# DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE P. O. Box 187007 Sacramento, CA 95818-7007 Telephone: (916) 227-0791 DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

By R. Slewy

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

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R&C RESOLUTION SERVICES, ROSALINDA MUNOZ, and		) NO. H- 2442 FR ) )
CARMEN CARDENAS,		) ORDER TO DESIST AND ) REFRAIN ) (B&P Code Section 10086)
	Respondents.	)

The Commissioner (Commissioner) of the California Department of Real Estate (Department) caused an investigation to be made of the activities of R&C RESOLUTION SERVICES ("R&C"), ROSALINDA MUNOZ ("R. MUNOZ"), and CARMEN CARDENAS ("CARDENAS"). Based on that investigation, the Commissioner has determined that R&C, R. MUNOZ and CARDENAS have engaged in, are engaging in, or are attempting to engage in, acts or practices constituting violations of the California Business and Professions Code (Code) and/or Title 10, Chapter 6, California Code of Regulations (Regulations), including the business of, acting in the capacity of, and/or advertising or assuming to act as, a real estate broker in the State of California within the meaning of Section 10131(d) (performing services for borrowers in

connection with loans secured by real property) of the Code. Furthermore, based on the investigation, the Commissioner hereby issues the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Desist and Refrain Order under the authority of Section 10086 of the Code.

Whenever acts referred to below are attributed R&C, those acts are alleged to have been done by R. MUNOZ and/or CARDENAS, acting by themselves, or by and/or through one or more agents, associates, affiliates, and/or co-conspirators, including, but not limited to R MUNOZ and/or CARDENAS, and using the name R&C or other names or fictitious names unknown at this time.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. At no time herein mentioned has R&C been licensed by the Department in any capacity.
- 2. At no time herein mentioned has R. MUNOZ been licensed by the Department in any capacity.
- 3. At no time herein mentioned has CARDENAS been licensed by the Department in any capacity.
- 4. Beginning on at least August 5, 2008, and continuing to the present, R&C, acting by and through R. MUNOZ, CARDENAS and/or other agents, associates, affiliates, and/or co-conspirators, solicited one or more borrowers and negotiated to do one or more of the following acts for another or others, for or in expectation of compensation: negotiate one or more loans for, or perform services for, borrowers and/or lenders in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by one or more liens on real property; and charge, demand or collect an advance fee for any of the services offered, in violation of Sections 10130 (real estate broker license required to perform certain acts), 10085.5 (real estate broker license required to charge or collect an advance fee), and 10139 (criminal penalties for unlicensed activity) of the Code.

- 5. Beginning on or about August 30, 2008, and continuing on and off until at least March 2, 2009, R. MUNOZ and CARDENAS demanded from Maria Garcia the payment of cash totaling approximately \$28,600.00 as advanced fees for loan modification services R&C, R. MUNOZ and CARDENAS were to perform on behalf of and for the benefit of Maria Garcia in connection with loans secured by Maria Garcia's real property commonly referred to as 291 Casserly Road and 32 Littleway Lane, Watsonville, California ("Watsonville Properties"); all in violation of Sections 10130, 10085.5, and 10139 of the Code.
- 6. At all times relevant herein R&C, R. MUNOZ and CARDENAS failed to provide Maria Garcia with a written advance fee agreement that had been submitted to the Department for review and issuance of a "No Objection" letter or any advance fee agreement at all.
- 7. At approximately 8:55 a.m. on June 18, 2009, Deputy Commissioner Rene Esquivel of the Fresno District Office of The California Department of Real Estate contacted R. MUNOZ via telephone at R&C's Salinas, California telephone number. Deputy Commissioner Esquivel, using the assumed name Diego Lopez, spoke with an individual who indentified herself as CARDENAS. CARDENAS informed Deputy Commissioner Esquivel that R&G provided "loan modification services to distressed homeowners" and confirmed that R&G's offices were located at 20 Maple Street, Salinas, California. The interview was conducted in Spanish.
- 8. Upon completion of his June 18, 2009 telephone discussions with CARDENAS, Deputy Commissioner Esquivel was transferred to an individual who identified herself as R. MUNOZ. Deputy Commissioner Esquivel informed R. MUNOZ that a Notice of Default was filed against "his home". R. MUNOZ confirmed that R&G performed loan modification services and confirmed that a Notice of Default was not a problem as it "helps her in persuading the lender to renegotiate" the loan. R. MUNOZ requested that Deputy Commissioner Esquivel pay an advance fee of \$3,600 to undertake the representation. R. MUNOZ stated that once the paperwork for the loan modification was completed an

