

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

In the matter of:

JOSEPH LIND PRATT  
845 Village Creek F  
Bexley, Ohio 43209

) Case No. 03-LO-D-77-78  
)  
) Notice of Intent to Deny Loan Officer License  
) &  
) 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 administering and enforcing the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act, codified in Ohio Revised Code ("R.C.") Chapter 1322. In accordance therewith, the Division is accountable for the licensing of individuals as residential mortgage loan officers.

**RESPONDENT**

JOSEPH LIND PRATT ("Respondent") has applied to the Division for a loan officer license. His address of record is Village Creek F, and his date of birth is August 27, 1959. Respondent's employer of record is Hallmark Mortgage Services, Inc., located at 2586 Tiller Lane, Suite 2A in Columbus, Ohio.

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION**

In accordance with sections 1322.041 and 1322.10 of the R.C., and R.C. Chapter 119, the Division intends to DENY Respondent a loan officer license.

**BASIS FOR PROPOSED ACTION**

The Division has conducted an investigation of Respondent, pursuant to R.C. 1322.031(B), and has found the following:

1. In or around 1995, in the Court of Common Pleas of Scioto County, Ohio, Respondent pleaded guilty to and was convicted of the offense of PASSING A BAD CHECK, a misdemeanor of the first degree.
2. In or around 1995, in the Court of Common Pleas of Wyandot County, Ohio, Respondent pleaded guilty to and was convicted of the offense of THEFT, a fourth degree felony.
3. In or around 1995, in the Common Pleas Court of Hancock County, Ohio, Respondent pleaded guilty to and was convicted of three (3) counts of THEFT, all fourth degree felonies.
4. In or around 1995, in the Court of Common Pleas of Lucas County, Ohio, Respondent was convicted of the offense of ENGAGING IN A PATTERN OF CORRUPT ACTIVITY, a felony of the first degree.
5. In or around 1996, in the Court of Common Pleas of Wood County, Ohio, Respondent was convicted of six (6) counts of THEFT, all felonies of the fourth degree.
6. In or around 1997, in the Common Pleas Court of Seneca County, Ohio, Respondent pleaded guilty to and was convicted of sixteen (16) counts of THEFT, all fourth degree felonies.

As a result of the findings listed above, the Division has determined that:

1. Respondent has not proven that he/she is honest, truthful, and of good reputation, and that there is no basis in fact for believing that he/she will not commit another criminal offense involving theft, receiving stolen property, embezzlement, forgery, fraud, passing bad checks, money laundering, or drug trafficking, or any criminal offense involving money or securities. See R.C. sections 1322.031(A)(2) and 1322.041(A)(3).
2. 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. See R.C. 1322.041(A)(5).

**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 denying Respondent a loan officer license under the Ohio Mortgage Broker Act.

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: Ohio Division of Financial Institutions, Attn: Amanda Axtell, Esq., 77 South High Street, 21<sup>st</sup> 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 denying Respondent a loan officer license.

Signed and sealed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2003.

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**ROBERT M. GRIESER**

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