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

### STATE OF NEVADA

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SHARATH CHANDRA, Administrator, REAL ESTATE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY. STATE OF NEVADA,

Petitioner.

SILVER STATE CONDOMINIUM OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC., (Entity Number C5957-1985)

Respondent.

Case No. 2024-106



OCT 29 2024

**NEVADA COMMISSION FOR** 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, Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General of the State of Nevada, and Christal P. Keegan, Deputy Attorney General, hereby notifies Silver State Condominium Owners' Association, Inc. ("RESPONDENT") 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 of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and Chapter 116 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 the RESPONDENT pursuant to the provisions of NRS and NAC including, but not limited to NRS 116.785 and NRS 116.790.

### JURISDICTION AND NOTICE

During all relevant times, RESPONDENT is a common-interest community of about 72 condominium units located in Sparks, Nevada (Entity Number C5957-1985) and

is, therefore, subject to the provisions of Chapter 116 of each the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "NRS 116") and are subject to the jurisdiction of the Division, and the Commission for Common-Interest Communities and Condominium Hotels pursuant to the provisions of NRS 116.750.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 1. On or about September 22, 2023, the Division sent the RESPONDENT an audit engagement letter. Exhibit 1-A, NRED 000111-000113.
- 2. On or about February 2, 2024, the Division informed the RESPONDENT that the audit was completed, and the report was forwarded to Compliance. Exhibit 1-A, NRED 000114.
- 3. On or about February 20, 2024, the Division's Compliance Section informed the RESPONDENT in a detailed six-page letter alleging five (5) violations of law and eleven (11) bullet pointed items with an opportunity for response by no later than March 6, 2024. Exhibit 2, NRED 000125–000130.
- 4. On or about April 1, 2024, the RESPONDENT supplied its response with exhibits. Exhibit 3, NRED 000425-000434.

# A. Inconsistent 2022 Budget / Financial Information Provided to Unit Owners

- 5. The RESPONDENT provided the 2022 budget to actual financial information which was a different budget than what was presented and reflected in the approved and ratified budget sent to the unit owners on or about November 17, 2021. Exhibit 1, NRED 000011.
- 6. Specifically, utilities, management fees, legal expenses, landscaping contracts, maintenance labor, security and/or postage which were included in the budget to actual financial statements were omitted from the financial packets presented to the board and unit owners. Exhibit 1, NRED 000011.

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### Use of Unlicensed Vendors B.

- In 2023, Felix Torres completed roof repairs to a condominium 8. unit located at 1521 Shannon Way owned by Board member Carol A. Pompe. Exhibit 3. NRED 000429-000430.
- Prior to the necessary roof repairs, the Board initiated the process of obtaining bids from a licensed contractor. Exhibit 3, NRED 000429.
- The Property's listing agent contacted Board member Rick Mayer and 10. advised Felix Torres, with allegedly CTR Roofing, could complete the necessary work to the roof. Exhibit 3, NRED 000429.
- The RESPONDENT allowed circumvention of the appropriate process for the 11. roof repair. Exhibit 1, NRED 000012-000013.
- On or about February 2, 2023, an invoice for the roof repair work performed 12. by Mr. Torres indicated the RESPONDENT with attention to Rick Mayer. Exhibit 2, NRED 000190.
- Board member Rick Mayer then allegedly requested the management 13. company issue payment. Exhibit 3, NRED 000430.
- On or about February 13, 2023, the RESPONDENT'S management company 14. requested a copy of Mr. Torres' general liability insurance, workers compensation insurance, and a W-9 prior to issuing payment. Exhibit 3, NRED 000430.
- The invoice pre-dates the formation of the vendor being a licensed company 15. according to the Nevada Secretary of State. Exhibit 2, NRED 000130.
- Further, a Nevada contractor's license was not found for this vendor 16. providing roofing repair services. Exhibit 2, NRED 000191.

### Inaccurate Reflections in its Accounting Procedures and C. Failure to Adequately Fund the Reserves

In 2022 and 2023, RESPONDENT repeatedly deferred funds that should 17. have gone to the Reserve Account. Exhibit 1, NRED 000010-000011.

- Instead, in 2022, only \$22,500 was transferred to the Reserves. Exhibit 1, NRED 000017.
- In 2023, through September 30, 2023, only \$48,096 was transferred to the 22. reserves. Exhibit 1, NRED 000017.
- RESPONDENT admitted to mounting unforeseen events, from fires, water 23. leak issues, to building repairs and related legal expenses in 2021 and 2022, that resulted in great financial expense to the Reserve Account. Exhibit 3, NRED 000430-000431.
- Yet, the RESPONDENT decidedly forwent a reserve assessment in 24. 2023 claiming its insurance premium for 2023-2024 allegedly went up due to the unforeseen issues in 2021. Exhibit 3, NRED 000431.

