In the Matter of:

BEFORE THE ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF TECHNICAL REGISTRATION

) Case No.: P22-020

Thomas LaBlonde, Non-Registrant LaBlonde Development Corporation

Respondents

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, Thomas LaBlonde ("Respondent"), Non-Registrant, and LaBlonde Development Corporation ("Respondent Firm"), a Non-Registered Firm, 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

- 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 P22-020 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 Professional Engineering and Architecture in the State of Arizona.
 - 2. Respondent is a Non-Registrant as a Professional Engineer or Architect.
 - 3. Respondent Firm is not, nor has ever been, registered with the Board.
- 4. On May 16, 2018, Respondent signed a contract for Respondent Firm to build a single family home for Alleger and her spouse at 10758 E. Troon North Drive in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- 5. On September 24, 2021, Alleger submitted a complaint to the Board alleging Respondent engaged in the practice of engineering without Board registration by altering design documents prepared and sealed by a Professional Engineer. The complaint also alleged Respondent fraudulently applied the professional seal and signature of another Professional Engineer in the submission of a Deferred Submittal Form to the City of

Scottsdale, Arizona. Additional allegations included Respondent advertised he is qualified to practice a Board regulated profession without Board registration, and Respondent's Firm practiced a Board regulated profession without firm registration.

- 6. On September 24, 2021, Respondent Firm's website, represented under builder profile, Respondent "is a NCARB registered architect." This statement was later removed from Respondent Firm's website. The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) established that Respondent has no registration with NCARB as he represented on Respondent Firm's website as registrations are actually issued by the State in which one actually practices. NCARB records also established that Respondent has not successfully completed any of the six examination sections necessary for NCARB certification.
- 7. On an unknown date during the project, Respondent submitted documents to Troon North Association in which he included a professional seal including *Thomas LaBlonde, Registered Architect*, with a non-existent registration number of 802168. The professional seal specifically identified Respondent as a Registered Architect, despite lacking Board registration. The non-existent registration number used by Respondent is actually a record number issued by NCARB to the respondent.
- 8. On or about April 25, 2018, Respondent used the registration of another by submitting a Deferred Submittal Form to the City of Scottsdale, Arizona with the professional seal and signature of a Registrant that confirmed the seal and signature were forged as the Registrant was not involved in the project nor was involved in the application of Registrant's seal and signature.
- 9. On May 30, 2019, Respondent admitted in an email message to the application of a professional seal in the name of a landscape designer as well as in Respondent's own name as a Registered Architect regarding plans or documents submitted to the Homeowner's Association of Alleger. Respondent also stated in the email message, "I am not just one of the many draftsman that represent themselves as an architect."

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. § 32-106.02(A), A.R.S. § 32-121, and A.R.S. § 32-145(1), in that Respondent held himself out as qualified to practice a Board regulated profession without the required Board registration.
- 3. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-106.02(A), A.R.S. § 32-145(2) in that Respondent advertised he is qualified to practice a Board regulated profession without Board registration.

 Respondent also displayed a device to indicate he is qualified to practice a Board regulated profession despite lacking the required Board registration.
- 4. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-145(3), in that Respondent used a professional seal identifying him as a Registered Architect, despite lacking the required Board registration.
- 5. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-145(4), in that Respondent used the registration of another.
- 6. The conduct alleged in the Findings of Fact constitutes grounds for discipline pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-121 and A.R.S. § 32-141, as Respondent Firm offered to practice a Board regulated profession without the required Board registration.

ORDER

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

- 1. CIVIL PENALTY. Within ninety (90) days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration.
- 2. COST OF INVESTIGATION. Within thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Consent Agreement, Respondent shall pay the cost of investigation of this

case to the Board in the amount of One Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety-Eight Dollars (\$1,498) by certified check or money order made payable to the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration, according to the provisions of A.R.S. § 32-128(H).

- 3. OBEY ALL LAWS. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, as well as, all rules governing the practice of Engineering and Architecture 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.
- 4. BFFECTIVE DATE. The effective date of this Consent Agreement is the date the Respondent and Board sign the Consent Agreement. If the dates are different, the effective date is the later of the two dates.
- COSTS OF COMPLIANCE. Respondent shall pay all costs associated with complying with this Consent Agreement.
- 6. NONCOMPLIANCE. If Respondent violates this Order in any way or fails to fulfill the requirements of this Order, the Board may seek a Petition for Injunction in accordance with the provisions set forth in A.R.S. § 32-106.01.

ACCEPTED and ORDERED this 22 day of MACCE , 2022

Jack Gilmore, L.A., Chairman Arizona State Board of Technical Registration

Consent Agreement and Order, No. P22-020 accepted this 22nd day of

Thomas LaBlande, Jr., on behalf of himself and LaBlande Development Corporation. Respondents

ORIGINAL filed this 23 00 day of

1	March, 2022, with:
2	Arizona State Board of Technical Registration
3	1110 W. Washington, Suite 240
4	Phoenix, AZ 85007
5	COPY of the foregoing mailed via Certified Mail
6	No. 9214 8901 9434 4600 0871 91 and First Class mail this 234 day of March, 2022, to:
7	
8	Thomas LaBlonde, Jr., C/O Richard W. Mear, Esq. Cavanagh Law Firm
9	1850 N. Central Ave. Suite 2400
10	Phoenix, AZ. 85004
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12	Ву:
13	GH Dochy BTR Investigater
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