

**BEFORE THE IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION  
1920 SE HULSIZER  
ANKENY, IOWA**

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<b>IN RE:</b>	)	
	)	<b>CASE NUMBER: A08-020</b>
<b>Darren S. Hovell</b>	)	
<b>Broker (B41512)</b>	)	
	)	<b>COMBINED STATEMENT OF</b>
<b>Bridge City Realty, Inc.</b>	)	<b>CHARGES, INFORMAL</b>
<b>215 N. Ward</b>	)	<b>SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT</b>
<b>Ottumwa, IA 52501</b>	)	<b>AND CONSENT ORDER IN A</b>
	)	<b>DISCIPLINARY CASE</b>
<b>Respondent.</b>	)	

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The Iowa Real Estate Commission (Commission) and **Darren S. Hovell** (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) (2007).

1. The Commission issued the Respondent real estate broker's license number (B41512) on January 6, 2004. Respondent's license is current and in full force and effect through December 31, 2009. At all times relevant to this matter, the Respondent was a licensed real estate broker officer assigned to Bridge City Realty, Inc., a licensed real estate firm (F04833) located in Ottumwa, IA.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction of this disciplinary matter pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 272C, and 543B (2007). 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 practices harmful or detrimental to the public in violation of Iowa Code §§ 543B.29(3), 543B.29(10), 543B.34, and 543B.46 (2007) by:

- (a) Failing to conduct and/or document monthly reconciliation on a written worksheet to ensure the agreement of the general ledger balance, reconciled bank balance, and individual ledger totals. See 193E Iowa Admin. Code §§ 13.1(6)(a)(3), 18.14(5)(e).

- (b) Failing to maintain the general ledger, individual ledgers, and bank reconciliation to reflect accurate current balances. See 193E Iowa Admin. Code §§ 13.1(6), 18.14(5)(e).
- (c) Failing to disburse unclaimed trust funds in accordance with applicable law. See Iowa Code ch. 556; 193E Iowa Admin. Code § 13.1(14).

#### CIRCUMSTANCES

- 4. On or about November 19, 2008, an audit of the Respondent's trust account and records was conducted.
- 5. The auditor found the Respondent is not accurately performing a monthly reconciliation on a written worksheet to document and ensure agreement of the general ledger balance, individual ledgers, and reconciled bank balance ("three-way tie" is not being completed and documented).
- 6. The auditor found variances between the total of the Individual Ledgers, the General Ledger Balance, and the Reconciled Bank Balance. The total of the Individual Ledgers were \$95.28 more than the General Ledger Balance and Reconciled Bank Balance totals, resulting in a shortage of \$95.28 in the Respondent's Trust Account.
- 7. The auditor found that the Respondent was not maintaining individual ledgers for Broker's Equity, Interest, and/or real estate sales transactions.
- 8. The auditor found that the Respondent has three (3) outstanding checks that were over three years old and thus constituted unclaimed funds.

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

- 9. Respondent admits each and every allegation in the above-stated Statement of Charges.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of Iowa Code sections 543B.29(3), 543B.34(2) and 272C.3(2)(a) (2007) 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 (2007).

### **CONSENT ORDER**

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

16. REPRIMAND. Pursuant to 193E Iowa Administrative Code section 18.14(1)(j), the Respondent is reprimanded.

17. CIVIL PENALTY. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty to the Commission in the amount of \$500 no later than 30 calendar days after acceptance of this Order by the Commission. The civil penalty must come under a cover letter addressed to the Commission's Executive Officer and refer to case A08-020.

18. EDUCATION. The Respondent shall attend the Commission approved eight (8) hour course "Trust Accounts." These hours shall be in addition to any real estate continuing education required by law for license renewal. The original certificate of attendance must be submitted to the Iowa Real Estate Commission within twelve (12) months of the signing of this agreement by the Commission and must come under a cover letter addressed to the Commission's Executive Officer and refer to case A08-020.

19. 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:**

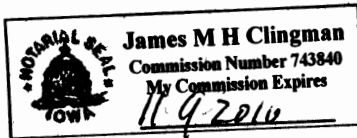
Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by **Darren S. Hovell** on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008.

[Redacted Signature]

**DARREN S. HOVELL**, Respondent

State of IA  
County of Wapello

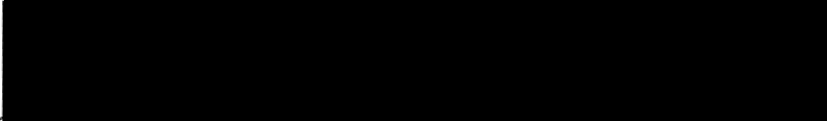
Signed and sworn to before me on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of Dec, 2008, by



[Redacted Signature]  
Notary Public, State of Iowa  
Printed Name: James Clingman  
My Commission Expires: 11-9-2010

**FOR THE COMMISSION:**

Voluntarily agreed to and accepted by the **IOWA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION** on  
this 15 day of January, 2009.

  
  
**JAMES E. HUGHES**, Chair  
Iowa Real Estate Commission