the

Division's records were sent, we request the commission to move those into the record. Then we move to admit proof of mailing for proof of service purposes, and then the Commission can accept the factual allegations as well as the legal violations in the Division's complaint as true. The respondent is not here, so we don't delve into the merits of the documents. It is purely procedural, and that is a quick overview. I hope that is adequate.

SCOTT KRUEGER: That is very helpful. As again, from my process, I have not gone through a default where the other party was not here, so I assume if the Commission has a question, we can certainly pose it to you during the process, but this seems to be a more summarize any questions, and since there's no respondent there, this is just for lack of a better word, checking some boxes, procedurally?

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Correct.

SCOTT KRUEGER: Okay. President Wright, thank you for the indulgence there, just to educate me on process.

JOHN WRIGHT: Certainly. So Ms. Keegan, these documents will be admitted.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Okay, thank you very much. The Division now moves to admit the certificate of mailing, proof of mailing, and the unclaimed returned mail as the

status was provided by Ms. Gallo, please.

SCOTT KRUEGER: We have the Bates Stamp for these notices?

JOHN WRIGHT: Yeah, I think we have a slight delay Commissioners, Ms. Keegan was trying to answer the question, so if you could just give us a pause, we might have a slight technology delay, so I think she was trying to address.

SCOTT KRUEGER: President Wright.

JOHN WRIGHT: Bates Stamped 0104.

SCOTT KRUEGER: That might have been the first chain, it might be close to there, and then she can answer certainly.

JOHN WRIGHT: So, Ms. Keegan, please proceed.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Yes, thank you, Commissioners, and I do apologize for any delay occurring via the technology. So, as far as, motioning you to admit the certificate of mailing, proof of mailing, and unclaimed returned mail. That would be based on Ms. Maria Gallo's testimony that she just presented today, and I presume she can provide you with those proof of mailings if you need to see those, but otherwise it is just based on her sworn testimony she just provided.

JOHN WRIGHT: Have we not seen them?

MARIA GALLO: Yes.

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CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Go get a copy. My apologize.

JOHN WRIGHT: We are asking if there are any documents that we haven't seen.

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CHRISTAL KEEGAN: The Respondent has received the mail.

JOHN WRIGHT: What I am saying is we haven't seen those documents. But she asked that the documents be admitted, that we haven't seen, so I mean, when any other court proceeding I'm in, yeah, if you're admitting a document, somebody gets to see the document, maybe.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Correct. Maybe what you meant as to admit the testimony as previous.

JOHN WRIGHT: Okay. So is that what you're asking Ms. Keegan? Is that Ms. Gallo's testimony be admitted, or are you asking that the documents that Ms. Gallo testified to be admitted?

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: I guess Ms. Gallo can provide the documents to substantiate her testimony if the Commission so wishes, but otherwise the Division is moving to request the Commission find that we have offered proof of service, and at this point we've presented Ms. Gallo's testimony, so that would be the basis for our request, please.

JOHN WRIGHT: Okay, so it wasn't the documents themselves you were asking for, it was that proof that had

been -- service had been proven, not that you were trying to admit the actual physical documents of service.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Yes.

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JOHN WRIGHT: Okay. I require a motion on that.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Can I speak up? I'm sorry,
Christal, just to be clear, you were asking for the
exhibits to be admitted, correct?

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: I was asking for the exhibits to be admitted, Bates Stamp 1 through 364.

JOHN WRIGHT: That was already admitted.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Right. So you hadn't admitted the documents since you hadn't done -- you hadn't taken a motion yet to admit the documents. Just like you haven't done proof of service. So, I don't know if they would do that as one motion or two, but they do need to.

JOHN WRIGHT: So she said I didn't need a motion to admit the exhibits. That is my decision, and I did that. Is my understanding correct?

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: And then we'd need to have a motion, you can't either -- we need two motions.

JOHN WRIGHT: So, I need a motion for admitting the exhibits. So let's go back to that point. Do I have a motion to admit the exhibits that were provided? Bate Stamp pages 1 through 364.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: President Wright, I so move.

