

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING,
LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE
AND INTERIOR DESIGN**

**In the matter of Ryan Forster
ARCHITECT
License Number 46565**

STIPULATION AND ORDER

Board File No. 2015-0031

TO: Ryan Forster

The Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 214.10 (2014) and Minnesota Statutes section 326.111 (2014) to review complaints against architects, professional engineers, land surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists, and certified interior designers, and to take disciplinary action whenever appropriate.

The Board received information concerning Ryan Forster ("Respondent"). The Board's Complaint Committee ("Committee") reviewed the information. The parties have agreed that these matters may now be resolved by this Stipulation and Order.

STIPULATION

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between Respondent and the Committee as follows:

1. Jurisdiction. Respondent was first issued an Architect license by the Board on July 2, 2008. Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board with respect to the matters referred to in this Stipulation.
2. Facts. This Stipulation is based upon the following facts:

a. Respondent was first licensed as an Architect in the State of Minnesota on July 2, 2008.

b. On July 1, 2014, Respondent's Architect license in the State of Minnesota expired.

c. On December 22, 2014, Respondent reinstated his Minnesota Architect license.

d. Respondent's Minnesota Architect license lapsed from July 1, 2014 to December 22, 2014.

e. At the time of this Stipulation and Order, Respondent's Minnesota Architect license is current with an expiration date of June 30, 2016.

f. In a letter to the Board dated February 27, 2015, Respondent included a copy of his business card that was in effect during the period his Minnesota Architect license lapsed, July 1, 2014 to December 22, 2014. The business card contained a Minneapolis business address and stated: "Ryan Forster, RA, Architect."

g. In this same letter dated February 27, 2015, Respondent stated: "The signature block on my email was changed on September 19 to remove any reference to myself being an architect." Respondent included a copy of his email salutation that was in effect during the license lapse period, July 1, 2014 to September 18, 2014. Respondent's salutation for his email during the time period of July 1, 2014 to September 18, 2014 contained a Minneapolis business address and stated: "Ryan Forster, RA, Project Architect." Additionally, in his February 27, 2015 letter, Respondent stated: "From this – it is determined that I

held myself out as an Architect from July 1, 2014 to Sept 19, 2014 while my license was expired.”

h. In this same letter dated February 27, 2015, Respondent stated: “It was also at this time (Sept 19) that I realized my LinkedIn page was incorrect and thus I changed my title to ‘design’ in lieu of Architect.”

i. Respondent held himself out as an Architect in the State of Minnesota by using the titles of “RA” and “Architect” on his business card, in conjunction with a Minneapolis business address, from July 1, 2014 to December 22, 2014.

j. Respondent held himself out as an Architect in the State of Minnesota by using the titles of “RA” and “Project Architect” in his email salutation, in conjunction with a Minneapolis business address, from July 1, 2014 to September 18, 2014.

k. Respondent held himself out as an Architect in the State of Minnesota by using the title of “Architect” on his ‘LinkedIn’ page, in conjunction with a heading that read “Greater Minneapolis-St. Paul Area/Architecture & Planning,” from July 1, 2014 to September 18, 2014.

3. Violations. Respondent admits that the facts specified above constitute violations of Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivisions 1 and 2 (2014) are sufficient grounds for the action specified below. Specifically, it is alleged that (a) Respondent held himself out as an Architect licensed by the Board, by using the titles of “RA” and “Architect” on his business card from July 1, 2014 to December 22, 2014, (b) Respondent held himself out as an Architect

licensed by the Board, by using the titles of "RA" and "Project Architect" in his email salutation from July 1, 2014 to September 18, 2014, and (c) Respondent held himself out as an a Architect licensed by the Board, by using the title of "Architect" on his 'LinkedIn' webpage from July 1, 2014 to September 18, 2014.

4. Enforcement Action. Respondent and the Committee agree that the Board should issue an Order in accordance with the following terms:

a. Reprimand. Respondent is reprimanded for the foregoing conduct.

b. Civil Penalty. Respondent shall pay to the Board a civil penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). Respondent shall submit a civil penalty of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) by check or money order to the Board within sixty (60) days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Order.

c. Respondent shall cease and desist from violating any laws, rules or orders entrusted to enforcement by the Board.

5. Waiver of Respondent's Rights. For the purpose of this Stipulation, Respondent waives all procedures and proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or the rules of the Board, including the right to dispute the allegations against Respondent, to dispute the appropriateness of discipline in a contested case proceeding pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2014), and to dispute the civil penalty imposed by this Agreement. Respondent agrees that upon the application of the Committee without notice to or an appearance by Respondent, the Board may issue an Order containing the enforcement action specified in paragraph 4 herein. Respondent waives the right to any judicial review of the Order by appeal, writ of certiorari, or

otherwise.

6. Collection. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 16D.17 (2014), after ninety (90) days of the Board's approval of this Stipulation and Order, the Board may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the civil penalty imposed by this Order as a judgment against the Respondent in district court without further notice or additional proceedings.

7. Board Rejection of Stipulation and Order. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Stipulation and Order or a lesser remedy than specified herein, this Stipulation and Order shall be null and void and shall not be used for any purpose by either party hereto. If this Stipulation is not approved and a contested case proceeding is initiated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2014), Respondent agrees not to object to the Board's initiation of the proceedings and hearing the case on the basis that the Board has become disqualified due to its review and consideration of this Stipulation and the record.

8. Unrelated Violations. This settlement shall not in any way or manner limit or affect the authority of the Board to proceed against Respondent by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission of Respondent justifying disciplinary action which occurred before or after the date of this Stipulation and Order and which is not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth herein.

9. Record. The Stipulation, related investigative reports and other documents shall constitute the entire record of the proceedings herein upon which the Order is based. The investigative reports, other documents, or summaries thereof may be filed

with the Board with this Stipulation.

10. Data Classification. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, this Stipulation and Order is classified as public data upon its issuance by the Board, Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5 (2014). All documents in the record shall maintain the data classification to which they are entitled under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 (2014). They shall not, to the extent they are not already public documents, become public merely because they are referenced herein. A summary of this Order will appear in the Board's newsletter. A summary will also be sent to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of architecture.

11. Entire Agreement. Respondent has read, understood, and agreed to this Stipulation and is freely and voluntarily signing it. The Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto relating to the allegations referenced herein. Respondent is not relying on any other agreement or representations of any kind, verbal or otherwise.

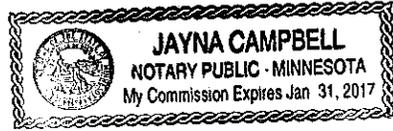
12. Counsel. Respondent is aware that he may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Respondent knowingly waived legal representation.

13. Service. If approved by the Board, a copy of this Stipulation and Order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Order shall be effective and deemed issued when it is signed by the Chair of the Board.

RESPONDENT

[Signature]
Ryan Forster

Dated: 9/22, 2015



SUBSCRIBED and sworn to before me on this the 22nd day of September, 2015.

[Signature]
(Notary Public)

My Commission Expires:
01/31/2015

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

[Signature]
~~TERRY GROSHONG, AR~~
Committee Chair

Dated: 9 OCT, 2015

ROBERT J. GUNDERSON, LA
~~COMMITTEE MEMBER~~ ORDER

Upon consideration of the foregoing Stipulation and Order and based upon all the files, records, and proceedings herein, all terms of the Stipulation and Order are approved and adopted and hereby issued as an Order of this Board this the 9 day of OCTOBER, 2015.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND INTERIOR DESIGN

By: [Signature]
Mary Deeg, CID
Board Chair

