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

IN THE MATTER OF:) CASE NO. 2018-07
)
WARD ELMO BRYANT, JR.)
)
RESPONDENT)
)
_____)

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 Ward Elmo Bryant, Jr. [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

On September 16, 1992 Respondent was issued Certificate (license) number 4391 to practice in the State of Louisiana as an Architect. Respondent's annual renewal for 2014 was withheld for twenty-one (21) days after Respondent notified the Board of his arrest and one charge filed in Louisiana First Judicial Court (Case No. 320055). On January 21, 2014 the Board renewed the Respondent's architectural license effective January 1, 2014. Respondent's license was renewed for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

An investigation was opened based upon information and documents received on February 6, 2018, from the Respondent which stated that Respondent had pled guilty to a felony under the laws of the State of Louisiana. The investigation disclosed that on February 5, 2018, Respondent pled guilty to one count of the felony of distribution of a Schedule II, Controlled Dangerous Substance under La. R.S. 40:967(A)(1)(A) in the Louisiana First Judicial District Court (Case No. 320055). The following sanctions were imposed by the court, a fine of three thousand and no/100 (\$3,000.00) dollars, associated court costs and a sentence of seven (7) years of hard labor, which was suspended and the Respondent was placed on supervised probation for three (3) years and required to perform two hundred (200) hours of community service.

La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) authorizes the Board to discipline any registrant or certificate holder convicted of a felony. La. R.S. 37:153 authorizes the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) 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 and La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that Respondent pled guilty to a felony under the laws of Louisiana.

By letter dated July 20, 2018, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that he may have violated La. R.S. 37:153(A)(4) relative to pleading guilty to a felony.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, and for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of his own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to **(a)** the suspension of his Louisiana architect license for a period of three (3) years [hereinafter "Suspension Period"] beginning on September 28, 2018, **(b)** immediately cease and desist the practicing of and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana until the Suspension Period is over, **(c)** return his Louisiana certificate of architectural licensure and any and all architectural seals to the Board, **(d)** pay a fine of three thousand and no/100 (\$3,000.00) dollars, with one third of the total due by the one (1), two (2) and three (3) year anniversaries of the ratification of the Consent Order, **(e)** pay administrative costs of nine hundred sixty-three and 57/100 (\$963.57) dollars with one third of the total due by the one (1), two (2) and three (3) year anniversaries of the ratification of the Consent Order, **(f)** the revocation of his Louisiana architect license if he fails to make the scheduled payments to the Board and **(g)** the publication of this Consent Order on the Board's website and 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), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits that his conduct as set forth above constitutes violations of the above-referenced laws and/or rules as stated herein. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his 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 his own behalf, he hereby waives this right and his right to appeal, and he states affirmatively that he has

been afforded all administrative remedies due him under the law. Respondent 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 does hereby waive his right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in his behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents that **(a)** he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect, **(b)** he has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with him 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 on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

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

1. Respondent's Louisiana architect license, number 4391, shall be suspended for a period of three (3) years beginning on September 28, 2018; and
2. Respondent shall immediately cease and desist the practicing of and/or offering to practice architecture in Louisiana until the Suspension Period is over; and
3. Respondent shall return his Louisiana certificate of architectural licensure and any and all architectural seals to the Board within ten (10) business days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and
4. Respondent shall pay a fine of three thousand and no/100 (\$3,000.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Treasurer, State of Louisiana, with one third of the total due by the one (1), two (2) and three (3) year anniversaries of the ratification of the Consent Order; and

5. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of nine hundred sixty-three and 57/100 (\$963.57) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners, with one third of the total due by the one (1), two (2) and three (3) year anniversaries of the ratification of the Consent Order; and

6. If Respondent fails to make any of the scheduled payments during the Suspension Period, then his Louisiana architects license, number 4391, shall be automatically and immediately revoked; and

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

8. 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: 9/28/18

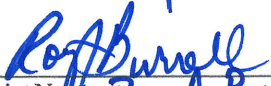
BY: K E Hilligas
KATHERINE E. HILLIGAS, Executive Director

DATE: 09/24/2018

BY: Ward Elmo Bryant, Jr.
WARD ELMO BRYANT, JR., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Ward Elmo Bryant, Jr.


Print Name: Stephanie Bryant


Print Name: Roy A. Burrell