

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
77 South High Street, 21st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6120

In the matter of:)	
GRANITE BANC, INC.)	Case No. 03-MB-S-09-02
4500 Cooper Road, Suite 101)	
Blue Ash, OH 45242)	
)	Notice of Intent to Assess Fine and Suspend
)	Mortgage Broker Certificate of Registration
)	&
)	Notice of Opportunity for a Hearing
)	

JURISDICTION

The Ohio Department of Commerce, by and through the Superintendent of the Division of Financial Institutions ("Division"), is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act, codified in Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") Chapter 1322.

Granite Banc, Inc. ("Respondent") is an Ohio corporation registered with the Division as a mortgage broker pursuant to R.C. Chapter 1322. The business address of record for Respondent's office is 4500 Cooper Road, Suite 101, Blue Ash, OH 45242, registration number MB 1914.

ALLEGATIONS

Pursuant to R.C. 1322.10(B), the Division conducted an investigation into the affairs of Respondent, and as a result thereof, alleges the following:

On or about July 2003 the Registrant's office in Blue Ash, Ohio sent out a direct mailing to potential customers seeking to solicit business. The mailing consisted of a slip of paper stating "Contact [name] at [telephone number] concerning a rate Reduction on your HOME S/L." Solicitations were also sent stating "Contact [name] at [telephone number] concerning a rate reduction on your CHARTER ONE BANK FSB MORTGAGE ACCOUNT."

A direct mailing by a mortgage broker to solicit business is considered an advertisement pursuant to rules of the Division governing mortgage brokers. (See O.A.C. § 1301:8-7-07(B)). The direct mailing of the Registrant sent on or about July 2003 failed to state the identity of the mortgage broker, providing only the names of the loan officers and a telephone number. The solicitations fail to state the name of the mortgage broker, the address of the mortgage broker, and the mortgage broker's registration number.

A mortgage broker registrant is required by law to state and clearly indicate its identity in all advertisements pursuant to R.C. § 1322.09 and O.A.C. § 1301:8-7-07(A)(1). In addition, a mortgage broker registrant must state its street address in all advertisements, and may not solely provide its telephone number-- R.C. § 1322.09 and O.A.C. § 1301:8-7-07(A)(2). A Registrant is required by R.C. § 1322.09 and O.A.C. § 1301:8-7-07(A)(1) to provide its certificate of registration number in all advertisements.

FINDINGS

Based upon the allegations above, the Division has determined that Respondent, Granite Banc Inc. has failed to state and clearly indicate its identity in its advertisements in violation of R.C. § 1322.09 and O.A.C. § 1301:8-7-07(A)(1); has failed to state in advertisements its street address, and instead provided only a telephone number to contact in violation of R.C. § 1322.09 and O.A.C. § 1301:8-7-07(A)(2).

PROPOSED ACTION

Based upon the allegations and findings above, the Division intends to SUSPEND the Mortgage Broker Certificate of Registration MB 1914 for GRANITE BANC INC. for a period of six months and LEVY a FINE of \$1000 per day of violation up to \$5,000.

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING ON PROPOSED ACTION

Therefore, pursuant to R.C. Chapters 1322 and 119, Respondent is hereby notified that thirty-one (31) days from the date of the mailing of this Notice, the Superintendent intends to issue an ORDER SUSPENDING the mortgage broker certificate of registration MB 1914 for GRANITE BANC INC. for a period of six months effective upon the issuance of this order, and to impose a FINE of \$1000 per day of violation up to \$5,000.

Respondent is further notified, pursuant to R.C. Chapter 119, that Respondent is entitled to a hearing on this matter. If Respondent desires to request a hearing, the request must be made in writing, and must be received in the offices of the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions within thirty (30) days of the time of the mailing of this Notice. Hearing requests should be addressed to:

**State of Ohio
Department of Commerce
Division of Financial Institutions
Attn: Attorney Timothy C. Winslow
77 South High Street, 21st Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6120**

At the hearing, Respondent may appear in person, by Respondent's attorney, or by such other representative as is permitted to practice before the Agency, or Respondent may

present its position, arguments, or contentions in writing, and, at the hearing, may present evidence and examine witnesses appearing for and against Respondent.

If the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions does not receive a written request for a hearing in its offices within thirty (30) days of the time of the mailing of this Notice, the Superintendent will issue an ORDER SUSPENDING the mortgage broker certificate of registration MB 1914 for GRANITE BANC INC. for a period of six months and assessing a FINE of \$1000 per day of violation up to \$5,000.

Signed and Sealed this _____ day of _____, 2003.

Robert M. Grieser
Deputy Superintendent of Financial Institutions

Cc: Timothy C. Winslow, In House Counsel—Division of Financial Institutions
Paula Paoletti, Asst. Attorney General, Business & Government Regulation

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