

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Labor and Industry

In the Matter of the Construction Contractor
Registration of Rivas Construction Inc

**LICENSING ORDER
WITH PENALTY**

I. ORDER

The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Commissioner”) issues this Order against Respondent Rivas Construction Inc.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 181.723, subd. 4(a) (1); 326B.082, subd. 12(b); and 326B.083 (2018), the Commissioner hereby assesses against Respondent a monetary penalty of \$4,000.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 326B.082, subds. 11(b) and 12, and 326B.083 (2018), the Commissioner hereby suspends the construction contractor registration of Respondent, No. IR750861, until such time that Respondent provides a complete response to the Commissioner’s April 10, 2019 subpoena and subsequent requests for documentation, and pays the monetary penalty assessed above.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 12 (b) (2018), the Commissioner also hereby orders Respondent and its principal(s) to cease and desist from performing public or private sector commercial or residential building construction or improvement services for which registration in the Construction Contractor Registration Program (“Registration Program”) is required until full compliance with this Licensing Order is achieved, including the submission of a complete response to the Commissioner’s April 10, 2019 subpoena and payment of the monetary penalty assessed above.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 11(a)(b)(5) (2018), the Commissioner also hereby orders Respondent and its principal(s) to cease and desist from registering in the Registration Program under the business name Rivas Construction Inc or any other business name.

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

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is engaged in the business of providing building construction or improvement services and holds a construction contractor registration, No. IR750861, issued by the Commissioner on January 19, 2019.

2. In its registration, Respondent asserted that it was owned solely by Jorge Rivas and that its business address is 1665 Marion Street #105, St. Paul, MN.
3. According to the records of the Minnesota Secretary of State, Rivas Construction Inc. was filed as a Minnesota corporation on April 19, 2011 with a registered office at 1640 Cumberland Street #12, St. Paul, MN. The filing is active.
4. As a registered construction contractor, Respondent must adhere to the Minnesota statutes and regulations governing Contractor Registration and construction worker classification, Minn. Stat. §§ 181.723, 326B.701, and 326B.081 to 326B.085 (2018) and Minn. R. Chapter 5224 (2017).
5. As a result of a review of the records of e-Con LLC (“e-Con”), the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Department”) opened an investigation of Respondent on April 2, 2019 to determine whether Respondent had engaged in violations of the statutes and rules governing the classification of workers in the construction industry. The records showed that Rivas Construction Inc. performed construction services for e-Con from May 16, 2017 until November 11, 2018, prior to Respondent’s registration in the Registration Program.
6. On April 10, 2019, a Department investigator mailed a subpoena duces tecum via first-class and certified mail to Respondent at the Marion Street address it provided in its registration with a copy to the Cumberland Street address.
7. The subpoena required the production of documentation relating to Respondent’s subcontractors, contractors, and employees. The subpoena sent via certified mail to the Marion Street address was returned marked “Unclaimed” by the United States Postal Service (“USPS”). Neither the first-class mail to the Cumberland Street nor the Marion Street address was returned by the USPS.
8. On June 5, 2019, the Department investigator mailed a second letter requesting the information to Respondent at both the Cumberland Street and the Marion Street addresses. Neither was returned by the USPS.
9. The subpoena required a response from Respondent within 30 days of the Commissioner’s service of the same.
10. The Commissioner has received no reply from Respondent as of the date of this Order.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent committed violations of applicable law. Minn. Stat. §§ 181.723 (2018) 326B.082, subd. 11 (b)(1) and 326B.701 Subd. 2 (a) (b) (2018).

2. Respondent failed to comply with a subpoena and subsequent request for information from the Commissioner. Minn. Stat. §§ 326B.082, subds. 2(b) and 11(b)(6) (2018).
3. Respondent performed residential or commercial construction services without proper licensing or registration. Minn. Stat. § 326B.701, subd. 5(b)(1) (2018).

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 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) (2018), 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) (2018).

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) (2018). 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) (2018).

Respondent is prohibited from applying for reinstatement of its contractor registration until full compliance with the terms of this Licensing Order is achieved, including the submission of a complete response to the Commissioner's April 10, 2019 subpoena and payment of the \$4,000 monetary penalty assessed in this Order.

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) (2018). 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 (2018) and 326B.083, subd. 2 (2018). 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 (2018). Also, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2018), 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 (2018) will begin to accrue on the unpaid portion of the penalty.

Dated: 7/12/19

NANCY J. LEPPINK
Commissioner

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