## 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.

JOHN BIELUN.

Respondent.

Case Nos. 2023-622 and 2023-670



OCT 3 1 2024

NEVADA COMMISSION FOR COMMON INTEREST COMMUNITIES AND CONDOMINIUM HOTELS

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### 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 Phil W. Su, Senior Deputy Attorney General, hereby notifies JOHN BIELUN ("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 RESPONDENTS 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 was an executive board member/director of a common-interest community located in Henderson, Nevada, Resort Villa Owners Association (the "Association"), 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 August 11, 2023, the Division received an Intervention Affidavit ("IA") (hereinafter "Case 2023-662") from Complainant Norman Rosensteel alleging that RESPONDENT shared confidential executive session information with non-board members and that RESPONDENT attempted to interfere with the sale of his home by sharing correspondence containing that confidential information with realtor Claudia Marion of Keller Williams. CICCH001-020.
- 2. The Case 2023-662 IA involved a unit owner, Mike Doyle, making a fictitious sexual harassment allegation against Complainant Rosensteel during the April 26, 2023, board of directors meeting. CICCH005-006.
- The Board subsequently held an executive session, which RESPONDENT attended. CICCH005-006.
- 4. Doyle subsequently discussed details with the executive board members that could only have been obtained from those who attended the executive session. CICCH005-006; 044.
- 5. Complainant Rosensteel believed that RESPONDENT, alone, was responsible for the disclosure of confidential information from the executive session, based on RESPONDENT'S "long history of attempted intimidation against others in the community," which drove some past members of the board to resign due to RESPONDENT'S actions. CICCH005-006.
- 6. On August 11, 2023, the Division received a second, related Intervention Affidavit (hereinafter "Case 2023-670") from Complainant James D. McCoy, who at the time was president of the Association's executive board. CICCH022-043.
- 7. McCoy requested that RESPONDENT be disciplined for disclosing confidential information related to another owner, and that "the disclosure led to the publication of allegedly defamatory statements and interfered with the former

director/owner's ability to sell his residence." CICCH021-022.

- 8. Included with the Case 2023-670 IA were a copy of a June 8, 2023, cease and desist letter sent from Association's counsel, John Leach, demanding RESPONDENT cease taking Board action without Board authority; cease disclosing confidential information related to another owner; and cease engaging in bullying behavior and creating a hostile environment within the Association. CICCH023-028.
- 9. On June 14, 2023, RESPONDENT responded to Leach's cease and desist letter denying allegations. CICCH029-030.
- 10. On November 17, 2023, Attorney Leach sent another cease and desist letter to RESPONDENT, based on its receipt of documentation that RESPONDENT posted the Association's <u>unredacted</u> legal invoices from Attorney Leach on a website controlled by RESPONDENT. CICCH0061-063.
- 11. On February 21, 2024, CAM Joseph Ventura provided Investigator Pitch with copies of screenshots from a webpage/forum named "It Takes a Village," upon which were posted unredacted billing invoices from Attorney Leach's firm to the Association's board in late 2023. CICCH045-060; 114.
- 12. CAM Ventura noted that RESPONDENT'S email address, reggyrifle@yahoo.com, was found on one of the open tabs in one of the images, strongly suggesting that RESPONDENT supplied the unredacted billing invoices. CICCH045-060; 058.

# DIVISION INVESTIGATOR REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RESPONSES

- 13. On October 12, 2023, Investigator Pitch sent an open investigation letter and request for information ("RFI") for Case 2023-670, directed to the RESPONDENT, regarding the allegations in that IA. CICCH102-104.
- 14. On October 17, 2023, RESPONDENT sent a reply letter denying the allegation and any involvement in Doyle's dissemination of the false allegations against Complainant Rosensteel and attaching exhibits in support of his denials. CICCH105-

Case 2023-670. CICCH066.

asking for responses to allegations that RESPONDENT disclosed confidential information related to another unit owner. CICCH064-065.

