

BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

In the Matter of:

Raad Salih
Professional Engineer (Civil)
Registration No. 34016

Respondent

Case No.: P23-008

CONSENT AGREEMENT
and
ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

In the interest of a prompt and judicious resolution of the above-captioned matter before the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration ("Board") and consistent with the public interest, statutory requirements, and the responsibilities of the Board, and pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101 et seq. and A.A.C. R4-30-120(G), the undersigned party, Raad Salih ("Respondent"), holder of Registration No. 34016, and the Board enter into the following Recitals, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Consent Agreement") as a final disposition of this matter.

RECITALS

- 1. Respondent has read and understands this Consent Agreement and has had the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney, or has waived the opportunity to discuss this Consent Agreement with an attorney.
- 2. Respondent understands that he has a right to a public administrative hearing concerning this case. He further acknowledges that at such formal hearing he could present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. By entering into this Consent Agreement, Respondent knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waives his right to such an administrative hearing, as well as rights of rehearing, review, reconsideration, appeal, judicial review or any other administrative and/or judicial action concerning the matters set forth herein.
 - 3. Respondent affirmatively agrees that this Consent Agreement shall be

 irrevocable.

- 4. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement or any part of the agreement may be considered in any future disciplinary action by the Board against him.
- 5. The Consent Agreement, any record prepared in this matter, all investigative materials prepared or received by the Board and all related exhibits and materials, are public records upon acceptance by the Board of this Consent Agreement and may be retained in the Board's files pertaining to this matter.
- 6. Respondent understands this Consent Agreement deals with Board case number P23-008 involving allegations that Respondent engaged in conduct that would subject him to discipline under the Board's statutes and rules. The investigation into these allegations against Respondent shall be concluded upon the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement.
- 7. Respondent understands that this Consent Agreement does not constitute a dismissal or resolution of any other matters currently pending before the Board, if any, and does not constitute any waiver, express or implied, of the Board's statutory authority or jurisdiction regarding any other pending or future investigation, action or proceeding.
- 8. Respondent also understands that acceptance of this Consent Agreement does not preclude any other agency, subdivision, or officer of this State from instituting any other civil or criminal proceedings with respect to the conduct that is the subject of this Consent Agreement.
- 9. Respondent acknowledges and agrees that, upon signing this Consent Agreement and returning this document to the Board's Executive Director, he may not revoke his acceptance of the Consent Agreement or make any modifications to the document regardless of whether the Consent Agreement has been signed on behalf of the Board. Any modification to this original document is ineffective and void unless mutually agreed by the parties in writing.
- 10. This Consent Agreement is subject to the approval of the Board and is effective only when accepted by the Board and signed on behalf of the Board. If the

 Board does not accept this Consent Agreement, the Board retains its authority to hold a formal administrative hearing pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128(E). In the event that the Board does not approve this Consent Agreement, it is withdrawn and shall be of no evidentiary value and shall not be relied upon nor introduced in any action by any party, except that the parties agree that should the Board reject this Consent Agreement and this case proceeds to hearing, Respondent shall assert no claim that the Board was prejudiced by its review and discussion of this document or any records relating thereto.

- 11. If a court of competent jurisdiction rules that any part of this Consent Agreement is void or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of the Consent Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
- 12. Respondent understands that any violation of this Consent Agreement may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of the registration under A.R.S. § 32-150.
- 13. Respondent agrees that the Board will adopt the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Board is the duly constituted authority for the regulation and control of the practice of Engineering in the State of Arizona.
- 2. Respondent is the holder of Arizona Professional Engineer (Civil) Registration No. 34016.
- 3. On or about September 2021, Respondent prepared and provided a grading and drainage plan, to include a detail of a retaining wall, for a residential project located in Fountain Hills, AZ. On or about July 22, 2022, the Board received a complaint ("Complaint") alleging that Respondent may have violated Board statutes and rules in preparation of these grading and drainage plans.
- 4. Among other violations, the Complaint alleged critical discrepancies in the plan's location of a retaining wall; failure to properly perform calculations; failure to properly incorporate roof overhang and building location movement into calculations;

misstatement of lot coverage and miscalculation of total square footage under roof.

