1 LISSETE GARCIA, Counsel (SBN 211552) Department of Real Estate MAY - 7 2020 2 320 West 4th Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, California 90013-1105 Telephone: (213) 576-6982 Direct: (213) 576-6914 4 Fax: (213) 576-6917 Attorney for Complainant 5 6 7 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE 8 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 In the Matter of the Accusation against DRE No. H-41658 LA 11 ASSOCIATED REALTY SERVICE OF NEWPORT **ACCUSATION** BEACH, INC.; 12 JEANNIE CRUZ MADALI, individually and as former designated officer for Associated Realty Service of 13 Newport Beach, Inc.; and 14 JAMES ALAN JACOBS, individually and as former 15 designated officer for Associated Realty Service of Newport Beach, Inc., 16 Respondents. 17 The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Supervising Special Investigator for the 18 Department of Real Estate¹ ("Department") of the State of California, for cause of Accusation 19 20 against ASSOCIATED REALTY SERVICE OF NEWPORT BEACH, INC., JEANNIE CRUZ MADALI, individually and as a former designated officer for Associated Realty Service of 21 Newport Beach, Inc. and JAMES ALAN JACOBS, individually and as former designated officer 22 23 ¹ Between July 1, 2013 and July 1, 2018, the Department of Real Estate operated as the Bureau of Real Estate under 24 the Department of Consumer Affairs.

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- 8. On August 26, 1994, the Department issued a real estate broker license to Respondent JAMES ALAN JACOBS ("JACOBS"), License ID 00868230. Respondent JACOBS' broker license is scheduled to expire on August 25, 2022.
- 9. Respondent JACOBS was formerly licensed as a real estate salesperson from approximately July 06, 1984 through August 25, 1994.
- 10. From March 6, 2017 through October 31, 2018, ARSNBI was licensed as a real estate corporation, by and through Respondent MADALI as designated officer-broker ("D.O.") for Respondent ARSNBI to qualify said corporation and to act for said corporation as a real estate broker.
- 11. From March 6, 2017 through October 31, 2018, Respondent MADALI was licensed as the D.O. for Respondent ARSNBI, pursuant to section 10211 of the Code. As ARSNBI's D.O., Respondent MADALI was at all times mentioned herein responsible pursuant to Section 10159.2 of the Code for the supervision of the activities of the officers, agents, real estate licensees, and employees of Respondent MADALI for which a license is required.
- 12. From on or about October 20, 2005 through March 5, 2017, ARSNBI was licensed as a real estate corporation, by and through Respondent JACOBS as D.O. for Respondent ARSNBI to qualify said corporation and to act for said corporation as a real estate broker.
- 13. From on or about October 20, 2005 through March 5, 2017, Respondent JACOBS was licensed as the D.O. for Respondent ARSNBI, pursuant to section 10211 of the Code. As ARSNBI's D.O., Respondent JACOBS was at all times mentioned herein responsible pursuant to Section 10159.2 of the Code for the supervision of the activities of the officers, agents, real estate licensees, and employees of Respondent JACOBS for which a license is required.

- 14. Respondent JACOBS canceled his designation as D.O. for ARSNBI effective March 06, 2017.
- 15. Nicholas Avery Prytherch ("Prytherch") is not licensed in any capacity by the Department. Prytherch owns and controls ARSNBI.
- 16. Richard Lee Knight ("Knight") is not licensed in any capacity by the Department. Knight was an officer, director or had an ownership interest in ARSNBI.
- 17. Adam T. Kent ("Kent") is not licensed in any capacity by the Department. Kent was an officer, director or had an ownership interest in ARSNBI.
- 18. Kevin Russell Giz ("Giz") is licensed as a real estate salesperson (License ID 01518025). Russell was an officer, director or had an ownership interest in ARSNBI.
- 19. Patrick Daniel Moreno ("Moreno") is licensed as a real estate salesperson (License ID 02027529). Moreno was an officer, director or had an ownership interest in ARSNBI.
- 20. Whenever reference is made in an allegation in this Accusation to an act or omission of Respondent ARSNBI, such allegation shall be deemed to mean that the officers, directors, employees, agents and/or real estate licensees employed by or associated with Respondent ARSNBI committed such act or omission while engaged in the furtherance of the business or operations of such corporate respondent and while acting within the course and scope of their authority and employment.

