BEFORE THE CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD STATE OF NEVADA

STATE OF NEVADA, CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD,

Case No. 2020-22

Petitioner.

vs.

NEVADA MEDICAL GROUP, LLC,

Respondent.

STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Cannabis Compliance Board (the "CCB"), by and through its counsel, Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General for the State of Nevada, L. Kristopher Rath, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General and Ashley A. Balducci, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, hereby enters into this Stipulation and Order for Settlement of Disciplinary Action ("Stipulation and Order") with Respondent Nevada Medical Group, LLC (hereinafter "NMG"), by and through its counsel of record, Daniel Stewart, Esq. of the law firm of Hutchison & Steffen, PLLC. Pursuant to this Stipulation and Order, NMG and CCB (collectively, the "Parties") hereby stipulate and agree that CCB Case No. 2020-22 (the "Administrative Action") shall be fully and finally settled and resolved upon terms and conditions set out herein.

PERTINENT FACTS

1. On October 20, 2020, CCB initiated this disciplinary action via the service and filing of a Complaint for Disciplinary Action (the "Complaint"). The Complaint alleges that, contrary to Nevada law, the NMG cultivation facility (C144 and RC144) had six cannabis establishment agents ("cannabis agents") working at its facility who did not have valid cannabis agent cards in their immediate possession, had cannabis agents who made intentional or unintentional false statements to CCB agents, and failed to follow an approved security plan by allowing unauthorized access to limited areas.

- 2. NMG has not filed an Answer in the Administrative Action. Rather, NMG, while initially generally denying the allegations in the Complaint, chose to engage in negotiations to resolve the matter prior to answering the Complaint.
- 3. The Parties have engaged in good faith negotiations to reach an agreement that is mutually acceptable to Respondent and counsel for the CCB for resolution of this matter, with the understanding that this Stipulation and Order must be approved by majority vote of the members of the CCB.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

This Stipulation and Order is made and based upon the following acknowledgements by the Parties:

- 4. NMG has entered into this Stipulation and Order on its own behalf and with full authority to resolve the claims against it and is aware of NMG's rights to contest the violations pending against it. These rights include representation by an attorney at NMG's own expense, the right to a hearing on any violations or allegations formally filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against NMG, the right to present evidence on NMG's own behalf, the right to have witnesses testify on NMG's behalf, the right to obtain any other type of formal judicial review of this matter, and any other rights which may be accorded to NMG pursuant to provisions of NRS Chapters 678A through 678D, the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Regulations (NCCR), and any other provisions of Nevada law. NMG is waiving all these rights by entering into this Stipulation and Order. If the CCB rejects this Stipulation and Order, or any portion thereof, NMG reserves the right to withdraw any or all waivers.
- 5. Should this Stipulation and Order be rejected by the CCB or not timely performed by NMG, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration by the CCB of such proposed stipulation or other documents or matters pertaining to the consideration of this Stipulation and Order shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the CCB or any of its members from further participation, consideration, adjudication, and/or resolution of these proceedings and that no CCB member shall be disqualified or challenged for bias.

- 6. NMG acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order shall only become effective after the CCB has approved it.
- 7. NMG enters this Stipulation and Order after being fully advised of NMG's rights and as to the consequences of this Stipulation and Order. This Stipulation and Order embodies the entire agreement reached between the CCB and NMG. It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of the Parties and all alterations, amendments and/or modifications must be in writing.
- 8. In an effort to avoid the cost and uncertainty of a disciplinary hearing, NMG has agreed to settle this matter. For purposes of settling this matter, NMG acknowledges that the facts contained in the paragraphs in the above "Pertinent Facts" portion of this Stipulation and Order are true and correct. Without waiving any constitutional rights against self-incrimination, NMG further acknowledges that certain facts contained in the CCB Complaint in Case No. 2020-22 could be found to constitute violations of Title 56 of NRS (NRS Chapters 678A through 678D), and the NCCR, with penalties up to and including revocation, suspension, and/or a civil penalty and costs of \$255,657.25 for C144 and RC144, if this matter went to an administrative hearing.
- 9. In settling this matter the Executive Director for CCB and counsel for CCB have considered the factors set forth in NCCR 4.030(2), including: the gravity of the violations; the economic benefit or savings, if any, resulting from the violations; the size of the business of the violator; the history of compliance with the NCCR and Title 56 of NRS by the violator; actions taken to remedy and/or correct the violations; and the effect of the penalty on the ability of the violator to continue in business.
- 10. To resolve the Administrative Action, and only for those purposes and no other, NMG specifically admits to the following violations with respect to the Complaint in CCB Case No. 2020-22 for certificate C144 and license RC144:
 - a. Three violations of NCCR 4.055(1)(a)(1), for failing to have three cannabis agents in immediate possession of valid cannabis agent cards, which constitutes three Category IV violations.

