## STATE OF NEVADA

## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DIVISION OF MORTGAGE LENDING

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In re:

Village Oaks Financial, Inc., dba Village Oaks Mortgage,

Respondent.

STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

## STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

The licensing and regulation of mortgage brokers and mortgage agents in the State of Nevada is governed by Chapters 645B of the Nevada Revised Statutes (hereinafter, "NRS") and Chapter 645B of the Nevada Administrative Code. The State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending (hereinafter, the "Division") has the general duty to exercise supervision and control over mortgage broker and mortgage agent activity. See, generally, NRS 645B.060. Pursuant to that authority, the Division hereby enters into the following Stipulated Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") with Village Oaks Financial, Inc., dba Village Oaks Mortgage ("Respondent"), as follows:

## **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, Respondent is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nevada since its incorporation on approximately November 7, 1997. Presently, Respondent's status with the Nevada Secretary of State is "active".

WHEREAS, from approximately September 9, 1999, to date, Respondent has been operating within the State of Nevada as a licensed mortgage broker pursuant to Chapter 645Bof NRS and the Division currently classified Respondent's license as "active".

WHEREAS, from approximately January 5, 2001, until approximately January 6, 2006, Lawrence Sherman ("Sherman") was affiliated with, or employed by, Respondent as a licensed mortgage agent at Respondent's principal office in Henderson, Nevada.

WHEREAS, on approximately January 6, 2006, Sherman's mortgage agent license was cancelled for failure to renew. <u>See</u>, NRS 645B.430(1).

WHEREAS, commencing on approximately May 31, 2006, Sherman was the qualified employee for Respondent's branch office in Laughlin, Nevada and conducted mortgage lending activity at that office until approximately May 8, 2008, when the branch office closed. The Division currently classifies Sherman's mortgage agent status as "license application pending."

WHEREAS, from approximately June 2008 and continuing thereafter, Sherman conducted mortgage activity on behalf of Respondent and otherwise held himself out, and continued to hold himself out, as engaging in or carrying on the activities of a mortgage agent licensed by the Division pursuant to Chapter 645B of NRS until Sherman was served with the Division's Cease and Desist Order prohibiting him from so acting.

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2009, the Division received a written complaint from an individual alleging, among other things, that notwithstanding that Sherman was an unlicensed mortgage agent, Sherman continued to solicit mortgage business from individuals in real estate offices and that Respondent allowed Sherman to originate mortgage loans.

WHEREAS, Respondent admits it was negligent in allowing Sherman to conduct mortgage agent activities without being properly licensed.

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 645B.060, the Division is charged with conducting "...such investigations as may be necessary to determine whether any person has violated any provision of this chapter, a regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter or an order of the Commissioner...." See, NRS 645B.060(2)(c).

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 645B.610, if a person properly files a complaint with the Division, the Division is further charged with investigating "...each violation alleged in the complaint..." and the Division"...shall determine from the investigation whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the person committed the alleged violation...." See, NRS 645B.610(1), (3).

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 645B.400, "(a) person shall not act as or provide any of the services of a mortgage agent or otherwise engage in, carry on or hold himself out as engaging in or carrying on the activities of a mortgage agent unless the person has a license as a mortgage agent issued pursuant to NRS 645B.410."

WHEREAS, pursuant to NRS 645B.900, unless a person is exempt from Chapter 645B of NRS and complies with exemption requirements, "(i)t is unlawful for any person to offer or provide any of the services of a mortgage broker or mortgage agent or otherwise to engage in, carry on or hold himself 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 this chapter...."

WHEREAS, Pursuant to NRS 645B.450, "(a) mortgage broker shall not associate with or employ a person as a mortgage agent or authorize a person to be associated with the mortgage broker as a mortgage agent if the mortgage agent is not licensed with the Division pursuant to NRS 645B.410. <u>See</u>, NRS 645B.450(2).

WHEREAS, after settlement negotiations, the parties herein mutually desire to resolve their differences and disputes without further proceedings through this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the representations, covenants and conditions set forth herein, the parties stipulate and agree as follows:

1. Respondent admits it was negligent in allowing Sherman to engage in unlicensed mortgage agent activity in violation of NRS 645B; that he has ceased such activity,

and that he will continue to cease such activity and seek licensing by they Division prior to commencing any further mortgage agent activity.

- 2. Respondent agrees to review its procedures and implement safeguards to ensure like events do not reoccur.
- 3. Respondent hereby acknowledges and agrees, with full knowledge, to waive its right to have the Division file a complaint, if one has not been filed by the date that Respondent executes this Agreement, or if a complaint has been filed, to go to a hearing in this matter.
- 4. In light of the parties' desire to resolve this matter, Respondent shall, pursuant to NRS 645B.670 and/or NRS 622.400, pay to the Division an administrative fine in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).
- 5. The parties agree, however, that the Division shall suspend the payment of Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$6,250.00) of the full fine for a period of 24 months from the date the Division executes this Agreement on condition that Respondent fully complies with NRS Chapter 645B and NAC Chapter 645B and with each and every law and regulation applicable to it in its conduct of a mortgage broker. If within 24 months of the execution of this Agreement by the Division it is determined by the Division that the Respondent has violated any of the foregoing, the administrative fine levied against Respondent shall revert to the originally specified sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and the remaining Six Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$6,250.00) shall become immediately due and payable to the Division. Payment of the initial Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$3,750.00) shall be made upon Respondent's execution of this Agreement.
- 6. Respondent shall, pursuant to NRS 645B.670 and/or NRS 622.400, pay to the Division investigatory costs directly related to the investigation of this case in the amount of

Six Hundred Ninety Dollars (\$690.00). Payment shall be made upon Respondent's execution of this Agreement.

