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HEARINGS UNIT OFFICE OF INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

## BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of

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MARIO T. MATHEWS

NO. 16-0215

Respondents.

DEMAND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Mario Mathews being aggrieved by the acts and threatened acts of the Office of Insurance Commissioner Order Revoking License No. 16-0215 dated August 16, 2016 hereby demand a hearing in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 48.04 RCW, and Title 34 RCW.

DATED this 5th day of September 2016.

RYAN, SWANSON & CLEVELAND, PLLC

Ву

Gulliver A. Swenson, WSBA # 35974 Attorneys for Respondents

1201 Third Avenue, Suite 3400 Seattle, Washington 98101-3034 Telephone: (206) 464-4224 Facsimile: (206) 583-0359 swenson@ryanlaw.com

DEMAND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING - 1



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## STATE OF WASHINGTON OFFICE OF THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

In The Matter of

MARIO T. MATHEWS,

Licensee.

ORDER NO. 16-0215

WAOIC NO. 747279 NPN

14382719

ORDER REVOKING LICENSE

To: MARIO T. MATHEWS 4826 N 7th Street Tacoma WA 98406

IT IS ORDERED AND YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that your Washington State insurance producer license is REVOKED, effective September 6, 2016, pursuant to RCW 48.17.530.

## BASIS:

- Mario T. Mathews ("the Licensee") is a Washington resident insurance producer, 1. WAOIC No. 747279, licensed July 10, 2009.
- 2. On January 15, 2016, the Office of the Insurance Commissioner received a complaint from Safeco Insurance Company ("Safeco"). While the Licensee was an agent affiliated with Align Insurance, a Safeco-appointed agency, he processed numerous endorsements for his Safeco homeowners, vehicle, and umbrella policies. The transactions were processed through the Safeco Quote and Issue system, allowing the Licensee to issue policies and endorsements online. The endorsements resulted in a reduction of premium and the issuing of refund checks to the Licensee by Safeco. The Licensee would then process a new endorsement reversing the previous

ORDER REVOKING LICENSE ORDER NO. 16-0215

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State of Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner PO Box 40255 Olympia, WA 98504-0255

change and causing the premium to increase. The Licensee would then make a payment to Safeco via credit card for the increased premium. The endorsements were usually backdated. The total amount of the above transactions amounted to \$129,382.08 (the total amount of the refund checks issued to the Licensee by Safeco plus the credit card payments he made for the increased premium).

- 3. Safeco discussed this matter with the Licensee who admitted to the activity stating that he was trying to obtain "elite" status for his credit card. Review of the transactions found that the Licensee used two American Express cards, four Visa cards, and one MasterCard to make the payments to Safeco. The Licensee processed thirty-two fraudulent endorsements and made false statements by endorsing two luxury cars that he did not have an insurable interest in. The Licensee also fraudulently added ninety-nine drivers under the age of twenty-five and reported ninety-eight additional residence occupants as well as ninety-nine additional cars in the household and seventy-five company vehicles. Align Insurance was not aware of the Licensee's actions and immediately terminated the Licensee's affiliation with the agency on January 7, 2016.
- 4. RCW 48.30.210 states a person, who knowingly makes a false or misleading statement or impersonation, or who willfully fails to reveal a material fact, in or relative to an application for insurance to an insurer, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor, and the license of any such person may be revoked.
- 5. RCW 48.17.530(l)(b) allows the Insurance Commissioner to place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew an insurance producer's license, or to levy a civil penalty in accordance with RCW 48.17.560 for violating any rule, subpoena, or order of the Insurance Commissioner or of another state's insurance commissioner.
- 6. RCW 48.17.530(1)(e) allows the Insurance Commissioner to place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew an insurance producer's license, or to levy a civil penalty in accordance with RCW 48.17.560 for intentionally misrepresenting the terms of an actual or proposed insurance contract or application for insurance.
- 7. RCW 48.17.530(l)(h) allows the Insurance Commissioner to place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew an insurance producer's license for using fraudulent, coercive, or dishonest practices, or demonstrating incompetence, untrustworthiness, or financial irresponsibility in this state or elsewhere.
  - 8. By processing thirty-two fraudulent endorsements, making false statements by

ORDER REVOKING LICENSE ORDER NO. 16-0215 endorsing two luxury cars that he did not have an insurable interest in, for fraudulently adding ninety-nine drivers under the age of twenty-five, reporting ninety-eight additional residence occupants as well as ninety-nine additional cars in the household and seventy-five company vehicles, the Licensee violated RCW 48.30.210, RCW 48.17.530(1)(b), RCW 48.17.530(1)(e), and RCW 48.17.530(l)(h), justifying the revocation of his license.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that you return your insurance producer's license certificate to the Insurance Commissioner on or before the effective date of the revocation of your license, as required by RCW 48.17.530(4). Return your license to:

> Licensing Manager Office of the Insurance Commissioner P. O. Box 40255 Olympia, WA 98504-0255

MIKE KREIDLER

Insurance Commissioner

By and through his designee

MARCIA G. STICKLER

Insurance Enforcement Specialist

Legal Affairs Division