

STATE LICENSING BOARD FOR CONTRACTORS

COMMERCIAL BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Commercial Board was called to order by the Chairman, Lee Mallet, on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 9:01 a.m. at 600 North Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Members of the Board present:

- Lee Mallet, Chairman
- William J. Clouatre, Vice Chairman
- Ronald Barron
- Brian J. Bordelon
- N.R. "Noah" Broussard
- Kristen Brown
- Courtney Davis
- Courtney Fenet, Jr.
- August Gallo, Jr.
- Curtis R. Joseph, Jr.
- Donald G. Lambert
- Garland Meredith
- Joel Rushing
- Christopher N. Stuart
- Elliot Temple
- Keith A. Tillage

Members Nelson A. "Andy" Dupuy and Victor Weston were absent. There being a quorum present, the regular order of business began.

Also attending the meeting were: Michael B. McDuff, Executive Director; Judy Dupuy, Board Administrator; Jeffrey Wale, Hearing Officer; Kevin Landreneau, Board Attorney; Brad Hassert, Compliance Director; Compliance Investigators, Dylan Bourg, Jarrod Watson, Logan Cockerham, Kristen McKey, Frank Vaughan, Erika Segura, Jessie Wells, Ronald Dawsey, Wayne Augillard, Blaine Anderson, Bobby Abraham, Michael Futrell, Sean Beavers, Robert Mehrtens, Joseph Anderson, Stephanie Belanger, John LeBlanc, Clay Reavis; and from the staff, Leann Evans, Carrie Morgan, Emily Laprarie, Heather Barberly, Elysia Howard; and Shannon Sagona recording the minutes.

Mr. Joseph led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wale introduced himself as the hearing officer overseeing these proceedings and addressed the audience and board on the administrative procedures for hearings.

Brad Hassert, Jessie Wells, Kristen McKey, Frank Vaughan, John LeBlanc, Erika Segura, Dylan Bourg, Laurie LaRose, Joseph Anderson, Stephanie Belanger, Michael Futrell, Bobby Abraham, Wayne Augillard, Ronnie Dawsey, Jarrod Watson, Robert Mehrtens, Sean Beavers, Logan Cockerham, Jude Matthews, and Leann Evans with the Compliance Department were sworn in.

Mr. Stuart made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 21, 2023, regular meeting. Mr. Temple seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Hassert introduced guest Amanda LeGroue with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office.

No requests were received from the public to address the board.

NEW BUSINESS

D. COMPLIANCE HEARINGS:

1. TEXANS FORCE, LLC, Houston, Texas – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2023-0652-02

Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations and read the settlement offer presented by TEXANS FORCE, LLC. Brad Hassert, Compliance Director, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Hassert reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board accepted the settlement offer as presented, which included a no contest plea.

2. CROUCH CONSTRUCTION LLC, Metairie, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2160(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2022-1505-01

No one was present on behalf of CROUCH CONSTRUCTION LLC. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Stephanie Belanger, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Ms. Belanger reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motions made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found CROUCH CONSTRUCTION LLC to be in violation and assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

3. POMAR GUTIERREZ LLC, New Orleans, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2023-0899-01

Jesus Gutierrez was present on behalf of POMAR GUTIERREZ LLC, and was sworn in. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Mr. Gutierrez entered a no contest plea. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the plea was accepted. Dylan Bourg, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Bourg reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. Mr. Gutierrez gave a statement to the board. The board questioned Mr. Gutierrez. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs to be reduced to \$1,000 in administrative costs only provided a commercial license is obtained within 180 days.

4. a) HRMN DEVELOPMENT LLC, Lake Charles, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(7), 2 counts
LSLBC Case 2023-0862-01

Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations and read the settlement offer presented by HRMN DEVELOPMENT LLC. Brad Hassert, Compliance Director, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Hassert reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board accepted the settlement offer as presented, which included a no contest plea.

- b) BRENNAN TAYLOR DEVELOPMENTS LLC, DeQuincy, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2023-0862-02

No one was present on behalf of BRENNAN TAYLOR DEVELOPMENTS LLC. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Frank Vaughan, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Vaughan reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motions made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found BRENNAN TAYLOR DEVELOPMENTS LLC to be in violation and assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

- c) RICHARD ZENO D/B/A DAT'Z QUALITY CONCRETE, Iowa, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2023-0862-03

No one was present on behalf of RICHARD ZENO D/B/A DAT'Z QUALITY CONCRETE. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Frank Vaughan, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Vaughan reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motions made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found RICHARD ZENO D/B/A DAT'Z QUALITY CONCRETE to be in violation and assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

Richard Zeno arrived late for the hearing and a rehearing was granted by the board. Mr. Zeno was sworn in. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Mr. Zeno entered a no contest plea. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the plea was accepted. Frank Vaughan, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Vaughan reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. Mr. Zeno made a statement to the board. The board questioned Mr. Zeno. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs to be reduced to \$2,000 fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs provided a commercial license is obtained within 180 days.

