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Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners Complaint Review Committee Meeting Minutes December 11, 2020 Via Zoom

**Present:** Richard J. LeBlanc, Chair

Kevin J. Singh Ronald B. Blitch

Katherine E. Hillegas, Executive Director

Tyson J. Ducote, Deputy Director Paul H. Spaht, Board Attorney

The meeting was called to order by LeBlanc who reviewed the agenda.

#### Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed.

**Motion #1: Blitch/Singh:** To approve the September 11, 2020, CRC minutes. **Passed. 3-0.** 

Motion #2: Singh/Blitch: To enter into Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct, La. R.S. 42:17(A)(4). Passed. 3-0.

Discussion of the following matters:

- 2019-15
- 2019-18
- 2020-01
- 2020-02
- 2020-07

Motion #3: Blitch/Singh: To leave Executive Session. Passed. 3-0.

## **Existing Matters:**

#### 2019-15

Ducote reviewed the facts of the case and reminded the committee that a signed consent order was returned by Respondent, but that the Respondent had not paid the fines or costs. He asked the committee how it wished to proceed.

Motion #4: Singh/Blitch: To recommend to the Board that it accept the consent order signed by Respondent and further recommend that the Board proceed forward in obtaining a judgment against Respondent in the East Baton Rouge District Court.

Passed. 3-0.

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## 2019-18

Ducote reviewed the facts of the case in light of its connection to case 2020-01. He asked the committee how it wished to proceed since the Respondent had not responded to requests for information in the case.

**Motion #5: Blitch/Singh:** To propose a consent order to the Respondent with the following sanctions: a fine of \$3,500 and actual administrative costs; a cease & desist order; the removal of all references to the word "architect," "architectural," or "architecture" on his social media accounts; the certification, via affidavit, that all physical and electronic copies of the architect seals which are not his and copies of the business' brochure have been destroyed; publication of any adopted consent order on the Board's website, and publishing a summary of the action in the Board's newsletter, and reporting the matter to NCARB. **Passed. 3-0.** 

## **New Matters:**

# 2020-01

Ducote presented a matter involving the possible unlicensed practice of architecture in Louisiana. The committee discussed the evidence.

Motion #6: Blitch/Singh: To close the case and issue a letter of caution and warning. Passed. 3-0.

#### 2020-02

Ducote presented a matter involving a possible violation of the Board's laws or rules concerning the expired practice of architecture in Louisiana. The Committee asked staff to further research one of the projects identified during the period of expired practice in order to determine whether it fell within the scope of the practice of architecture

Motion #7: Singh/Blitch: That in the event the case in question is identified as requiring an architect, to propose a consent order to the Respondent with the following sanctions: a fine of \$1,000 and actual administrative costs; publication of any adopted consent order on the Board's website, and publishing a summary of the action in the Board's newsletter, and reporting the matter to NCARB. Passed. 3-0.

## *2020-07*

Ducote presented a matter involving a possible violation of the Board's laws or rules concerning the unlicensed practice of architecture in Louisiana. The committee discussed the evidence.

**Motion #8: Blitch/Singh:** To propose a consent order to the Respondent with the following sanctions: a fine of \$1,500 and actual administrative costs; publication of any adopted consent order on the Board's website, and publishing a summary of the action in the Board's newsletter, and reporting the matter to NCARB. **Passed. 3-0.** 

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## **Returned Consent Orders:**

2019-14

Ducote presented an executed Consent Order to the committee for acceptance.

Motion #9: Singh/Blitch: To accept the executed Consent Order related to case 2019-14, and forward it to the full Board for ratification. Passed. 3-0.

## 2019-20

Ducote presented an executed Consent Order to the committee for acceptance.

**Motion #10: Blitch/Singh:** To accept the executed Consent Order related to case 2019-20, and forward it to the full Board for ratification. **Passed. 3-0.** 

# *2020-04*

Ducote presented an executed Consent Order to the committee for acceptance.

**Motion #11: Singh/Blitch:** To accept the executed Consent Order related to case 2020-04 and forward it to the full Board for ratification. **Passed. 3-0.** 

There being no further business to address,

Motion #12: Blitch/Singh: To adjourn the meeting. Passed. 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,	
Richard I LeBlanc Chair	_