

FEB 0 8 2022 BUREAU DE REAL STATE

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

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BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Accusation Against

NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II;
FLAT FEE GROUP, INC., doing business
as Smart Realty Group: IA SON WHITMORE

as Smart Realty Group; JASON WHITMORE, individually and as former designated officer of Flat Fee Group, Inc; and MICHELLE JENNY LIN, individually and as designated officer of Flat Fee Group, Inc.,

Respondents.

STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT IN SETTLEMENT AND ORDER

As to Respondent Nicholas Kent Dillon II only

It is hereby stipulated by and between Respondent NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II (sometimes referred to herein as "Respondent"), acting by and through his attorney Mary E. Work, Esq., and the Complainant, acting by and through Judith B. Vasan, Counsel for the Department of Real Estate, as follows for the purpose of settling the Accusation ("Accusation") filed on November 12, 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").

- 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 Respondent understands that by withdrawing said Notice of Defense Respondent thereby waives Respondent's 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 Respondent in connection with the hearing such as the right to present evidence in Respondent's defense, and the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- 4. This Stipulation is based on the factual allegations contained in the Accusation filed in this proceeding. In the interests of expedience and economy, Respondent chooses not to contest these factual allegations, but to remain silent and understands that, as a result thereof, these factual statements, will serve as a prima facie basis for the disciplinary action stipulated to herein. The Real Estate Commissioner shall not be required to provide further evidence to prove such allegations.
- 5. This Stipulation and Respondent's 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 any other proceeding or case in which the Department of Real Estate or another licensing agency of this state, another state or if the federal government is involved, and otherwise shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceedings.
- 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 file a Notice of Defense for 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.

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 stipulations and waivers and solely for the purpose of settlement of the pending Accusation without a hearing, it is stipulated and agreed that the following determination of issues shall be made:

The conduct, acts or omissions of Respondent NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II, as set forth in the Accusation, are a basis for discipline of Respondent's licenses and license rights pursuant to Real Estate Law, Part 1 of Division 4 of the California Business and Professions Code ("Code") sections 10176(a), 10177(j), 10177(d), and/or 10177(g).

<u>ORDER</u>

WHEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING ORDER is hereby made:

I.

All licenses and license rights of Respondent NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II under the Real Estate Law are revoked; provided, however, a restricted real estate salesperson license shall be issued to Respondent pursuant to Section 10156.5 of the Code if Respondent makes application therefor and pays to the Department the appropriate fee for the restricted license within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Decision and Order. The restricted license issued to Respondent shall be subject to all of the provisions of Section 10156.7 of the Code and to the following limitations, conditions and restrictions imposed under authority of Section 10156.6 of that Code:

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All licenses and license rights of Respondent are indefinitely suspended unless or until Respondent pays Respondent's pro rata share of \$1,947.58 for the Commissioner's reasonable costs of the investigation (\$6,321.55) and enforcement (\$1,468.80), which led to this disciplinary action. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable to the Department of Real Estate. The payment of 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.

III.

All licenses and license rights of Respondent are indefinitely suspended unless or until Respondent pays restitution of \$4,500.00 to Jonathan Prichard for out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the fumigation of the Del Amo property. Said payment shall be in the form of a cashier's check made payable to Jonathan Prichard. The payment must be delivered to Jonathan Prichard prior to the effective date of this Decision and Order.

IV.

Respondent shall, within nine (9) months from the effective date of this Decision and Order, present evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner that Respondent has, since the most recent issuance of an original or renewal real estate license, taken and successfully completed the continuing education requirements of Article 2.5 of Chapter 3 of the Real Estate Law for renewal of a real estate license. If Respondent fails to satisfy this condition, Respondent's real estate license shall automatically be suspended until Respondent presents evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner of having taken and successfully completed the continuing education requirements. Proof of completion of the continuing education courses must be delivered to the Department of Real Estate, Flag Section, at P.O. Box 137013, Sacramento, CA 95813-7013.

take and pass the Professional Responsibility Examination administered by the Department

including the payment of the appropriate examination fee. If Respondent fails to satisfy this

condition, the Commissioner may order suspension of Respondent's license until Respondent

Respondent shall, within six (6) months from the effective date of this Decision,

 DATED: 1-19-2022

passes the examination.

Judith 8. 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

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1	binding on Respondent as if the Department had received the original signed Stipulation and
2	Agreement.
3	Respondent's signature below constitutes acceptance and approval of the terms
4	and conditions of this Stipulation. Respondent agrees, acknowledges and understands that by
5	signing this Stipulation, Respondent is bound by its terms as of the date of such signatures and
6	that this agreement is not subject to rescission or amendment at a later date except by a separate
7	Decision and Order of the Real Estate Commissioner.
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9	DATED: 117-22 NCICA
10	NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II
11	Respondent
12	DATED: 1/19/2022
13	Mary E. Work, Esq. Counsel for Respondent
14	Approved as to Form
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17	The foregoing Stipulation and Agreement is hereby adopted as my Decision as to
18	Respondent NICHOLAS KENT DILLON II and shall become effective at 12 o'clock noon on MAR 1 1 2022
19	IT IS SO ORDERED 2. 4, 22
20	II IS SO ORDERED
21	DOUGLAS R. McCAULEY
22	REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER
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