- b. One violation of NCCR 4.040(1)(a)(1), for making an unintentional false statement of fact to a CCB agent, which constitutes one Category II violation.
- c. One violation of NCCR 4.060(1)(a)(6), for failing to comply with any other requirements not described in another category of violations, a Category V violation.
- 11. The additional three violations of NCCR 4.055(1)(a)(1), alleged in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint, are dismissed.
- 12. As to the remaining allegations in the Complaint, NMG neither admits nor denies those allegations and no civil penalties shall be assessed as to the remaining violations.
- 13. With respect to C144 and RC144, NMG further agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$50,000¹ inclusive of time and effort costs in consideration for its admitted violations in Paragraph 10, above, and in consideration of CCB's agreement to resolve the Administrative Action on the terms set forth herein. Said sum may be paid in installments, as set forth specifically in Paragraphs 17 through 19, below.
- 14. If the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order, it shall be deemed and considered disciplinary action by the CCB against NMG.
- 15. Both parties acknowledge that the CCB has jurisdiction to consider and order this Stipulation and Order because NMG holds privileged licenses/certificates regulated by the CCB as of July 1, 2020. NMG expressly, knowingly, and intentionally waives the 21-day and/or 5 day notice requirements contained in the Nevada Open Meeting Law and acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order may be presented to the CCB for its consideration and potential ratification at either the CCB's meeting on December 18, 2020, or the CCB's meeting on January 26, 2020.

STIPULATED ADJUDICATION

Based upon the above acknowledgments of the Parties and their mutual agreement,

¹ To be apportioned \$25,000 to C144 and \$25,000 to RC144.

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27 28 the Parties stipulate and agree that the following terms of discipline shall be imposed by the CCB in this matter:

- Violations: As to certificate C144 and license RC144, NMG is found to have 16. one Category II violation, three Category IV violations, and one Category V violation, as set forth in Paragraphs 10(a), 10(b), and 10(c), above. In accordance with NCCR 4.060(2)(a)(1), the CCB hereby issues a formal warning to NMG, as to its first Category V violation for certificate C144 and license RC144: NMG shall take precautions to ensure that the staff of its facilities complies with its approved security plan. The Parties stipulate and agree that nothing in this Stipulation and Order shall preclude CCB from pursuing any separate disciplinary actions against the cannabis agents named in Paragraph 8 of the CCB Complaint in Case No. 2020-22, and/or any other NMG cannabis agents found to be in noncompliance with NRS Title 56 and/or NCCR. Said disciplinary actions would be separate and apart from any disciplinary actions against NMG arising out of the subject investigation of August 5, 2020 or prior investigations regarding the same violations.
- Imposition of Civil Penalties. NMG shall pay a total civil penalty, inclusive of 17. time and effort costs, in the amount of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) within the time set forth in Paragraphs 18 and 19 below, to be apportioned as set forth in Paragraph 13, above.
- Payment of Civil Penalties. NMG must pay the civil penalty set forth in this 18. agreement within the time frames set forth in this Paragraph and Paragraph 19. NMG may pay the lump sum of \$50,000 in civil penalties within 30 days of the date the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order. In the alternative, NMG may select to pay the civil penalties in five monthly installments of \$10,000.002 each month (the "Payment Plan Option"). Under the Payment Plan Option, NMG must pay the first installment on the first business day of the month³ following the CCB meeting at which this Stipulation and Order is approved and then, thereafter, on the first business day of each month for the next four months. For example, if this Stipulation and Order is approved at the December 18, 2020,

² Said monthly payments shall be attributed \$5,000 to C144 and \$5,000 to RC144.

³ Payment must be physically received at the CCB's Carson City office no later than 5:00 p.m., Pacific Time, on the first business day of the month on which it is due.

CCB meeting, the payment of \$10,000 each month would be due as follows:

Monday, January 4, 2021	1st Installment
Monday, February 1, 2021	2 nd Installment
Monday, March1, 2021	3 rd Installment
Thursday, April 1, 2021	4 th Installment

Monday, May 3, 2021 5th and Final Installment

If this Stipulation and Order is approved at the January 26, 2021, CCB meeting, the payment of \$10,000 each month would be due as follows:

Monday, February 1, 2021	1 st Installment
Monday, March 1, 2021	2 nd Installment
Thursday, April 1, 2021	3 rd Installment
Monday, May 3, 2021	4 th Installment
Tuesday, June 1, 2021	5th and Final Installment

NMG may pay any installment prior to its due date.