Broker Activities

21. At all times relevant herein, in the State of California, Respondent ARSNBI acted as a real estate broker and conducted licensed activities within the meaning of Code section 10131(b) (solicit or offer to negotiate the sale, purchase or exchange of leases, or collects rents from real property or on a business opportunity).

Audit LA180047

- 22. On or about August 30, 2019, the Department completed an audit examination of the books and records of Respondent ARSNBI's property management activities, which require a real estate license pursuant to Code section 10131(b).
- 23. The audit covered the period of time from January 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018 ("audit period").
- 24. The audit examination revealed violations of the Code and the Regulations as set forth in the following paragraphs, and more fully discussed in Audit Report LA180047 and the exhibits and work papers attached to said audit report.
- 25. On November 20, 2018, the Department's auditor held an entrance conference with Respondents MADALI and JACOBS. The Department requested ARSNBI's property management records from Prytherch, ARSNBI's owner. ARSNBI provided only limited records to the Department for the audit examination.
- 26. According to the auditor's discussions with Respondents MADALI, JACOBS and the audit records examined, Respondent ARSNBI managed approximately ninety-seven (97) residential properties and one (1) commercial property; ninety-six (96) properties with one-to-four units and one (1) property with four or more units for forty (40) property owners during the audit period. ARSNBI collected trust funds including rents and security deposits, paid expenses, and screened tenants for compensation. Respondent ARSNBI charged a management fee of six to eight percent (6%-8%) of the monthly rents collected.
- 27. According to Respondents MADALI and JACOBS, ARSNBI maintained the following bank account for property management activities.

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31. <u>Issue 1(a).</u> <u>Cut-off date of March 5, 2017.</u>

As of March 5, 2017, there was a combined minimum shortage of <\$222,705.12> in BA1. Respondent JACOBS was the D.O. for ARSNBI during the audit period from January 1, 2017 through March 5, 2017. Respondents failed to provide any evidence that the owners of the trust funds had given their written consent to allow Respondent ARSNBI to reduce the balances of the funds in BA 1 to an amount less than the existing aggregate trust fund liabilities, in violation of Code section 10145, subdivision (a), and Regulation 2832.1.

- 32. The shortage as of March 5, 2017 was due to negative property balances totaling <\$1,541.68>, minimum unreimbursed bank charges totaling <\$276.20>, minimum unauthorized disbursements totaling <\$127,290.84>, and a minimum unidentified shortage of <\$93,596.40>, whose causes could not be identified.
- 33. <u>Negative property balances</u>. The minimum negative property balances were caused by disbursements related to properties when there were insufficient funds. The negative property balances include the following:

Property	<u>Amount</u>	
126 29th St., A-B	<\$1,247.93>	
5010 Nepture A	<\$ 170.00>	
219 19th Street	< \$ 123.75>	
Total	<\$1,541.68>	

34. <u>Bank services charges</u>. BA 1 incurred minimum bank service charges totaling <\$276.20> from January 5, 2017 through March 3, 2017. The bank service charges were incurred but not reimbursed by ARSNBI as of March 5, 2017. The bank service charges include the following:

1	<u>Date</u>	Service Charges	Amount
2	01/05/2017	Service Charges	<\$100.30>
3	02/03/2017	Service Charges	<\$100.90>
4	03/03/2017	Service Charges	<\$ 75.00>
5		Total	<\$276.20>
6	35. <u>Minimum unauthorized of</u>	disbursements. Based on the band	k statements for BA 1
7	and examined documents, Prytherch wi	thdrew \$200,000.00 from BA 1 c	on February 22, 2017 to
8	be issued to Respondent JACOBS without	out any related transaction. The t	rust funds were
9	disbursed without written instruction fro	om the principals or property own	ners of BA 1's trust
10	funds.		
11	36. <u>Issue 1(b).</u> <u>Cut-off da</u>	ate of August 31, 2018	**************************************
12	As of August 31, 2018, there wa	s a combined minimum shortage	of <\$395,845.13> in
13	BA1. Respondent MADALI was the D.O. for ARSNBI during the audit period from March 6,		
14	2017 through August 31, 2018. Respond	dents failed to provide any evider	nce that the owners of
15	the trust funds had given their written co	onsent to allow Respondent ARS	NBI to reduce the
16	balances of the funds in BA 1 to an amo	unt less than the existing aggreg	ate trust fund liabilities,
17	in violation of Code section 10145 and 1	Regulation 2832.1.	
18	37. The shortage as of Augus	st 31, 2018 was caused due to ne	gative property balances
19	totaling <\$55,130.52>, minimum unrein	nbursed bank charges totaling <\$	4,960.80>, minimum
20	unauthorized disbursements totaling <\$2	285,555.41>, and a minimum un	identified shortage of
21	<\$50,198.40>, whose causes could not l	pe identified.	
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	DRE Accus	Page 8 ation against Associated Realty Service	of Newport Beach, Inc. et al.
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1	38. <u>Negative propert</u>	y balances. The negative propert	y balances include the
2	following:		
3	Property	Property Owner	Amount
4	603 Clubhouse A&B	D.M. ¹ & M.M Family Trust	<\$1,110.90>
5	126 29 th St., A-B	J.E & L.E.	<\$ 240.00>
6	5010 Nepture A	PIP, LLC	< \$ 170.00>
7	Property	Property Owner	Amount
8	20271 Estuary Lane	RC Trust	<\$2,750.00>
9	1619 W. Balboa Blvd. A-B	Name not provided	<\$5,800.00>
10	112 38 th St.	W. Trust	<\$3,109.60>
11	Mgmt Held Security Deposits	No owner identified	<\$41,950.00>
12		Total	<\$55,130.52>
13	39. <u>Bank services cha</u>	arges. BA 1 incurred minimum b	ank service charges totaling
14	<\$4,960.80> from October 2017	to August 2018. ARSNBI did n	ot reimburse BA 1 as of August
15	31, 2018. The bank service charg	ges include the following:	
16	<u>Date</u>	Type	Amount
17	10/04/2017	Service Charges	<\$ 782.00>
18	11/03/2017	Service Charges	<\$ 306.00>
19	12/05/2017	Service Charges	<\$ 358.80>
20	02/05/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 850.00>
21	03/05/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 340.00>
22	04/04/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 340.00>
23	¹ Initials are used in place of individual	s' full names to protect their privacy. D	logomenta containin 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

¹ Initials are used in place of individuals' full names to protect their privacy. Documents containing individuals' full names will be provided during the discovery phase of this case to Respondents and/or their attorneys, after service of a timely and proper request for discovery on Complainant's counsel.

1	05/03/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 384.00>
2	06/05/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 306.00>
3	07/05/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 852.00>
4	08/03/2018	Service Charges	<\$ 442.00>
5		Total	<\$4,960.80>
6	40. <u>Minimum</u>	unauthorized disbursements.	
7	Based on the bank	statements for BA 1 and examin	ed documents, there was a minimum
8	of unauthorized disbursen	nents totaling <\$285,555.41>. T	he unauthorized disbursements from
9	the audit cut-off date of M	Tarch 5, 2017, which totaled <\$1	27,290.84> were carried forward.
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12			
13	2018. The trust funds wer	e disbursed without written instru	action from the principals or property
14	owners of BA 1's trust fur	nds.	
15	41. <u>Issue 2. Ma</u>	nagement of property located at	107 15th Street, Newport Beach.
16	During the audit po	eriod, ARSNBI managed a rental	property located at 107 15th St., in
17	Newport Beach, California	a ("15 th St. property") for propert	y owners, R.V.O. and J.V.O.
18	42. According	to documents provided to the De	partment, ARSNBI changed
19	ownership from Responde	nt JACOBS to Prytherch in 2016	. After the change of ownership,
20	ARSNBI entered into a ne	w property management agreeme	ent with the property owners of the
21	15 th St. property in Decem	ber 2017.	
22	43. The monthl	y rent for the 15 th St. property w	as \$3,050 and the security deposit was
23	\$3,450. The deposit was t	o be held in the broker's trust acc	count.
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- 44. Beginning in or around February 2018, ARSNBI failed to timely forward the monthly rents to the 15th St. property owners.
- 45. The 15th St. property owners notified ARSNBI and Prytherch that they wished to terminate their property management agreement with ARSNBI in April 2018 and May 2018. The property owners made several requests for the return of the security deposit, owed rent monies, and keys to the 15th St. property from ARSNBI and Prytherch. Respondent JACOBS was also notified of the property owners' request for return of their trust funds for the 15th St. property.
- 46. Respondents and Prytherch failed to timely return the security deposit, rent, and keys to the 15th St. property to the property owners. The property owners filed a complaint against ARSNBI and Prytherch in June of 2018. The Department's auditor was unable to determine if the security deposit (\$3,450.00) and May rent payment (\$3,050.00) were returned to the 15th St. property owners.
- 47. <u>Issue 3. Code section 10145 and Regulation 2831. Trust fund records to be maintained.</u>