	APPR CARE Commission Meeting - October 3, 2023 16
1	JOHN WRIGHT: Do I have a second?
2	SCOTT KRUEGER: A second.
3	JOHN WRIGHT: Any discussion? All in favor?
4	COMMISSION: Aye.
5	JOHN WRIGHT: Opposed? So the motion carries
6	unanimously. Okay, now we're going to move on to the
7	motion regarding proper service for the complaint.
8	SCOTT KRUEGER: I have a question for Ms. Gallo.
9	JOHN WRIGHT: Go ahead Commissioner Krueger.
10	SCOTT KRUEGER: So, do we have the last known
11	address of where these documents were sent to?
12	MARIA GALLO: Yes.
13	SCOTT KRUEGER: And what is that?
14	MARIA GALLO: 5921 North, Glam Drive, Beverly
15	Hills, Florida 34465.
16	JOHN WRIGHT: So, a question for you, because
17	there was legal counsel involved, was legal counsel
18	noticed?
19	MARIA GALLO: It wasn't his legal counsel per se,
20	he was the attorney contact for his insurance, and he told
21	us that a local attorney was going to be appointed for
22	him. So in your question, yes, he was also noticed, but
23	he's not his lawyer okay per se.
24	JOHN WRIGHT: Okay, so all of the contacts you
25	have for this case on his side were noticed?

1 MARIA GALLO: Yes.

SCOTT KRUEGER: President Wright, if we could defer to Ms. Keegan for a minute please.

JOHN WRIGHT: Yes, go ahead.

Yeah, just to clarify, when we first noticed the respondent, Mr. Thomas Witherby, he did not have legal counsel, and so, these notices were sent to him at his personal residence. He then retained legal counsel through his insurance company, and his attorney confirmed that the respondent provided the documents that were sent to the Respondent to his attorney, so just wanted to clarify that.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do we know who his local counsel was, though?

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: No, we do not. He had an attorney, through his insurance, who said that local counsel was -- the case was going to be deferred, but we followed up, and did not hear anything. No local counsel has made any formal appearance or made themselves known to the Division, nor to the State.

JOHN WRIGHT: Okay, thank you.

SCOTT KRUEGER: And just to clarify, Ms. Keegan, if counsel was assigned and they recused or left the case, it would be typical professional courtesy to notify you

just they have to do 15 hours of education per year, that

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1 they are absent or inactive.

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TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Got it. One last logistical question, and thank you for indulging with President Wright. Since Witherby has not shown up, and if we're to choose to accept the factual allegations as true, and he was to appeal it at a later time, either through the courts or other items, he would have that avenue, but at this point, since he is not showing up, we have the option to just proceed as is, and take action on an absent respondent, correct?

CHRISTY STAFFEN: Correct.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Alright. President Wright, that was the clarifications I needed. I defer back to you, sir, and my apologies for the time.

JOHN WRIGHT: Yeah, no problem.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: If I may clarify, his license is closed. He cannot reinstate it.

18 CHRISTY STAFFEN: Okay.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: You get one year from your expiration date to reinstate. His license expired in 2022. He had until March of 2023 to reinstate it, renew it, pay it up, and he has not, so it is closed.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: So he would have to start as a new applicant, correct?

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Correct.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do we know if he is licensed in any other jurisdiction?

CHRISTY STAFFEN: We do. He is licensed in Florida.

JOHN WRIGHT: So, anything we do here would be reflected and Florida would receive notification of?

CHRISTY STAFFEN: Yeah, so he would -- we would report the discipline to the ASC, and then through the National Registry, they would be notified, if Florida has, there's a thing you can sign up for notifications, which I know they do have, because I have been requested for public documents from them before, and then they can get on our website at any time, and pull the stipulated order.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: But just to clarify his current status, we wouldn't report to Florida that he just didn't renew. They would be able to see that on a ASC, but that would not be considered discipline.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Correct.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: So it would just be like if he moved to Florida and said, I'm never studying, put in the state again because I moved. So really, the point that it appears that we're acting on is, do we move from that closed status to potentially revocation, which would trigger, or discipline there to thus create a notification event across the country.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: Right.

JOHN WRIGHT: Okay. Any other questions before we move forward with a motion? Do I have a motion, or, based on the motion of finding regarding the violations alleged in the complaint.

SCOTT KREUGER: We go through first the factual allegations, all as one, and then after that, the violations, all as one, that kind of thing.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: President Wright, I make a motion to accept the factual allegations as presented in the Case No. 2020-492 AP21.045.S NRED v. Thomas L. Witherby, License No. A.0001528-CR.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do I have a second?

SCOTT KRUEGER: President Wright I second.

JOHN WRIGHT: Any discussion? So, down here, both of you asked if those shouldn't be read into the record. Was that not what you were saying?

LARRY GANDY: No, no, I was saying, I think, for, well, I didn't say anything, personally, but my personal opinion is, I think that the factual allegations need to be accepted, if they're not in, in contention, and then we go into the allegations, and again, if they're not defended.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: That was the motion just now, we're accepting all.

JOHN WRIGHT: He accepted, he just didn't say 1 through 13, but he said all factual allegations. Just to clarify, the motions are — the factual allegations are already in record. We already admitted all of the Bates stamps, so they are already technically in record. We're just making the motion as I understand it, to accept them as presented by the State.