- 19. <u>Penalties for Failure to Comply with Payment Plan Option</u>. NMG acknowledges that it is critical to comply with the strict requirements of the Payment Plan Option. NMG agrees that, should it fail to timely make any installment payment the following penalties and procedures will be in effect:
 - a. CCB will allow a five-business day grace period for late payment.
 - b. If payment is not physically received by CCB at its Carson City office by 5:00 p.m., Pacific Time, on the last day of the grace period, NMG shall be deemed in default and deemed to have admitted all allegations in the CCB Complaint in Case No. 2020-22 and shall pay all penalties and receive all discipline set forth under the "Relief Requested" section of the Complaint, inclusive of revocation of certificate C144 and license RC144 and civil penalties and costs totaling \$255,657.25. The CCB will enter an order of default to this effect after default and all amounts due under this subsection shall be immediately due and payable to CCB.

NMG agrees it cannot and will not file any petition for judicial review and/or any action in any forum for relief from this order of default.

- c. NMG may petition the CCB for an extension of 30-days to pay any of the installments set forth in Paragraph 18. However, for the CCB to consider any such petition, the CCB must receive said petition no later than 5 business days prior to the installment deadline (which does not include any grace period). The CCB is not required to grant such a petition. In such a petition, NMG must demonstrate to the satisfaction of CCB that there are extraordinary and unusual circumstances necessitating the extension requested. CCB may delegate the decision as to whether to grant such a petition to the CCB Chair.
- d. If an extension is granted under Paragraph 19(c), there shall be no grace period on the new payment date or dates. If NMG does not pay by the new payment date or dates, the provisions of Paragraph 19(b) apply.
- 20. Plan of Correction. Respondent represents and warrants that it has put in place a plan of correction to remedy and to prevent the recurrence of the violations set forth in this Stipulation and Order. Respondent further represents and warrants that it is now, as of the date it has executed this Stipulation and Order, operating in full compliance with NRS Title 56 and NCCR. In summary, the plan of correction is as follows: (1) The employees without valid agent cards were escorted out of the facility and were not allowed on the premises without valid agent cards. Also, a separate employee has been designated to ensure all employee agent cards are up to date and do not expire before renewal; (2) The employees involved in misrepresentation to CCB agents were suspended without pay for 30 days and on return are subject to a 90-day corrective plan of action; and (3) The facility's limited area has been locked down and only permitted personnel have access. The facility has also reinforced its monitoring procedures for unauthorized access areas.
 - 21. Contingency if Approval Denied. If approval of this Stipulation and Order is

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denied by CCB, NMG and counsel for the CCB agree to resume settlement negotiations in good faith and attempt to reach an agreement to amend this Stipulation and Order and resubmit an amended Stipulation and Order to the CCB to review for approval at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If such an agreement cannot be reached, the Parties agree to proceed with the Administrative Action, which shall include a disciplinary hearing before the CCB or its assigned hearing officer. NMG shall file its answer to the Complaint no later than February 18, 2021. Should the Administrative Action proceed for the reasons set forth in this Paragraph, CCB preserves all its claims and arguments in the Administrative Action as set forth in its Complaint and NMG preserves all its defenses and arguments set forth in its Answer and withdraws all waivers set forth herein. An unapproved Stipulation and Order shall not be admissible as evidence or referenced in argument at any disciplinary hearing in CCB Case No. 2020-22 or any other matter involving the CCB.

Contingency if Approval Conditioned. If the CCB approves this Stipulation 22. and Order, but said approval is contingent on certain conditions, the parties will undertake further good faith negotiations to include said conditions in an amended stipulation and order for execution by the CCB Chair. If NMG does not agree to the certain conditions imposed by the CCB, the parties will undertake additional negotiations and attempt to reach an agreement to amend this Stipulation and Order and resubmit an amended Stipulation and Order to the CCB to review for approval at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If such an agreement cannot be reached, the Parties agree to proceed with the Administrative Action, which shall include a disciplinary hearing before the CCB or its assigned hearing officer. NMG shall file its answer to the Complaint no later than February 18, 2021. Should the Administrative Action proceed for the reasons set forth in this Paragraph, CCB preserves all its claims and arguments in the Administrative Action as set forth in its Complaint and NMG preserves all its defenses and arguments asserted in its Answer and withdraws all waivers set forth herein. An unapproved Stipulation and Order shall not be admissible as evidence or referenced in argument at any disciplinary hearing in CCB Case No. 2020-22 or any other matter.

