STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

DIVISION OF BANKING

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	No. 2026-MBR-02
KNA MORTGAGE BROKERAGE LLC	)	
License No. MB.6850119; NMLS 2316039	)	
Attention: Keayna Washington	)	
NMLS Primary Company Contact	)	
19710 Governor's Hwy. Ste. 1	)	
Flossmoor, IL 60422	)	

ORDER REVOKING LICENSE, DENYING APPLICATION, AND ASSESSING FINE

The DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION, Division of Banking ("Department"), having reviewed the activities of **KNA MORTGAGE BROKERAGE LLC**, 19710 Governor's Hwy. Ste. 1, Flossmoor, IL 60422 ("KNA MORTGAGE") and having documented violations under the Residential Mortgage License Act of 1987 ("Act") [205 ILCS 635] and the rules promulgated under the Act ("Rules") [38 Ill. Adm. Code 1050], hereby issues this Order Revoking License, Denying Application, and Assessing Fine.

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

1. Section 2.2(a) of the Act requires as part of the application process (4) the filing of an audited balance sheet including all footnotes prepared by a certified public accountant in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles which evidences that the applicant meets the net worth requirements of Section 3-5 of the Act, and (6) an investigation of the application, which investigation must allow the Secretary of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue positive findings stating that the financial responsibility, experience, character, and general fitness of the license applicant and of the managers and members that retain any authority or responsibility under the operating agreement are such as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant belief that the business will be operated honestly, fairly and efficiently within the purposes of the Act. If the Secretary shall not so find, he or she shall not issue such license.

2. Section 2-4 of the Act lists prohibited acts and practices for licensees. It is a violation of the Act for a licensee subject to the Act to: (d) fail to file with the Secretary or Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry ("NMLS") as applicable, when due, any report or reports which it is required to file under any of the provisions of this Act; (o) engage in any conduct which would be cause for denial of a license; (q) submit an application for a

license under the Act which contains a material misstatement; (t) fail to comply with the provisions of the Act, or with any lawful order, rule, or regulation made or issued under the provisions of the Act; or (bb) structure activities or contracts to evade provisions of this Act.

3. Section 2-6 of the Act provides that an Illinois Residential Mortgage License shall be renewed on the common renewal date of the NMLS upon a licensee submitting a properly completed renewal application form and paying the appropriate fee. It is the responsibility of each licensee to timely accomplish renewal of its license. A licensee ceasing an activity or activities regulated by the Act and desiring to no longer be licensed must inform the Department in writing and, at the same time convey the license and all other symbols or indicia of licensure. The licensee must also include a plan for withdrawal from the regulated business, including a timetable for the disposition of the business, and comply with the Department's surrender guidelines.

4. Section 3-1(c) of the Act requires that all licensees shall maintain a bond in accordance with this subsection. Each bond shall be for the recovery of expenses, fines, or fees due to or levied by the Secretary in accordance with the Act. The bond shall be payable when the licensee fails to comply with any provisions of this Act and shall be in the form of a surety or licensure bond in the amount and form as prescribed by the Secretary. The bond shall be payable to the Department and shall be issued by some insurance company authorized to do business in this State. A copy of the bond, including any and all riders and endorsements executed subsequent to the effective date of the bond, shall be placed on file with the Department within 10 days of the execution thereof.

5. Section 4-5(h)(1) of the Act also provides that when the Department finds any person in violation of the grounds set forth in subsection (i), the Department may enter an order revoking a license. A licensee violates Section 4-5(i) of the Act due to (3) a material or intentional misstatement of fact on an initial or renewal application; (11) failure to comply with any order of the Director or rule made or issued under the provisions of this Act; and (17) failure to comply with or violation of any provision of this Act.

6. Section 4-5(h)(5) of the Act provides that when the Director of the Division of Banking ("Director") finds any person in violation of the grounds set forth in subsection 4-5(i), the Director may enter an order imposing a fine not to exceed $25,000 for each count of a separate offense.

7. Section 4-5(h)(6) of the Act also allows the Department to deny the issuance of a license for any violation of the grounds set forth in subsection 4-5(i).

8. Section 1050.490 of the Rules requires each licensee to submit to the Department a current surety bond in the required amount for the term of the license.

FACTUAL FINDINGS

9. KNA MORTGAGE is a residential mortgage broker holding Illinois Residential Mortgage License No. MB.6850119. This license expired January 1, 2025, because KNA MORTGAGE failed to timely renew for 2025.

COUNT I - FRAUDULENT AUDIT

10. On January 28, 2025, KNA MORTGAGE submitted an application for a new residential mortgage broker license and indicated an intent to surrender its existing License No. MB.6850119.

11. As part of the new license application process, KNA MORTGAGE submitted what purported to be a December 31, 2024 audited financial statement. As part of the review for issuing the new license, the Department compared this statement to a 2022 audited financial statement previously submitted to the Department by KNA MORTGAGE in order to obtain License No. MB.6850119. The 2024 audited financial statement as submitted caused concern during the Department's review because it was identical to the audited financial statement previously submitted by KNA MORTGAGE for 2022, with only the date being altered. All components of assets and liabilities were identical on the 2024 audited financial statement and the 2022 audited financial statement. KNA MORTGAGE'S net worth was also identical for both years.

