21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

# 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.

Srdjan Pantic,

Respondent.

Case No. 2019-836



NEVADA COMMISSION FOR COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITIES AND CONDOMINIUM HOTELS

AND CONDOMINIUM HOTELS
Kelly Valadery

### FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

This matter came on for hearing before the Commission for Common-Interest Communities and Condominium Hotels, State of Nevada (the "Commission"), during a regular agenda set on a three-day stack beginning at 9 am on August 31, 2021 (the "Hearing"). The Respondent, Srdjan Pantic ("PANTIC" and/or "RESPONDENT"), did not appear personally or through counsel and did not answer the complaint. Karissa D. Neff, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General with the Nevada Attorney General's Office, appeared on behalf of the Real Estate Division of the Department of Business and Industry, State of Nevada (the "Division").

Ms. Neff presented testimony from Kelly Valadez, the Commission Coordinator, regarding notices of the Complaint, hearing and documents to RESPONDENT via certified and regular mail. Ms. Neff also admitted documents into evidence. The Commission, having considered the evidence introduced by the Division and being fully advised, enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. Under Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 116, the Commission has legal jurisdiction and authority over this matter.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Commission, based upon the filed complaint, and the evidence filed by the Division in support of the complaint, finds that the following Findings of Fact are accepted as true in accordance

1

- 4
- 5 6
- 7 8
- 9 10
- 11
- 12

- 23
- 24 25
- 26
- 27

28

- At all relevant times alleged herein through approximately August of 2018, the Association was managed by Pinnacle Community Association Management at which time Denise Vargas ("Vargas") was its community manager.
- In September of 2018, Epic Association Management ("Epic") took over management of the Association.
- On July 18, 2019, board member David Bashaw ("Bashaw"), filed a 3. complaint with the Division against RESPONDENT.
- 4. The complaint alleged that RESPONDENT, while on the Association's board, owned a company that was not licensed or insured, and performed work for the community and received compensation for doing so, totaling more than \$420,000.00.
- 5. On July 16, 2019, Epic's community manager also filed a complaint with the Division alleging that RESPONDENT, who was a board member, owned a company that was not licensed or insured, but performed work in the community and received compensation for doing so in the amount of \$420,671.04
- The types of services RESPONDENT and/or his companies provided to the 6. Association included general construction, dry wall repair of the clubhouse, plumbing, electrical, pony wall repair/replacement; balcony/porch repair, window removal from the clubhouse, and painting.
- 7. The Association's October 30, 2018, executive meeting minutes reflect that RESPONDENT had a hearing before the Association's executive board regarding his being compensated for performing work for the Association while serving as the Association's president.
- At his hearing before the executive board, RESPONDENT stated that he was guilty of performing Association work while not holding a contractor's license, that he understood he violated Nevada law by profiting from the Association while on the board, and that he would like to reimburse the Association for monies collected for work not completed by his company.

- 9. Following RESPONDENT'S hearing before the executive board, he was removed from the Association's board.
- 10. An action was also brought against RESPONDENT in Clark County Justice Court as Case No. 19M08678X on May 15, 2019 by the State against RESPONDENT for engaging in the contractor business/submitting bids without being licensed ("Action").
- 11. On August 15, 2019, RESPONDENT pled guilty to misdemeanor charges in the Action and provided that the following conditions are met, the Action was to be dismissed: (1) stays out of trouble, (2) pays restitution to the Association in the amount of \$77,646.62, and (3) pays \$419.69 to the Nevada State Contractor's Board.
- 12. On August 23, 2019, the Division properly notified RESPONDENT it had opened an investigation and requested that RESPONDENT provide documents that included the following: (1) scope of work for each job performed for the Association, (2) invoices for all jobs from 2017 through 2018, and (3) work orders from the Association for all jobs ("Requested Documents").
- 13. The Division again requested a response from RESPONDENT on September10, 2019 and the Requested Documents.
- 14. The Division received RESPONDENT'S response to its investigation on September 20, 2019 but not the Requested Documents.
- 15. In his response, RESPONDENT stated that he only owned Nevada Property Concepts and that the board members approved all jobs his company performed and used his company to save money.
- 16. RESPONDENT also stated that his signature was legal and on deposit with the bank at all times, has always been on record for signing checks, and that Epic had the Requested Documents.
  - 17. Bashaw also responded to the Division's investigation on January 27, 2020.
- 18. Bashaw stated that Bashaw was on the Association's board since 2015, that Denise Johnson (also known as Denise Vargas) was their community manager for years through Pinnacle Community Association Management ("Pinnacle"), that Vargas told