ARSNBI under former D.O. JACOBS

During the audit period from January 1, 2017 through March 5, 2017, Respondent ARSNBI failed to maintain accurate and complete records of trust funds received and disbursed (control record) for BA 1, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2381. ARSNBI's control record had an inaccurate running daily balance.

48. ARSNBI under former D.O. MADALI

During the audit period from March 6, 2017 through August 31, 2018, Respondent ARSNBI failed to maintain accurate and complete records of trust funds received and disbursed for BA 1, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2381. ARSNBI's control record had an inaccurate running daily balance.

49. Based on the audit records examined, there were disbursements that were not recorded on the control record. Examples of disbursements/fees that were not recorded on ARSNBI's control record for BA 1 include the following, without limitation:

Property	Payee	<u>Date</u>	Amount
None	Apple Itunes	05/01/2018	\$ 13.99
None	Google Services	05/02/2018	\$ 73.50
None	Google Services	05/03/2018	\$ 40.00
None	Apple Store	05/03/2018	\$ 42.02
Property	Payee	<u>Date</u>	Amount
Property None	Payee Papa Liquor Corona	<u>Date</u> 05/04/2018	<u>Amount</u> \$ 105.34
			
None	Papa Liquor Corona	05/04/2018	\$ 105.34

50. <u>Issue 4. Code section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1. Separate records for each beneficiary or transaction</u>

ARSNBI under former D.O. JACOBS

During the audit period from January 1, 2017 through March 5, 2017, Respondent ARSNBI failed to maintain accurate and/or complete separate records for each beneficiary or transaction for BA 1, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1. ARSNBI's separate records did not reflect an accurate running daily balance for BA 1.

51. ARSNBI under former D.O. MADALI

During the audit period from March 6, 2017 through August 31, 2018, Respondent ARSNBI failed to maintain accurate and/or complete separate records for each beneficiary or transaction for BA 1, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2831.1.

57. ARSNBI under former D.O. MADALI

As of August 31, 2018, the balance of ARSNBI's BA 1 account had a negative balance of <\$285,555.41>, excluding the bank charges from October 2017 to August 2018. Trust funds were disbursed from BA 1 without written instruction from the principals or property owners of trust funds in BA 1, in violation of Code sections 10145 and 10176, subdivision (i). The unauthorized disbursements included online transfers totaling and deposits and withdrawals as of August 31, 2018, as noted above in Issue 1(b). The unauthorized disbursements were carried forward from the audit cut-off date of March 5, 2017.

58. <u>Issue 7. Code section 10145 and Regulation 2832. Handling of Trust Funds/Trust account designation.</u>

ARSNBI under former D.O. JACOBS

During the audit period from January 1, 2017 through March 5, 2017, ARSNBI used BA1 for the handling of trust funds in connection with property management activities but the account was not designated in Respondent ARSNBI's name or its licensed fictious business names, as trustee, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2832.

59. ARSNBI under former D.O. MADALI

During the audit period from March 6, 2017 through August 31, 2018, ARSNBI used BA1 for the handling of trust funds in connection with property management activities but the account was not designated in Respondent ARSNBI's name or its licensed fictious business names, as trustee, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2832.

