NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF WAKE BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF ANTONIO MILLER LICENSE NO: 16132996 VOLUNTARYAGREEMENT

NOW COME, Antonio Miller (hereinafter "Mr. Miller") and the Bail Bond Regulatory Division of the N.C. Department of Insurance (hereinafter "BBRD"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement"):

WHEREAS, the BBRD has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing bail bondsmen; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(7), the Commissioner may deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license under Article 71 of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes for failure to comply with or violation of the provisions of Article 71 of Chapter 58 of the North Carolina General Statutes or of any order, rule or regulation of the Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-40 (a) and (b) provide that no person shall act in the capacity of a surety bondsman unless qualified and licensed, and the Commissioner may propound any reasonable interrogatories about the applicant's qualifications and any other matters the Commissioner considers necessary to protect the public and ascertain the qualifications of the applicant and conduct a reasonable inquiry or investigation relative to the determination of the applicant's fitness to be licensed or to continue to be licenses; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a) (7) provides that the Commissioner may deny, place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license for failure to comply with or violation of the provisions of this Article or of any order, subpoena, rule or regulation of the Commissioner or person with similar authority in another jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a) (14a) provides that the Commissioner may deny, place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license for having any professional license denied, suspended, or revoked in this State or any other jurisdiction for causes substantially similar to those listed in this subsection; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller applied for a surety bail bond license on October 27,2022 and answered "Yes" to the screening question regarding previous licensing and criminal convictions; Mr. Miller was requested to provide details and his response which included multiple criminal convictions for the period 1992 through 2018 as well as information regarding prior licensing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller was previously licensed as a Surety Bail Bondsman by The Agent Services Division (ASD) from April 04,2004 through April 23,2007; and

WHEREAS, on or about April 23,2007 Mr. Miller's Surety Bail Bondsman's license was revoked by ASD in an administrative proceeding or failure to file required monthly reports which were required at that time but are no longer required; Mr. Miller did not attend the hearing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller re-applied for a Surety Bail Bondsman license on June 25,2015 which application was denied; Mr. Miller requested an administrative hearing on the denial but later withdrew the request

WHEREAS, BBRD denied Mr. Miller's current application on or about November 29,2022 based on violations of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a) (7) and (a)(14a), and Mr. Miller requested a review which was scheduled for and held on January 26,2023; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 58-2-70(g), the Commissioner of Insurance and the BBRD have the express authority to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement with any person as to the status of the person's license or certificate or as to any civil penalty or restitution; and

WHEREAS, in lieu of an administrative hearing on the matters stated herein, Mr. Miller has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matters referenced in this Agreement, and the BBRD has agreed not to pursue additional civil ramifications; including penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against Mr. Miller; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Miller agreed on January 30,2023 to execute a Voluntary Settlement Agreement and pay a fine in the amount of \$500.00 as a condition to being licensed as a surety bail bondsman; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and agreements set out herein, the Department and Mr. Miller hereby agree to the following:

- Immediately upon her signing of this document, Mr. Miller shall pay a civil penalty of \$500.00 to the Department. The form of payment shall be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or money order. The check or money order for the payment of this civil penalty shall be payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance." Mr. Miller shall send the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the BBRD simultaneously with the return of this Agreement, signed by Mr. Miller. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than March 22,2023. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution for the benefit of the public schools.
- The Department has reconsidered its denial of Mr. Miller's application for licensure as a surety bail bondsman and will issue Mr. Miller a surety bondsman's license upon receipt of Mr. Miller's execution of this Voluntary Settlement Agreement and return to the Department accompanied with payment of the civil penalty set forth above in the amount of \$500.00; and

- 3. Mr. Miller shall obey all laws and regulations applicable to all licenses issued to her.
- Mr. Miller enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with knowledge of his 4. right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. Mr. Miller understands that he may consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
- This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any 5. future follow-up examinations of Mr. Miller, or in any other cases or complaints involving Mr. Miller.
- 6. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. Mr. Miller understands that N. C. Gen. Stat. § 58-71-80(a)(7) provides that a surety bondsman's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
- 7. This Voluntary Settlement Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and is not confidential. All licenses issued by the Department to the licensee shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against the licensee following the execution of this Agreement. The Department is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement to third parties upon request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure.
- 8. This Settlement Agreement shall become effective when signed by Mr. Miller and the Department.

N.C. Department of Insurance **Bail Bond Regulatory Division**

By: Antonio Miller

LICENSE NO: 16132996

By: Marty Sunfner

Senior Deputy Commissioner

Date: 3-5-23

3/9/23