- 7. Respondent agrees that in the event that it violates any of the provisions of this Agreement, the Division shall retain any and all remedies available to it in accordance with NRS Chapter 645B.
- 8. The parties agree and acknowledge that this Agreement shall constitute the complete and final resolution of any issues arising out of the Division's investigation into Respondent's conduct as specified herein.
- 9. The parties represent and warrant that the person executing the Agreement on behalf of each party has full power and authority to do so, and has the legal capacity to conduct the legal obligations assigned to it hereunder.
- 10. Respondent further acknowledges and agrees that the Division shall retain the original of the Agreement.
- 11. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts and a facsimile signature shall be deemed as valid as an original, however, Respondent shall immediately forward all original signature pages to the Division.
- 12. The Agreement, as well as the rights and obligations of the parties hereto shall be interpreted, governed, and construed pursuant to the laws of the State of Nevada.
- 13. Any action to enforce the Agreement shall be brought in the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and for Clark County.
- 14. If the Division is successful in any action to enforce this Agreement, the court may award it attorney's fees. It is specifically agreed that reasonable attorney's fees for the State-employed attorneys shall be \$125 per hour.
- 15. Failure to declare a breach or the actual waiver of any particular breach of the Agreement or its material terms, by either party, shall not operate as a waiver by such party of

any of its rights or remedies as to any other breach.

- 16. The Respondent has the right to retain an attorney to review this Agreement at its sole cost and expense and has freely and voluntarily chosen not to do so.
- 17. Other than the fines and investigative costs set forth herein, each side shall pay its own costs and fees, including attorney's fees.
- 18. If any provision contained in the Agreement is held to be unenforceable by a court of law or equity, the Agreement shall be construed as if such a provision(s) did not exist and the unenforceability of such provision(s) shall not be held to render any other provision(s) of the Agreement unenforceable.
- 19. The Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement of the parties, and it is intended as a complete and exclusive statement of the promises, representations, negotiations, and discussions of the parties. Unless otherwise expressly authorized by its terms, the Agreement shall be binding upon the parties unless the same is in writing, signed by the respective parties hereto, and approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
- 20. **NOTICE TO RESPONDENT**: By executing this Agreement, you hereby agree that you are waiving certain rights as set forth herein. As the Respondent, you are specifically informed that you have the right to request that the Division file an administrative complaint against you, at any hearing on such a complaint you have the right to appear and be heard in your defense, either personally or through your counsel of choice. If the Division were to file a complaint, at the hearing, the Division would have the burden of proving the allegations in the complaint and would call witnesses and present evidence against you. You would have the right to respond and to present relevant evidence and argument on all issues involved. You would have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, and cross-examine opposing witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues involved.

You would have the right to request that the Commissioner of the Division 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's testimony and/or evidence. Other important rights you have are listed in NRS Chapter 645B and NRS Chapter 233B.

- 21. Neither this Agreement nor any statements made concerning this Agreement may be discussed or introduced into evidence at the hearing of the complaint, if the Division must ultimately put on a case based upon Respondent's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 22. Respondent understands and agrees that this Agreement may be used to show that past violations have occurred should any future disciplinary action be taken by the Division.
- 23. In consideration of execution of this Agreement, the Respondent for itself, its owners, and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, hereby release, remise, and forever discharge the State of Nevada, the Department of Business and Industry of the State of Nevada, the Division, and each of their members, agents, attorneys (including any and all employees of the Nevada Attorney General), and employees in their individual and representative capacities, from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims, and demands whatsoever, known and unknown, in law or equity, that the Respondent ever had, now has, may have, or claim to have against any or all of the persons or entities named in this section, arising out of or by reason of the Division's investigation, into this matter, and all other matters relating thereto.
- 24. Respondent hereby indemnifies and holds harmless the State of Nevada, the Department of Business and Industry of the State of Nevada, the Division, and each of their members, agents, and employees, and employees of the Nevada Attorney General in their

individual and representative capacities against any and all claims, suits, and actions brought against said persons and/or entities by reason of the Division's investigation into this disciplinary action, this Agreement, and all other matters relating thereto, and against any and all expenses, damages, and costs, including court costs and attorney fees, which may be sustained by the persons and/or entities named in this section as a result of said claims, suits, and actions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused the Agreement to be signed and intend to be legally bound thereby.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2009.

Village Oaks Financial, Inc., dba

Village Oaks Mortgage

Heather Zaborsky Vice President Qualified Employee/

DATED this  $17^{\frac{7}{14}}$  day of July, 2009.

State of Nevada

Department Of Business and Industry

Division of Mortgage Lending

By:

Joseph L. Waltuch, Commissioner

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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3	I certify that I am an employee of the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry,
4	Division of Mortgage Lending, and that on July 30, 2009, I deposited in the U.S. mail, postage
5	prepaid via First Class Mail and Certified Return Receipt Requested, a true and correct copy of
6	the foregoing, STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT for VILLAGE OAKS
7 8	FINANCIAL, INC., DBA VILLAGE OAKS MORTGAGE, addressed as follows:
9	
10	Heather Zaborsky
11	/illage Oaks Mortgage 75 Cassia Way, Ste. A114 Ienderson, NV 89014
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13	<u>Certified Receipt Number: 7006 2760 0000 0876 3855</u>
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16	DATED this 29th day of July, 2009
17	By: Suxen Slack
18	Employee of the Division
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