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8 Attorneys for Complainant

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BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL PROTECTION AND INNOVATION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of: )  
)  
THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCIAL ) CFL LICENSE No.: 60DBO-101086  
PROTECTION AND INNOVATION, )  
) **CONSENT ORDER**  
Complainant. )  
)  
v. )  
)  
PREMIER BUSINESS LENDING, )  
)  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

1 This Consent Order is entered into between the Commissioner of Financial Protection and  
2 Innovation (Complainant or Commissioner) and Respondent PREMIER BUSINESS LENDING  
3 (Respondent) and is made with respect to the following facts:

4 **I.**

5 **RECITALS**

6 A. The Commissioner has jurisdiction over the licensing and regulation of persons and  
7 entities engaged in the business of finance lending or brokering under the California Financing Law  
8 (CFL) (Fin. Code, § 22000 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

9 B. Respondent is a California corporation.

10 C. Respondent has a principal place of business at 5170 Golden Foothill Parkway, El  
11 Dorado Hills, California, 95762.

12 D. Respondent is licensed as a finance lender and broker under the California Financing  
13 Law (CFL) (Fin. Code, § 22000, et seq.) with license number 60DBO-101086.

14 E. Under Financial Code section 22150, Complainant may make general rules and  
15 regulations and specific rulings, demands, and findings for the enforcement of, and within the  
16 general purposes of, the CFL.

17 F. Pursuant to a Commissioner’s Order on Electronic Communications, dated November  
18 22, 2013, each CFL licensee must establish an email address for communications from the  
19 Commissioner (Designated Email Address).

20 G. Under California Code of Regulations, Title 10, Section 1422.4 (Regulation 1422.4),  
21 which went into effect on October 1, 2021, all CFL licensees were required to transition to the  
22 Nationwide Multistate Licensing System and Registry (NMLS) by December 31, 2021. On  
23 December 16, 2021, Complainant extended the deadline to transition to NMLS to March 15, 2022.  
24 On March 7, 2022, Complainant again extended the deadline to transition to NMLS to March 31,  
25 2022.

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28 <sup>1</sup> Cal. Fin. Code § 22000, *et seq.* All subsequent statutory references are to the California Financial Code unless otherwise specified.

1 H. Complainant provided notice of this requirement to Respondent – via email to the  
2 Designated Email Address of each CFL licensee on July 20, 2021, September 16, 2021, October 14,  
3 2021, November 8, 2021, and December 16, 2021. Complainant also provided notice via email to  
4 each CFL licensee that had not yet transitioned to NMLS, including Respondent, on March 7, 2022,  
5 and again via email and mail on March 28, 2022. Complainant provided further notice of this  
6 requirement over the telephone – Complainant made at least two calls to the designated telephone  
7 number provided by each CFL licensee, including Respondent – between February 1 and March 15,  
8 2022.

9 I. Complainant determined that Respondent was in violation of Regulation 1422.4 and  
10 had not transitioned management of its CFL license to NMLS as of July 29, 2022. Accordingly,  
11 Complainant issued a Citation on that date pursuant to Financial Code section 22707.5, subdivision  
12 (a). The Citation included an order to correct the violation and an order to pay an administrative fine  
13 in the amount of \$2,500.00 to the Commissioner by September 27, 2022.

14 J. Complainant served the Citation on Respondent at Respondent’s license address of  
15 record via certified mail on July 29, 2022.

16 K. To date, Respondent has neither complied with the order to correct the violation by  
17 transitioning its license to NMLS nor paid the administrative fine.

18 L. The Commissioner finds that entering into this Consent Order is in the public interest  
19 and consistent with the purposes fairly intended by the policies and provisions of the CFL.

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

22 **II.**

23 **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

24 1. Purpose. The parties intend to resolve this matter for the purpose of judicial economy  
25 and expediency and without the uncertainty and expense of a hearing or other litigation.

26 2. Transition to NMLS. Respondent shall complete the transition of its license to  
27 NMLS as required by Regulation 1422.4 within 30 days of the effective date of this Consent Order  
28 as defined in paragraph 24.

1           3.       Administrative Penalty. Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of \$2,500.00  
2 no later than 30 days after the effective date of this Consent Order as defined in paragraph 24. The  
3 penalty must be made payable in the form of a cashier’s check or Automated Clearing House deposit  
4 to the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation and transmitted to the attention of  
5 Accounting – Litigation, Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, 2101 Arena Boulevard,  
6 Sacramento, California 95834. Notice of the payment must be concurrently sent to Noah M. Bean,  
7 Senior Counsel, Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, 2101 Arena Boulevard,  
8 Sacramento, California 95834/Noah.Bean@dfpi.ca.gov.

9           4.       Failure to Transition License to NMLS or Pay Administrative Penalty. If Respondent  
10 fails to comply with paragraphs 2 or 3, the Commissioner may summarily revoke Respondent’s  
11 license.