LARRY GANDY: They're proven.

SCOTT KRUEGER: All in favor?

JOHN WRIGHT: So any further discussion? All in favor.

12 COMMISSION: Aye.

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JOHN WRIGHT: Opposed? The motion carries unanimously.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: President Wright, I'd like to make a motion that we accept the violations of law in the case NRED v. Thomas L. Witherby, License No. A.0001528-CR, Case No. 2020-492, AP21.045.S.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do I have a second?

SCOTT KRUEGER: I will second.

21 JOHN WRIGHT: Any discussion? All in favor.

22 COMMISSION: Aye.

JOHN WRIGHT: Oppose? The motion carries

24 | unanimously. I think the next step is, does the Division

25 | have recommendations?

CHRISTY STAFFEN: We do. Christy Staffen, 1 Appraisal Program Officer. The Division recommends that 2 the Respondent's license be revoked, and that he pay the cost and fees associated with the investigation, as well as \$10, 000 per violation, for a total of \$60,000. Fines 5 6 and fees are to be paid within 30 days of the effective 7 date of the order, and the division may institute debt collection proceedings against the respondent for failure 9 to timely pay the total fine. Further, if collection goes through the State of Nevada then the respondent shall also 10 11 pay the costs associated with the collection. 12 TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: You mind stating into record 13 cost, is that your -- or is that Maria? CHRISTY STAFFEN: Maria. 14 15 JOHN WRIGHT: Ms. Gallo, could you provide us with costs. 16 17 MARIA GALLO: For the case, Thomas Witherby, 18 2020-492, the cost is \$3,897.22, and those are reasonable, 19 necessary, and actual.

JOHN WRIGHT: Thank you. So do I have a motion regarding discipline.

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TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: I'll make a motion, in the Case v. Thomas L. Witherby, License No. A.0001528-CR, Case No. 2020-492, AP21.045.S. I motion that we approve the recommended discipline which includes revocation of said

license, the fees of \$60,000, and the costs. Maria, I'm sorry, you'll have to read them back for me, so I can put in my motion.

MARIA GALLO: \$3,897.22.

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TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: \$3,897.22 as reasonable, true, and actual costs.

MARIA GALLO: To be payable when?

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: to be payable within 180 days.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do I have a second?

SCOTT KREUGER: I will second.

JOHN WRIGHT: Any discussion?

LARRY GANDY: Yes, President Wright, I understand, I was able to review some of this, and unfortunately this person had an opportunity at AARC, dropped the ball, revocation, the underlying case itself is quality considerations for townhouses and competing. I understand the revocation need, it sends an alert through the system since he is licensed actively in Florida. I certainly understand some kind of punitive for maybe playing fast and loose saying, you were going to attend, start to engage, just not show up, disengage, \$60,000 seems like a pretty heavy punitive burden when you're

going to send a ripple through a system on revocation.

consideration to the other Commissioners. I do agree in

would just like to throw it out there for potential

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the revocation, if you don't defend, you can't expect someone to defend for you. I certainly agree with the Division's costs and maybe something punitive.

Personally, I just have a hard time with a accumulative of \$60,000, in addition to revocation, because, that will affect ultimately ripple Florida's wealth. I don't know, maybe just consideration, we're trying to go through, that is what the State wants, I get it. I'm just trying to balance it with the actual, if we look at the actual underlying complaint.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do you have a recommendation or thought on what that punitive should be?

LARRY GANDY: You know, I think it should be significant in my opinion, revocation to me is the ultimate significance. I do believe the State is entitled to every one of those actual, and reasonable, and customary costs that they outline, and I think there should be something sense as fine punitive in nature for not engaging in the system, and actually giving the perception, you're were going to engage which that waste a lot of time. How much for the six allegations violations that he has been. I don't know, if we're taking the life blood out, something reasonable, I don't know. Maybe a \$1000 in violation, in addition to the cost.

JOHN WRIGHT: So the total cost would be roughly

1 \$10,000.

