STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING

Before the Commissioner of the Division of Mortgage Lending

)	
In the Matter of:	,)	
	,)	Order No. 2018-009
ROBERT C. WELCH III,)	
Mortgage Broker License No. UNL,)	Case No. 2018-009
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST, ORDER IMPOSING AN ADMINISTRATIVE FINE AND INVESTIGATIVE COSTS, AND

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Issued and Entered,
This 14th day of September, 2018,
By Cathy Sheehy,
Commissioner

I. ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST AND ORDER IMPOSING AN ADMINISTRATIVE FINE AND INVESTIGATIVE COSTS

The Commissioner of the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending ("the Commissioner") having been statutorily charged with the responsibility and authority to administer and enforce Chapter 645B of the Nevada Revised Statutes, 645B.010 *et seq.* ("the Statute"), and Chapter 645B of the Nevada Administrative Code, NAC 645B.001 *et seq.* ("the Regulation") (collectively, "the Act"), governing the licensing and conduct of mortgage brokers and mortgage agents doing business in the State of Nevada; and,

The Commissioner having been vested with general supervisory power and control over all mortgage brokers and mortgage agents doing business in the State of Nevada pursuant to the Statute; and,

The Commissioner having been further vested with broad authority to conduct investigations to determine whether any person is violating or has violated any provision of the Act; and,

The Division of Mortgage Lending ("the Division") having received information indicating that ROBERT C. WELCH III ("RESPONDENT") is or was engaged in activity requiring licensure as a mortgage broker under the Statute; and,

The Division having received a complaint against RESPONDENT on or about December 5, 2017, and commenced an investigation pursuant to NRS 645B.060(2)(c), and determined, from that investigation, that RESPONDENT was engaged in activity requiring licensure as a mortgage broker under the Statute; and,

The Division staff having reported the results of its investigation to the Commissioner; and,

The Commissioner having reviewed the results of the investigation, makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Findings of Fact

- 1. Unless a person is exempt from the provisions of the Statute, and has complied with the requirements for that exemption, NRS 645B.900 prohibits any person from offering or providing any of the services of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent, or otherwise engaging in, carrying on or holding himself or herself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent, without first obtaining a Nevada mortgage broker license or mortgage agent license pursuant to the Statute.
- 2. NRS 645B.0127(1) defines "[m]ortgage broker" to include any person who directly or indirectly does any of the following:
 - (a) Holds himself or herself out for hire to serve as an agent for any person in an attempt to obtain a loan which will be secured by a lien on real property;
 - (b) Holds himself or herself out for hire to serve as an agent for any person who has money to lend, if the loan is or will be secured by a lien on real property;
 - (c) Holds himself or herself out as being able to make loans secured by liens on real property;

- (d) Holds himself or herself out as being able to buy or sell notes secured by liens on real property; or
- (e) Offers for sale in this State any security which is exempt from registration under state or federal law and purports to make investments in promissory notes secured by liens on real property.

[Emphasis added.]

- 3. RESPONDENT is not currently and has at no time relevant to this matter been licensed by the Commissioner as a mortgage broker in Nevada under the Statute.
 - 4. The Division's investigation specifically found the following:
- a. As reflected in the state-business licensing records of the Nevada Secretary of State, RESPONDENT serves as an officer for seven active domestic, limited-liability companies: Wolf Development LLC (Entity No. LLC4609-2003); Iwy Realty, LLC (Entity No.LLC22642-2004); CRC Properties, LLC (Entity No. E012922009-6); C.R.C. Alpine, LLC (Entity No. E0316402012-7); Welch Bros., LLC (Entity No. E0626802012-0); R&R Advanced LLC (Entity No. 0127392016-9); and Last Round, LLC (Entity No. E0475042017-0). With respect to CRC Properties, LLC only, RESPONDENT is additionally identified as the registered agent thereof at a specified location on Olivia Parkway in Henderson, Nevada, which upon information and belief, is the RESPONDENT'S residential address.
- b. From on or about February 12, 2016 through March 15, 2016, as documented by title-company records, RESPONDENT funded at least two, private-money loans as secured by liens on each of two subject residential properties, both of which at 12% interest-only rates. In particular, RESPONDENT funded a secured, \$240,000.00 private-money loan to an individual for refinancing a loan on her home situated on Red Scott Circle in Las Vegas, Nevada (\$120,000.00 of that amount specifically constituting the "payoff" of a previously-obtained loan to such borrower by another party). The deed of trust securing the \$240,000.00 private-money loan specifically identifies RESPONDENT as the beneficiary. The RESPONDENT additionally funded a private-money loan to another individual in the amount of \$160,000.00, as secured by her residence on Trapani Place in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- c. By holding himself out as being able to make loans secured by liens on real property, and by providing the source of such funding as described above, RESPONDENT engaged in or carried

