BEFORE THE CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD STATE OF NEVADA

STATE OF NEVADA, CANNABIS COMPLIANCE BOARD,

Petitioner,

Case No. 2022-61

VS.

ERIK DANIEL RODRIGUEZ,

Respondent.

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STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR SETTLEMENT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The Cannabis Compliance Board of the State of Nevada (the "CCB"), by and through counsel, Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General of the State of Nevada Emily N. Bordelove, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, L. Kristopher Rath, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, Ashley A. Balducci, Esq., Senior Deputy Attorney General, hereby enters into this Stipulation and Order for Settlement of Disciplinary Action ("Stipulation and Order") with ERIK DANIEL RODRIGUEZ ("RODRIGUEZ" or "Respondent") pro se. Under this Stipulation and Order, RODRIGUEZ and the CCB (collectively, the "Parties") hereby stipulate and agree that Case No. 2022-61 (the "Administrative Action") shall be fully and finally settled and resolved upon terms and conditions set out herein.

PERTINENT FACTS

- On February 7, 2022, the CCB initiated this disciplinary action via the service and 1. filing of a Complaint for Disciplinary Action (the "Complaint"). The Complaint alleges that, contrary to Nevada law, RODRIGUEZ failed to verify the age of an underage individual by failing to scan the underage individual's identification card in the fully functioning Veriscan, opting to visually examine the card instead, and allowing the underage individual to purchase cannabis. The Complaint alleged a violation NRS 678B.385(2), a revocable offense, or alternatively violations of NCCR 7.020 & 4.040(1)(a)(3), a Category II violation.
- The CCB granted RODRIGUEZ a fifteen (15) day extension to submit his Answer 2. to the above Complaint.

 3. The Parties have engaged in good faith negotiations to reach an agreement that is mutually acceptable to RODRIGUEZ and counsel for the CCB to resolve this matter, with the understanding that this Stipulation and Order must be approved by a majority vote of the members of the CCB.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

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

- 4. RODRIGUEZ has entered into this Stipulation and Order on his own behalf and with full authority to resolve the claims against him and is aware of his rights to contest the violations pending against him. These rights include representation by an attorney at RODRIGUEZ'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 RODRIGUEZ, the right to present evidence on RODRIGUEZ's own behalf, the right to testify on RODRIGUEZ'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 RODRIGUEZ under provisions of Title 56 of NRS (NRS Chapters 678A through 678D), the Nevada Cannabis Compliance Regulations ("NCCR"), and any other provisions of Nevada law. RODRIGUEZ waves all these rights by entering into this Stipulation and Order.
- 5. Should this Stipulation and Order be rejected by the CCB or not timely performed by RODRIGUEZ, the Parties agree 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, or resolution of these proceedings and that no CCB member shall be disqualified or challenged for bias.
- 6. RODRIGUEZ acknowledges that this Stipulation and Order shall only become effective after the CCB has approved it.
- 7. RODRIGUEZ enters this Stipulation and Order after being fully advised of RODRIGUEZ'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 RODRIGUEZ. It may not be altered, amended, or modified without the express written consent of the Parties. All alterations, amendments, and/or modifications to this Stipulation and Order must be in writing.

