BEFORE THE CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD STATE OF NEVADA

STATE OF NEVADA, CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD,

Case No. 2021-44

Petitioner,

VS.

7 | ___

ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE ASSOCIATION, LC,

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 Alternative Medicine Association, LC (hereinafter "AMA" or "Respondent"), by and through its counsel of record, Caleb Zobrist, Esq., General Counsel for AMA. Pursuant to this Stipulation and Order, AMA and CCB (collectively, the "Parties") hereby stipulate and agree that CCB Case No. 2021-44 (the "Administrative Action") shall be fully and finally settled and resolved upon the terms and conditions set out herein.

PERTINENT FACTS

- 1. On August 24, 2021, CCB initiated this disciplinary action via the service and filing of a Complaint for Disciplinary Action (the "Complaint"). The Complaint alleges, inter alia, that, contrary to Nevada law, the AMA medical and adult-use cannabis cultivation facility (C087 and RC087) failed to maintain a required surveillance system.
- 2. On September 13, 2021, AMA filed its Answer, with affirmative defenses and a demand for hearing, in the Administrative Action, generally denying the allegations in the Complaint. The parties then commenced the disciplinary process under NRS 678A.

3. During the time the Parties were engaged in the disciplinary process, the Parties 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 to become effective. Accordingly, the Parties entered into an agreement to stay the disciplinary process (approved by CCB's assigned hearing officer) to allow the CCB to consider this Stipulation and Order for approval.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

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

- 4. AMA 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 AMA's rights to contest the violations pending against it. These rights include representation by an attorney at AMA's own expense, the right to a hearing on any violations and/or allegations formally filed, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses called to testify against AMA, the right to present evidence on AMA's own behalf, the right to have witnesses testify on AMA'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 AMA pursuant to provisions of NRS Chapters 678A through 678D, the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Regulations ("NCCR"), and any other provisions of Nevada law. AMA is waiving all these rights by entering into this Stipulation and Order. If the CCB rejects this Stipulation and Order, AMA reserves the right to withdraw any or all such waivers.
- 5. Should this Stipulation and Order be rejected by the CCB or not timely performed by AMA, 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. AMA acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order shall only become effective after the CCB has approved it.
- 7. AMA enters this Stipulation and Order after being fully advised of AMA'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 AMA. 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, AMA has agreed to settle this matter. For purposes of settling this matter, AMA 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, AMA further acknowledges that certain facts contained in the CCB Complaint in Case No. 2021-44 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 suspension, and/or civil penalties of up to \$25,000 for C087 and RC087, if this matter proceeded 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, AMA specifically admits to the following violation with respect to the Complaint in CCB Case No. 2021-44 for certificate C087 and license RC087:
 - a. One violation of NCCR 4.040(1)(a)(14), for failing to maintain a required surveillance system, which constitutes one Category II violation.

11. As to the remaining allegations in the Complaint, AMA neither admits nor denies those allegations and no civil penalties shall be assessed as to the remaining violations.

- 12. With respect to C087 and RC087, AMA further agrees to pay a civil penalty in the amount of \$20,000¹ 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.
- 13. If the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order, it shall be deemed and considered disciplinary action by the CCB against AMA.
- 14. Both parties acknowledge that the CCB has jurisdiction to consider and order this Stipulation and Order because AMA holds privileged licenses/certificates regulated by the CCB as of July 1, 2020. AMA 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 the CCB's meeting on October 26, 2021.

STIPULATED ADJUDICATION

Based upon the above acknowledgments of the Parties and their mutual agreement, the Parties stipulate and agree that the following terms of discipline shall be imposed by the CCB in this matter:

- 15. <u>Violation</u>: As to licenses C087 and RC087, AMA is found to have committed one Category II violation, as set forth in Paragraph 10, above.
- 16. <u>Imposition of Civil Penalty</u>. AMA shall pay a total civil penalty in the amount of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) within 30 days of the date the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order, to be apportioned as set forth in Paragraph 12, above.
- 17. Payment of Civil Penalty. AMA must pay the civil penalty set forth in this agreement within 30 days of the date the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order². AMA

¹ To be apportioned \$10,000 to C087 and \$10,000 to RC087.

² Should the CCB approve this Stipulation and Order at its October 26, 2021, meeting, payment would be due on Monday, November 29, 2021, as November 25 and 26, 2021, are Nevada State Holidays.