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- 23. <u>Closure of Disciplinary Action</u>. Once this Stipulation and Order is fully performed by NMG, the Administrative Action will be closed.
- 24. Communications with CCB Members. NMG understands that this Stipulation and Order will be presented to the CCB in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled CCB meeting. NMG understands that the CCB has the right to decide in its own discretion whether or not to approve this Stipulation and Order. The CCB's counsel, which is the Nevada Attorney General and its staff attorneys, will recommend approval of this Stipulation and Order. In the course of seeking CCB acceptance of this Stipulation and Order, counsel for CCB may communicate directly with individual CCB members. NMG acknowledges that such communications may be made or conducted ex parte, without notice or opportunity for NMG to be heard on its part until the public CCB meeting where this Stipulation and Order is discussed, and that such contacts and communications may include, but may not be limited to, matters concerning this Stipulation and Order, the Administrative Action and any and all information of every nature whatsoever related to these matters. NMG agrees that it has no objections to such exparte communications. CCB agrees that NMG and/or its counsel may appear at the CCB meeting where this Stipulation and Order is discussed and, if requested, respond to any questions that may be addressed to NMG and/or the Attorney General's staff attorneys. NMG agrees that, should the CCB decline to approve this Stipulation and Order, NMG will not contest or otherwise object to any CCB member, and/or CCB appointed hearing officer, hearing and adjudicating the Administrative Action based on the aforementioned ex parte communications with anyone from the Nevada Attorney General's Office.
- 25. Release. In execution of this agreement, Respondent agrees that the State of Nevada, the CCB, the Office of the Attorney General, and each of their members, staff, attorneys, investigators, experts, hearing officers, consultants and agents are immune from any liability for any decision or action taken in good faith in response to information and data acquired by the CCB. Respondent agrees to release the State of Nevada, the CCB, the Office of the Attorney General, and each of their members, staff, attorneys, investigators,

experts, hearing officers, consultants and agents from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever, known or unknown, in law or equity, that Respondent ever had, now has, may have or claim to have against any and/or all of the persons, government agencies or entities named in this Paragraph, arising out of, or by reason of, CCB's investigation of the matters set forth in its Complaint, the matters set forth in this Stipulation and Order, or the administration of CCB Case No. 2020-22.

26. No Precedence. The Parties agree that this Stipulation and Order shall not constitute a precedent for any other issues or proceedings before the CCB and/or in any other forum, other than those set forth in this Stipulation and Order. Furthermore, this Stipulation and Order shall not be admissible in any other proceeding or action with respect to proof of fact or any other matter and/or any other licensee and/or cannabis establishment registered agent, except proceedings brought to enforce this Stipulation and Order under its terms and/or for the CCB's consideration of future disciplinary action against this Respondent

The CCB may consider the discipline imposed herein in any future disciplinary action against Respondent, as required under NCCR 4.030(2), along with the other factors set forth in NCCR 4.030(2), and possible progressive discipline pursuant to NCCR 4.035 through 4.060. As every case concerns different facts and details, this Stipulation does not act as precedence to bind CCB to impose any particular penalty, to charge or allege any particular violation, and/or to impose any particular disciplinary action in the future for this Respondent, or any other respondent, for violations of the same statutes and/or regulations addressed in this Stipulation and Order. Likewise, CCB is not bound by any previous settlement agreements it has approved in entering into this Stipulation and Order.

- 27. <u>Attorneys' Fees and Costs</u>. The Parties each agree to bear their own attorneys' fees and costs.
 - 28. Further Assurances. The Parties shall cooperate in executing such additional

 documents and performing such further acts as may be reasonably necessary to give effect to the purposes and provisions of this Stipulation and Order.