- 8. In an effort to avoid the cost and uncertainty of a disciplinary hearing, RODRIGUEZ has agreed to settle this matter. In settling this matter, RODRIGUEZ acknowledges that the facts contained in the paragraphs in the above "Pertinent Facts" portion of this Stipulation and Order are true and correct. RODRIGUEZ further acknowledges that specific facts contained in the Complaint in Case No. 2022-61 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 a civil penalty of \$2,500 and revocation of his cannabis establishment agent registration cards if this matter went to an administrative hearing.
- 9. To resolve the Administrative Action, RODRIGUEZ admits explicitly to allowing an underage individual to purchase cannabis under NCCR 7.020 & 4.040(1)(a)(3), with respect to the Complaint in CCB Case No. 2022-61.
- 10. RODRIGUEZ further agrees to revocation of his cannabis establishment agent registration cards, prior and existing, for a four (4) year period from the date the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order and agrees to pay the civil penalty of \$2,500 within the four (4) year revocation period. If RODRIGUEZ fails to pay the civil penalty of \$2,500 within the four (4) year revocation period, then his cannabis establishment agent registration cards, prior and existing, will be revoked for nine (9) years and eleven (11) months in consideration for his admitted violation of NCCR 7.020 & 4.040(1)(a)(3) and in consideration of CCB's agreement to resolve the Administrative Action on the terms set forth herein. At the end of the four (4) year or nine (9) year and eleven (11) month revocation period, whichever applicable, RODRIGUEZ may request reinstatement of his cannabis establishment agent registration cards from the CCB under NCCR 4.030(b).
 - 11. If the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order, it shall be deemed and considered

 a disciplinary action by the Board against RODRIGUEZ.

12. Both Parties acknowledge that the CCB has jurisdiction to consider and order this Stipulation and Order because RODRIGUEZ holds and/or held a privileged cannabis establishment agent registration cards regulated by the CCB as of July 1, 2020. RODRIGUEZ expressly, knowingly, and intentionally waives the twenty-one (21) day and/or five (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 Board's next meeting on March 22, 2022.

STIPULATED ADJUDICATION

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

- 13. Revocation. RODRIGUEZ's prior and existing cannabis establishment agent registration cards are deemed revoked for a four (4) year period only if RODRIGUEZ pays the civil penalty of \$2,500 within that time, or nine (9) years and eleven (11) months if RODRIGUEZ fails to pay the civil penalty of \$2,500 within the four (4) year revocation period from the CCB, effective on the date the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order. Should RODRIGUEZ seek reinstatement of his cannabis establishment agent registration cards after the revocation period, the CCB may consider this discipline in determining whether to reinstate RODRIGUEZ's cannabis establishment agent registration cards. In exchange for RODRIGUEZ's agreements herein, CCB shall not seek any further discipline against him for the violations alleged in the Complaint in Case No. 2022-61.
- 14. <u>Surrender of Agent Cards</u>. RODRIGUEZ shall surrender any cannabis establishment agent registration cards in his possession to the CCB within thirty (30) days of the date the CCB approves this Stipulation and Order.
- 15. <u>Contingency if Approval Denied</u>. If the CCB denies approval of this Stipulation and Order, RODRIGUEZ 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 the Parties cannot reach such an agreement, 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 outlined in this Paragraph, CCB preserves all its claims and arguments in the Administrative Action as outlined in its Complaint, and RODRIGUEZ preserves all defenses and arguments he may assert. An unapproved Stipulation and Order shall not be admissible as evidence or referenced in argument at any disciplinary hearing in CCB Case No. 2022-61 or any other matter involving the CCB.

- 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 RODRIGUEZ does not agree to the specific 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 the Parties cannot reach such an agreement, 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 outlined in this Paragraph, CCB preserves all its claims and arguments in the Administrative Action as outlined in its Complaint, and RODRIGUEZ preserves all defenses and arguments he may assert. An unapproved Stipulation and Order shall not be admissible as evidence or referenced in argument at any disciplinary hearing in CCB Case No. 2022-61 or any other matter involving the CCB.
- 17. <u>Closure of Disciplinary Action</u>. Once RODRIGUEZ fully performs this Stipulation and Order, the Administrative Action will be closed.
- 18. <u>Communications with CCB Members</u>. RODRIGUEZ understands that this Stipulation and Order will be presented to the CCB in an open session at a duly noticed

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decide at 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 the CCB's acceptance of this Stipulation and Order, counsel for CCB may communicate directly with individual CCB members one at a time. RODRIGUEZ acknowledges that such communications may be made or conducted ex parte, without notice or opportunity for RODRIGUEZ to be heard on his 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. RODRIGUEZ agrees that he has no objections to such ex parte communications. CCB agrees that RODRIGUEZ 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 RODRIGUEZ and/or the Attorney General's staff attorneys. RODRIGUEZ agrees that, should the CCB decline to approve this Stipulation and Order, RODRIGUEZ 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.

and scheduled CCB meeting. RODRIGUEZ understands that the CCB has the right to

19. Release. In execution of this agreement, RODRIGUEZ 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. RODRIGUEZ 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 RODRIGUEZ ever had, now has,

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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 because of, the CCB's investigation of the matters outlined in its Complaint, the matters outlined in this Stipulation and Order, or the administration of Case No. 2022-61.

