

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Division of Financial Institutions
Consumer Finance

In the matter of:

WALTER RICHARDS, III
1056 South Belvoir
South Euclid, Ohio 44121

)
) Case No. 04-0195-LOD
)
) **DIVISION ORDER**
) **Denial of Loan Officer License Application**
)

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Commerce, by and through the Superintendent of the Division of Financial Institutions ("Division"), is charged with the responsibility of administering and enforcing the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act, as codified in Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") Chapter 1322, the Division finds that this order is necessary and appropriate, in the interest of the public, and is consistent with the purposes of the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2003, Walter Richards, III ("Respondent") applied to the Division for a loan officer license pursuant to R.C. Chapter 1322; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2004, the Division issued Respondent a Notice that informed him that the Division had conducted an investigation of Respondent and, as a result thereof, alleged that:

- I. Respondent had not proven that he is honest, truthful, and of good reputation, and that there is no basis in fact to believe that he would not commit another criminal offense involving theft, drug trafficking, or any criminal offense involving money or securities, as required by R.C. 1322.031(A)(2) and 1322.041(A)(3); and that
- II. Respondent's character and general fitness do not command the confidence of the public and warrant the belief that the business will be operated honestly and fairly in compliance with the purposes of the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act, as required by R.C. 1322.041(A)(5).
- III. Respondent violated R.C. 1322.07(A), which prohibits a loan officer applicant from "mak[ing] any substantial misrepresentation in any registration or license application[.]"
- IV. Respondent violated R.C. 1322.07(B), which prohibits a loan officer applicant from "[m]ak[ing] false or misleading statements of a material fact, [or] omissions of statements required by state law[.]"
- V. Respondent violated R.C. 1322.07(C), which prohibits a loan officer applicant from "[e]ngag[ing] in conduct that constitutes improper, fraudulent, or dishonest dealings."

WHEREAS, the Notice informed Respondent of the Division's intent to deny his loan officer license application and of the opportunity for a hearing regarding the denial if requested within thirty days from the mailing of the Notice. The Notice further cautioned Respondent that "[i]f the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions d[id] not receive a written request for a hearing in its offices within thirty (30) days of the time of the mailing of th[e] Notice, the Superintendent w[ould] issue an order denying Respondent a loan officer license[.]"

WHEREAS, the Notice was mailed to Respondent, via certified mail, on January 22, 2004, and service was perfected;

WHEREAS, Respondent failed to request a hearing by the statutory deadline and thereby failed to defend against the Division's allegations;

WHEREAS, the Division finds that the allegations contained in the Notice are true and that Respondent's loan officer license application should be denied;

The April 11, 2003 loan officer license application of Respondent, Walter Richards, III, is hereby denied.

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Respondent is hereby notified that this order may be appealed, pursuant to R.C. 119.12, by filing a notice of appeal with the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions, setting forth the order appealed from and the grounds for the appeal. A copy of such notice of appeal must also be filed with the court of common pleas of the county in which the place of business of the Respondent is located, or the county in which the Respondent is a resident. A notice of appeal must be filed within fifteen (15) days after the date of mailing of this order.

Signed and sealed this 26th day of March, 2004.

ROBERT M. GRIESER

Deputy Superintendent for Consumer Finance
Division of Financial Institutions
Ohio Department of Commerce