12. At the Department's request, Keayna Washington ("Washington"), the sole owner and chief executive officer of KNA MORTGAGE, submitted a revised audited financial statement for 2024. In KNA MORTGAGE'S revised 2024 audited financial statement, the company's net worth still remained identical, to the dollar, in 2022 and 2024. Furthermore, the calculation of the net worth was nonsensical.

13. As a result of the foregoing duplications and discrepancies, the Department opened an investigation into the origin of KNA MORTGAGE'S audited financial statements. The Department's investigator contacted the CPA whose name and license number were on the audited financial statements. When interviewed, the CPA stated that she had nothing to do with the preparation of any of the audited financial statements for KNA MORTGAGE. The CPA did not know or work for the accounting firm listed along with her name on the audited financial statements.

14. Washington submitted the KNA MORTGAGE financial statement for 2022 through NMLS on May 2, 2023 and attested. The attestation stated: "to the best of my knowledge and belief the information contained in my online record, including jurisdiction specific requirements where I am licensed or registered, is true, accurate and complete in accordance with the applicable jurisdiction's law. Additionally, I acknowledge that I have a duty to expediently update and correct the information as it changes." ("NMLS Attestation").

14. On January 9, 2025, Washington submitted the KNA MORTGAGE financial statement for 2024, attesting as to its truthfulness through the NMLS Attestation. On February 19, 2025,

Washington submitted the KNA MORTGAGE revised financial statement for 2024, again attesting to its truthfulness through the NMLS Attestation.

COUNT II – SURETY BOND CANCELLATION

15. On February 23, 2024, State Farm Insurance cancelled KNA MORTGAGE'S surety bond. The bond has never been replaced or renewed since that date.

16. KNA MORTGAGE continued to operate as a mortgage broker throughout the remainder of 2024, a period of ten months, taking mortgage applications and closing loans without a surety bond in place.

17. KNA MORTGAGE responded to several new consumer requests for mortgage services during 2025, despite having no valid license or bond in place.

COUNT III - FAILURE TO COMPLETE SURRENDER OR RENEWAL

18. Despite indicating its intent to surrender its license, KNA MORTGAGE has never sent the Department the information necessary to complete the surrender of License No. MB.6850119.

19. From November 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, the renewal period was open for licensees to apply to renew their licenses through NMLS for calendar year 2025. KNA MORTGAGE did not apply to renew its license during the aforementioned time frame.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

20. KNA MORTGAGE knew or should have known at the time of application for Residential Mortgage Licenses in 2022 and 2025 that the information contained in the audited financial statements was fraudulent and prepared by some unknown person claiming to be a CPA. These audited financial statements, attested to by Washington on behalf of KNA MORTGAGE, were false and deceptive and designed to evade the Department's review process for granting a residential mortgage license. Had the truth about this fraudulent information been known when the Department reviewed the application for license in 2022, this knowledge would have prevented a license being issued at all and further prevents the Department from issuing a new residential mortgage license. This conduct is in violation of Sections 2-2(a)(4) and (6), 2-4(d), (o), (q), (t) and (bb) and Section 4-5(i), (3), (11) and (17) of the Act.

21. KNA MORTGAGE, by failing to maintain a surety bond since February 2024, has violated Section 3-1(c) of the Act and Section 1050.490 of the Rules.

22. KNA MORTGAGE, by failing to properly renew or surrender its license, has violated Sections 2-4(d) and (t); 2-6; and 4-5(i)(3), (11) and (17) of the Act.

NOW IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT,

1. The Department **REVOKES** KNA MORTGAGE BROKERAGE LLC's Illinois Residential Mortgage License No. MB 6850119 pursuant to Section 4-5(h)(1) of the Act.

2. The Department **DENIES** KNA MORTGAGE BROKERAGE LLC's application for a Residential Mortgage License pursuant to Section 4-5(h)(6) of the Act.

3. The Department assesses a **FINE** against KNA MORTGAGE BROKERAGE LLC's in the amount of $5,000 pursuant to Section 4-5(h)(5) of the Act. The fine shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days of the date of this Order through the NMLS.

ORDERED THIS 30 DAY OF APRIL 2026

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
DIVISION OF BANKING

[redacted]

SUSANA SORIANO
ACTING DIRECTOR

You are hereby notified that this Order is an administrative decision. Pursuant to Section 4-12 of the Illinois Residential Mortgage License Act [205 ILCS 635/4-12] and the rules promulgated thereunder on Hearings Before the Division of Banking and Division of Financial Institutions [38 Ill. Adm. Code 100.5 *et seq.*], an affected party may file a petition for a hearing on an administrative decision by the Director. The petition for a hearing must be filed within 10 days after service of this Order by mail to the Department at 555 W. Monroe St., Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60661, Attn: Angela Alexandrakis with an electronic copy by email to Angela.Alexandrakis@illinois.gov and fpr.doblegal@illinois.gov. The petition for hearing must be in writing and set forth the petitioner's license number, docket number of the administrative decision that resulted in discipline, and date of the administrative decision, pursuant to 38 Ill. Adm. Code 100.30(c). An MB that requests a hearing shall pay a $500 nonrefundable fee to the Department in accordance with 38 Ill. Adm. Code 1050.210(f). After receipt of a properly completed and timely petition for hearing, a case will be docketed and notice sent to the petitioner setting forth the date, time, and place of the hearing. Absent a petition for a hearing, this Order shall constitute a final administrative decision subject to the Administrative Review Law [735 ILCS 5/3-101 *et seq.*].