60. <u>Issue 8. Code section 10145 and Regulation 2834</u>. <u>Trust account withdrawals ARSNBI under former D.O. JACOBS</u>

During the audit period from January 1, 2017 through March 5, 2017, ARSNBI allowed Kent (an unlicensed individual), Moreno, and Giz (real estate salespersons not licensed under

employment of ARSNBI), to act as signers with authorization to make withdrawals from BA 1, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2834. ARSNBI did not have fidelity bond coverage or insurance coverage equal to at least the maximum amount of trust funds to which Kent and Giz had access during the audit period noted above. Kent, Moreno, and Giz were removed as signers for BA 1 on or about February 22, 2017.

61. ARSNBI under former D.O. MADALI

During the audit period from March 6, 2017 through August 31, 2018, ARSNBI allowed Prytherch and Knight (unlicensed individuals), to act as signers with authorization to make withdrawals from BA 1, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulation 2834. Knight was a signer for BA 1 from February 22, 2017 through November 6, 2018. ARSNBI did not have fidelity bond coverage or insurance coverage equal to at least the maximum amount of trust funds to which Prytherch and Knight had access during the audit period.

62. <u>Issue 9. Code sections 10159.2, 10177(h), and Regulation 2725. Broker supervision.</u>

ARSNBI under former D.O. JACOBS

During the audit period from January 1, 2017 through March 5, 2017, Respondent JACOBS failed to adequately supervise the activities of Respondent ARSNBI's salespersons, employees, or agents and failed to establish policies, rules, procedures, and systems to review, oversee, inspect, and manage transactions requiring a real estate license and the handling of trust funds to ensure compliance with the Real Estate

63. ARSNBI under former D.O. MADALI

During the audit period from March 6, 2017 through August 31, 2018, Respondent MADALI failed to adequately supervise the activities of Respondent ARSNBI's salespersons, employees, or agents and failed to establish policies, rules, procedures, and systems to review,

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<u>Issue 9- Broker Supervision - Respondent JACOBS</u>

67. Based on the audit violations noted above in Paragraphs 30 through 61,
Respondent JACOBS failed to adequately supervise the activities of ARSNBI's salespersons,
employees, or agents and failed to establish policies, rules, procedures, and systems to review,
oversee, inspect, and manage transactions requiring a real estate license and the handling of trust
funds to ensure compliance with the Real Estate Law and Regulations, in violation of Regulation
2725, which constitutes cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of
Respondent JACOBS pursuant to Code section 10159.2, Code section 10177, subdivisions (d)
and/or (g), and Regulation 2725.

Issue 9- Broker Supervision - Respondent MADALI

88. Based on the audit violations noted above in Paragraphs 30 through 61, Respondent MADALI failed to adequately supervise the activities of ARSNBI's salespersons, employees, or agents and failed to establish policies, rules, procedures, and systems to review, oversee, inspect, and manage transactions requiring a real estate license and the handling of trust funds to ensure compliance with the Real Estate Law and Regulations, in violation of Regulation 2725, which constitutes cause to suspend or revoke the real estate licenses and license rights of Respondent MADALI pursuant to Code section 10159.2, Code section 10177, subdivisions (d) and/or (g), and Regulation 2725.

Audit Costs

69. Code section 10148, subdivision (b) provides, in pertinent part, that the Commissioner shall charge a real estate broker for the cost of any audit, if the Commissioner has found in a final decision following a disciplinary hearing that the broker has violated Code section 10145 or a regulation or rule of the Commissioner interpreting said section.

Investigation/Enforcement Costs

70. Code section 10106 provides, in pertinent part, that in any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the Department of Real Estate, the Commissioner may request the administrative law judge to direct a licensee found to have committed a violation of this part to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

WHEREFORE, Complainant prays that a hearing be conducted on the allegations of this Accusation and that upon proof thereof, a decision be rendered imposing disciplinary action against all licenses and/or license rights of Respondents under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code), for the costs of the audit, investigation, and enforcement as permitted by law, and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other provisions of law.

Dated at San Diego, California this 22 day of April , 2020.

VERONICA KII PATRICK Supervising Special Investigator

19 cc:

Associated Realty Services of Newport Beach, Inc.

Jeannie Cruz Madali James Alan Jacobs Veronica Kilpatrick

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Audits/Chambers Tse