

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

TENNESSEE SECURITIES DIVISION,)
Petitioner,))
v.) MATTER No. 22-01298
PETER DAVID HOLLER,)
Respondent.)

CONSENT ORDER

The Securities Division of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance and Peter David Holler ("Respondent"), agree to the entry and execution of this Consent Order, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of the Department ("Commissioner") as follows:

GENERAL STIPULATIONS

1. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is subject to the Commissioner's acceptance and has no force and effect until such acceptance is evidenced by the entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Commissioner. Entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Commissioner signs and dates this Consent Order.

2. It is expressly understood that this Consent Order is in the public interest, necessary for the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

3. This Consent Order is executed by the Commissioner, the Securities Division, and the Respondent to avoid further administrative action with respect to the findings of fact described

herein. Should this Consent Order not be accepted by the Commissioner, it is agreed that presentation to and consideration of this Consent Order by the Commissioner shall not unfairly or illegally prejudice the Commissioner from further participation or resolution of these proceedings.

4. The Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude additional proceedings by the Commissioner against the Respondent for acts and/or omissions not specifically addressed in this Consent Order nor for facts and/or omissions that do not arise from the facts or transactions herein.

5. The Respondent fully understands that this Consent Order will in no way preclude proceedings by state government representatives, other than the Commissioner, for acts or omissions addressed specifically in this Consent Order, violations of law under statutes, rules, or regulations of the State of Tennessee that arise out of the facts, acts, or omissions contained in this Consent Order, or acts or omissions addressed specifically herein that result from the execution of this Consent Order.

6. The Respondent waives all further procedural steps and all rights to seek judicial review of, or otherwise challenge the validity of this Consent Order, the stipulations and imposition of discipline contained herein, or the consideration and entry and execution of this Consent Order by the Commissioner.

AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

7. Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-115(a), the responsibility for the administration of the Act is vested in the Commissioner. The Securities Division is the lawful agent through which the Commissioner discharges this responsibility pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-115(b).

8. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-116 sets forth that the Commissioner may make,

promulgate, amend, and rescind such orders as are necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act upon a finding that such order is in the public interest, necessary for the protection of investors, and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of the Act.

PARTIES

9. The Commissioner administers the Act through the Securities Division and authorizes the Securities Division to bring this action for the protection of the public.

10. The Respondent is a Tennessee resident. The Respondent was registered with the Securities Division from March 10, 2010, to November 2017, as an investment adviser representative. The Respondent held Central Registration Depository ("CRD") number 838897, assigned by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA").

11. The Respondent is licensed with the Insurance Division of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, as an insurance producer, and holds resident producer license number 321482.

12. The Respondent was assigned National Insurance Producer Number 1218744 by the National Insurance Producer Registry ("NIPR"), a service of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners ("NAIC").

FINDINGS OF FACT

13. On January 24, 2018, the Securities Division received a complaint filed by two (2) Tennesseans stating that in August 2017, they invested two hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$225,000.00) with the Woodbridge Group of Companies LLC ("Woodbridge"). Woodbridge filed for bankruptcy in December 2017, and the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") brought suit against Robert H. Shapiro ("Shapiro") and Woodbridge, alleging that Mr. Shapiro and Woodbridge were operating a one-billion-dollar (\$1,000,000,000.00) Ponzi scheme.

14. The alleged investments were marketed as first position mortgage investments, where the investors would be "lenders" and their investments secured by property purchased with investor funds. The investors were led to believe this was a mortgage-backed investment that was exempt from securities rules and regulations.

15. On February 22, 2018, the Financial Services Investigation Unit ("FSIU") of the Securities Division issued Order of Investigation Number 2018-004, commencing an investigation into Woodbridge.

16. FSIU's investigation revealed that the Respondent sold at least twenty-three (23) unregistered securities, totaling one million, nine hundred five thousand, eight hundred sixty-three dollars and forty-six cents (\$1,905,863.46).

17. The Respondent invested approximately seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), of his own money in Woodbridge.

18. Woodbridge and its principals paid the Respondent approximately seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), in commissions for the sales.

19. The securities sold by the Respondent were not exempt from registration.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 20. Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-104 states:
 - (a) It is unlawful for any person to sell any security in this state unless:
 - (1) It is registered under this part;
 - (2) The security or transaction is exempted under 48-2-103; or
 - (3) The security is a covered security.

(b) The commissioner may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, impose a civil penalty against any person found to be in violation of this section, or any rule or order adopted or issued under this section, in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per violation, or in an amount not to exceed twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) per violation if an individual who is a designated adult is a victim.