them that RESPONDENT was licensed to do work for the Association, and that the board relied on Vargas' representations.

- 19. Bashaw further stated that as a board member, he never saw an invoice from RESPONDENT because Vargas just paid them.
- 20. D. Wayne Mauldin ("Mauldin") also responded to the Division's investigation.
- 21. Mauldin stated that he was on the Association's board for approximately 18 years, that RESPONDENT stated that he was licensed as a property inspector and that Pinnacle stated the licensure was sufficient for RESPONDENT to perform work for the Association.
- 22. Mauldin was unaware that Pinnacle was signing checks from the Association's operating account.
- 23. Association meeting minutes do not reflect that the board approved most of the work RESPONDENT performed for the Association, nor were there contracts for the work performed.
- 24. Association meeting minutes do not reflect that the board approved payment to Pantic or his companies for the work performed.
  - 25. RESPONDENT was not a licensed contractor.
- 26. While on the Association's board, RESPONDENT performed work within the Association through the companies he owned and was compensated by the Association in the amount of \$421,671.04 for said work in approximately a one-year period.
- 27. While on the Association's board, RESPONDENT signed checks to his companies in the amount of \$52,515.29 from the operating account and \$269,155.75 from the reserve account.
  - 28. RESPONDENT was not a signatory to the Associations' accounts.
- 29. The Division properly notified RESPONDENT on September 23, 2020 that it intended to bring a disciplinary action against him for hearing before the Commission.

28 ||/

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the Commission concludes by unanimous vote that RESPONDENT committed the following violations of law:

- 30. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.31187(1)(b) by receiving personal profit or compensation by performing services to the Association while being on the board.
- 31. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3103 through NAC 116.405(3) by committing an act or omission which amounts to incompetence, negligence or gross negligence.
- 32. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3103 through NAC 116.405(2) by failing to act in good faith and in the honest belief that his actions are in the best interests of the Association by acting for reasons of self-interest and gain.
- 33. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3103 through NAC 116.405(5)(a) by impeding or otherwise interfering with the Division's investigation by failing to provide the Division with the Requested Documents during its investigation.

#### ORDER

The Commission, being fully apprised in the premises and good cause appearing, ORDERS as follows:

- 1. RESPONDENT shall pay the Division a total of \$7,465.40 ("Amount Due"), consisting of a fine in the amount of \$4,000.00 and the Division's attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$3,465.40. The Amount Due shall be payable to the Division within 60 days of the date of this Order.
- 2. RESPONDENT shall not serve on any homeowner association's board in State of Nevada for 10 years from the date of this Order, or until such time that the Respondent pays the restitution fine to the homeowners' association, whichever occurs later.

/// ///

- 1	
1	
2	3. The Division may institute debt collection proceedings for failure to timely
3	pay the Amount Due, or any installment thereof. Further, if collection goes through
4	the State of Nevada, then RESPONDENT shall also pay the costs associated with
5	collection.
6	DATED this day of October 2021.
7	
8	COMMISSION FOR COMMON-INTEREST COMMUNITIES AND CONDOMINIUM HOTELS DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY STATE
10	OF NEVADA
11	By: // /
12	MICHAEL BURKE CHAIRMAN
13	Submitted by:
14	AARON D. FORD Attorney General
15	
16	By: Isl Kariosa Neff
17	KARISSA D. NEFF, ESQ.
18	Senior Deputy Attorney General 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
19	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Attorneys for Real Estate Division
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	