

DIANE LEE, Counsel (SBN 247222) Department of Real Estate 320 West 4th Street, Suite 350 Los Angeles, California 90013 APR 1 1 2023

DEPT OF REAL ESTATE

By\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Direct) (213) 576-6982 (213) 576-6907

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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ACCUSATION

The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, a Supervising Special Investigator of the State of California, acting in her official capacity, for cause of Accusation against DAMIEN DONALD MCNELLIS ("MCNELLIS"), MISHICOT SERVICES, INC. ("MSI"), and KEVIN H. WONG aka Kevin Hsueh Kai Wong ("WONG"), individually and as designated officer of Mishicot Services, Inc., is informed and alleges as follows:

1.

The Complainant, Veronica Kilpatrick, acting in her official capacity as Supervising Special Investigator of the State of California, makes this Accusation.

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Accusation re: Damien Donald McNellis, Mishicot Services, Inc., and Kevin H. Wong (H-05710 SD)

All references to the "Code" are to the California Business and Professions Code, and all references to "Regulations" are to Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations unless otherwise specified.

## (LICENSE HISTORY)

3.

Respondent MCNELLIS is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the California Business and Professions Code as a real estate salesperson (license no. 02064010). Respondent MCNELLIS was licensed as a real estate salesperson from on or about July 6, 2018 to July 5, 2022. On July 5, 2022, Respondent MCNELLIS's license expired. The Department of Real Estate retains jurisdiction over the license pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 10103. From on or about July 24, 2018 to July 14, 2021, Respondent MCNELLIS's sponsoring broker was Respondent MSI. <sup>1</sup>

4.

Respondent MSI<sup>2</sup> is presently licensed and/or has license rights under the Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the California Business and Professions Code as a real

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Respondent MCNELLIS is the only identified individual in Respondent MSI's Articles of Incorporation filed on or about February 28, 2018, Statement of Information filed on or about March 30, 2020, and Statement of Information filed on or about May 14, 2021 with the California Secretary of State. Respondent MCNELLIS is the president, secretary, chief financial officer ("CFO"), sole director, and agent for service of process for Respondent MSI.

<sup>2</sup> Respondent MSI was initially incorporated as Damien DM, Inc. on or about February 28, 2018. Damien DM, Inc.'s name changed to Mishicot Services, Inc. on or about May 16, 2018.

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estate corporation (license no. 02071139). MSI was licensed as a real estate corporation from on or about July 23, 2018 to July 22, 2022. On July 22, 2022, Respondent MSI's license expired. The Department of Real Estate retains jurisdiction over the license pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 10103. From on or about July 31, 2018 to July 14, 2021, Respondent MSI's fictitious business name was PMI Bahia South. From on or about July 23, 2018 to July 22, 2022, MSI's designated officer was Respondent WONG. MSI has not had any other designated officer. At all times herein, Respondent MSI's President and Chief Financial Officer has been Respondent MCNELLIS.

5.

Respondent WONG is presently licensed and/or issued by the Department of Real Estate as a real estate broker (license no. 01222102). On or about June 17, 2005, Respondent WONG was originally licensed as a real estate broker, and has been so licensed since then. Previously, from on or about May 8, 1997 to May 7, 2001, Respondent WONG was licensed as a real estate salesperson. Respondent WONG's fictitious business names have been "Primercer" and "Primercer Real Estate" from on or about September 13, 2005 through the present. THOMAS is TPI's chief executive officer ("CEO") and chief financial officer ("CFO").

6.

Whenever acts referred to below are attributed to MCNELLIS, MSI, and/or WONG, those acts are alleged to have been done by MCNELLIS, MSI, and/or WONG, acting by himself/itself/themselves, or by and/or through one or more agents, associates, affiliates, and/or co-conspirators.

7.

At all times mentioned, in the County of San Diego and/or County of Orange, MCNELLIS, MSI, and WONG were engaged in the business of a real estate broker conducting licensed activities within the meaning of Code section 10131(b) ("[1]eases or

rents or offers to lease or rent, or places for rent, or solicits listings of places for rent, or solicits for prospective tenants, or negotiates the sale, purchase, or exchanges of leases on real property, or on a business opportunity, or collects rents from real property, or improvements thereon, or from business opportunities").

(MCNELLIS: CONSUMER COMPLAINT)

8.

On or about October 19, 2021, J. B. filed a complaint with the Department of Real Estate stating MCNELLIS provided property management services to Helena Homeowner's Association ("HOA") and specific units within the HOA at 4753 35th St., San Diego, CA 92116, but absconded with their property management records and security deposits.

9.

To date, MCNELLIS has not provided the property management records and/or the security deposits to the HOA.

10.

The conduct, acts, and/or omissions of Respondent MCNELLIS, as set forth in paragraphs 8 and 9, above, are in violation of Code sections 10176(b) (false promises), 10177(d) (willful disregard or violation of Real Estate Law), 10177(g) (negligence), and 10177(j)/10176(i) (fraud or dishonest dealing).

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(MCNELLIS, MSI, and WONG: PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AUDIT)

11.