5. ONE CONSTRUCTION LLC, Metairie, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(7)
LSLBC Case 2023-0027-01

Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations and read the settlement offer presented by ONE CONSTRUCTION LLC. Stephanie Belanger, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Ms. Belanger reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board accepted the settlement offer as presented, which included a no contest plea.

6. ACIMAR MOURA, Arabi, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2160(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2022-0023-03

No one was present on behalf of ACIMAR MOURA. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Joseph Anderson, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Anderson reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motions made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found ACIMAR MOURA to be in violation and assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1000 in administrative costs.

7. MAGIC MAKEOVER CONSTRUCTION, LLC, New Orleans, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(7)
LSLBC Case 2022-1879-01

No one was present on behalf of MAGIC MAKEOVER CONSTRUCTION, LLC. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Wayne Augillard, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. Augillard reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motions made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found MAGIC MAKEOVER CONSTRUCTION, LLC to be in violation and assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

Darrell Turner arrived late for the hearing and a rehearing was granted by the board. Mr. Turner was sworn in. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Mr. Turner entered a no contest plea. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the plea was accepted. Mr. Augillard reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. The board questioned Mr. Turner. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board assessed an administrative penalty of a \$500 fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

8. **DONALD RAY DUPRE**, Eunice, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2160(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2023-0235-05

No one was present on behalf of DONALD RAY DUPRE. John LeBlanc, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. LeBlanc reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. On motions made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found DONALD RAY DUPRE to be in violation and assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

9. **BILMA CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING LLC**, Lafayette, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2160(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2023-0852-01

Bilma Hernandez was present on behalf of BILMA CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING LLC and was sworn in. Ms. Evans gave a summary of the allegations. Ms. Hernandez entered a no contest plea. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the plea was accepted. John LeBlanc, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Mr. LeBlanc reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. Ms. Hernandez made a statement to the board. The board questioned Ms. Hernandez. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs to be reduced to a \$1,000 fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs provided a commercial license is obtained within 180 days.

10. a) **PRO RENOVATIONS LLC**, New Orleans, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(5) and 2158(A)(6),
Rules and Regulations of the Board Section 135(A)
LSLBC Case 2022-1572-01

Clifton James, Jr. was present on behalf of PRO RENOVATIONS LLC and was sworn in. Ms. Evans read a summary of the allegations. Mr. James admitted to the violation of failure to provide requested records to the board within 72 hours. Mr. James denied the violation of misrepresentation of fact by an applicant in obtaining a license. Stephanie Belanger, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Ms. Belanger reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. Mr. James made a statement to the board. The board questioned Mr. James. For the violation of failure to provide requested records, on motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board ordered the requested records or a statement verifying there are no such records be produced to the satisfaction of staff within 5 business days, granting staff the authority to suspend the license for failure to comply and permission to reinstate the license if the order is subsequently satisfied. For the violation of misrepresentation of fact by an applicant in obtaining a license, on motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board found PRO RENOVATIONS LLC to be in violation and assessed a penalty of a \$2000 fine plus \$1000 in administrative costs.

- b) **DEAN WALTERS**, Marrero, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2158(A)(6) and Rules and Regulations of
the Board Section 135(A)
LSLBC Case 2023-1572-02

DEAN WALTERS was present and was sworn in. Ms. Evans read a summary of the allegations. Mr. Walters entered a no contest plea. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the plea was accepted. Stephanie Belanger, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Ms. Belanger reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. Mr. Walters questioned Ms. Evans. Mr. Walters made a statement to the board. Mr. Landreneau questioned Mr. Walters. The board questioned Mr. Walters. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board assessed an administrative penalty of \$1,000 fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs.

E. STATUTORY CITATIONS:

Ms. Evans presented the statutory citations. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board accepted the statutory citations as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

F. CONTINUANCE:

- 1. VR&C, LLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana – La. R.S. 37:2160(A)(1)
LSLBC Case 2022-1950-04

Chris Patin, attorney was present on behalf of VR&C, LLC and was sworn in. Ms. Evans read a summary of the allegations. Mr. Patin entered a no contest plea. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the plea was accepted. Kristen McKey, Compliance Investigator, who was previously sworn, was called to the stand. Ms. McKey reviewed the exhibit packet and provided testimony to the board. Mr. Landreneau entered the exhibit packet into evidence, and it was admitted. Mr. Patin made a statement to the board and presented a settlement offer. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board rejected the settlement offer as presented. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, the board assessed an administrative penalty of the maximum fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs to be reduced to \$1,000 fine plus \$1,000 in administrative costs provided a commercial license is obtained within 180 days.