LARRY GANDY: I mean, I just feel like, to me 60,000 seems excessive. I mean, I know it's punitive in nature, that's not engaging, engaging, I get it, but tempering with the fact that this is going to send a shockwave, he's going to lose the ability to make a living in Florida as well. Are we beating a dead horse when we go at \$60,000, but I understand the premise. I agreed with the violations, the factual allegations, and ultimately, I would like just to hear what everybody else says, and if they say no, no, I get it. I understand, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Gandy, as always, very eloquent, and I think important points that you put on record. I am concerned that this particular respondent has wasted the time of AARC, wasted the time of our staff in the last session, of which we provided a last minute continuance. In this session, the respondent has the ability to come back to this Commission, and argue that fine if he wishes to, but as of right now, this case is multiplied years old. This is Case No. 2020, it has seemed to have gone through the delay process everywhere through the process, and let us not remember that there was someone damaged potentially in the general public, and our goa is to protect the public

trust. So since the respondent, cannot even show up to defend their work, they know that this happening, they engaged their insurance company. This is to me is an inappropriate fine, and if we are petitioned in the future to reconsider it, I am open to the defendant coming, and explaining through this process, but now this seems to be just be a way of running from the complaint, and I believe that the full amount is warranted and supported. That is just my individual vote.

JOHN WRIGHT: Any other comments?

SCOTT KRUEGER: I would agree with that, and he would have the opportunity to appeal this case, and come back to us and argue lesser fines, if there are any.

JOHN WRIGHT: I agree. Commissioner, Ivey.

JOHN IVEY: I, you know, at first thought, I thought \$60,000 was really unreasonable, but after further reflection, I agree with Commissioner, O'Brien.

JOHN WRIGHT: Okay. I do, however, Commissioner O'Brien, need you to modify your motion because you stated the case number incorrectly. You stated it as AP21.45.S instead of 20.45.S.

TIMOTHY O' BRIEN: Mine shows 21.

JOHN WRIGHT: On Witherby?

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Yes. Okay, then it's wrong on the agenda?

1 CHRISTAL KEEGAN: It's AP20.

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2 TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Here it shows 21.

JOHN WRIGHT: To be clear, Page 2 of the Agenda has AP20.45, the actual filing here is AP21.045, so we have a slight typographical error on one of the items.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Okay, do we have a source of truth on that to see if I need to update my - so a moment President Wright, we're obtaining source of truth here.

CHRISTAL KEEGAN: If the case is 2020, the AP is going to be 20. Thank you for checking.

SCOTT KRUEGER: It is AP20.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: So the agenda itself is correct, but it's my understanding then we would need to update the document here before President Wright signs the final disposition. So, per President Wright's request, I hereby amend my motion in the case of NRED v. Thomas L. Witherby, License No. A.0001528-CR, Case No. 2020-492 AP20.045.S, that we accept the Division's recommendations, a revocation of licensure fines \$60,000, and the cost of \$3,897.27 is provided by the division, which have been stated.

JOHN WRIGHT: It's 3987.22, not .27.

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: Alright. This is why commercial guys are so smart. The residential guys, we're are out. You also get paid by the word, as I understand

it, Commissioner, so we'll do it one more time. I hereby amend my amended, amended, amended motion to, the case of NRED v. Thomas L. Witherby, License No. A.0001528.CR, Case No. 2020-492 AP20.045.S that we accept the recommendations of the Division for revocation of license, fines in the amount of \$60,000, and costs of \$3,897.22 as stated by Division, which are stated to be reasonable, true, and typical.

JOHN WRIGHT: And, that they need to be paid?

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN: That they need to be paid within 180 days.

JOHN WRIGHT: Do I have a second?

SCOTT KRUEGER: I second that motion.

JOHN WRIGHT: Okay, any further discussion? All in favor? Aye.

COMMISSION: Aye.

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JOHN WRIGHT: Opposed? No. Motion carries 4:1, and that ends item four on the Agenda. There is no item five. There is no item six, so 6A is Discussion, Discussion regarding the Administrator's Report.

CHARVEZ FOGER: Again Commissioners, for the record Charvez Foger, Deputy Administrator for the Division. I'm acting on behalf of the Administrator, Sharath Chandra, who was in another meeting this morning. Administrative Report, we continue to work with, on our

# **EXHIBIT D**

# **EXHIBIT D**

#### ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 3/25/2024 9:24 AM

Electronically Filed 03 25 2024 9:23 AM CLERK OF THE COURT

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Attorneys for Respondents

### DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Case No.:

Dept. No.:

A-24-887290-J

2

THOMAS L. WITHERBY,

Petitioner.

Respondents.

VS.

REAL ESTATE DIVISION,

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND

14 | INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA and SHARATH CHANDRA in his capacity as

15 Administrator of the REAL ESTATE

DIVISION; NEVADA COMMISSION OF APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE and

16 APPRAISERS OF REAL ESTATE a
JOHN WRIGHT in his capacity as

17 President of the COMMISSION OF APPARAISERS OF REAL ESTATE.

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### ORDER DENYING MOTION TO STAY ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDER

Petitioner's Motion to Stay Enforcement of the Order having been heard by this Court on March 20, 2024, at its 9:00 a.m. civil calendar stack, with Lesley B. Miller, of the law firm Kaempfer Crowell, appearing on behalf of Petitioner Thomas L. Witherby ("Witherby"), and Christal P. Keegan, Deputy Attorney General, appearing on behalf of Respondents Sharath Chandra, Administrator, of the Nevada Real Estate Division of the Department of Business (collectively, the "Division").

