

March 25, 2016

Victor H. Rodriguez
Four Stars Painting Co.
605 SW 68 Avenue
Miami, FL 33144

Re: Our File Number: REG. 1508-00002/KBU

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Construction Codes and Licensing Division, has received evidence that your company has engaged in violations of Minn. Stat. § 181.723(2014) and Minn. Stat. §326B.081 to 326B.085 (2014).

Enclosed is an Administrative Order we issued today by which you are ordered to pay a monetary penalty of \$7,000. The \$5,000 penalty for failure to respond to the subpoena duces tecum is due and payable 10 days after the date the Administrative Order becomes final. If you fail to register successfully with the Registration Program within the required 31 day period, the forgivable portion of the penalty, \$2,000, will be due and payable 20 days after the date the Administrative Order becomes final.

You have the right to contest the Administrative Order by requesting a hearing within 30 days of the issuance of the Order. In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing would be held before an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") who, after hearing the evidence, would make a determination of whether or not violations have occurred.

The ALJ would then issue a recommendation to the Commissioner as to whether the violations were proven and the penalty reasonable. If the ALJ finds that the violation occurred and the penalty is reasonable, the Order will become final and the monetary penalty will become due and owing. Once the Order becomes final, the monetary penalty will be reduced to a judgment in Ramsey County District Court and any other appropriate district court, and collection procedures will commence. You would have the right to be represented by legal counsel throughout these proceedings, but you are not required to have one.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, or the enclosed Order, feel free to contact the undersigned investigator directly.

Sincerely,



Karen Bugar
Senior Investigator
Tel: 651-284-5374
Fax: 651-284-5749
E-mail: karen.bugar@state.mn.us

Enclosure: Administrative Order

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Labor and Industry

In the Matter of Four Stars Painting Co.
and Victor H. Rodriguez, individually

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
WITH PENALTY**

I. ORDER

The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Commissioner”) issues this Order against Four Stars Painting Co. and Victor H. Rodriguez, individually (“Respondents”).

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 181.723; 326B.082, subd. 7; and 326B.083 (2014), the Commissioner hereby assesses against Respondents, jointly and severally, a monetary penalty of \$7,000, \$2,000 of which shall be forgiven if Respondents demonstrate to the Commissioner by the 31st day after this Administrative Order is issued that Respondents successfully registered with the Minnesota Construction Contractor Registration Program (“Registration Program”).

The Commissioner also hereby orders Respondents to cease and desist from violating the laws cited in the “Conclusions of Law” section of this Administrative Order. Specifically, the Commissioner orders Respondents to cease and desist from performing public or private sector commercial or residential building construction or improvement services for which registration in the Registration Program is required. The cease and desist order remains in effect until compliance with the registration requirements of Minn. Stat. § 326B.701, subd. 2(b) (2014) is achieved.

The Commissioner takes the above action based upon the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondents are engaged in the business of providing building construction or improvement services, and were identified as a subcontractor in the business records of Global Painting Inc. (“Global”) of Oldsmar, Florida. Respondents are neither licensed by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Department”) nor registered with the Registration Program.
2. According to the records of the Florida Department of State, Respondent Four Stars Painting Co. registered as a profit corporation on January 6, 2003 with a registered office address of 605 SW 68 Avenue, Miami FL 33144. Respondent Victor H. Rodriguez (“Rodriguez”) is the principal of Four Stars Painting Co.

