DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE P. O. Box 137007 FILED 2 Sacramento, CA 95813-7007 3 Telephone: (916) 576-7843 MAY 2 5 2022 4 5 6 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE 8 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 In the Matter of the Accusation of: Case No. H-7055 SAC 11 ELLINGTON PROPERTIES and, STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT 12 FRANCIS SAMUEL DIXON, IN SETTLEMENT AND ORDER 13 Respondents. 14 It is hereby stipulated by and between Respondent ELLINGTON PROPERTIES 15 ("ELLINGTON") and FRANCIS SAMUEL DIXON ("DIXON") (collectively referred to as 16 "Respondents"), acting by and through J. Scott Donald, counsel for Respondents, and the 17 Complainant, acting by and through Jason D. Lazark, Counsel for the Department of Real 18 Estate, as follows for the purpose of settling and disposing of the Accusation filed on December 19 23, 2021, in this matter: 20 1. All issues which were to be contested and all evidence which was to be 21 presented by Complainant and Respondents at a formal hearing on the Accusation, which 22 hearing was to be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act 23 ("APA"), shall instead and in place thereof be submitted solely on the basis of the provisions of 24 this Stipulation and Agreement In Settlement and Order ("Stipulation and Agreement"). 25

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2. Respondents have received, read, and understand the Statement to

Respondent, the Discovery Provisions of the APA and the Accusation filed by the Department

of Real Estate in this proceeding.

- 3. Respondents filed Notices of Defense pursuant to Section 11505 of the Government Code for the purpose of requesting a hearing on the allegations in the Accusation. Respondents hereby freely and voluntarily withdraw said Notices of Defense. Respondents acknowledge that they understand that by withdrawing said Notices of Defense they will thereby waive their rights to require the Real Estate Commissioner ("Commissioner") to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a contested hearing held in accordance with the provisions of the APA, and that they will waive other rights afforded to them in connection with the hearing such as the right to present evidence in defense of the allegations in the Accusation and the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- 4. This Stipulation and Agreement is based on the factual allegations contained in the Accusation. In the interest of expediency and economy, Respondents choose not to contest these factual allegations, but to remain silent and understand that, as a result thereof, these factual statements will serve as a prima facie basis for the "Determination of Issues" and "Order" set forth below. The Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence to prove such allegations.
- 5. This Stipulation and Agreement and Respondents' decision not to contest the Accusation are made for the purpose of reaching an agreed disposition of this proceeding and are expressly limited to this proceeding and not any other proceeding or case in which the Department, the state or federal government, an agency of this state, or an agency of another state is involved.
- 6. It is understood by the parties that the Real Estate Commissioner may adopt the Stipulation and Agreement as his Decision in this matter, thereby imposing the penalties and sanctions on Respondents' real estate licenses and license rights as set forth in the below "Order." In the event that the Commissioner in his discretion does not adopt the Stipulation and Agreement, it shall be void and of no effect, and Respondents shall retain the right to a

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hearing and proceeding on the Accusation under all the provisions of the APA and shall not be bound by any admission or waiver made herein.

- 7. The Order or any subsequent Order of the Real Estate Commissioner made pursuant to this Stipulation and Agreement shall not constitute an estoppel, merger or bar to any further administrative or civil proceedings by the Department of Real Estate with respect to any matters which were not specifically alleged to be causes for accusation in this proceeding.
- 8. Respondents further understand that by agreeing to this Stipulation and Agreement, Respondents agree to be responsible for jointly and severally paying, pursuant to Section 10106 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code"), the costs of the investigation and enforcement in this case. The amount of such cost is \$2,200.00.

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

By reason of the foregoing stipulations, admissions, and waivers, and solely for the purpose of settlement of the pending Accusation without further proceedings, it is stipulated and agreed that the following Determination of Issues shall be made:

The acts and/or omissions of ELLINGTON, as described in the Accusation, are grounds for the suspension or revocation of the licenses and license rights of ELLINGTON under the provisions of Sections 10140.6, 10177(d), and 10177(g) of the Code, and Sections 2742(c) of Title 10 of the California Code of the Regulations ("the Regulations").

The acts and/or omissions of DIXON, as described in the Accusation, are grounds for the suspension or revocation of the licenses and license rights of DIXON under the provisions of Sections 10177(d), 10177(g), 10177(h), and 10159.2 of the Code, and Sections 2742(c), and 2725 of the Regulations.

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ORDER

I.

AS TO ELLINGTON

All licenses and licensing rights of ELLINGTON under the Real Estate Law are suspended for a period of forty-five (45) days from the effective date of this Order; provided, nowever, that:

- 1. All forty-five (45) days of said suspension shall also be stayed for one (1) year apon the following terms and conditions:
 - a. ELLINGTON shall obey all laws, rules and regulations governing the ts, duties, and responsibilities of a real estate licensee in the State of California, and
- b. That no final subsequent determination be made, after hearing or upon stipulation, that cause for disciplinary action occurred within one (1) year from the effective date of this Order. Should such a determination be made, the Commissioner may, in his discretion, vacate and set aside the stay order and reimpose all or a portion of the stayed suspension. Should no such determination be made, the stay imposed herein shall become permanent.

II.

AS TO DIXON

All licenses and licensing rights of DIXON under the Real Estate Law are suspended for a period of forty-five (45) days from the effective date of this Order; provided, however, that:

- 1. All forty-five (45) days of said suspension shall also be stayed for one (1) year upon the following terms and conditions:
- a. DIXON shall obey all laws, rules and regulations governing the rights, duties and responsibilities of a real estate licensee in the State of California, and
- b. That no final subsequent determination be made, after hearing or upon stipulation, that cause for disciplinary action occurred within one (1) year from the

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effective date of this Order. Should such a determination be made, the Commissioner may, in his discretion, vacate and set aside the stay order and reimpose all or a portion of the stayed suspension. Should no such determination be made, the stay imposed herein shall become permanent.

III.

AS TO ELLINGTON AND DIXON JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY

All licenses and licensing rights of Respondents are indefinitely suspended unless or until Respondents, jointly and severally, pay the sum of \$2,200.00 for the Commissioner's reasonable cost of the investigation and enforcement which led to this disciplinary action. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check or certified check made payable to the Department of Real Estate. The investigative and enforcement costs must be delivered to the Department of Real Estate, Flag Section at P.O. Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013, prior to the effective date of this Decision and Order.

5/3/2022 DATED

JASON D. LAZARK, Counsel Department of Real Estate

* * *

I have read the Stipulation and Agreement in Settlement and Order and its terms are understood by me and are agreeable and acceptable to me. I understand that I am waiving rights given to me by the California Administrative Procedure Act (including but not limited to Sections 11506, 11508, 11509 and 11513 of the Government Code), and I willingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waive those rights, including the right of requiring the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a hearing at which I would have the right to cross-examine witnesses against me and to present evidence in defense and mitigation of the charges.

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