12 13

11

14 15

16 17

18 19

20

22 23

21

24 25

26 27

acknowledges that it is critical to comply with the strict requirements of the deadline for payment. AMA agrees that, should it fail to timely make timely payment of the civil penalty, the following penalties and procedures will be in effect:

- a. CCB will allow a five-business day grace period for late payment³.
- 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, AMA shall be deemed in default and deemed to have admitted all allegations in the CCB Complaint in Case No. 2021-44 and shall pay all penalties and receive all discipline set forth under the "Relief Requested" section of the Complaint, inclusive of a 20 day suspension of licenses C087 and RC087 (effective on the date of the order of default) and civil penalties of \$25,000. 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. If all amounts set forth in this section are not paid within 20 days of the date of the order of default, Respondent's licenses and certificates shall remain suspended until payment is made in full. If all amounts due under this section are not paid within 90 days after the date of the order of default, licenses C087 and RC087 shall be deemed voluntarily surrendered. AMA 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 and that CCB may file any judicial action necessary to recover the amounts owed under this subsection, along with its attorneys' fees and costs for recovery of amounts owed.
- c. AMA may petition the CCB for an extension of 30-days to pay the civil penalty. However, for the CCB to consider any such petition, the CCB

³ If a check or other form of payment is returned for insufficient funds, or otherwise rejected, the failed payment will not be considered a payment and no additional time beyond the five business day grace period will be granted for payment.

must receive said petition no later than 5 business days prior to the payment deadline (which does not include any grace period). The CCB is not required to grant such a petition. In such a petition, AMA 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 17(c), there shall be no grace period on the new payment date. If AMA does not pay by the new payment date, the provisions and penalties of Paragraph 17(b) apply.
- 18. Plan of Correction. Respondent represents and warrants that it has submitted a plan of correction, which CCB staff has approved, that will remedy and prevent the recurrence of the violations set forth in this Stipulation and Order. In summary, the plan of correction includes the following: AMA undertook further investigation and determined that it was unable to provide the video footage CCB staff requested because its camera hard drives had been surreptitiously formatted and the data deleted. To prevent such an occurrence in the future, AMA disabled the remote access software to create a more secure system. AMA also engaged an IT consultant to ensure that an audible and visual notification will be displayed on its computer screens, if there is any system malfunction. 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.
- 19. Contingency if Approval Denied. If approval of this Stipulation and Order is denied by CCB, AMA 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

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

the CCB or its assigned hearing officer. 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 AMA 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. 2021-44 or any other matter involving the CCB.

- 20. Contingency if Approval Conditioned. If the CCB approves this Stipulation 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 AMA 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. 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 AMA 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. 2021-44 or any other matter.
- 21. <u>Closure of Disciplinary Action</u>. Once this Stipulation and Order is fully performed by AMA, the Administrative Action will be closed.
- 22. <u>Communications with CCB Members</u>. AMA understands that this Stipulation and Order will be presented to the CCB in open session at a duly noticed and scheduled CCB meeting. AMA 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, AMA acknowledges that such communications may be made or conducted exparte, without notice or opportunity for AMA 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. AMA agrees that it has no objections to such ex parte communications. CCB agrees that AMA 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 AMA and/or the Attorney General's staff attorneys. AMA agrees that, should the CCB decline to approve this Stipulation and Order, AMA 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.

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

24. 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.

- 25. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The Parties each agree to bear their own attorneys' fees and costs.
- 26. <u>Further Assurances</u>. 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.
- 27. <u>Voluntary and Informed Agreement</u>. The Respondent represents that its owners, officers, and/or its directors, who are responsible for and able to legally bind AMA 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.

- 28. <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.
- 29. <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.
- 30. <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.
- 31. 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.
 - 32. Jurisdiction and Forum Selection. 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.

- 33. <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.
- 34. <u>Time is of the Essence</u>. Time is of the essence in the performance of all terms of this Stipulation and Order.
- 35. 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.
- 36. <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 be the Agreement. This Stipulation and Order may be executed by signatures provided by electronic facsimile or email, which signatures shall be binding and effective as original wet ink signatures hereupon. All fully executed copies of this Stipulation and Order are duplicate originals, equally admissible in evidence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Stipulation and Order has been executed by the Parties and attested by their duly authorized representatives as of the date(s) so indicated.

	PL.	
1	The Effective Date of this Stipulation and Ord	er shall be the date it is ordered by the CCB.
2		
3	11111	
4	M	Date: 16/13/202
5	Caleb Zobrist (Nev. Bar No. 11750) Counsel for Respondent AMA	, ,
6	Source to the police of the po	
7		
8		
9	Margolut	Date: Oct. 12, 2021
10	(printed name: E. Marke 7032(57)	Date.
11	On behalf of Respondent AMA	
12		
13	11000-18-	
14	L. Kristopher Rath (Nev. Bar No. 5749)	Date: Oct. 13, 2021
15	Ashley Balducci (Nev. Bar No. 12687) Senior Deputy Attorney General	
16	Counsel for Cannabis Compliance Board	
17		7 1
18	11/21.	Date: 15/7
19	Tyler Klimas, Executive Director for the	Date.
20	Cannabis Compliance Board	
21	111	
22	111	
23	111	
24	111	
25	111	
26		
27 28		
40		

1	
3	ORDER
4	WHEREAS, on 26th day of October, 2021, the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Boar
5	approved and adopted all the terms and conditions set forth in the Stipulation and Orde
6	for Settlement of Disciplinary Action with AMA.
7	IT IS SO ORDERED.
8	SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE this day of Desorgen 2021.
9	STATE OF NEVADA,
10	CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD
11	
12	Brillakar Long
13	HON. MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS, CHAIR
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25 26	
26 27	
2 <i>1</i> 28	
20	