

BEFORE THE IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION
200 EAST GRAND, SUITE 350
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

IN RE:)	
)	CASE NUMBER: 22-071
Paul A. Livingston)	
Broker (B40125000))	COMBINED STATEMENT OF
)	CHARGES, INFORMAL
Hunziker & Associates, Realtors)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT,
105 S 16 th St)	AND CONSENT ORDER IN A
Ames, IA 50010)	DISCIPLINARY CASE
)	
RESPONDENT)	

The Iowa Real Estate Commission (Commission) and **Paul A. Livingston** (Respondent) enter into this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement, and Consent Order in a Disciplinary Case (Order) pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 17A.10(1) and 272C.3(4).

1. The Commission issued the Respondent real estate broker license number B40125000 on December 20, 1999. Respondent's license is current and in full force and effect through December 31, 2025. At all times relevant to this matter, the Respondent served both as the designated broker in charge and a licensed real estate broker officer of Hunziker & Associates, Realtors, license number F00677000, located in Ames, Iowa.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 543B. Licenses issued by the Commission are subject to the laws of the State of Iowa and to the administrative rules of the Commission.

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

3. Respondent is charged with engaging in a practice harmful or detrimental to the public and/or failing to diligently exercise reasonable skill and care in providing brokerage services to all parties to a transaction by failing to properly effectuate the terms of an executed closing statement in violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(1)(d), 543B.29(1)(k), 543B.34(1), 543B.46 543B.56(1)(b). See 193E Iowa Administrative Code sections 13.2, 18.14(5)(f)(6).

CIRCUMSTANCES

4. Respondent was assigned as the designated broker in charge of real estate brokerage Hunziker & Associates, Realtors at all times relevant to this matter. As the designated broker in charge of the real estate brokerage firm, the Respondent is responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable rules and regulations governing the firm's operations in the State of Iowa.

5. A licensee of the above-referenced brokerage firm completed a sale for a property in Moorland, Iowa. The property closed on December 10, 2021.

6. During negotiations, it was agreed upon between the buyer and seller that the seller would purchase a home warranty with Security of America Home Warranty on behalf of the buyers in lieu of making some of the inspection related requests.

7. In reviewing the aforementioned real estate transaction, it was discovered that the Respondent failed to properly effectuate the terms of an executed closing by failing to include the purchase documents and signatures needed for the home warranty in the closing. As a result, the buyer suffered financial loss due several appliances needing repair within days of closing.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

8. Respondent admits to each and every allegation in the above-stated Statement of Charges. This case shall constitute one violation for purposes of Iowa Code section 543B.29(4).

9. Respondent acknowledges that he has a right to receive notice of the above-stated charges and to request a hearing before the Commission on the merits of the charges. By freely and voluntarily entering into this Order, the Respondent waives his right to notice and a hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to seek judicial review. This Order constitutes discipline against the Respondent, and is the final agency order in this contested case pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.10 and 193 Iowa Administrative Code 7.4.

10. Respondent agrees that the State's attorney and/or Commission staff may present this Order to the Commission and may have *ex parte* communications with the Commission while presenting it. Respondent waives any right of notice of this meeting or any right that the Respondent might have to participate in the discussion of this Order among the Commission, the Commission staff and the State's attorney.

11. This Order shall be part of the permanent record of Respondent and shall be considered by the Commission in determining the nature and severity of any future disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations of the laws and rules governing the practice of real estate by the Respondent.

12. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(1)(d), 543B.34(1) and 272C.3(2)(a) and shall be grounds for further disciplinary action. However, no action may be taken against the Respondent for violations of this Order without a hearing, or waiver of hearing.

13. This Order is not binding on the Iowa Real Estate Commission until it has been formally approved by a majority of the Commission members.

(a) In the event that this Order is rejected by the Commission it shall be of no force or effect to either party, and it shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter.

(b) If the Commission approves this Order, it shall fully dispose of all issues in this case.

14. Upon acceptance by both the Commission and Respondent, this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement and Consent Order shall be a public record available for inspection and copying in its entirety in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 22.

CONSENT ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:


15. **CIVIL PENALTY.** Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) no later than six (6) months after acceptance of this Order by the Commission. The civil penalty must come under a cover letter addressed to the Commission's Executive Officer, referencing Case Number 22-071.

16. **FUTURE COMPLIANCE.** The Respondent also shall at all future times fully and promptly comply with all pertinent Orders of the Commission and the statutes and Commission rules regulating the practice of real estate.

WHEREFORE, the terms of this Combined Statement of Charges, Informal Settlement Agreement and Consent Order are agreed to and accepted by the Iowa Real Estate Commission and the Respondent.

FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by **Paul Livingston** on this 29th day of March, 2023.


By: **PAUL LIVINGSTON**, Respondent

State of Iowa)

County of Story)

Signed and sworn to before me on this 29 day of March, 2023, by:




Notary Public, State of Iowa
Printed Name: Marcia Krause
My Commission Expires: 2-27-26

FOR THE COMMISSION:

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the **IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION** on this 4th day of May, 2023.


JAMES M.H. CLINGMAN, Chair
Iowa Real Estate Commission