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9
10 BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT
11 OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 In the Matter of:) CFL LICENSE NO.: 60DBO-35845
12)
13 THE COMMISSIONER OF BUSINESS) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
OVERSIGHT,)
14)
15 Complainant,)
16 v.)
17 RATE PLUS, INC.,)
18 Respondent.)
19 _____)

20 This Settlement Agreement is entered into between the Commissioner of Business Oversight
21 (Complainant or Commissioner) and Respondent (Respondent or Rate Plus, Inc.) and is made with
22 respect to the following facts:

23 **I.**

24 **RECITALS**

25 A. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the licensing and regulation of persons and
26 entities engaged in the business of finance lending or brokering under the California Financing Law
27 (CFL) (Fin. Code, § 22000 et seq.).
28

1 B. Respondent is a California corporation, with a principal place of business at 575
2 Anton Boulevard, Suite 750, Costa Mesa, California 92626.

3 C. Respondent is licensed as a finance lender and broker under the CFL with main
4 license number 60DBO-35845.

5 D. In accordance with Financial Code section 22159, CFL licensees must file an annual
6 report with the Commissioner by March 15 of each year (Annual Report).

7 E. On January 16, 2018, the Commissioner notified CFL licensees of the March 15,
8 2018 deadline to file their annual reports by sending notice to the email address of each CFL
9 licensee established pursuant to the Commissioner's Order on Electronic Communications, dated
10 November 22, 2013. The notification admonished licensees that the Commissioner could assess
11 penalties and summarily revoke CFL licenses for untimely filing or failing to file pursuant to
12 Financial Code section 22715.

13 F. On February 20, 2018, the Commissioner again notified CFL licensees of the March
14 15, 2018 deadline to file their annual reports by sending notice to the email address each CFL
15 licensee established pursuant to the Commissioner's Order on Electronic Communications, dated
16 November 22, 2013. The notification again warned that the Commissioner could assess penalties
17 and summarily revoke licenses for untimely filing or failing to file pursuant to Financial Code
18 section 22715.

19 G. As of March 19, 2018, Respondent had not filed its Annual Report with the
20 Commissioner. As a result, the Commissioner issued a notice letter to Respondent on March 19,
21 2018, advising Respondent that it should file its annual report by or before April 6, 2017 or else its
22 license would be summarily revoked pursuant to Financial Code section 22715 (Notice Letter).

23 H. As of April 6, 2018, Respondent had not filed its Annual Report with the
24 Commissioner as directed in the Notice Letter. As a result, on April 11, 2018, the Commissioner
25 issued an Order Summarily Revoking Finance Lenders and/or Broker License Pursuant to Financial
26 Code Section 22715 for CFL License Number 60DBO-35845. (Summary Revocation Order).

27 I. Upon receiving the Summary Revocation Order, Respondent timely notified the
28 Commissioner that Respondent was requesting a hearing on the Summary Revocation Order.

1 J. On August 22, 2018, Respondent submitted its Annual Report, which was due on
2 March 15, 2018, 110 business days late. Pursuant to Financial Code Section 22715, the maximum
3 penalty that may be imposed for filing 110 business days late is \$25,000.00 (\$100.00 per business
4 day for the first five business days and \$500.00 per business day thereafter up to a maximum of
5 \$25,000.00).

6 K. In connection with these proceedings, Respondent represented to the Commissioner
7 that it had taken no new applications under its license.

8 L. The Commissioner finds that entering into this Settlement Agreement is in the public
9 interest and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policies and provisions of the CFL.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing, and the terms and conditions set
11 forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

12 **II.**

13 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

14 1. Purpose. The parties intend to resolve this matter for the purpose of judicial economy
15 and expediency and without the uncertainty and expense of a hearing or other litigation. This
16 Settlement Agreement does not constitute an admission by Respondent of any liability or
17 wrongdoing.

18 2. Waiver of Hearing Rights. Respondent hereby agrees to withdraw its request for an
19 administrative hearing on the Summary Revocation Order. Respondent acknowledges its right under
20 the CFL to an administrative hearing on the Summary Revocation Order and hereby waives such
21 right to a hearing and to any reconsideration, appeal, injunction or other review that may be afforded
22 under the Financial Code; Administrative Procedure Act, including Government Code section
23 11415.60, subdivision (b); Code of Civil Procedure; or any other provision of law. By waiving such
24 rights, Respondent effectively consents to the finality of the Summary Revocation Order.

25 3. Order Rescinding Summary Revocation Order. The Commissioner hereby rescinds
26 the Summary Revocation Order, which had been issued on April 11, 2018.

27 4. Administrative Penalty. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of \$1,000.00
28 no later than 30 days after the effective date of this Settlement Agreement as defined in paragraph

1 18. The penalty must be made payable in the form of a cashier’s check or Automated Clearing
2 House deposit to the Department of Business Oversight and transmitted to the attention of
3 Accounting – Litigation, at the Department of Business Oversight, 1515 K Street, Suite 200,
4 Sacramento, California 95814. Notice of the payment must be concurrently sent to Uche Enenwali,
5 Senior Counsel, at the Department of Business Oversight, 320 West 4th Street, Suite 750, Los
6 Angeles, California 90013.

