

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Labor and Industry

In the Matter of MEJIA BLANCO PAINTING INC.

**LICENSING ORDER
WITH PENALTY**

I. ORDER

The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Commissioner”) issues this Order against MEJIA BLANCO PAINTING INC. (“Respondent”).

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 326B.701, subd. 6; 326B.082, subd. 12 (b); and 326B.083 (2016), the Commissioner hereby assesses against Respondent a monetary penalty of \$5,000.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subds. 11(b) and 12 (2016) and Minn. Stat. § 326B.083 (2016), the Commissioner hereby suspends the Contractor Registration of Respondent, No. IR706675, until such time that Respondent provides a complete answer to the Commissioner’s October 26, 2017 subpoena and pays the monetary penalty imposed herein.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 12 (b) (2016), the Commissioner also hereby orders Respondent and its principals, including Christiam George, during the period of contractor registration suspension, to cease and desist from performing public or private sector commercial or residential building construction or improvement services for which registration in the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry’s (“Department”) Construction Contractor Registration Program (“Registration Program”) is required.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 11(a)(b)(5) (2016), the Commissioner also hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from registering in the Registration Program under the business name MEJIA BLANCO PAINTING INC., or any other business or personal name.

The Commissioner takes the above action based upon the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Since September 15, 2012, Minnesota law has required all contractors who provide or offer to provide commercial or residential building construction or improvement services in Minnesota to be registered in the Department’s Construction Contractor Registration Program (“Registration Program”) if they are not required by the Department to hold a license.
2. On April 14, 2016, Respondent registered with the Department in the Registration Program and was issued registration No. IR706675. Respondent named Christiam George as its sole owner with an address of 2735 Chisholm Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

3. On October 20, 2017, the Department opened an investigation of Respondent based on information indicating that Respondent may have engaged in violations of the Minnesota statutes governing the classification of workers in the construction industry.
4. On October 26, 2017, a Department investigator mailed a subpoena duces tecum via first-class and certified mail to Respondent at both 2735 Chisholm Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota and 1067 Wilson Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota. The latter address was listed as the Registered Offices for Respondent with the Minnesota Secretary of State.
5. The first-class mailings were not returned to the Commissioner by the U.S. Postal Services ("USPS"). The certified mailing to the Wilson Avenue address was returned to the Commissioner marked "UNABLE TO FORWARD."
6. The certified mail return receipt for the Chisholm Avenue address was returned to the Commissioner by the USPS with an illegible signature dated October 30, 2017.
7. On December 4, 2017, the Department investigator mailed a follow up letter with a copy of the subpoena via first-class and certified mail to the same two addresses.
8. None of these mailings have been returned to the Commissioner by the USPS as of the date of this Licensing Order.
9. As of the date of this Licensing Order, Respondent has not contacted the Department or responded to the Commissioner's October 26, 2017 subpoena.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent committed a violation of applicable law. Minn. Stat. §§ 181.723, 326B.701, and 326B.082, subd. 11(b)(1) (2016).
2. Respondent failed to comply with a subpoena issued by the Commissioner. Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 11(b)(6) (2016).

IV. DETERMINATION OF PENALTY AMOUNT

In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner considered: the extent of deviation from compliance; whether the violation was willful; the gravity of the violation; the number of violations; whether there is a history of past violations; whether Respondent 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. 12(c) (2016), Respondent shall have 30 days after issuance of this Licensing 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. 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. Respondent's review rights are more thoroughly described in Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subds. 4 and 12(c) (2016).

If Respondent submits to the Commissioner a timely request for hearing, this Licensing 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 the Minnesota Statutes, and the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. Rules 1400.5010 to 1400.8400 (2015), and Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 12(c) (2016). 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 Respondent does not request a hearing or Respondent's request for a hearing is not served on or faxed to the Commissioner by 30 days after issuance of this Licensing Order, this Licensing 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. 12(c) (2016).


Respondent is prohibited from applying for reinstatement of his contractor registration until such time full compliance with the terms of this Licensing Order has been achieved.

The monetary penalty assessed against the Respondent by this Licensing Order is due and payable on the date the Licensing Order becomes final. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.083, subd. 3(a) (2016). When this Licensing 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 (2016) and 326B.083, subd. 2 (2016). 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 (2016).

Also, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2016), Respondent is hereby notified that thirty (30) days after the date this Licensing Order becomes final, simple interest computed in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16D.13, subd. 2 (2016) will begin to accrue on the unpaid portion of the penalty.

Dated: 12/27/17

KEN B. PETERSON
Commissioner

BY: 

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