on the business of a mortgage broker in Nevada with respect to at least two loan transactions concerning residential real property within the meaning of NRS 645B.0127(1)(c).

- 5. RESPONDENT engaged in activities and conduct which require licensure as a mortgage broker under the Statute and is not exempt from licensure under the Statute.
- 6. On January 16, 2018, accompanied by an affidavit for his completion and signature, Division Compliance/Audit Investigator DM mailed correspondence to RESPONDENT at his Olivia Parkway address, advising him that based upon the contents of a recently received complaint describing RESPONDENT'S alleged, unlicensed mortgage broker activities, requested that he submit the following information to the Division: A detailed, written description of his mortgage lending activities in Nevada; for the period of January 2016 through December 2017, a list of all loans made and/or arranged on Nevada real property which had not been processed through a Nevada-licensed mortgage broker; and an explanation concerning why he engaged in the activity of a mortgage broker in Nevada, without possessing a license to do so. Directing the RESPONDENT to include with his response, any supporting materials he wished the Division to consider, Compliance/Audit Investigator DM instructed him to provide his answers on or before January 30, 2018. She further explained that failure to timely submit the information requested may subject him to administrative fines and penalties under the Act.
- 7. When by late January 31, 2018, having received no reply from RESPONDENT, Compliance/Audit Investigator DM mailed a second letter to RESPONDENT at his Olivia Parkway address, attaching a copy of her original correspondence and affidavit for his completion and signature. She informed RESPONDENT that his response was due to the Division no later than February 9, 2018, and that failure to comply may subject him to administrative fines and penalties under the Act.
 - 8. To date, RESPONDENT has not responded to the Division's requests for information.
 - 9. Any finding of fact that may be deemed a conclusion of law shall be so construed.

Conclusions of Law

10. Unless otherwise exempt, it is a violation of NRS 645B.900 for any person to offer or provide any of the services of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent, to engage in, carry on, or otherwise hold himself or herself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent without first obtaining the applicable license issued pursuant to the Statute.

- 11. By providing or offering to provide the services of a mortgage broker without having first obtained the applicable license under the Statute, and not being exempt from the licensure requirement, RESPONDENT is in violation of NRS 645B.900.
- 12. The Commissioner is authorized pursuant to NAC 645B.515 to order a person to cease and desist from engaging in any activity that violates any provision of the Act.
- 13. The Commissioner is required pursuant to NRS 645B.690(1)(a) to impose an administrative fine of not more than \$50,000.00 on a person who offers or provides any of the services of a mortgage broker or otherwise engages in, carries on, or holds himself or herself out as engaging in or carrying on the business of a mortgage broker and, at the time the person was required to have a license pursuant to the Statute and the person did not have such a license.
 - 14. Any conclusion of law that may be deemed a finding of fact shall be so construed.

<u>Order</u>

The Commissioner having formed the opinion based upon the foregoing that RESPONDENT has been or is engaged in unlicensed activities in violation of the Statute, and concluded and determined that RESPONDENT should be ordered to: 1) cease and desist from engaging in any activity requiring licensure under NRS 645B; 2) pay an administrative fine; and 3) pay the Division's investigative costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that ROBERT C. WELCH III shall immediately CEASE AND DESIST from engaging in, or otherwise carrying on or holding himself out as engaging in or carrying on any activities that require licensure as a mortgage broker under the Statute.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an ADMINISTRATIVE FINE in the amount of \$50,000.00 shall be and hereby is imposed upon ROBERT C. WELCH III in accordance with NRS 645B.690(1)(a). The ADMINISTRATIVE FINE shall be due and payable on the 30th day following the effective date of this Order and shall be tendered to the Division in accordance with the attached wire transfer instructions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Division's INVESTIGATIVE COSTS in the amount of \$3,375.00 shall be and hereby is assessed against ROBERT C. WELCH III in accordance with NRS 622.400. The INVESTIGATIVE COSTS shall be due and payable on the 30th day following the

