BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE OF PARADISE SETTLEMENT SERVICES, LLC CORPORATE LICENSE: 1000011676

VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

NOW COME, PARADISE SETTLEMENT SERVICES, LLC (hereinafter "(PARADISE") and the North Carolina Department of Insurance (hereinafter "Department"), and hereby voluntarily and knowingly enter into the following Voluntary Settlement Agreement (hereinafter "this Agreement").

WHEREAS, the Department has the authority and responsibility for enforcement of the insurance laws of this State, and for regulating and licensing insurance agents and business entities; and

WHEREAS, PARADISE currently holds a non-resident Corporation (Business Entity) License with the Department; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina Gen. Stat. § 58-33-46(a)(2) authorizes the Commissioner of Insurance to place on probation, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under Article 33 of the North Carolina General Statutes for violating any insurance law of this or any other state; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k) requires designated producers on behalf of the licensed business entity to report to the Commissioner any administrative action taken against the producer in another state or by another governmental agency in this State within 30 days after the final disposition of the matter; and

WHEREAS, PARADISE entered into a Voluntary Forfeiture Agreement with the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration effective June 8, 2016 in which it was assessed a monetary penalty in the amount of \$250.00 for failing to timely file the required 2015 Annual Financial Interest Report and Affiliated Arrangement Report due March 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, PARADISE failed to report the administrative action taken by Missouri to the Commissioner within 30 days after the final disposition thereof, and admits to this violation of North Carolina General Statute § 58-33-32(k); and

WHEREAS, PARADISE has agreed to settle, compromise, and resolve the matter referenced in this Agreement, and the Department has agreed not to pursue additional penalties, sanctions, remedies, or restitution based on these matters against PARADISE; and

WHEREAS, the parties to this Agreement mutually wish to resolve this matter by consent before the Department initiates an administrative hearing, and have reached a mutually agreeable resolution of this matter as set out in this Agreement.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in exchange for the consideration and promises and agreements set out herein, PARADISE and the Department hereby agree to the following:

- 1. Immediately upon the signing of this Agreement, PARADISE shall pay a civil penalty of \$250.00 to the Department. The form of payment shall be by certified check, cashier's check or money order. The check or money order for the payment of this civil penalty shall be payable to the "North Carolina Department of Insurance." PARADISE shall remit the civil penalty by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Department along with a copy of this signed Agreement. The civil penalty and the signed Agreement must be received by the Department no later than <a href="March 12, 2018">March 12, 2018</a>. The civil penalty shall be subject to disbursement in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 7 of the North Carolina Constitution for the benefit of public schools.
- 2. This Agreement does not in any way affect the Department's disciplinary power in any future examination of PARADISE, or in any other complaints involving PARADISE.
- PARADISE enters into this Agreement freely and voluntarily and with the knowledge of
  its right to have an administrative hearing on this matter. PARADISE understands it may
  consult with an attorney prior to entering into this Agreement.
- 4. The parties to this Agreement agree that this Agreement shall have the full force and effect of an Order of the Commissioner. PARADISE understands that N.C.G.S. § 58-33-46(a)(2) provides that a business entity's license may be revoked for violating an Order of the Commissioner.
- 5. This Agreement, when finalized, will be a public record and will <u>not</u> be held confidential by the Department. Following the execution of this Agreement, all licenses issued by the Department to PARADISE shall reflect that Regulatory Action has been taken against it. The Department is free to disclose the contents of this Agreement with third parties upon

request or pursuant to any law or policy providing for such disclosure. The Department routinely provides copies of voluntary settlement agreements to all companies that have appointed the licensee.

- 6. The parties have read and understand this Agreement and agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated herein.
- 7. Be aware that if a state or federal regulator other than the N. C. Department of Insurance has issued an occupational or professional license to you, that regulator may require you to report this administrative action to it. The N.C. Department of Insurance cannot give you legal advice as to the specific reporting requirements of other state or federal regulators.

PARADISE SETTLEMENT SERVICES, LLC License No. 1000011676 North Carolina Dept. of Insurance

Byz Christopher J. McLucas Owner & DRLP

By: Teresa Knowles
Deputy Commissioner

Date: 2-12-18

Date: 2732018