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Page 1 of 2

Case Number: A-24-87290-J

1 Upon review and consideration of the arguments, pleadings, and papers on file, and 2 for good cause appearing: 3 I. 4 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS 5 1. Pursuant to NRS 233B.140, this Court is specifically authorized, upon application of the Petitioner, to issue a stay on the Respondents, as governed by Rule 65 of 6 7 the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure. Pursuant to NRS 645C.500(5), the Division has met its legal requirement of 8 2. 9 service to Witherby. 3. 10 Witherby has not demonstrated reasonable likelihood of success on the merits. 11 II. 12 ORDER 13 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petitioner's application for Stay Enforcement of the Order is hereby denied, and the Commission's Order dated October 10, 14 2023, shall remain in full force and effect until further order to his Mount to 24 15 16 17 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 010 46D E347 AB45 18 Carli Kierny AppTovekt Court Judge 19 Submitted by: 20 AARON D. FORD KAEMPFER CROWELL Attorney General 21 22 By: By: \_\_/s/ Lesley B. Miller CHRISTAR P. KEEGAN Lesley Miller, Esq. 23 Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No. 7987 Nevada Bar No. 12725 1980 Festival Plaza, Suite 650 24Office of the Attorney General Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 5420 Kietzke Lane, #202 lmiller@kcnvlaw.com 25 Reno, Nevada 89511 Attorneys for Petitioner ckeegan@ag.nv.gov 26 Attorneys for Respondents 27

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Thomas Witherby, Petitioner(s) CASE NO: A-24-887290-J 6 VS. DEPT. NO. Department 2 7 Real Estate Division, Department 8 of Business and Industry, State of 9 Nevada, Respondent(s) 10 11 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 13 Court. The foregoing Order Denying was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 3/25/2024 15 16 Lesley Miller lmiller@kcnvlaw.com 17 Tera Carlstrom tcarlstrom@kcnvlaw.com 18 Ellsie Lucero elucero@kcnvlaw.com 19 Desirce Endres dendres@kcnvlaw.com 20 Kimberly Rupe krupe@kcnvlaw.com 21 Christal Keegan ckeegan@ag.nv.gov 22 23 24 25 26 27

# **EXHIBIT E**

**EXHIBIT E** 

#### THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL REGULATION



HOME CONTACT US MY ACCOUNT

### **ONLINE SERVICES**

#### Apply for a License

Verify a Licensee

View Food & Lodging Inspections

File a Complaint

Continuing Education Course

View Application Status

Find Exam Information

Unlicensed Activity Search

AB&T Delinquent Invoice & Activity List Search

#### LICENSEE SEARCH OPTIONS

5:33:15 PM 4/9/2024

Data Contained In Search Results Is Current As Of 04/09/2024 05:31 PM.

#### Search Results - 2 Records

Please see our glossary of terms for an explanation of the license status shown in these search results.

For additional information, including any complaints or discipline, click on the name.

License Type	Name	Name Type	License Number/ Rank	Status/Expires	
Certified Residentia Appraise	WITHERBY, THOMAS LEROY	Primary	RD8455 Cert Res Appr	Current. Active 11/30/2024	
Address*:	License Location	5921 N LA 34465	MP POST DRIVI	E BEVERLY HILLS, FL	
	Main Address*:	5921 N. U 34465	AMP POST DRIV	E BEVERLY HILLS, FI	
Mailing Address*:		5921 N LAMP POST DRIVE BEVERLY HILLS FI 34465			
Certified Residentia Appraise	al WITHERBY,	Primary	RD7872 Cert Res Appr	Null and Void, Inactive 11/30/2016	
Address*:	License Location	2639 PINEAPPLE AVENUE MELBOURNE, FL 32935			
	Main Address*:	2639 PIN 32935	2639 PINEAPPLE AVENUE MELBOURNE F 32935		

New Search Back

Main Address - This address is the Primary Address on file. Mailing Address - This is the address where the mail associated with a particular license will be sent (if different from the Main or License Location addresses).

License Location Address - This is the address where the place of business is physically located.

2601 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee FL 32399 :: Email: Customer Contact Center :: Customer Contact Center: 850.487,1395

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Under Ffonda law, email addresses are public records, if you do not want your email address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact the office by phone or by traditional mail. If you have any questions, please contact 850 487 1395. \*Pursuant to Section 455,275(1), Florida Statutes, effective October 1, 2012, licensees licensed under Chapter 455, F.S. must provide the Department with an email address if they have one. The emails provided may be used for official communication with the licensee.

