RECEIVED INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

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BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ADMIN HEARINGS OFFICE

IN RE:

VIOLATIONS:

TRI-STATE PUBLIC ADJUSTERS, INC.

63 P.S. § 1606(a)(13)

2516 South Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19145

:

Respondent.

Docket No. CO18-04-010

CONSENT ORDER

AND NOW, this 10th day of July, 2018, this Order is hereby issued by the Insurance Department of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to the statutes cited above and in disposition of the matter captioned above.

- 1. Respondent hereby admits and acknowledges that it has received proper notice of its rights to a formal administrative hearing pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, 2 Pa.C.S. § 101, et seq., or other applicable law.
- 2. Respondent hereby waives all rights to a formal administrative hearing in this matter, and agrees that this Consent Order, and the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein, shall have the full force and effect of an Order duly entered in accordance with the adjudicatory procedures set forth in the Administrative Agency Law, supra, or other applicable law.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 3. The Insurance Department finds true and correct each of the following Findings of Fact:
 - (a) Respondent is Tri-State Public Adjusters, Inc., and maintains its mailing address at 2516 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145.
 - (b) Respondent is, and at all times relevant hereto has been, a licensed resident public adjuster agency.
 - (c) Ronald Spay, Jr. is the Qualifying Active Officer for the Respondent.
 - (d) Respondent, under the management of Ronald Spay, Jr., between

 December 2016 and December 2017, failed to supervise the business

 practices of the agency, the contracts its representatives were writing, and
 employees of the agency.
 - (e) Respondent, between December 2016 and December 2017, admits that numerous contracts were written by public adjusters without the knowledge or authorization of Ronald Spay, Jr.

- (f) Respondent admits that between December 2016 and December 2017, public adjusters collected fees pursuant to signed contracts by insureds from insurance companies while manager Ronald Spay, Jr. was unaware of the contracts and sales practices of its representatives.
- (g) Respondent admits that between December 2016 and December 2017,

 public adjusters employed by Respondent, engaged in numerous activities

 which led to criminal charges against them by the Allegheny County

 Detectives Office and Respondent was not aware of the activity.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 4. In accord with the above Findings of Fact and applicable provisions of law, the Insurance Department concludes and finds the following Conclusions of Law:
 - (a) Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Insurance

 Department.
 - (b) 63 P.S. § 1606(a)(13) prohibits a public adjuster from demonstrating incompetence or untrustworthiness to transact the business of a public adjuster.

- (c) Respondent's activities in paragraphs 3(d) through 3(g) violate 63 P.S. § 1606(a)(13).
- (d) Respondent's violations of § 1606(a)(13) are punishable by a fine, suspension and revocation of licenses under § 1606(a) and the following, under 63 P.S. § 1606(b): The Insurance Commissioner may impose a penalty of not more than \$5,000 for every violation of this Act.

ORDER

- 5. In accord with the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Insurance Department orders and Respondent consents to the following:
 - (a) Respondent shall cease and desist from engaging in the activities described herein in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
 - (b) All licenses of Respondent to do the business of insurance are hereby revoked.
 - (c) If Respondent should ever become licensed in the future, its licenses may be immediately suspended by the Department following its investigation and determination that (i) any terms of this Order have not been complied

with, or (ii) any complaint against Respondent is accurate and a statute or regulation has been violated. The Department's right to act under this section is limited to a period of ten (10) years from the date of issuance of such licenses.

- (d) Respondent specifically waives its right to prior notice of said suspension, but will be entitled to a hearing upon written request received by the Department no later than thirty (30) days after the date the Department mailed to Respondent by certified mail, return receipt requested, notification of said suspension, which hearing shall be scheduled for a date within sixty (60) days of the Department's receipt of Respondent's written request.
- (e) At the hearing referred to in paragraph 5(d) of this Order, Respondent shall have the burden of demonstrating that it is worthy of an insurance license.
- (f) In the event Respondent's licenses are suspended pursuant to paragraph 5(c) above, and Respondent either fails to request a hearing within thirty (30) days or at the hearing fails to demonstrate that it is worthy of a license, Respondent's suspended licenses shall be revoked.

- 6. In the event the Insurance Department find that there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein, the Department may pursue any and all legal remedies available, including but not limited to the following: The Department may enforce the provisions of this Order in an administrative action pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, <u>supra</u>, or other relevant provisions of law; or, if applicable, the Department may enforce the provisions of this Order in any other court of law or equity having jurisdiction.
- 7. Alternatively, in the event the Insurance Department finds there has been a breach of any of the provisions of this Order, the Department may declare this Order to be null and void and, thereupon, reopen the entire matter for appropriate action pursuant to the Administrative Agency Law, <u>supra</u>, or other relevant provision of law.
- 8. In any such enforcement proceeding, Respondent may contest whether a breach of the provisions of this Order has occurred but may not contest the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law contained herein.
- 9. Respondent hereby expressly waives any relevant statute of limitations and application of the doctrine of laches for purposes of any enforcement of this Order.

10. This Order constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters referred to herein, and it may not be amended or modified except by an amended order signed by all the parties hereto.

11. This Order shall be final upon execution by the Insurance Department.

Only the Insurance Commissioner or a duly authorized delegee is authorized to bind the Insurance Department with respect to the settlement of the alleged violations of law contained herein, and this Consent Order is not effective until executed by the Insurance Commissioner or duly authorized delegee.

BY: TRI-STATE PUBLIC ADJUSTERS, INC., Respondent

President/Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

By: CHRISTOPHER R. MONAHAN

Deputy Insurance Commissioner

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE:

The Act of April 9, 1929, P.L. 177, No. 175, known as The

Administrative Code of 1929

Jessica K. Altman
Insurance Commissioner