effective date of this Order and shall be tendered to the Division with the ADMINISTRATIVE FINE in accordance with the attached wire transfer instructions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an administrative hearing shall be scheduled in this matter only if RESPONDENT timely requests an administrative hearing in accordance with the instructions set forth in Section II of this Order entitled Notice of Opportunity for Administrative Hearing. If no administrative hearing is requested within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this ORDER, RESPONDENT shall be deemed to have waived and relinquished the right to an administrative hearing in this matter and a FINAL ORDER shall be issued in this matter.

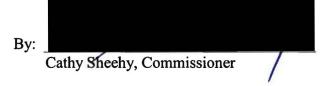
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be and is effective and enforceable on the date that it is issued and entered, as shown in the caption hereof.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall remain effective and enforceable until terminated, modified, set aside, or suspended in writing by the Commissioner.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commissioner specifically retains jurisdiction over the matters contained herein and has the authority to issue such further order(s) as the Commissioner shall deem just, necessary, and appropriate to enforce the Act and protect the public.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING



II.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

NAC 645B.515 provides as follows:

- 1. If a person engages in an activity in violation of the provisions of this chapter or chapter 645B of NRS, the Commissioner may issue an order to the person directing the person to cease and desist from engaging in the activity.
- 2. The order to cease and desist must be in writing and must state that, in the opinion of the Commissioner, the person has engaged in an activity:

- (a) For which the person has not received a license or certificate of exemption as required by chapter 645B of NRS; or
- (b) In a manner that violates the provisions of this chapter or chapter 645B of NRS.
- 3. A person who receives an order to cease and desist pursuant to this section shall not engage in any activity governed by chapter 645B of NRS after receiving the order unless the order is suspended or rescinded.
- 4. Not later than <u>30 calendar days</u> after receiving an order pursuant to this section, the person who receives the order may file a verified petition with the Commissioner to request a hearing. Upon receipt of the verified petition, the Commissioner may, for good cause shown, suspend the order pending the hearing. The Commissioner will hold the hearing on a date not later than 30 calendar days after the date the petition is filed unless the Commissioner and the person agree to another date. The order to cease and desist is rescinded if the Commissioner fails to:

(a) Hold a hearing:

- (1) Not later than 30 calendar days after the date the petition is filed; or
 - (2) On a date agreed to by the Commissioner and the person; or
- (b) Render a written decision within 45 days after the date the hearing is concluded.
- 5. The decision of the Commissioner after a hearing is a final decision of the Division for the purposes of judicial review.

[Emphasis added.]

NRS 645B.750 provides as follows:

1. If the Commissioner enters an order taking any disciplinary action against a person or denying a person's application for a license, the Commissioner

shall cause a written notice of the order to be served personally or sent by certified 1 2 mail or telegram to the person. 2. Unless a hearing has already been conducted concerning the matter, 3 the person, upon application, is entitled to a hearing. If the person does not make 4 such an application within 20 days after the date of the initial order, the 5 Commissioner shall enter a final order concerning the matter. 6 7 3. A person may appeal a final order of the Commissioner in accordance 8 with the provisions of chapter 233B of NRS that apply to a contested case. 9 [Emphasis added.] 10 If you wish to exercise your right to an opportunity for an administrative hearing, within 30 calendar days after receiving this Order, you must file a verified petition with the 11 Commissioner to request a hearing. 12 13 The verified petition requesting a hearing must be delivered to: Division of Mortgage Lending 14 Attn. Susan Slack 15 3300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 285 16 17 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 If you fail to timely file a verified petition to request a hearing, your right to a hearing to 18 contest this matter will be deemed waived and relinquished 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28