- 29. Voluntary and Informed Agreement. The Respondent represents that its owners, officers, and/or its directors, who are responsible for and able to legally bind NMG have read completely and understand fully the terms of this Stipulation and Order, that such terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted by Respondent in advance of and as memorialized by the signing of this Stipulation and Order, and that the Respondent's signature to this Stipulation and Order indicates same. Respondent further represents that it has voluntarily entered into this Stipulation and Order to make a full, final, and complete compromise upon the terms and conditions set forth herein. Respondent further represents that any releases, waivers, discharges, covenants, and agreements provided for in this Stipulation and Order have been knowingly and voluntarily granted and without any duress or undue influence of any nature from any person or entity. The Parties, and each of them, hereby expressly acknowledge that they are each represented by counsel of their own choice in this matter and have been advised by counsel accordingly.
- 30. <u>Warranties of Authority</u>. The Parties to this Stipulation and Order, and each of them, expressly warrant and represent to all other Parties that each has the full right, title, and authority to enter into and to carry out its obligations hereunder, with the sole exception of the required approval of this Stipulation and Order by the CCB. The Parties also expressly acknowledge the foregoing authority.
- 31. <u>Binding Effect</u>. This Stipulation and Order shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties hereto and the Parties' respective successors, predecessors, parents, affiliates, shareholders, employees, heirs, executors, assigns, and administrators.
- 32. <u>Construction</u>. The headings of all Sections and Paragraphs of this Stipulation and Order are inserted solely for the convenience of reference and are not a part of the Stipulation and Order and are not intended to govern, limit, or aid in the construction or interpretation of any term or provision of this Stipulation and Order. In the event of a conflict between such caption and the paragraph at the head of which it appears, the

paragraph and not such caption shall govern in the construction of this Stipulation and Order.

- 33. Governing Law. This Stipulation and Order shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, without reference to conflict of law principles.
- 34. <u>Jurisdiction and Forum Selection</u>. The Parties consent to the jurisdiction of the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for Clark County, to resolve any disputes related to the terms or enforcement of this Stipulation and Order. The successful or prevailing Party or Parties in such action shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees, costs, and expenses actually incurred in initiating or responding to such proceeding, in addition to any other relief to which it may be entitled.
- 35. <u>Interpretation</u>. This Stipulation and Order is the result of negotiations among the Parties who have each negotiated and reviewed its terms. In the event a Court ever construes this Agreement, the Parties expressly agree, consent, and assent that such Court shall not construe this Agreement or any provision hereof against any Party as its drafter for purposes of interpreting any ambiguity or uncertainty in this Stipulation and Order.
- 36. <u>Time is of the Essence</u>. Time is of the essence in the performance of all terms of this Stipulation and Order.
- 37. Severability. If any portion of this Stipulation and Order, or its application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall be deemed to any extent to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable as a matter of law, all remaining clauses of this Stipulation and Order and its application thereof shall be not affected and shall remain enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- 38. <u>Counterparts and Copies</u>. This Stipulation and Order may be executed in counterparts, each of which when so executed and upon delivery to counsel of record for the Parties shall be deemed an original ("<u>Counterparts</u>"). This Stipulation and Order shall be deemed executed when Counterparts of this Stipulation and Order have been executed by all the Parties and/or their counsel; such Counterparts taken together shall be deemed to

- 1	II.			
1	be the Agreement. This Stipulation and Order may be executed by signatures provided by			
2	electronic facsimile or email, which signatures shall be binding and effective as original			
3	wet ink signatures hereupon. All fully executed copies of this Stipulation and Order are			
4	duplicate originals, equally admissible in evidence.	duplicate originals, equally admissible in evidence.		
5	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Stipulation	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Stipulation and Order has been executed by the		
6	Parties and attested by their duly authorized representatives as of the date(s) so indicated			
7	The Effective Date of this Stipulation and Order shall be the date it is ordered by the CCB			
8		61/7/2020		
9	II Duniel Charrant (Nine Dun Ni. 11997)	: 12/7/2020		
10	Counsel for Respondent NMG			
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12	Wish Miffor Date	9; 6 Dec 2020		
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14	On behalf of Respondent NMG			
15	MUS Cattle	12/7/2 2		
16	L. Kristopher Rath (Nev. Bar No. 5749) Date Ashley Balducci (Nev. Bar No. 12687)	12/7/2020		
17	Senior Deputy Attorney General			
18	Counsel for Cannabis Compliance Board			
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21	Tyler Klimas, Executive Director for the Cannabis Compliance Board			
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1	ORDER
2	WHEREAS, on Aday of Document, 2020, the Nevada Cannabis
3	Compliance Board approved and adopted all the terms and conditions set forth in the
4	Stipulation and Order for Settlement of Disciplinary Action with NMG.
5	IT IS SO ORDERED.
6	SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE this day of Locuber, 2020
7	STATE OF NEVADA,
8	CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD
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11	By: / / / Down A CHARLE
12	/ HON. MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS, CHAIR
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