However email addresses are public record. If you do not wish to supply a personal address, please provide the Department with an email address which can be made available to the public Please see our **Chapter 455** page to determine if you are affected by this change.

# **EXHIBIT F**

# **EXHIBIT F**

### STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY REAL ESTATE DIVISION

3300 W. Sahara Ave., Suite 350, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 \* (702) e-mail: realest@red.nv.gov \* http://red.nv.gov/

# DEPT OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY Real Estate Division - LV

### STATEMENT OF FACT

		(	Please Print or Type)			
Your Name	Teresa J. Cartson	4		(702) 521-4844		
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		reet)	(C	7(9)	(Starr)	(Zip)
Email Address	Teresa@TeresaJCar	son.com				(Optional)
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Complaint aga	inst Thomas L. Withe	erby				
Name of firm	Witherby Appraisel, I	nc.				
Address 176	2 Pandora Drive Las	Vegas, NV 89123				
Telephone No	(702) 600-7111		Date of transaction	Appraisal Dated (	04/01/2020	
_	eal property located	2 3183 Mura Del	Prato, Henderson, NV 89	044		
	egal counsel? No.		If "Yes," state name a			
Dia you seek i	egai couriser: its		ii tes, state name e	and address		
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JUN 0 4 2020

DEPT OF SUSTAINED A INDUSTRY

Revised: 03/20/17

EXPLAIN FULLY: (Describe events in the order in which they happened, if possible. Please include dates and names.)

My complaint regarding the appraisal performed at 3183 Mura Del Prato is not a value issue, rather it concerns the inaccuracies and omissions within the report. The resulting report is sloppy, at best, and the errors fikely did have a negative impact on value.

The subject property is an end unit, two-story townhouse, 1,813sf, built by Toll Bros. in Inspirada. The living room, kitchen, guest bath, laundry, and garage access are on the first floor, along with the master bedroom and bath. There is also a patio accessed from the master bedroom. Subject has a 2-car garage and a fully finished, 462 sf balldony (or terrace) above the garage, accessed from the second floor loft. The terrace includes cool decking, BBQ stub, exterior power plugs, and hose bib. It has studed side walls and wrought iron railings. In addition to the large loft, the second floor also has 2 bedrooms and full bath.

- †. The appraisal report omits the 462sf balcony completely. The appraiser's sketch does not show the access door or the balcony at all. I have included a copy of the county sketch, which shows the balcony (as an option, which subject deany has) and the loft/bedroom option (subject has the loft). Additional living space, totalling 462sf, is clearly significant, particularly in a climate where it is useble daily during at least 9 months of the year! This balcony is visible in the rear photo provided by the appraiser, but he did not include any photos of the access doors or the balcony itself.
- The appraiser does not provide supporting documentation for the adjustments made within the report, including living area and upgraded features.
- 3. The appreiser fails to note that comparables 1-3 were built by Toll Bros., as was the subject, with a reputation as a higher quality builder. The Toll Bros. units benefit from the subassociation amenities of private clubhouse, exercise facilities and private pools, separate from, and in addition to, the Inspirada parks and pools. Comparables 4-6 were built by KB Homes, with access only to the Inspirada amenities.
- 4. The appraiser used only comparables located on Via Firenze, the main thoroughfare for Inspirada, and made no adjustment or comment about the impact of the location. The subject property is located on a side street, without through traffic. He also failed to include the comparable townhouse located at 3179 Mura Del Prato (2 doors from the subject), also built by Toll Bros., which closed on 2/28/2020. This unit was smaller, 1,574 sf, but was the only other recent sale on the subject's street, built by the same builder, in very close proximity. MLS documents for 3179 Mura Del Prato are included.
- 5. As previously stated above, the subject property is an End Unit Townhouse, meaning it connects to another unit on only one side. The appraiser used only one comparable that is also an end unit (Comparable 2) and made no adjustment or comment about the impact of this feature. See item 6 below, regarding appraiser's apparent attempt to after the omission of the end unit impact.
- 6. The appraiser included erroneous photos of comparables number 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 showing those properties to be end unit townhouses, when in fact, comparables 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are all inside units. They are attached to the neighboring units on BOTH sides. The appraiser made no adjustment or comment about the impact of end unit vs. inside unit on value. Instead he appears to after the impression that inside units were used, not once but FIVE times. The MLS records are included for comparables 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, with photos showing that they are, in fact inside units.

