REAL ESTATE AGENCY 1 BEFORE THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONER 2 3 In the Matter of the Real Estate License of 4 5 STIPULATED FINAL ORDER LUCINDA IRENE HAGE 6 7 8 9 10 The Oregon Real Estate Agency (Agency) and Lucinda Hage (Hage) do hereby agree 11 and stipulate to the following: 12 FINDINGS OF FACT 13 AND 14 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW 15 1. 16 1.1 At all times mentioned herein, Hage was licensed as a principal broker with 17 Coldwell Banker Professional Group (CBPG). 18 1.2 On May 26, 2022, Hage was notified that her clients' trust account ending in 19 0066 (CTA #0066), which held owner funds, had been selected for a reconciliation review. 20 Hage provided documents for March 2022 in a timely manner. An investigation was opened 21 due to the outstanding issues found in the review. 22 1.3 On November 8, 2022, Agency Investigator, Cidia Nañez (Nañez) requested 23 Hage provide an update on the outstanding items from the March 2022 CTA 006 Review (CTA 24 Review) specifically, the owner ledger balances, two of which had negative balances, the sum 25 of all owner ledger balances did not match the bank statement balance and an explanation for 26 the funds being held in the account belonging to CBPG. 27 1.4 On February 7, 2023, Nañez asked Hage via email how the property owners had 28 been notified of their final accounting. On February 15, 2023, a response was received from 29 Julie Adams (Adams) stating they either mailed or emailed the final statements to the owners. 30 Unfortunately, they no longer had access to that email account.

- 1.5 In the February 15, 2023, email Adams provided the owner ledger balances and noted that there were still some corrections to be made. Adams also provided Rental Owner Statements, cancelled checks, and bank statements. A review of the owner ledgers shows that they were different than the balances provided during the CTA Review. All amounts that Adams claimed were final disbursements to owners, were reflected in the rental owner statements, except for the Gardner property.
- 1.6 In response to the February 15, 2023, email Nañez asked Adams if CBPG was holding security deposits for their property owners. Adams said they did hold security deposits and they were returned to the tenant or transferred to the owner. Adams claimed to have provided cancelled checks for the returned security deposits, however, in review of the supporting documents provided, cancelled checks were only provided for three properties and no supporting documentation was found for the remaining properties.
- 1.7 On March 14, 2023, Adams wrote in an email that she had worked with their software provider to make correcting entries to balance the accounts. In reference to the Gardner property (referenced in 1.5 above), she wrote "\$600 Security Deposit was never transferred to CTA after being earned by unpaid rent on August (sic) of 2021."
- (1) Conclusion of Law: By not transferring security deposit funds totaling \$600 from the security deposit CTA to the CTA holding rents/owner funds, Hage violated ORS 696.301(3) as it incorporates ORS 696.890(4)(e) (2019 Edition).
- 1.8 In the February 15, 2023, email, Adams wrote that the Gardner correcting entry resulted in a surplus for that property and that the surplus was used to pay property management fees for this owner that had previously gone unpaid for March of 2022.
- (2) Conclusion of Law: By not disbursing earned management fees from the clients' trust account at least once each month unless a different schedule of disbursement is specified in the property management agreement, Hage violated ORS 696.301(3) and its implementing rule OAR 863-025-0027(6) (2020 Edition).
- 1.9 Adams stated the correcting entry made for the Sylvan property resulted in a positive balance of \$50 in CTA #0066. Adams explained, "A PM fee of \$80 as earned on 12/19/19 & late fee of \$50 on 7/5/2020 but neither were deducted or paid to Coldwell Banker

- Professional Group, so I recorded the \$50 fee and this zeroed out the balance in the CTA for this property.
- (3) Conclusion of Law: By holding funds belonging to CBPG in CTA #0066 Hage violated ORS 696.301(3) as it incorporates ORS 696.241(5) (2019 Edition).
- 1.10 All of the above demonstrate incompetence or untrustworthiness in performing any act for which the real estate licensee is required to hold a license and conduct that is below the standard of care for the practice of professional real estate activity in Oregon.
- (4) Conclusion of Law: Based on the foregoing, Licensee is subject to discipline under ORS 696.301(12) and (15) (2019 Edition).

2.1 The forgoing violations are grounds for discipline pursuant to ORS 696.301

2.

- 2.2 The Agency reserves the right to investigate and pursue additional complaints that may be received in the future regarding the licensee.
- 2.3 In establishing the violations alleged above, the Agency may rely on one or more of the definitions contained in ORS 696.010.

4.

## STIPULATION AND WAIVER

I, Lucinda Irene Hage, have read and reviewed this Stipulated Final Order and its Findings of Fact, Statements of Law and Conclusions of Law. I understand that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and this Stipulation and Waiver of Hearing rights embody the full and complete agreement and stipulation between the Agency and me. I further understand that if I do not agree with this stipulation, I have the right to request a Hearing on this matter and to be represented by legal counsel at such a Hearing. I also understand that any Hearing would be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in ORS Chapter 183 and in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure adopted by the Attorney General of the State of Oregon. By signing this Stipulated Final Order, I freely and voluntarily waive my rights to a Hearing, to representation by legal counsel at such a Hearing, and to judicial review of this matter.

I hereby agree and stipulate to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and understand that the Order which follows hereafter, which I have also read and understand,

may be completed and signed by the Real Estate Commissioner or may be rejected by the 1 Real Estate Commissioner. I further understand that, in accordance with the provisions of 2 3 ORS 696.445(3), notice of this Order shall be published in the Oregon Real Estate News 4 Journal. In addition to all of the above, I agree that once the Commissioner executes this 5 Stipulated Final Order, I will accept service of the Stipulated Final Order by email, and hereby 6 7 waive the right to challenge the validity of service. 8 ORDER IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Lucina Hage's principal broker license be, and hereby is 9 reprimanded. 10 11 12 13 IT IS SO STIPULATED: IT IS SO ORDERED: 14 15 DocuSigned by: Steven Strode 16 FE161ECAB4BD4CB...
LUCINDA IRENE HAGE 17 STEVEN STRODE Real Estate Commissioner 18 Date 4/27/2023 | 10:50 AM PDT Date 4/27/2023 | 9:46 AM PDT 19 20 Date of Service: \_\_04/27/2023 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30