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Department of Real Estate 320 W. 4th Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, CA 90013-1105 Telephone: (213) 576-6982

In the Matter of the Accusation of

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BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

No. H-41650 LA

DIRECTORS FINANCIAL GROUP; CHRISTOPHER EARL HOBSON; and CHARLES R. DIXON,

Respondents.

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT IN SETTLEMENT AND ORDER

As to Respondent Christopher Earl Hobson only

It is hereby stipulated by and between CHRISTOPHER EARL HOBSON (sometimes referred to as "Respondent") and the Complainant, acting by and through Judith B. Vasan, Counsel for the Department of Real Estate, as follows for the purpose of settling and disposing of the Accusation ("Accusation") filed on April 14, 2020, in this matter:

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

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2. Respondent has received, read and understands the Statement to Respondent, the Discovery Provisions of the APA and the Accusation filed by the Department of Real Estate ("Department") in this proceeding.

- 3. Respondent filed a Notice of Defense pursuant to Section 11506 of the Government Code for the purpose of requesting a hearing on the allegations in the Accusation. Respondent hereby freely and voluntarily withdraws said Notice of Defense. Respondent acknowledges that he understands that by withdrawing said Notice of Defense Respondent thereby waives his right to require the Commissioner to prove the allegations in the Accusation at a contested hearing held in accordance with the provisions of the APA and that Respondent will waive other rights afforded to him in connection with the hearing such as the right to present evidence in his defense, and the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- 4. Respondent hereby admits that the factual allegations of the Accusation filed in this proceeding are true and correct and the Real Estate Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence of such allegations.
- 5. This Stipulation is made for the purpose of reaching an agreed disposition of this proceeding and is expressly limited to this proceeding and not any other proceeding or case in which the Department, or another licensing agency of this state, another state, or the federal government is involved, and otherwise shall not be admissible in any criminal or civil proceeding.
- 6. It is understood by the parties that the Real Estate Commissioner may adopt this Stipulation as his Decision in this matter thereby imposing the penalty and sanctions on Respondent's real estate license and license rights as set forth in the below "Order". In the event that the Commissioner in his discretion does not adopt the Stipulation, the Stipulation shall be void and of no effect and Respondent shall retain the right to a hearing and proceed on the Accusation under the provisions of the APA and shall not be bound by any stipulation or waiver made herein.

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

DETERMINATION OF ISSUES

By reason of the foregoing, it is stipulated and agreed that the following determination of issues shall be made:

The conduct, acts or omissions of Respondent CHRISTOPHER EARL HOBSON, as set forth in the Accusation, are a basis for discipline of Respondent's licenses and license rights as violations of the Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 10177(f).

ORDER

WHEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDER is hereby made:

I.

All licenses and license rights of Respondent CHRISTOPHER EARL HOBSON under the Real Estate Law are suspended for a period of thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Decision; provided, however, that all thirty (30) days of said suspension shall be <u>stayed</u> for one (1) year upon the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Respondent shall obey all laws, rules and regulations governing the rights, duties and responsibilities of a real estate licensee in the State of California; and
- 2. 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 Decision and 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.

Respondent shall pay his proportionate share of the Commissioner's reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement which led to this disciplinary action. The total amount of said investigation and enforcement costs is \$850.72. Respondent agrees to pay \$425.36 as his proportionate share of the total cost. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the Department of Real Estate. The payment for 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. If Respondent fails to pay the costs of the investigation and enforcement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Decision and Order, all licenses and license rights of Respondent shall be automatically suspended unless or until Respondent pays the costs of the investigation and enforcement. Respondent shall not be entitled to any repayment nor credit, prorated or otherwise, for money paid to the Department under the terms of this Decision and Order.

DATED: 3-11-2021

Judith B. Vasan, Counsel for Department of Real Estate

EXECUTION OF THE STIPULATION

I have read the Stipulation 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.

Respondent shall <u>mail the original</u> signed signature page of the stipulation herein to Judith B. Vasan, Attention: Legal Section, Department of Real Estate, 320 W. Fourth St.,

 Suite 350. Los Angeles, California 90013-1105.

In the event of time constraints before an administrative hearing, Respondent can signify acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and Agreement by emailing a scanned copy of the signature page, as actually signed by Respondent, to the Department counsel assigned to this case. Respondent agrees, acknowledges, and understands that by electronically sending the Department a scan of Respondent's actual signature as it appears on the Stipulation and Agreement that receipt of the scan by the Department shall be binding on Respondent as if the Department had received the original signed Stipulation and Agreement.

Respondent's signature below constitutes acceptance and approval of the terms and conditions of this Stipulation. Respondent agrees, acknowledges and understands that by signing this Stipulation, Respondent is bound by its terms as of the date of such signatures and that this agreement is not subject to rescission or amendment at a later date except by a separate Decision and Order of the Real Estate Commissioner.

DATED: 03/11/2021

Respondent

The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement is hereby adopted as my Decision as to Respondent CHRISTOPHER EARL HOBSON and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on

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4.25.21 IT IS SO ORDERED

> DOUGLAS R. McCAULEY REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER

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