There are likely other errors and omissions within this appraisal report but the above items were glaring problems, in my opinion. This type of work reflects badly on the profession, and negatively impacts all parties involved.



SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO COMPLIANCE
3300 W. SAHARA AVE., SUITE 350, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102

Revised: 03 20 17 Page 2 of 2 0002 514

# **EXHIBIT G**

# **EXHIBIT G**

# APPRAISAL CASE ANALYSIS

Investigative Report - Case No.: 2020-492, AP20.045.S

Complainant: Teresa J. Carlson

2101 Noah Tyler Ct Henderson, NV 89052

Respondent: Thomas L. Witherby A.0001528-CR first issuance 03 16/1994, expires 03/31/2022

Witherby Appraisal Inc.

1762 Pandora Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89123

Investigation of Case:

Subject Property: 3183 Mura Del Prato, Henderson, NV 89044

Appraisal Intended Use: Purchase Transaction

Effective Date: 03/31/2020 Signature Date: 04/01/2020 Appraised value: \$300,000

### Allegation:

On June 8, 2020, the Nevada Real Estate Division (Division) received a complaint against the respondent. The complaint states the respondent's appraisal report contains inaccuracies and omissions that negatively impacted the value of the subject property.

# Investigation findings:

This appraisal report had a Standard 3 review completed. The respondent provided a rebuttal letter, work file, and appraisal report.

An appraiser must prepare a work file for each appraisal assignment. The work file must include all other data, information, and documentation necessary to support the appraiser's opinions and conclusions and to show compliance with USPAP, or references to the location(s) of such other data, information, and documentation. The respondent's appraisal report and work file lack the necessary support for the adjustments made in the sales grid. The respondent's appraisal report states, "All of the adjustment factors as applied within this appraisal report were derived from market extraction (the contributory value of the item(s) as shown by the subject market area, not costs), matched pairs procedures, linear regression modules and personal knowledge of the subject neighborhood." The respondent's statement about the use of linear regression modules contradicts the respondent's statement, "It is my opinion that due to the many attributes and the lack of understanding of how to properly complete a linear regression and the homogeneous market in the Las Vegas area that the paired sales analysis is the most accurate when supporting adjustments made in the appraisal." The respondent's appraisal report and work file do not contain statistical analysis to support the adjustments made in the sales grid. Possible violation of the Record Keeping Rule.

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must not render appraisal services in a careless or negligent manner, such as by making a series of errors that, although individually might not significantly affect the results of an appraisal, in the aggregate affects the credibility of those results. The respondent's appraisal report and work file do not contain documentation to support the \$25,000 adjustment for comp 2's upgraded features. The review appraiser's independent statistical analysis using "Pairs" software by Gandysoft suggests the GLA adjustments are under-stated. The complaint received by the Division mentions the difference between Toll Brothers Construction builds and KB Homes builds, stating Toll Brothers sell at a higher premium. The respondent's rebuttal says, "There is no data in the subject market area that shows a resale townhome built by Toll Brothers commands a higher price than any of the others in the market area." The review appraiser states two different MLS searches were conducted and show a difference in the two builders, with Toll Brothers construction providing a higher premium. Stated as a percentage, this difference would be a 3.5% adjustment. Comps 1, 2, and 3 are Toll Brothers built units, and comps 4 through 6 are KB Homes built units, and the respondent's appraisal report does not adjust for differing builders.

The subject property is an end-unit townhome. The complaint suggests that end units sell at a higher premium. The respondent's appraisal report contains only one end unit comp, comp 2, and no adjustment is made to other comps for not being end units. Again the review appraiser conducted an analysis of the differences, and the analysis shows a difference stated as a percentage would be a 6.4% adjustment. Due to the above-listed possible errors, the respondent's appraisal report could be considered misleading and non-credible. **Possible violation of Standards Rule 1-1(c).** 

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must identify the type and definition of value, and ascertain whether the value is to be the most probable price. The respondent's appraisal report states, "No adjustment is made or felt warranted for concessions of 3% or less and any concessions." The respondent's appraisal report and work file provide no support for the opinion that seller concessions do not affect pricing, even if under 3% of the sale price. The review appraiser provides that, "A review of sales in the subject subdivision shows less than 10% employ seller concessions." This analysis is contradictory to the statement in the respondent's definition of value, which states, "the seller pays these costs in virtually all sales transactions." Possible violation of Standards Rule 1-2(c).

