

FILED

MAY 22 2024

DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By B. dew

1 DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

2 P. O. Box 137007

3 Sacramento, CA 95813-7007

4 Telephone: (916) 576-8700

5 Fax: (916) 263-3767

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7
8 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

10 * * *

11 In the Matter of the Accusation of)

No. H-12659 SF

12 STEVEN M. CRANE,

) STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT

13 Respondent.)

) IN SETTLEMENT AND ORDER

14
15 It is hereby stipulated by and between STEVEN M. CRANE (Respondent) and
16 the Complainant, acting by and through Megan Lee Olsen, Counsel for the Department of Real
17 Estate (Department); as follows for the purpose of settling and disposing of the Accusation filed
18 on April 20, 2023, in this matter:

19 1. All issues which were to be contested and all evidence which was to be
20 presented by Complainant and Respondent at a formal hearing on the Accusation, which hearing
21 was to be held in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA),
22 shall instead and in place thereof be submitted solely on the basis of the provisions of this
23 Stipulation and Agreement In Settlement and Order (Stipulation).

24 2. Respondent has received, read, and understands the Statement to Respondent,
25 the Discovery Provisions of the APA and the Accusation filed by the Department in this
26 proceeding.

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1 3. Respondent filed a Notice of Defense pursuant to Section 11505 of the
2 Government Code for the purpose of requesting a hearing on the allegations in the Accusation.
3 Respondent hereby freely and voluntarily withdraws said Notice of Defense. Respondent
4 acknowledges and understands that by withdrawing said Notice of Defense Respondent will
5 thereby waive their right to require the Real Estate Commissioner (Commissioner) to prove the
6 allegations in the Accusation at a contested hearing held in accordance with the provisions of the
7 APA and that Respondent will waive other rights afforded to them in connection with the
8 hearing such as the right to present evidence in defense of the allegations in the Accusation and
9 the right to cross-examine witnesses.

10 4. This Stipulation is based on the factual allegations contained in the Accusation.
11 In the interest of expediency and economy, Respondent chooses not to contest these factual
12 allegations, but to remain silent and understands that, as a result thereof, these factual statements
13 will serve as a prima facie basis for the "Determination of Issues" and "Order" set forth below.
14 The Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence to prove such allegations.

15 5. It is understood by the parties that the Commissioner may adopt the Stipulation
16 as her Decision and Order in this matter, thereby imposing the penalty and sanctions on
17 Respondent's real estate license and license rights as set forth in the below "Order". In the event
18 that the Commissioner in her discretion does not adopt the Stipulation, it shall be void and of no
19 effect, and Respondent shall retain the right to a hearing and proceeding on the Accusation under
20 all the provisions of the APA and shall not be bound by any admission or waiver made herein.

21 6. The Order or any subsequent Order of the Commissioner made pursuant to this
22 Stipulation shall not constitute an estoppel, merger, or bar to any further administrative or civil
23 proceedings by the Department with respect to any matters which were not specifically alleged to
24 be causes for Accusation in this proceeding.

25 7. Respondent understands that by agreeing to this Stipulation, Respondent agrees
26 to pay, pursuant to Section 10148 of the Business and Professions Code (Code), the cost of the

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1 audit which resulted in the violations found in the "Determination of Issues". The amount of
2 such costs is \$5,050.00.

3 8. Respondent further understands that by agreeing to this Stipulation, the
4 findings set forth below in the "Determination of Issues" become final, and that the
5 Commissioner may charge said Respondent for the costs of any audit conducted pursuant to
6 Section 10148 of the Code to determine if the violations have been corrected. The maximum
7 cost of said audit shall not exceed \$6,312.50.

8 DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

9 By reason of the foregoing stipulations, admissions and waivers, and solely for
10 the purpose of settlement of the pending Accusation without a hearing, it is stipulated and agreed
11 that the acts and/or omissions of Respondent, as described in the Accusation, constitute grounds
12 for the suspension or revocation of the licenses and license rights of Respondent under the
13 provisions of Sections 10176 (e), 10177(d) and 10177 (g) of the Code, in conjunction with
14 Sections 10145 and 10130 of the Code, and Sections 2831, 2831.1, 2831.2, 2832, 2832.1, and
15 2834 of Title 10 of the California Code of Regulations (Regulations).

16 ORDER

17 All licenses and licensing rights of STEVEN M. CRANE, under the Real Estate
18 Law are suspended for a period of sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Order; provided,
19 however, that:

20 1. Thirty (30) days of said suspension shall be stayed, upon the condition that
21 Respondent petitions pursuant to Section 10175.2 of the Code and pays a monetary penalty
22 pursuant to Section 10175.2 of the Code at a rate of \$50 for each day of the suspension for a total
23 monetary penalty of \$1,500.

24 (a) Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable
25 to the Department of Real Estate. Said check must be delivered to the Department of Real
26 Estate, Flag Section at P.O. Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013, prior to the effective
27 date of this Order.

1 (b) No further cause for disciplinary action against the real estate license
2 of Respondent occurs within two (2) years from the effective date of the decision in this matter.

