

BEFORE THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION

STATE OF NEVADA

NOV 03 2016

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

Case No. 2015-620



Petitioner,

VS.

JULIANN R. SOKACH,

Respondent.

COMPLAINT AND NOTICE OF HEARING

The REAL ESTATE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA ("Division"), by and through its counsel, Adam Paul Laxalt, Attorney General of the State of Nevada, and Keith E. Kizer, Senior Deputy Attorney General, hereby notifies RESPONDENT JULIANN R. SOKACH ("RESPONDENT") of an administrative hearing before the STATE OF NEVADA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION ("Commission"). The hearing will be held pursuant to Chapters 233B and Chapter 645 of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") and Chapter 645 of the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC"). The purpose of the hearing is to consider the allegations stated below and to determine if the RESPONDENT should be subject to an administrative penalty as set forth in NRS 645.633 and/or NRS 645.630 and/or NRS 622.400, and the discipline to be imposed, if violations of law are proven.

JURISDICTION

RESPONDENT was at all relevant times mentioned in this Complaint licensed by the Division as a Salesperson under license number S.0061974, and as a Property Manager under permit number PM.0162910, and is therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the Division and the Commission, and the provisions of NRS chapter 645 and NAC chapter 645.

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FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 1. RESPONDENT has been licensed by the Division as a Salesperson, license number S.0061974, since June 22, 2004, and as a Property Manager, permit number PM.0162910, since November 8, 2005, and is in active status.
- 2. At all times relevant to the Complaint, RESPONDENT was associated with broker Vince E. Hackett ("Hackett") at Centennial Real Estate Inc. ("Centennial").
- 3. Sandra Salsbury ("Salsbury") is the business owner of Centennial and a licensed salesperson.
 - 4. Centennial had an Operating Trust Account XXXXX0270 ("Trust Account 0270").
 - 5. RESPONDENT did not have signing authority at Centennial.
 - 6. RESPONDENT employed Sharon Gatchell a.k.a. Sharon Harris ("Gatchell").
- 7. Between approximately November 2013 and January 2015, RESPONDENT forged Salsbury's signature on at least 197 Centennial checks from Trust Account 0270, which totaled approximately \$30,000.00, made them payable to RESPONDENT, and cashed them.
- 8. Between approximately March 2014 and December 2014, RESPONDENT forged Salsbury's signature on ten (10) Centennial checks from Trust Account 0270, which totaled \$3,340.00, made them payable to Gatchell, who then cashed them
- 9. RESPONDENT edited, or had Gatchell edit, Centennial's check registry to indicate that some of those checks were paid to Centennial, Las Vegas Justice Court, JSV Real Estate & Management ("JSV"), Hasbro Home Repair LLC ("Hasbro"), or other entities.
- 10. RESPONDENT formed JSV and Hasbro, both of which were owned by RESPONDENT and located at her home address.
- 11. On or about December 2, 2014, RESPONDENT forged Salsbury's signature on a Centennial check from Trust Account 0270, which totaled \$300.00, made payable to Centennial, but personally cashed by RESPONDENT.
- 12. On or about December 24, 2014, RESPONDENT personally cashed a Centennial check from Trust Account 0270, which totaled \$1,050.00, that was made payable to a client property owner.

13. On or about March 4, 2015, Centennial and Hackett, through legal counsel, informed the Division of embezzlement allegations against RESPONDENT.

VIOLATIONS

RESPONDENT has committed the following violations of law:

- 14. RESPONDENT violated NRS 645.630(1)(h) on two hundred and nine (209) occasions by comingling client money with her own or converting the money of others to her own use when RESPONDENT forged and/or cashed checks involving money belonging to Centennial.
- 15. RESPONDENT violated NRS 645.633(1)(h) and/or (i), pursuant to NAC 645.605(1), by failing to do her utmost to protect the public against fraud, misrepresentation or unethical practices related to real estate.

DISCIPLINE AUTHORIZED

- 16. Pursuant to NRS 645.630 and NRS 645.633, the Commission is empowered to impose an administrative fine of up to \$10,000 per violation against RESPONDENT and further to suspend, revoke or place conditions on the license of RESPONDENT.
- 17. Additionally, under NRS Chapter 622, the Commission is authorized to impose costs of the proceeding upon RESPONDENT, including investigative costs and attorney's fees, if the Commission otherwise imposes discipline on RESPONDENT.
- 18. Therefore, the Division requests that the Commission take such disciplinary action as it deems appropriate under the circumstances.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that a disciplinary hearing has been set to consider the Administrative Complaint against the above-named Respondent in accordance with Chapters 233B and 645 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Chapter 645 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

THE HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE on December 5, 2016 commencing at 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the Commission is able to hear the matter, and each day thereafter commencing at 9:00 a.m. through December 7, 2016, or earlier if the business of the Commission is concluded. The Commission meeting will be held on December 5, 2016, at the Grant Sawyer Building, Gaming Control Board, 555 East Washington Avenue, Room 2450, Las Vegas, Nevada

89101. The meeting will continue on December 6, 2016 at the Nevada Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation, 2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Room A-C, Las Vegas, NV 89104, commencing at 9:00 a.m., and on December 7, 2016, should business not be concluded, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Nevada Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation, 2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Room A-C, Las Vegas, NV 89104.

STACKED CALENDAR: Your hearing is one of several hearings scheduled at the same time as part of a regular meeting of the Commission that is expected to last from December 5 through December 7, 2016, or earlier if the business of the Commission is concluded. 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 have any questions please call Rebecca Hardin, Commission Coordinator (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. A verbatim record will be made by a certified court reporter. You are entitled to a copy of the transcript of the open and closed portions of the meeting, although you must pay for the transcription.

As the 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 the request, you may be required to

demonstrate the relevance of the witness' testimony and/or evidence. Other important rights you have are listed in NRS 645.680 through 645.990, NRS Chapter 233B, and NAC 645.810 through 645.875.

The purpose of the hearing is to determine if the Respondent has violated NRS 645 and/or NAC 645 and if the allegations contained herein are substantially proven by the evidence presented and to further determine what administrative penalty is to be assessed against the RESPONDENT, if any, pursuant to NRS 645.235, 645.633 and or 645.630.

DATED this 2 day of October, 2016.

State of Nevada

Department of Business and Industry

Real Estate Division

By:______

SHARATH CHANDRA, Administrator

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