16. On December 10, 2023, RESPONDENT responded to Investigator Pitch's RFI for Case 2023-662 with a response letter substantially similar to the one he sent for

investigation and RFI for Case 2023-662, addressed to the Association's executive board,

On December 8, 2023, Division Investigator Christina Pitch sent an open

- 17. On January 3, 2024, board president McCoy responded to Investigator Pitch affirming the underlying facts concerning Complainant Rosensteel's IA for Case 2023-662, including dissemination of the details of the May 2023 executive session to Mr. Doyle. CICCH067-068.
- 18. Board president McCoy also requested the Division take action to remove RESPONDENT from the Association board due to his "lack of trust and integrity" and misuse of executive privilege to access and unlawfully distribute homeowners' confidential information. CICCH068-069.
- 19. On January 10, 2024, board member Richard Burgess provided a further narrative regarding four occasions where he alleged RESPONDENT shared confidential board communications with non-board members, and attached documents supporting those allegations. CICCH070-099.
- 20. On January 17, 2024, Investigator Pitch sent a second RFI for Case 2023-662, addressed to President McCoy, regarding other board members who might have a conflict of interest with the allegations against RESPONDENT. CICCH100-101.
- 21. On April 3, 2024, Investigator Pitch sent a second RFI for Case 2023-670 addressed to the Association's executive board, with cc: to RESPONDENT, requesting response to the additional allegation raised by Attorney Leach, that RESPONDENT accessed the restricted director portal, downloaded confidential, unredacted legal invoices, and shared those documents with non-board members. CICCH112-113.

- 22. On April 12, 2024, board president Kate Rogers sent Investigator Pitch a letter regarding Case 2023-662, opining that the "It Takes a Village" website is not a public website, but a private forum for Resort Villas owners only, and noting that she observed other board members verbally attacking RESPONDENT in two prior board meetings with other owners present. CICCH114.
- 23. On April 23, 2024, Investigator Pitch sent a third RFI regarding case 2023-670, reiterating her prior request for response regarding posting of the Association's unredacted legal invoices, CICCH115-117.
- 24. On May 2, 2024, RESPONDENT sent Investigator Pitch an email denying the allegations in case 2023-670 and requesting proof. **CICCH118.**
- 25. On May 24, 2024, the Division sent, via Certified Mail, NRS 233B letters notifying the RESPONDENT that it would pursue disciplinary action against him in a hearing before the Commission for potential violations of NRS 116 for both Cases 2023-662 and 2023-670. CICCH119-122.

#### **VIOLATIONS OF LAW**

- 1. RESPONDENT willfully and knowingly violated NRS 116.3103 through NAC 116.405(4) by failing to exercise ordinary and reasonable care when he acted outside the scope of his authority granted in the governing documents when he provided confidential details related to another unit owner, concerning unfounded allegations of a sexual harassment lawsuit against former director and Complainant Rosensteel, to a non-board member, Michael Doyle.
- 2. RESPONDENT willfully and knowingly violated NRS 116.3103 through NAC 116.405(4) by failing to exercise ordinary and reasonable care when he acted outside the scope of his authority granted in the governing documents when he provided confidential details related to another unit owner, concerning unfounded allegations of a sexual harassment lawsuit against former director and Complainant Rosensteel, to a non-board member, realtor Claudia Marion.
  - 3. RESPONDENT willfully and knowingly violated NRS 116.3103 through

NAC 116.405(1) by failing to exercise ordinary and reasonable care when he acted outside the scope of his authority granted in the governing documents by providing details regarding the May 2023 executive session to non-board member Michael Doyle.

4. RESPONDENT willfully and knowingly violated NRS 116.3103 through NAC 116.405(1) by failing to exercise ordinary and reasonable care when he acted outside the scope of his authority granted in the governing documents by providing the association's unredacted legal invoices from Attorney John Leach's firm to be posted on the "It Takes a Village" website, where it would be seen by non-board members.

#### 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:

- 1. Issue an order directing Respondent to take affirmative action to correct any conditions resulting from the violation.
- 2. Impose an administrative fine of up to \$1,000 for each violation by Respondent.
- 3. Order the 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.
- 4. Approve application to a court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a receiver for the Respondent.

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

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a disciplinary hearing has been set to consider this Administrative Complaint against the above-named RESPONDENT in accordance with Chapters 233B and 116 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 & 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 intend 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.

1	The purpose of the hearing is to determine if the RESPONDENT has violated the
2	provisions of NRS 116, and to determine what administrative penalty is to be assessed
3	against RESPONDENT.
4	DATED this 30 day of OCTOBER, 2024.
5	DATED this <u>o</u> day of <u>corobote</u> , 2024.
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7	DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEWADA
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9	By: SHARATH CHANDRA, Administrator
10	3300 W. Sahara Ave. Ste 350 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
11	(702) 486-4033
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13	AARON D. FORD Attorney General
14	
15	By: <u>/s/ <b>Phil W. Su</b></u> PHIL W. SU (Bar No. 10450)
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17	Las Vegas, Nevada 89119
18	(702) 486-3655 Attorneys for Real Estate Division
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