- 20. No Precedence. The Parties agree that this Stipulation and Order shall not constitute precedent for any other issues or proceedings before the CCB or District Court, other than those outlined in this Stipulation and Order. Furthermore, this Stipulation and Order shall not be admissible in any other proceeding or action with respect to any other matter and/or any other licensee and/or cannabis establishment registration 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 RODRIGUEZ. The CCB may consider the discipline imposed herein in any future disciplinary action against RODRIGUEZ, as required under NCCR 4.030(2), along with the other factors outlined in NCCR 4.030(2), and possible progressive discipline under NCCR 4.035 through 4.060. As every case concerns different facts and details, this Stipulation and Order does not act as precedence, or persuasive authority, to bind the 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 RODRIGUEZ, or any other respondent, for violations of the same statutes and/or regulations addressed in this Stipulation and Order. Likewise, the CCB is not bound by any previous settlement agreements it has approved in entering into this Stipulation and Order.
- 21. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The Parties each agree to bear their own attorneys' fees and costs.
- 22. <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.
- 23. <u>Voluntary and Informed Agreement</u>. RODRIGUEZ represents that he has completely read and fully understands the terms of this Stipulation and Order, that such

not to seek advice from counsel. RODRIGUEZ acknowledges his right and opportunity to have this Stipulation and Order reviewed by counsel of his choice and to obtain advice from said counsel regarding this Stipulation and Order.

24. Warranties of Authority. 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.

terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted by RODRIGUEZ in advance of and as

memorialized by the signing of this Stipulation and Order, and that RODRIGUEZ's

signature to this Stipulation and Order indicates the same. RODRIGUEZ further

represents that he has voluntarily entered into this Stipulation and Order to make a full,

final, and complete compromise upon the terms and conditions set forth herein.

RODRIGUEZ 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 or have had an opportunity to

obtain representation by counsel of their choice and have been advised by counsel or opted

25. <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.

26. <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

27. 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.

- 28. <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.
- 29. <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.
- 30. <u>Time is of the Essence</u>. Time is of the essence in the performance of all terms of this Stipulation and Order.
- 31. 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.
- 32. Counterparts and Copies. 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 and/or the Parties shall be deemed an original ("Counterparts"). 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.

1	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Stipulation and Order has been executed by the
2	Parties and attested by their duly authorized representatives as of the date(s) so indicated.
3	The Effective Date of this Stipulation and Order shall be the date it is ordered by the CCB.
4	Date:03/12/2022
5	ERIK DANIEL RODRIGUEZ, Respondent
6	respondent
7	Date: 03/14/2022
8	EMILY N. EORI NO. 13202) Senior D puty Attorney General
9	Attorneys for the Cannabis Compliance Board
10	TYLER KLIMAS Executive Director for the
11	1 1221 1121 13, 210 Catt, O 2 11 Cotto 101 City
12	Cannabis Compliance Board
13	ORDER
14	WHEREAS, on ZZw day of March, 2022, the Nevada Cannabis
15	Compliance Board approved and adopted all the terms and conditions set forth in the
16	Stipulation and Order for Settlement of Disciplinary Action with ERIK DANIEL
17	RODRIGUEZ.
18	IT IS SO ORDERED.
19	SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE this Zaday of March, 2022.
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21	STATE OF NEVADA,
22	CANNABIS COMPLÍANCE BOARD
23	By: ///charle L. DOUGLAS, CHAIR
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