12           5.       Waiver of Notice and Hearing Rights. Respondent acknowledges the Commissioner  
13 is ready, willing, and able to file an accusation to revoke Respondent’s license pursuant to Financial  
14 Code section 22714 and proceed with a hearing on the accusation. Respondent hereby waives the  
15 right to any notice or hearings, and to any reconsideration, appeal, or other right to review which  
16 may be afforded pursuant to the CFL, the California Administrative Procedure Act, the California  
17 Code of Civil Procedure, or any other provision of law. By waiving such rights, Respondent  
18 effectively consents to this Consent Order becoming final.

19           6.       Full and Final Resolution. The parties hereby acknowledge and agree that this  
20 Consent Order is intended to constitute a full and final resolution of the violations described herein,  
21 and that no further proceedings or actions will be brought by the Commissioner in connection with  
22 these matters except under the CFL or any other provision of law, excepting therefrom any  
23 proceeding to enforce compliance with the terms of this Consent Order.

24           7.       Information Willfully Withheld or Misrepresented. This Consent Order may be  
25 revoked, and the Commissioner may pursue any and all remedies available under law against  
26 Respondent if the Commissioner discovers that Respondent knowingly or willfully withheld or  
27 misrepresented information used for and relied upon in this Consent Order.

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1           8.       Future Actions by Commissioner. If Respondent fails to comply with the terms of the  
2 Consent Order, the Commissioner may institute proceedings for any and all violations otherwise  
3 resolved under this Consent Order. The Commissioner reserves the right to bring any future actions  
4 against Respondent, or any of its partners, owners, officers, shareholders, directors, employees, or  
5 successors for any and all unknown violations of this CFL.

6           9.       Assisting Other Agencies. Nothing in this Consent Order limits the  
7 Commissioner’s ability to assist any other government agency (city, county, state or federal) with  
8 any prosecution, administrative, civil or criminal action brought by that agency against Respondent  
9 or any other person based on any of the activities alleged in this matter or otherwise.

10          10.      No Presumption Against Drafter. Each party acknowledges that it has had the  
11 opportunity to draft, review, and edit the language of this Consent Order. Accordingly, the parties  
12 intend no presumption for or against the drafting party will apply in construing any part of this  
13 Consent Order. The parties waive the benefit of Civil Code section 1654 as amended or  
14 corresponding provisions of any successor statute, which provide that in cases of uncertainty,  
15 language of a contract should be interpreted most strongly against the party who caused the  
16 uncertainty to exist.

17          11.      Independent Legal Advice. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that it  
18 has had the opportunity to receive independent advice from an attorney(s) and/or representatives  
19 with respect to the advisability of executing this Consent Order.

20          12.      Headings. The headings to the paragraphs of this Consent Order are inserted for  
21 convenience only and will not be deemed a part hereof or affect the construction or interpretation of  
22 the provisions hereof.

23          13.      Binding. This Consent Order is binding on all heirs, assigns, and/or successors in  
24 interest.

25          14.      Reliance. Each of the parties represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing this  
26 Consent Order, it has relied solely on the statements set forth herein and the advice of its own legal  
27 counsel, if represented. Each of the parties further represents, warrants, and agrees that in executing  
28 this Consent Order it has placed no reliance on any statement, representation, or promise of any

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

6 15. Waiver, Amendments, and Modifications. No waiver, amendment, or modification of  
7 this Consent Order will be valid or binding unless it is in writing and signed by each of the parties.  
8 The waiver of any provision of this Consent Order will not be deemed a waiver of any other  
9 provision. No waiver by either party of any breach of, or of compliance with, any condition or  
10 provision of this Consent Order by the other party will be considered a waiver of any other condition  
11 or provision or of the same condition or provision at another time.

12 16. Full Integration. This Consent Order is the final written expression and the complete  
13 and exclusive statement of all the agreements, conditions, promises, representations, and covenants  
14 between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and supersedes all prior or  
15 contemporaneous agreements, negotiations, representations, understandings, and discussions  
16 between and among the parties, their respective representatives, and any other person or entity, with  
17 respect to the subject matter covered hereby.

18 17. Governing Law. This Consent Order will be governed by and construed in  
19 accordance with California law. Each of the parties hereto consents to the jurisdiction of such court  
20 and thereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the defense of an inconvenient  
21 forum to the maintenance of such action or proceeding in such court.

22 18. Counterparts. This Consent Order may be executed in one or more separate  
23 counterparts, each of which when so executed, shall be deemed an original. Such counterparts shall  
24 together constitute a single document.

25 19. Effect Upon Future Proceedings. If Respondent applies for any license, permit or  
26 qualification under the Commissioner’s current jurisdiction, or are the subject of any future action by  
27 the Commissioner to enforce this Consent Order, then the subject matter hereof shall be admitted for  
28 the purpose of such application(s) or enforcement proceeding(s).



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25. Authority to Sign. Each signatory hereto covenants that he/she possesses all necessary capacity and authority to sign and enter into this Consent Order and undertake the obligations set forth herein.

Dated: February 15, 2023  
Sacramento, California

CLOTHILDE V. HEWLETT  
Commissioner of Financial Protection and Innovation



By \_\_\_\_\_  
MARY ANN SMITH  
Deputy Commissioner  
Enforcement Division

Dated: February 9, 2023

PREMIER BUSINESS LENDING

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Jenkins, CEO