21. In selling twenty-three (23) unregistered securities, the Respondent violated Tenn.Code Ann. § 48-1-104.

<u>ORDER</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing, including the Respondent's waiver of the right to a hearing and appeal under the Act and the Tennessee Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-5-101 *et seq.*, and the Respondent's admission of jurisdiction of the Commissioner, the Commissioner finds that the Respondent, for the purpose of settling this matter, admits the Findings of Fact and agrees to the entry and execution of this Order.

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 48-1-116, that:

1. The Respondent shall **COMPLY** with the Act, as amended, and all rules promulgated thereunder;

2. The Respondent shall be permanently **BARRED** from applying for registration with the Securities Division. The Respondent shall be permanently **BARRED** from engaging in the business of securities in Tennessee.

3. The Respondent shall **PAY A CIVIL PENALTY** to the State of Tennessee in the amount of forty-thousand dollars (\$40,000).

4. The payment of such civil penalty shall be made by check payable to the **Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance**. Page one (1) of this Consent Order must accompany the payment for reference. The payment shall be mailed to the attention of:

State of Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Attn: Lovemore N. Gororo Davy Crockett Tower 500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, Tennessee 37243

The Respondent shall make a down payment in the amount of five thousand dollars
 (\$5000), within thirty (30) days of entry and execution of this Order.

6. Starting six (6) months after execution of this Order by the Commissioner, the Respondent shall make ten (10) semi-annual payments in the amount of three thousand five-hundred dollars (\$3,500), until paid in full.

7. **GRACE PERIOD** – Payment shall be timely made if postmarked within five (5) business days of the date payment is due. **ACCELERATION** – Respondent hereby agrees that failure to remit any payment more than sixty (60) calendar days following the due date of said payment as indicated in the above scheduled payments shall constitute default. Upon default, the entire outstanding civil penalty shall be due and payable immediately. The Respondent's failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Order, including the manner and method of payment of the civil penalty described above, shall result in further administrative disciplinary action, including the automatic suspension of the Respondent's resident insurance producer's license number 3214829.

8. **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Consent Order represents the complete and final resolution of and discharge of all administrative and civil claims, demands, actions, and causes of action by the Commissioner against the Respondent for violations of the Act with respect to the transactions involved in the above-referenced facts. However, excluded from and not covered by this paragraph, are any claims by the Securities Division arising from or relating to the enforcement of the Consent Order provisions contained herein.

9. This Consent Order is in the public interest and the best interests of the Parties. It represents a settlement of the controversy between the Parties and is for settlement purposes only. By the signatures affixed below, or in two (2) or more counterparts, the Respondent affirmatively states the following: the Respondent freely agreed to the entry and execution of this Consent Order; the Respondent waives the right to a hearing on, or a review of, the matters, the Findings of Fact, and the Conclusions of Law underlying this Consent Order or the enforcement of this Consent Order; the Respondent encountered no threats or promises of any kind by the Commissioner, the Securities Division, or any agent or representative thereof.

10. By signing this Consent Order, the Commissioner, the Securities Division, the Insurance Division, and the Respondent affirmatively state their agreement to be bound by the terms of this Consent Order and aver that no promises or offers relating to the circumstances described herein, other than the terms of settlement as set forth in this Consent Order, are binding upon them.

11. This Consent Order may be executed in two (2) or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original but all of which together shall constitute one and the same document. The facsimile, email, or other electronically delivered signatures of the parties shall be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies shall be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

ENTERED AND EXECUTED July 11, 2023.

Carter Lawrence, Commissioner Department of Commerce and Insurance

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APPROVED FOR ENTRY:

Peter David Holler

Peter David Holler Respondent

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Thomas H. Dundon, BPR # 004539 Neal and Harwell, PLC 1201 Demonbreun Street, Suite 1000 Nashville, TN 37203 Counsel for Respondent

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Elizabeth H. Bowling Assistant Commissioner for Securities Department of Commerce and Insurance

W_DH on (May 25, 2023 07:13 CDT)

Bill Huddleston, Assistant Commissioner Tennessee Insurance Division Department of Commerce and Insurance

Lovemore N Gororo

Lovemore N. Gororo, BPR #036386 Associate General Counsel Department of Commerce and Insurance 500 James Robertson Parkway Davy Crockett Tower Nashville, TN 37243 615.253.4107 lovemore.n.gororo@tn.gov

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