When the value opinion to be developed is market value, an appraiser must, if such information is available to the appraiser in the normal course of business, analyze all sales of the subject property that occurred within the three years prior to the effective date of the appraisal. The respondent's appraisal report does not report or analyze the prior sale of the subject property, which occurred June 21, 2018, for \$310,000, less than 2 years prior to the effective date. The prior sale is recorded in public and MLS records. **Possible violation of Standards Rule 1-5(b).** 

Each written or oral real property appraisal report must clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that will not be misleading. As stated above, in possible violation of

Standards Rule 1-2(c), the respondent's appraisal report could contain errors, possibly making the appraisal report misleading. Possible violation of Standards Rule 2-1(a).

The content of an Appraisal Report must be appropriate for the intended use of the appraisal and, at a minimum, provide sufficient information to indicate that the appraiser complied with the requirements of Standard 1 by summarizing the results of analyzing the subject sales, agreements of sale, options, and listings in accordance with Standards Rule 1-5. As stated above, the respondent's appraisal report does not contain an analysis of the previous sale, which occurred June 21, 2018, for \$310,000, less than 2 years prior to the effective date. Possible violation of Standards Rule 2-2(a)(x).

### **POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS:**

Record Keeping Rule

Standards Rule 1-1(c)

Standards Rule 1-2(c)

Standards Rule 1-5(b)

Standards Rule 2-1(a)

Standards Rule 2-2(a)(x)

#### **USPAP Standards**:

### RECORD KEEPING RULE

An appraiser must prepare a workfile for each appraisal or appraisal review assignment. A workfile must be in existence prior to the issuance of any report or other communication of assignment results. A written summary of an oral report must be added to the workfile within a reasonable time after the issuance of the oral report.

The workfile must include:

• all other data, information, and documentation necessary to support the appraiser's opinions and conclusions and to show compliance with USPAP, or references to the location(s) of such other data, information, and documentation.

### STANDARD 1: REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL, DEVELOPMENT

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must identify the problem to be solved, determine the scope of work necessary to solve the problem, and correctly complete research and analyses necessary to produce a credible appraisal.

# STANDARDS RULE 1-1, GENERAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must:

(c) not render appraisal services in a careless or negligent manner, such as by making a series of errors that, although individually might not significantly affect the results of an appraisal, in the aggregate affects the credibility of those results.

### STANDARDS RULE 1-2, PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

In developing a real property appraisal, an appraiser must:

(c) not render appraisal services in a careless or negligent manner, such as by making a series of errors that, although individually might not significantly affect the results of an appraisal, in the aggregate affects the credibility of those results.

# STANDARDS RULE 1-5, SALE AGREEMENTS, OPTIONS, LISTINGS, AND PRIOR SALES

When the value opinion to be developed is market value, an appraiser must, if such information is available to the appraiser in the normal course of business:

(b) analyze all sales of the subject property that occurred within the three (3) years prior to the effective date of the appraisal.

### STANDARD 2: REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL, REPORTING

In reporting the results of a real property appraisal, an appraiser must communicate each analysis, opinion, and conclusion in a manner that is not misleading.

### STANDARDS RULE 2-1, GENERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Each written or oral real property appraisal report must:

(a) clearly and accurately set forth the appraisal in a manner that will not be misleading;

# STANDARDS RULE 2-2, CONTENT OF A REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL REPORT

Each written real property appraisal report must be prepared under one of the following options and prominently state which option is used: Appraisal Report or Restricted Appraisal Report.

(a) The content of an Appraisal Report must be appropriate for the intended use of the appraisal

- (a) The content of an Appraisal Report must be appropriate for the intended use of the appraisa and, at a minimum:
  - (x) provide sufficient information to indicate that the appraiser complied with the requirements of STANDARD 1 by:
    - (1) summarizing the appraisal methods and techniques employed;
    - (2) stating the reasons for excluding the sales comparison, cost, or income approach(es) if any have not been developed;
    - (3) summarizing the results of analyzing the subject sales, agreements of sale, options, and listings in accordance with Standards Rule 1-5;

Comment: If such information is unobtainable, a statement on the efforts undertaken by the appraiser to obtain the information is required. If such information is irrelevant, a statement acknowledging the existence of the information and citing its lack of relevance is required.

- (4) stating the value opinion(s) and conclusion(s); and
- (5) summarizing the information analyzed and the reasoning that supports the analyses, opinions, and conclusions, including reconciliation of the data and approaches;

#### PRIOR DISCIPLINE:

Case number 2017-2344, AP18.004.S, case closed insufficient evidence of a violation. Case number 2018-738, AP18.025-S, a letter of instruction was sent to the respondent on work file issues.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Following the investigation and Standard 3 Review, the recommendation is to forward this case to the Appraisal Advisory Review Committee.

Submitted this 21st day of July 2021.

James Silva
State of Nevada
Real Estate Division
Appraisal Compliance/Audit Investigator II