

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2 BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
3 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION

4 TO: FinanceServiceCorp.com
5 www.financeservicecorp.com

6 DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER

7 (For violations of Financial Code sections 22100 and 22161)

8 The Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation (Commissioner) finds that:

9 1. The Commissioner is authorized to pursue administrative actions and remedies against
10 persons who engage in violations of the California Financing Law (Financial Code § 22000, *et seq.*)
11 (CFL).

12 2. At all relevant times, www.financeservicecorp.com (the Website) was operated by an
13 entity of unknown type with an unknown principal place of business, using the e-mail address
14 jbearsinvestment@gmail.com. The operator of the Website also controlled an e-mail address
15 associated with the Website: info@financeservicecorp.com (the E-mail Address).

16 3. The Website is hosted, and was registered, by Namecheap, Inc., a Delaware
17 corporation with its principal place of business at 4600 East Washington Street, Suite 305, Phoenix,
18 Arizona 85034.

19 4. At all relevant times, Finance Service Corporation (FSC) was a California corporation,
20 located at 4 Corporate Plaza Drive, Suite 150, Newport Beach, California 92660. FSC has no
21 website and offers no financial services to the public. The Commissioner does not allege any
22 wrongdoing by FSC or its executives, directors, or employees in connection with this Desist and
23 Refrain Order.

24 5. At all relevant times, the Website fraudulently claimed to belong to FSC. The
25 Website correctly listed FSC’s address as 4 Corporate Plaza Drive, Suite 150, Newport Beach,
26 California 92660. However, the Website falsely claimed that FSC was composed of “a team of
27 commercial and business loan brokers” and that FSC offered home mortgage lending and commercial
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1 lending. The Website also listed a telephone number that purportedly belonged to FSC but, in fact,
2 did not.

3 6. Beginning in or about June 2020, an unknown person, through the E-mail Address,
4 impersonated the CEO of FSC and offered a loan to at least one California resident.

5 7. This impersonator demanded that the prospective borrower wire money to him or her
6 before the prospective borrower could receive the loan. The prospective borrower sent the money as
7 instructed. Once the prospective borrower wired those funds, however, the impersonator demanded
8 an additional payment for “insurance.” The prospective borrower could not afford to pay for this
9 “insurance” and never received the promised loan. The impersonator kept the initial money that the
10 prospective borrower wired.

11 8. The Website and its operators are not licensed by the Commissioner to engage in the
12 business of a finance lender. The Website and its operators are not exempt from the licensing
13 requirement of Financial Code section 22100, subdivision (a).

14 9. Under Financial Code section 22712, subdivision (a), if, in the opinion of the
15 Commissioner, “any person is engaged in business as a finance lender or broker without a license
16 from the Commissioner, the Commissioner “may order that person . . . to desist and to refrain from
17 engaging in the business or further continuing that violation.”

18 10. Beginning on or around April 2020, the Website falsely advertised that it was the
19 official website of FSC, in violation of Financial Code section 22161. The Website and its operators
20 do not have any legal authority to conduct any business on FSC’s behalf, nor are they authorized to
21 conduct any business from the address located at 4 Corporate Plaza Drive, Suite 150, Newport Beach,
22 California 92660.

23 11. The Website’s operators, through their association with the Website and the E-mail
24 Address, demanded and received payment in advance of making a loan to a California borrower, but
25 then kept that money and did not provide any of the promised loan proceeds.

26 12. Financial Code section 22161, subdivision (a)(7) prohibits a person subject to the CFL
27 from committing “an act that constitutes fraud or dishonest dealings.”
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1 Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the Website and its
2 operators have engaged in the business of a finance lender in violation of Financial Code
3 section 22100, subdivision (a).

4 Pursuant to Financial Code section 22712, subdivision (a), the Website and its operators are
5 hereby ordered to desist and refrain from engaging in the business of a finance lender in California
6 without first obtaining a license from the Commissioner.

7 Based on the foregoing findings, the Commissioner is of the opinion that the Website and its
8 operators have committed acts that constitute fraud or dishonest dealings in California in violation of
9 Financial Code section 22161, subdivision (a)(7).

10 Pursuant to Financial Code section 22712, subdivision (a), the Website and its operators are
11 hereby ordered to desist and refrain from engaging in conduct that constitutes fraud or dishonest
12 dealings to the public.

13 This Order is necessary, in the public interest, for the protection of consumers and is
14 consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the California Financing Law.

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16 Date: November 20, 2020
Los Angeles, California

MANUEL P. ALVAREZ
Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation

17
18 By: _____
19 MARY ANN SMITH
20 Deputy Commissioner
21 Enforcement Division
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