3 (c) If Respondent fails to pay the monetary penalty as provided above
4 prior to the effective date of this Order, the stay of the suspension shall be vacated as to
5 Respondent and the order of suspension shall be immediately executed, under this Order, in
6 which event Respondent shall not be entitled to any repayment nor credit, prorated or otherwise,
7 for the money paid to the Department under the terms of this Order.

8 (d) If Respondent pays the monetary penalty and any other moneys due
9 under this Stipulation and if no further cause for disciplinary action against the real estate license
10 of Respondent occurs within two (2) years from the effective date of this Order, the entire stay
11 hereby granted in this Order shall become permanent.

12 2. Thirty (30) days of said suspension shall be stayed for two (2) years upon
13 the following terms and conditions:

14 (a) Respondent shall obey all laws, rules and regulations governing the
15 rights, duties and responsibilities of a real estate licensee in the State of California; and,

16 (b) That no final subsequent determination be made, after hearing or upon
17 stipulation, that cause for disciplinary action occurred within two (2) years from the effective
18 date of this Order. Should such a determination be made, the Commissioner may, in her
19 discretion, vacate and set aside the stay order and reimpose all or a portion of the stayed
20 suspension. Should no such determination be made, the stay imposed herein shall become
21 permanent.

22 3. All licenses and licensing rights Respondent are indefinitely suspended unless
23 or until Respondent provides proof satisfactory to the Commissioner, of having taken and
24 successfully completed the continuing education course on trust fund accounting and handling
25 specified in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 10170.5 of the Code. Proof of
26 satisfaction of these requirements includes evidence that Respondent has successfully completed
27 the trust fund account and handling continuing education courses, no earlier than 120 days prior

1 to the effective date of the Decision and Order in this matter. Proof of completion of the trust
2 fund accounting and handling course must be delivered to the Department of Real Estate, Flag
3 Section at P.O. Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013 or by fax at 916-263-8758, prior to
4 the effective date of this Decision and Order.

5 4. Pursuant to Section 10148 of the Code, Respondent shall pay the sum of
6 \$5,050.00 for the Commissioner's cost of the audit which led to this disciplinary action.
7 Respondent shall pay such cost within sixty (60) days of receiving an invoice therefore from the
8 Commissioner. Payment of audit costs should not be made until Respondent receives the
9 invoice. If Respondent fails to satisfy this condition in a timely manner as provided for herein,
10 Respondent's real estate license shall automatically be suspended until payment is made in full,
11 or until a decision providing otherwise is adopted following a hearing held pursuant to this
12 condition.

13 5. Pursuant to Section 10148 of the Code, Respondent shall pay the
14 Commissioner's reasonable cost, not to exceed \$6,312.50 for an audit to determine if Respondent
15 has corrected the violations found in the "Determination of Issues". In calculating the amount of
16 the Commissioner's reasonable cost, the Commissioner may use the estimated average hourly
17 salary for all persons performing audits of real estate brokers, and shall include an allocation for
18 travel time to and from the auditor's place of work. Respondent shall pay such cost within sixty
19 (60) days of receiving an invoice therefore from the Commissioner. Payment of the audit costs
20 should not be made until Respondent receives the invoice. If Respondent fails to satisfy this
21 condition in a timely manner as provided for herein, Respondent's real estate license shall
22 automatically be suspended until payment is made in full, or until a decision providing otherwise
23 is adopted following a hearing held pursuant to this condition.

24 6. All licenses and licensing rights of Respondent are indefinitely suspended
25 unless or until Respondent pays the sum of \$705.10 for the Commissioner's reasonable cost of
26 the investigation which led to this disciplinary action. Said payment shall be in the form of a

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1 cashier's check made payable to the Department of Real Estate, Flag Section at P.O. Box
2 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013, prior to the effective date of this Stipulation.

3 3/26/2024

4 DATED



MEGAN LEE OLSEN, Counsel
DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

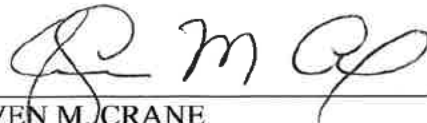
6 * * *

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

15 Respondent further agrees to send the original signed Stipulation by mail to the
16 following address no later than one (1) week from the date the Stipulation is signed by
17 Respondent: *Department of Real Estate, Legal Section, P.O. Box 137007, Sacramento,*
18 *California 95813-7007.* Respondent understands and agrees that if they fail to return the
19 original signed Stipulation by the due date, Complainant retains the right to set this matter for
20 hearing.

21 3/12/24

22 DATED



STEVEN M. CRANE
Respondent

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The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement In Settlement and Order is hereby
adopted by the Real Estate Commissioner as her Decision and Order and shall become
effective at 12 o'clock noon on JUN 12 2024.

IT IS SO ORDERED 5/20/2024.

CHIKA SUNQUIST
REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER



By: Marcus L. McCarther
Chief Deputy Real Estate Commissioner