On or about June 27, 2022, the Department of Real Estate completed an audit examination of the books and records of MSI to determine whether MSI and WONG handled and accounted for trust funds and conducted their real estate activities in accordance with

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the Real Estate Law and Regulations. The audit examination covered a period of time 1 beginning on January 1, 2020 and ending on February 28, 2022. The audit examination 2 revealed violations of the Code and the Regulations set forth in the following paragraphs, and 3 are more fully discussed in Audit Report SD210027 and the exhibits and work papers attached 4 to said audit report. 5 6 **Trust Accounts** 7 12. 8 At all times mentioned, in connection with the activities described in Paragraph 9 7, above, MCNELLIS, MSI, and WONG accepted or received funds including funds in trust 10 ("trust funds") from or on behalf of actual or prospective parties, such as owners of real 11 property, and thereafter made deposits and/or disbursements of such funds. From time to time 12 herein mentioned, during the audit period, said trust funds were deposited and/or maintained by 13 MCNELLIS, MSI, and WONG in the trust account as follows: 14 15 Undetermined account name \*\*\*\*\*6860 16 Southern California Bank 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 100 17 BA<sub>1</sub> San Diego, CA 92130 18 19 Undetermined account name Undetermined account number 20 Southern California Bank 12265 El Camino Real, Suite 100 21 BA<sub>2</sub> San Diego, CA 92130 22 23 /// /// 24 25 ///

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In the course of activities described in Paragraphs 7 and 12, above, and during the audit examination period in Paragraph 9, above, Respondents MCNELLIS, MSI, and WONG acted in violation of the Code and the Regulations as set forth below:

- (a) Failed to maintain an accurate and complete control record of all trust funds received, deposited, and disbursed for BA 1 and BA 2, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulations section 2831.
- (b) Failed to maintain an accurate and complete separate record in chronological sequence for each beneficiary or transaction, thereby failing to account for all trust funds received, deposited, and disbursed from BA 1, 3 in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulations section 2831.1.
- (c) Failed to perform and maintain an accurate monthly reconciliation of the balance of all separate beneficiary or transaction records (separate records) to the balance of the record of all trust funds received and disbursed (control record) for BA 1 and BA 2, in violation of Code section 10145 and Regulations section 2831.2.
- (d) Failed to disburse at least \$350.00 in trust funds to G. T., the owner of these trust funds and 4753 35th St., Suite 1, San Diego, CA 92116, as of July 14, 2021, in violation of Code section 10145.
- (e) Failed to retain all records of activities during the audit period which require a real estate broker license, which include, but are not limited to, bank statements, trust records, invoices, trust fund receipts and disbursements (control record), separate records, records of reconciliation, property management agreements, cancelled checks, and broker-salesperson

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Department of Real Estate was not able to assess the separate records for BA 2 because they were not provided to the Department of Real Estate.

agreements, in violation of Code section 10148.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the Department of Real Estate was not able to determine BA 1's and BA 2's minimum adjusted bank balance as of the audit cutoff date, February 28, 2022.

- (f) The overall conduct of WONG constitutes a failure on WONG's part, as officer designated by a corporate broker licensee, to exercise the reasonable supervision and control over the licensed activities of MSI as well as by MSI's salespersons and employees, including, but not limited to, MCNELLIS, as required by Code section 10159.2 and Regulations section 2725.
- (g)(1) MSI conducted property management services and received compensation when there was not designated officer from July 15, 2021 to February 28, 2022, in violation of Code section 10130.
- (g)(2) MCNELLIS conducted property management services and received compensation with no supervising broker from July 15, 2021 to February 28, 2022, in violation of Code section 10130.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Since bank statements for BA 1 and BA 2 were not provided, the Department of Real Estate was not able to determine BA 1's and BA 2's minimum adjusted bank balance as of the audit cutoff date, February 28, 2022. Based on inaccurate and incomplete separate records, BA 1's estimated minimum accountability was \$26,104.84, and BA 2's estimated minimum accountability was \$27,020.20 as of the audit cutoff date, February 28, 2022.

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The conduct of Respondents TPI and THOMAS described in Paragraph 13, above, violated the Code and the Regulations as set forth below:

<u>PARAGRAPH</u>	PROVISIONS VIOLATED
13(a)	Code section 10145 and Regulations section 2831
13(b)	Code section 10145 and Regulations section 2831.1
13(c)	Code section 10145 and Regulations section 2831.2
13(d)	Code section 10145
13(e)	Code section 10148
13(f)	Code section 10159.2 and Regulations section 2725
13(g)	Code section 10130

The foregoing violations constitute cause for discipline of the real estate license and license rights of Respondent MCNELLIS under the provisions of Code sections 10177(d), 10177(g), and 10176(i)/10177(j). The foregoing violations constitute cause for discipline of the real estate license and license rights of Respondent MSI under the provisions of Code sections 10177(d), 10177(g), 10177(h), and 10176(i)/10177(j). The foregoing violations constitute cause for discipline of the real estate license and license rights of Respondent WONG under the provisions of Code sections 10177(d), 10177(g), and 10177(h).

(COSTS)

15.

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 investigation and enforcement of the case.

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Code section 10148(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.

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 the license and license rights of DAMIEN DONALD MCNELLIS, MISHICOT SERVICES, INC., and KEVIN H. WONG under the Real Estate Law (Part 1 of Division 4 of the California Business and Professions Code), for the cost of investigation and enforcement pursuant to Code section 10106 and as permitted by law, and for such other and further relief as may be proper under other applicable provisions of law, including costs of audit pursuant to Code section 10148(b).

Dated at San Diego, California: April 10, 2023

Verenice Kilnetrick

Veronica Kilpatrick Supervising Special Investigator

Damien Donald McNellis Mishicot Services, Inc. Kevin H. Wong Veronica Kilpatrick Sacto Enforcement

Audits - Chambers Tse