- 5. On or about September 22, 2023, an Enforcement Advisory Committee ("EAC") convened to review the Complaint against Respondent.
 - A. During his interview, Respondent stated the following:
 - I. The cut and fill quantities on the second submittal of the grading and drainage plan should have been updated;
 - II. There was a mistake regarding the reported lot coverage on the grading and drainage plan, because the design of the house changed after the first report was issued; and both figures for lot coverage were lower than, and compliant with, the lot coverage cap set forth in the Town's development code; and
 - III. He did not include calculations on the plans for the six-foot retaining wall and only provided the detail on the plans. Respondent further reiterated that he did not do new calculations when the wall height was changed from five feet to six feet; instead he stated that the detail from the six foot wall was copied from a separate project, which was approved by the City of Phoenix for an unrelated project. Respondent explained that the Town accepts, and did accept in this case, any standard detail for a retaining wall, without calculations.
 - B. At the conclusion of the EAC meeting, the EAC Committee determined the following:
 - I. Respondent failed to apply the appropriate technical knowledge and skill for the project through:
 - a. Failure to modify the cut and fill quantities and details on the grading and drainage plan; and
 - b. Deficiencies in the retaining wall plans, specifically:
 - 1. The calculations' failure to match the retaining wall on the drawings;

- 2. The detail on the drawings failure to have the sufficient information for contractors to be able to utilize; and
- 3. No calculations were provided for review, therefore, the committee could not review appropriately; however, independent analysis showed that the retaining wall as detailed is not sufficient to meet the means of this project and is structurally unstable.
- II. Ultimately, the Committee found that Respondent engaged in gross negligence through failing to do his duty as an engineer and the project having the potential to cause both harm to public safety and serious financial harm.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-101, et seq.
- 2. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128 (C) (4) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-301(6), in that Respondent may have failed to apply the appropriate technical knowledge and skill in the practice of a Board regulated profession.
- 3. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-128 (C)(2) as it relates to A.A.C. R4-30-101(13) in that Respondent may have engaged in gross negligence while providing professional services to the public.

<u>ORDER</u>

Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Board issues the following Order:

1. STAYED SUSPENSION AND PROBATION. As of the effective date of this Order, Respondent's registration as Professional Engineer (Civil), No. 34016, shall

- be suspended for twenty-four (24) months; however, the suspension is stayed for as long as Respondent remains in compliance with this Order. During the stay of suspension, Respondent's registration as a Professional Engineer (Civil) No. 34016, shall be placed on probation for twenty-four months. If Respondent is non-compliant with any terms of this Order during the twenty-four month stayed suspension and probation period, the stay of the suspension shall be lifted and Respondent's registration as a Professional Engineer (Civil) shall be automatically suspended without a formal hearing, and remain suspended until Respondent is compliant with all terms of this Order.
- 3. INDEFINITE RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE. As of the effective date of this Order, Respondent's registration as Professional Engineer (Civil) No. 34016, shall be placed on a restriction prohibiting Respondent from performing the practice of structural engineering. This restriction shall be of indefinite term, and shall only be terminated upon Respondent providing to the Board evidence demonstrating that Respondent has successfully taken and passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Structural Engineering Examination.
- 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. Within twelve (12) months from the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall pay an administrative penalty of Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
- 5. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within twelve (12) months from the effective date of this Order, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this case to the Board in the amount of Six Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$690.00) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
- 6. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, as well as, all rules governing the practice of Engineering in the State of Arizona. The Board shall consider any violation of this paragraph to be a separate violation of the rules and statues governing the Arizona Board of Technical Registration. The Board may consider Respondent's non-compliance with this Order as a separate violation of A.R.S. §

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7	230 W. Baseline Road
8	Tempe, AZ 85282
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11	By: Karlyn Crawford
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