### Failure to Inform the Division Regarding Changes to its D. Management Company

- The RESPONDENT claimed it remitted the Form 623 Registration 25. Filing Addendum on January 26, 2024, and represented it as its Exhibit 11. Exhibit 3, NRED 000431.
- But Exhibit 11 was not the Form 623, but instead the Associa Sierra North 26. contract. Exhibit 3, NRED 000626-000640.

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27. In fact, the Division did not receive the Form 623 until July 18, 2024, which was well-beyond the thirty (30) days of its management company change. Exhibit 2, NRED 000141-000142.

# E. Failure to Cooperate with the Division and Impeded or Otherwise Interfered with its Investigation.

- 28. The RESPONDENT failed to provide responsive information or documents during the Division's investigation despite its unambiguous requests for the items listed below:
  - a. "Please provide the Western Nevada Management contract for services with Silver State Condominium Owners' Association and all Board Meeting Minutes from when the contract for Western Nevada Management was discussed for approval." Exhibit 2, NRED 000128.
    - i. In its response, the RESPONDENT alleged Western Nevada Management had not managed the Association for over two years and apparently decided it would therefore not provide the items requested by the Division's Investigator. Exhibit 3, NRED 000432.
  - b. "Please explain why King Bee Construction was paid from the operating account for items that should have been from the Reserves." Exhibit 2, NRED 000128.
    - In its response, the RESPONDENT denied it had any records showing payment to King Bee Construction. Exhibit 3, NRED 000432.
    - ii. But, there is a check #4484 on or about February 10, 2021, to this very vendor in the amount of \$4,320.00 for siding trim replacement, which should have been paid from the Reserves. Exhibit 2, NRED 000197.

- iii. There were other checks for the same vendor for similar services paid from the Reserves. Exhibit 2, NRED 000197-000211.
- iv. Importantly, the Division's Auditor obtained confirmation of these payments during the audit and therefore the RESPONDENT'S claim that it had no records of any payments to this vendor was inconsistent. Exhibit 1, NRED 000012.
- c. "Please provide the 2022 and 2023 Silver State Condominium Owners' Association CPA audits." Exhibit 2, NRED 000129.
  - i. In its response the RESPONDENT provided the 2021 Audit instead, alleged it had not received the 2022 or 2023 Audit, nor did it make any indication it would supply it when available, which is non-responsive. Exhibit 3, NRED 000433.
- d. "Please explain why the 2022 budget to actual presentation provided to the Division auditor for review has an entirely different budget than what was presented and reflected in the approved and ratified budget sent to unit owners on 11/17/2021. (See allegation #1 for details.) What is being done to correct this and provide the identical financial information to both the unit owners and the Division?" Exhibit 2, NRED 000129.
  - i. In its response, the RESPONDENT claimed the information presented, approved and ratified was identical, "They are identical" and pointed to its Exhibits 1 and 2 representing the Annual Budget Ratification mailer sent to the Owners in November 2021, including the proposed 2022 budget, then thereafter, the ratified 2022 budget mailed to the Owners. Exhibit 3, NRED 000433.

- But RESPONDENT completely failed to address why the 2022 budget to actual sheet did not correlate to the 2022 ratified budget document. Exhibit 3, NRED 000433.
- Specifically, the Budget Comparison sheet from 12/1/2022 iii. to 12/31/2022 identified the following items as having \$0 funds budgeted which was inconsistent with the 2022 ratified with absolutely no explanation presented. budget, Exhibit 000156-000159, 3. NRED and Exhibit 2. NRED 000434-000447.
- iv. The RESPONDENT also made no indication on what it was doing to correct this discrepancy to ensure identical information was being presented to both the unit owners and the Division. Exhibit 3, NRED 000433.
- 29. Therefore, on or about August 16, 2024, the Division informed the RESPONDENT it intended to proceed formally for the outstanding violations. Exhibit 2, NRED 000139-000140.
- 30. Despite such plain notice of continued deficiencies, there is no indication that the RESPONDENT supplied any subsequent additional documentation or other evidence to support its position to the Division's Investigator. Exhibit 2, NRED 000139–000140.

### VIOLATIONS OF LAW

- 31. Violation #1. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3103(1) through its fiduciary shortcomings when it failed to provide accurate information to the unit owners and to the Division, failed to fund the daily operation of the Association adequately, and/or make adjustments to its funding plan.
- 32. Violation #2. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3108(6) as there were no Meeting Minutes to support the Board was proceeding in a legitimate manner to complete the roof work repair.

