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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS**

**TO:** John Barber  
1122 University Avenue SE, Room 264  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

**RESCISSION OF DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**  
**(For violations of sections 17200 and 17403 of the California Financial Code)**

Pursuant to Section 17400 of the California Escrow Law (Financial Code Section 17000, et seq.), the California Corporations Commissioner (Commissioner) hereby rescinds its Desist and Refrain Order issued on May 24, 2004, as to John Barber only. The Order, pertaining to the unlicensed escrow activity of Automototrades.com in violation of section 17200 and the unlawful advertising practices of Automototrades.com in violation of section 17403, remains in effect as to all other persons and/or entities named.

Based on information received after the issuance of the May 24, 2004, Order, the Commissioner is satisfied that John Barber is not now and has never been associated with Automototrades.com. The Commissioner is satisfied that John Barber's identity was used without his consent by an unknown person(s) creating a fictitious relationship between John Barber and Automototrades.com.

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The Commissioner finds that the rescission of this Order as to John Barber is necessary and appropriate in the public interest, and consistent with the purposes of the policy and provisions of the Escrow Law.

Dated: May 16, 2005  
Sacramento, California

WAYNE STRUMPFER  
Acting California Corporations Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
ALAN WEINGER  
Acting Deputy Commissioner  
Enforcement Division

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS**

**TO:** Automototrades.com  
John Barber  
1122 University Ave. SE, Room 264  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Ebayuptodate.com  
Ronnie Torregrossa  
1109 W. Columbia  
Champaign, IL 61821

**DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER**

**(For violations of sections 17200 and 17403 of the California Financial Code)**

The California Corporations Commissioner finds that:

1. Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, and Ronnie Torregrossa have engaged in the business of an escrow agent by advertising escrow services over the internet at www.automototrades.com from in or about 1999 to the present as follows:

a) The Automototrades.com website appears in full at both the web address Automototrades.com and the web address Ebayuptodate.com.

b) Automototrades.com represents on its website that the process works as follows: The buyer and seller agree to the terms of a transaction. The buyer then sends payment to Automototrades.com, and Automototrades.com verifies the funds are good. The seller ships the goods. The buyer notifies Automototrades.com that he or she is satisfied with the goods, and then Automototrades.com pays the seller.

1 c) Automototrades.com claims on its website that it protects both buyers and sellers  
2 from fraud with this process.

3 d) Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, and Ronnie Torregrossa  
4 have represented themselves to be “a federally-incorporated US business corporation registered with  
5 the governments of US,” and “in full compliance with all laws and regulations governing its business  
6 activities.”

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8 2. Neither Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, nor Ronnie Torregrossa  
9 has been issued a license from the Commissioner authorizing them to conduct business as an escrow  
10 agent, as required by California Financial Code section 17200.

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12 3. Neither Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, nor Ronnie Torregrossa is  
13 exempt from the licensing requirements of Section 17200.

14  
15 4. Neither Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, nor Ronnie Torregrossa  
16 has been issued a license from the Commissioner authorizing them to use words indicating that they  
17 are in the escrow business, as required by California Financial Code section 17403.

18  
19 Based upon the foregoing findings, the California Corporations Commissioner is of the opinion that  
20 Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, and Ronnie Torregrossa and their officers  
21 directors, partners, agents, employees and/or servants are in violation of California Financial Code  
22 sections 17200 and 17403(a). Pursuant to California Financial Code section 17416,  
23 Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, and Ronnie Torregrossa are hereby ordered to  
24 desist and refrain from engaging in the business of receiving escrows for deposit or delivery without  
25 first obtaining a license from the Commissioner. Pursuant to California Financial Code section  
26 17403(b), Automototrades.com, John Barber, Ebayuptodate.com, and Ronnie Torregrossa are further  
27 ordered to immediately desist and refrain from issuing, circulating, or publishing any advertisement  
28 by means of any communication, including any website, or making use of or circulating any

1 letterheads, billheads, blank notes, blank receipts, blank escrow instructions, certificates, circulars, or  
2 any written or printed paper containing any fictitious or corporate name or other words indicating that  
3 they are in the escrow business. This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of  
4 investors and consistent with the purposes, policies and provisions of the California Escrow Law.  
5 This order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the California Corporations  
6 Commissioner.

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Dated: May 24, 2004  
Sacramento, California

WILLIAM P. WOOD  
California Corporations Commissioner

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
VIRGINIA JO DUNLAP  
Deputy Commissioner  
Enforcement and Legal Services