

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS
9625 FENWAY AVENUE, SUITE B
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1592
(225) 925-4802

IN THE MATTER OF:)
PREVOT DESIGN SERVICES, APAC)
RESPONDENT)
_____)
CASE NO. 2021-02

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Prevot Design Services, APAC [hereinafter "Respondent Corporation"], by and through its duly authorized undersigned representative, hereby agree to the following:

Respondent Corporation was first issued a certificate of authority in the State of Louisiana as a professional architectural corporation, number AC0413, on March 7, 2005; however, its certificate of authority was in an expired status from July 1, 2016, through March 5, 2020.

On March 3, 2020, Respondent Corporation submitted its reinstatement application to the Board which suggested that the Respondent Corporation practiced and/or offered to practice architecture in the State of Louisiana when its certificate was expired. The Board opened an investigation based upon the renewal application. The investigation disclosed that between July 1, 2016, and March 5, 2020, Respondent Corporation, as a professional architectural corporation, practiced and/or offered to practice architecture in Louisiana. The Board acknowledges that it knew that Respondent Corporation had not renewed its certificate of authority during this time period; however, the Board did not know that Respondent Corporation was practicing architecture during this time.

La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) prohibits certificate holders from practicing architecture in Louisiana without proper certification. La. R.S. 37:154(A) prohibits any person from practicing, or offering to practice, architecture in Louisiana without being properly certified. La. R.S. 37:153 and La. R.S. 37:154(A) authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) and La. R.S. 37:154(A) upon finding of guilt following notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) and La. R.S. 37:154(A) were in effect at all times material hereto.

Respondent Corporation acknowledges that its certificate of authority was in an expired status from July 1, 2016, through March 5, 2020, and during this time period Respondent Corporation practiced architecture in Louisiana.

By letter dated April 23, 2021, the Board gave notice to Respondent Corporation that it was considering the preferral of charges against it on the grounds that it may have violated La. R.S. 37:153(A)(3) and La. R.S. 37:154(A) relative to practicing and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana with an expired certificate of authority during the period of July 1, 2016, through March 5, 2020.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further proceedings and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, and for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent Corporation and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent Corporation of its own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent Corporation agrees to (a) pay a fine of four thousand and no/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars, (b) pay administrative costs of one thousand five hundred eighty-two and 85/100 (\$1,582.85) dollars, and (c) the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website, the publication of a summary of this matter in the Board's official newsletter, *Louisiana Architect*, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), all identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent Corporation acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that it will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of its right to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in its own behalf, it hereby waives this right and its right to appeal, and it states affirmatively that it has been afforded all administrative remedies due it under the law. Respondent Corporation further acknowledges awareness of the fact that the signed original of this Consent Order will remain in the custody of the Board as a public record and will be made available for public inspection and copying upon request.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by signing this Consent Order, Respondent Corporation does hereby waive its right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in its behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent Corporation hereby represents that (a) it fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, (b) it has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order, and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with it by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument, and (c) the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent Corporation on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners and Respondent Corporation agree that:

1. Respondent Corporation shall pay a fine of four thousand and no/100 (\$4,000.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Treasurer, State of Louisiana, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent Corporation shall pay administrative costs of one thousand five hundred eighty-two and 85/100 (\$1,582.85) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website, a summary of this matter shall be published in the official newsletter of the Board, *Louisiana Architect*, and this matter shall be reported to the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), all identifying Respondent by name; and

4. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members, staff, attorneys or representatives from further participation, consideration, or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

DATE: 6/21/2021

BY: K E Hellegas
KATHERINE E. HELLEGAS, Executive Director

PREVOT DESIGN SERVICES, APAC, Respondent

DATE: 6/10/21

BY: Mark W. Prevot
MARK W. PREVOT, President

Witnesses to the signature of
Prevot Design Services, APAC

Sara George
Print Name: Sara George

Geoff Ferguson
Print Name: Geoff Ferguson