- 9. On or about 9:00 a.m. on July 2, 2009, Deputy Commissioner Rene Esquivel met with R. MUNOZ at 20 Maple Street, Salinas, California. During this meeting R. MUNOZ admitted that she did not hold a real estate license issued by the California Department of Real Estate. R. MUNOZ further admitted that on August 30, 2008 she was hired by Maria Garcia ("Garcia") to represent Garcia in an attempt to modify the loans secured by Garcia's Watsonville Properties. R. MUNOZ further admitted that she had collected the sum of \$3,600 from Garcia to undertake the representation. In addition, during the course of the interview R. MUNOZ admitted to Deputy Commissioner Esquivel that she had collected advance fees from at least thirty (30) clients.
- Esquivel met with CARDENAS at 20 Maple Street, Salinas, California. During this meeting CARDENAS admitted that she did not hold a real estate license issued by the California Department of Real Estate. CARDENAS further admitted that she collected advance fees in the amount totaling \$28,600 from Garcia and that she had contacted Garcia's lenders in connection with an attempt to obtain modifications to the loans secured by the Watsonville Properties.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11. Based on the findings of fact contained in paragraphs 1 through 10, above, R&C RESOLUTION SERVICES, ROSALINDA MUNOZ and/or CARMEN CARDENAS, acting by themselves or through one or more agents, associates, affiliates, and/or co-conspirators or fictitious names unknown at this time, solicited borrowers and performed services for those borrowers with respect to loan modification, loan refinance, principal reduction, foreclosure abatement or short sale services and/or those borrowers' lenders in connection with loans secured directly or collaterally by one or more liens on real property, and charged, demanded or collected advance fees for the services to be provided without demonstrating and providing satisfactory to the Commissioner that:

- (a) an advance fee agreement which had been submitted to the Department and which is in compliance with Sections 2970 and 2972 of the Regulations;
- (b) R&C, R. MUNOZ and CARDENAS placed all previously collected advance fees into a trust account for that purpose and are in compliance with Section 10146 of the Code; and,
- (c) R&C, R. MUNOZ and CARDENAS provided an accounting to trust fund owner-beneficiaries pursuant to Section 2972 of the Regulations.

# **DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**

BASED ON THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW STATED HEREIN, YOU, R&C RESOLUTION SERVICES, ROSALINDA MUNOZ and/or CARMEN CARDENAS, WHETHER DOING BUSINESS UNDER YOUR OWN NAMES, OR ANY OTHER NAMES OR FICTITIOUS NAMES, ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO:

- 1. Immediately desist and refrain from charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, in any form, and under any conditions, with respect to the performance of loan modification or any other form of mortgage loan forbearance services in connection with loans on residential property containing four or fewer dwelling units; and
- 2. Immediately desist and refrain from charging, demanding, claiming, collecting and/or receiving advance fees, as that term is defined in Section 10026 of the Code, for any of the other real estate related services you offer to others, unless and until you demonstrate and provide evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner that you are properly licensed by the Department as a real estate broker, and that:
  - (1) you have an advance fee agreement which has been submitted to the Department and which is in compliance with Section 10085 of the Code and Section 2970 of the Regulations;

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- (2) you have placed all previously collected advance fees into a trust account for that purpose and are in compliance with Section 10146 of the Code; and
- (3) you have provided an accounting to trust fund owner-beneficiaries pursuant to Section 2972 of the Regulations.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

JEFF DAVI Real Estate Commissioner

BY: Barbara J. Bigby

Chief Deputy Commissioner

-NOTICE-

Business and Professions Code Section 10139 provides that, "Any person acting as a real estate broker or real estate salesperson without a license or who advertises using words indicating that he or she is a real estate broker without being so licensed shall be guilty of a public offense punishable by a fine not exceeding twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed six months, or by both fine and imprisonment; or if a corporation, be punished by a fine not exceeding sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) . . ."

cc: R&C Resolution Services ATTN: Carmen Cardenas 20 Maple Street Salinas, CA 93901

> Carmen Cardenas 20 Maple Street Salinas, CA 93901

> Rosalinda Munoz 20 Maple Street Salinas, CA 93901