The board made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion passed. The meeting resumed at 10:23 a.m.

G. REPORT:

- 1. Finance Report – Mr. Clouatre made a motion to adjust the items on the 2023 Operating Budget as listed on the accounting handout. Mr. Stuart seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouatre made a motion to accept the 2024 operating budget as presented. Mr. Temple seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Clouatre made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing Bradley R. Hassert, Executive Director Interim, and Janna S. Lege, Board Administrator Interim, to conduct banking business in the name of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors. Mr. Temple seconded. The motion passed.

<The following adjustments were made to the 2023 Operating Budget.>

REVENUES:

Increase:

Exam Fees	\$294,000.00
License Fees	\$220,800.00
Miscellaneous Fees	\$182,000.00
Interest-Invested License Fees	\$ 21,000.00

EXPENDITURES:

Increase:

Capital Outlay – Land	\$552,262.00
Computer Supplies	\$240,000.00
Construction in Progress	\$ 87,000.00
Automobiles	\$ 84,176.00
Air Conditioning & Electrical Repair Services	\$ 76,000.00
Land Improvements	\$ 68,490.00
Computer Equipment	\$ 55,189.00
Office Equipment	\$ 31,000.00

Other Professional Fees	\$ 30,000.00
Travel – Field Personnel	\$ 30,000.00
Group Insurance	\$ 28,500.00
Janitorial, Lawn, Trash & Pest Control Services	\$ 17,000.00
Terminal Leave Paid	\$ 16,775.00
Salaries	\$ 16,000.00
Telephone	\$ 15,000.00
Printing	\$ 10,000.00
General Insurance	\$ 7,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$ 7,000.00
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00
Supplies – Office	\$ 5,000.00
Postage	\$ 2,500.00
Deferred Compensation	\$ 2,000.00

Decrease:

Exam Program	(\$125,000.00)
Advertising	(\$120,000.00)
Retirement	(\$ 54,000.00)
Attorney Fees	(\$ 20,000.00)
Rental Equipment	(\$ 17,000.00)
Travel – Board Members	(\$ 10,000.00)
Per Diem	(\$ 9,800.00)
Building Supplies	(\$ 8,000.00)
Travel – Professional Development	(\$ 6,500.00)
Employment Security	(\$ 5,000.00)
FICA	(\$ 500.00)

H. APPLICATIONS; ADDITIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS; RECIPROCITY

1. Residential Building Subcommittee Report

- a) Consideration of additional classifications for residential licenses, residential applications and home improvement registrations as listed and attached to the agenda. (Pages 5-22)

Mr. Temple made a motion to approve the additional classifications for residential licenses as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Gallo seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Temple made a motion to approve the residential applications as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Gallo seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Temple made a motion to approve the home improvement applications as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Gallo seconded. The motion passed.

- b) Consideration of the actions **November 15, 2023**, Residential Building Subcommittee.

Mr. Temple made a motion to approve and ratify the actions taken at the November 15, 2023, Residential Building Subcommittee meeting, and Mr. Gallo seconded. The motion passed.

2. Consideration of reciprocity and exemption requests as listed and attached to the agenda. (Pages 23-28)

Based on staff recommendations, Mr. Clouatre made a motion to approve the exemptions based on reciprocity as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Temple seconded. The motion passed.

Based on staff recommendations, Mr. Clouatre made a motion to approve the exemptions as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Temple seconded. The motion passed.

3. Consideration of mold remediation applications as listed and attached to the agenda. (Page 29)

Mr. Stuart made a motion to approve the mold remediation applications as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Temple seconded. The motion passed.

4. Consideration of additional classifications as listed and attached to the agenda. (Pages 30-36)


Mr. Lambert made a motion to approve the additional classifications listed on the agenda, and Mr. Stuart seconded. The motion passed.

5. Consideration of commercial applications as listed and attached to the agenda. (Pages 37-61)


Mr. Lambert made a motion to approve the commercial applications as listed on the agenda, and Mr. Stuart seconded. The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Temple made a motion to adjourn at 10:31 a.m., and Mr. Gallo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



Lee Mallett, Chairman



Elliott Temple, Secretary