- 33. Violation #3. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3115(1) by failing to accurately reflect the "Due-To" from the Operating Account to the Reserves Account for proper accounting procedures to be met.
- 34. Violation #4. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.3115(2)(b) by failing to adequately fund its Reserves and maintain its budget in accordance with the Reserve Study.
- 35. Violation #5. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.31151(1) for failing to create, retain and/or maintain proper and accurate record keeping.
- 36. Violation #6. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.31151(1)(b) for failing adequately fund the Reserves as indicated by the Reserve Studies.
- 37. Violation #7. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.31152(1)(c) for failing, at least annually, to make adjustments to its funding plan necessary to provide adequate funding for the required reserves.
- 38. Violation #8. RESPONDENT violated NRS 116.31175(2) by failing to make available to the Division its books and records.
- 39. Violation #9. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.385(2) by failing to report changes to its community management company to the Division within thirty (30) days.
- 40. Violation #10. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.405(5)(a) by impeding or otherwise interfering with the Division's investigation by failing to comply with the Division's multiple requests to provide information or documents.
- 41. Violation #11. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.405(5)(b) for impeding or otherwise interfering with the Division's investigation when it concealed supplied false or misleading information to the Division's investigator regarding the payments to King Bee Construction which were otherwise included in the Division's Auditor's review.
- 42. Violation #12. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.405(8)(d) for failing to obtain at least three bids from reputable vendors with proper licensing prior to the roof repair work.

- 43. Violation #13. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.405(8)(g) in lacking its duties when it failed to maintain current, accurate and/or properly documented financial records.
- 44. Violation #14. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.405(8)(i) for failing to demonstrate any established policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurances in the reliability of its financial reporting.
- 45. Violation #15. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.405(8)(k) for failing to make the requested financial records of the Association available for inspection by the Division.
- 46. Violation #16. RESPONDENT violated NAC 116.415 by failing to have proper recordkeeping and regularly transferring reserves.

## DISCIPLINE AUTHORIZED

Pursuant to the provisions of NRS 116.615; NRS 116.755; NRS 116.785; and NRS 116.790, the Commission has discretion to take any or all of the following actions:

- Issue an order directing RESPONDENT to cease and desist from continuing to engage in the unlawful conduct that resulted in the violation.
- Issue an order directing RESPONDENT to take affirmative action to correct any conditions resulting from the violation.
- 3. Impose an administrative fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation by RESPONDENT.
- 4. If Respondent is found to have knowingly and willfully committed a violation of NRS or NAC 116 AND it is in the best interest of the Association, such RESPONDENT may be removed from his/her position as a director and/or officer.
  - 5. Order an audit of the ASSOCIATION, at the expense of the ASSOCIATION.
- 6. Require RESPONDENT to pay the costs of the proceedings incurred by the Division, including, without limitation, the cost of the investigation and reasonable attorney's fees.

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Commission further disciplinary action the 7. Take whatever

The Commission may order one or any combination of the discipline described above. If the Commission finds that the RESPONDENT knowingly and willfully violated the provisions of NRS or NAC 116, the Commission may order that RESPONDENT be personally liable for all fines and costs imposed.

## 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 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Chapter 116 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE at the Commission meeting(s) scheduled for December 3-5, 2024, 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, 4th Floor, Nevada Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 on December 3-4, 2024, with videoconferencing to Department of Business and Industry, Division of Insurance, 1818 E. College Parkway, Suite 103, Carson City, Nevada 89706. The Commission meeting will be held at the Nevada State Business Center, 3300 W. Sahara Avenue, 4th Floor, Tahoe Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 on December 5, 2024, with videoconferencing to Department of Business and Industry, Division of Insurance, 1818 E. College Parkway, Suite 103, 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 December 3-5, 2024. 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 an out-of-state witness or the like, please call Maria Gallo, Commission Coordinator, at (702) 486-4074.

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. 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 Chapter 116 and NAC Chapter 116, 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 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

RESPONDENT'S defense. The purpose of the hearing is to determine if the 1 RESPONDENT has violated the provisions of NRS 116, and to determine what 2 administrative penalty is to be assessed against RESPONDENTS. 3 4 DATED this 28 day of October 2024. DATED this 24th day of October 2024. 5 AARON D. FORD REAL ESTATE DIVISION, 6 DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA Attorney General 7 8 epkeegan By: 9 By: CHRISTAL P. KEEGAN Administrator SHARATH CHANDRA. 3300 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 350 Deputy Attorney General 10 Nevada State Bar No. 12725 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202 11 (702) 486-4033 Reno, Nevada 89511 (775) 687 - 214112 ckeegan@ag.nv.gov 13 Attorney for Real Estate Division 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28