3. Global's business records that were obtained by the Department include a written contract and documentation of payments in the amount of \$149,723.89 made to Four Stars Painting Co. for labor provided on a construction project at 2508 Delaware St. SE, Minneapolis, MN.
4. On August 3, 2015, the Department opened an investigation of Respondents based on information that indicated Respondents may have engaged in violations of the Minnesota statutes and rules governing worker classification in the construction industry.
5. On August 10, 2015, a Department investigator mailed a subpoena duces tecum via first-class and certified mail to Respondents. The subpoena required the production of documentation relating to Respondents' subcontractors, contractors, and employees.
6. On August 20, 2015, Global's principal for telephoned the Department investigator and stated that Rodriguez was an employee Global but also acted as a subcontractor in some cases. The work Global performed in Minnesota was subcontracted to Respondents. The investigator asked Global's principal to tell Rodriguez that the Department still required a written response to the subpoena from Respondents.
7. On November 18, 2015, the Department investigator mailed a warning letter to the Respondents requesting compliance and a written response to the subpoena duces tecum.
8. The Department has not received a reply from Respondents as of the date of this Order.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondents committed violations of applicable law. Minn. Stat. §§ 181.723, 326B.701, and 326B.082, subd. 7 (2014).
2. Respondents provided building construction or improvement services without being registered with the Registration Program. Minn. Stat. § 326B.701, subd. 2 (2014).
3. Respondents failed to comply with a subpoena issued by the Commissioner. Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 11 (b)(6) (2014).

IV. DETERMINATION OF PENALTY AMOUNT

In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner considered: the extent of deviation from compliance; whether the violations were willful; the gravity of the violations; the number of violations; whether there is a history of past violations; whether Respondents gained economic benefit in not complying with the law; and other factors as justice may require.

V. REQUEST FOR HEARING

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2014), Respondents shall have 30 days after issuance of this Administrative Order to request a hearing. A request for hearing must be in writing and must be served on or faxed to the Commissioner at the following address or fax number by the deadline.

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
CCLD – Enforcement Services Unit
Attention: Charlie Durenberger
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Fax number: (651) 284-5746

The date on which a request for hearing is served by mail shall be the postmark date on the envelope in which the request for hearing is mailed. The request for hearing must specifically state the reasons for seeking review of the order. If the request for hearing is served by fax it cannot exceed 15 pages in length and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. central time on the last day permitted for serving a request. Respondents' review rights are more thoroughly described in Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subds. 4 and 8 (2014).

If Respondents submit to the Commissioner a timely request for hearing, the Administrative Order shall be stayed unless otherwise ordered by a judge, and a contested case hearing will be conducted. The contested case procedures are set out in chapter 14 of Minnesota Statutes, the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. Rules 1400.5010 to 1400.8400 (2015), and Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2014). These materials may be purchased from the Minnesota Book Store, telephone (651) 297-3000, and are also available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

VI. EFFECT OF FINAL ORDER

If Respondents do not request a hearing or Respondents' request for a hearing is not served on or faxed to the Commissioner by the deadline specified in the "Request for Hearing" section of this Administrative Order, this Administrative Order shall become a final order of the Commissioner and will not be subject to review by any court or agency. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2014).

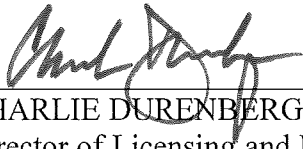
The \$5,000 portion of the monetary penalty assessed upon Respondents by this Administrative Order that is not forgivable is due and payable on the date the Administrative Order becomes final. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.083, subd. 3(a) (2014). The \$2,000 portion of the monetary penalty imposed upon Respondents by this Administrative Order is forgivable. However, if the Commissioner determines that Respondents failed to successfully register in the Registration Program within 31 days after the issuance of this Administrative Order, then the forgivable portion of the penalty is due and payable 20 days after the Commissioner serves

notice of this determination or on the date this Administrative Order becomes final, whichever is later. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.083, subd. 3(a) (2014).

When this Administrative Order becomes final, the Commissioner may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the penalty as a judgment in district court without further notice or additional proceedings. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 16D.17 and 326B.083, subd. 2 (2014). Failure to pay a monetary penalty owed may result in the revocation, suspension, or denial of any or all licenses, permits, certificates, and registrations issued by the Commissioner. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 17 (2014). Also, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2014), Respondents are hereby notified that thirty (30) days after the date this Administrative Order becomes final, simple interest computed in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16D.13, subd. 2 (2014) will begin to accrue on the unpaid portion of the penalty.

Dated: 3/25/16

KEN B. PETERSON
Commissioner


BY: _____
CHARLIE DURENBERGER
Director of Licensing and Enforcement
Construction Codes and Licensing Division
Department of Labor and Industry