7 5. Failure to Pay Administrative Penalty. If Respondent fails to comply with paragraph
8 4, the Commissioner may summarily suspend it from engaging in business under its licenses until it
9 provides evidence of compliance to the Commissioner’s satisfaction. Respondent hereby waives any
10 notice or hearing rights afforded under the Administrative Procedure Act, including Government
11 Code section 11415.60, subdivision (b); Code of Civil Procedure; or any other provision of law to
12 contest the summary suspension contemplated by this paragraph.

13 6. Full and Final Resolution. Except as stated in paragraph 5, this Settlement
14 Agreement is intended to constitute a full and final resolution of the matter described in it. The
15 Commissioner will not bring any further action or proceeding concerning the matter unless she
16 discovers violations by Respondent that do not form the basis for this Settlement Agreement,
17 including violations knowingly concealed from the Commissioner.

18 7. Commissioner’s Duties. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement limits the
19 Commissioner’s ability to assist any other government agency with any action brought by that
20 agency against Respondent, including an action based on any of the acts, omissions, or events
21 described in this Settlement Agreement.

22 8. Independent Legal Advice. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that it
23 has had an opportunity to seek independent advice from its attorney(s) and/or representatives with
24 respect to the advisability of executing this Settlement Agreement.

25 9. Reliance. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this
26 Settlement Agreement it has relied solely on the statement set forth herein and has had the
27 opportunity to seek the legal advice of its own counsel. Each of the parties further represents,
28 warrants, and agrees that in executing this Settlement Agreement it has placed no reliance on any

1 statement, representation, or promise of any other party, or any other person or entity not expressly
2 set forth herein, or upon the failure of any party or any other person or entity to make any statement,
3 representation, or disclosure of anything whatsoever. The parties have included this clause: (1) to
4 preclude any claim that any party was in any way fraudulently induced to execute this Settlement
5 Agreement; and (2) to preclude the introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or
6 contradict the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

7 10. Full Integration. This Settlement Agreement is the final written expression and the
8 complete and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and
9 covenants between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior or
10 contemporaneous agreements, negotiations, representations, understandings, and discussions
11 between and among the parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity, with
12 respect to the subject matter covered hereby. The parties have included this clause to preclude the
13 introduction of parol evidence to vary, interpret, supplement, or contradict the terms of this
14 Settlement Agreement.

15 11. No Presumption Against Drafter. In that the parties have had the opportunity to draft,
16 review, and edit the language of this Settlement Agreement, no presumption for or against any party
17 arising out of drafting all or any part of this Settlement Agreement will be applied in any action
18 relating to, connected to, or involving this Settlement Agreement. Accordingly, the parties waive the
19 benefit of Civil Code section 1654 and any successor or amended statutes, providing that in cases of
20 uncertainty, language of a contract should be interpreted most strongly against the party who caused
21 the uncertainty to exist.

22 12. Voluntary Agreement. Respondent hereby enters in this Settlement Agreement
23 voluntarily and without coercion and acknowledges that no promises, threats, or assurances have
24 been made by the Commissioner or any officer, or agent thereof, about this Settlement Agreement.

25 13. Waiver, Amendments, and Modifications. No waiver, amendment, or modification of
26 this Settlement Agreement will be valid or binding unless it is in writing and signed by all parties
27 affected by it. Waiver of a provision of this Settlement Agreement will not be deemed a waiver of
28 any other provision.

1 14. Counterparts. The parties agree that this Settlement Agreement may be executed in
2 one or more separate counterparts, each of which when so executed, shall be deemed an original. A
3 fax or electronic mail signature shall be deemed the same as an original signature. Such counterparts
4 shall together constitute and be one and the same instrument.

5 15. Public Record. Respondent acknowledges that the Settlement Agreement is public
6 record.

7 16. Headings. The headings to the paragraphs of this Settlement Agreement are inserted
8 for convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation
9 of the provisions hereof.

10 17. Governing Law. This Settlement Agreement shall be construed and enforced in
11 accordance with and governed by California law.

12 18. Effective Date. This Settlement Agreement will become effective on the date it is
13 signed by all parties and delivered by the Commissioner to Respondent's President David K. Murray
14 by electronic mail at dave@copperlineusa.com.

15 19. Settlement Authority. Each party represents that the person signing this Settlement
16 Agreement on its behalf has the authority and capacity to do so.

17 Dated: 8/24/18 JAN LYNN OWEN
18 Commissioner of Business Oversight

19 By: _____
20 MARY ANN SMITH
21 Deputy Commissioner
22 Enforcement Division

23 Dated: 8/24/18 RATE PLUS, INC.

24 By: _____
25 MILES MASTERS
26 President

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