

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

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In the Matter of:)	
)	
Stearns Bank, N.A.)	AA-EC-2016-17
St. Cloud, Minnesota)	
)	

CONSENT ORDER

The Comptroller of the Currency of the United States of America (“Comptroller”), through his national bank examiners, has conducted examinations and has supervisory authority over Stearns Bank, N.A., St. Cloud, Minnesota (“Bank”). The Comptroller has determined that the Bank has violated 12 C.F.R. § 21.11, and has informed the Bank of these findings.

The Bank, by and through its duly elected and acting Board of Directors (“Board”), has executed a Stipulation and Consent to the Issuance of a Consent Order, dated April 18, 2016, that is accepted by the Comptroller (“Stipulation”). By this Stipulation and Consent, which is incorporated herein by reference, the Bank has consented to the issuance of this Consent Cease and Desist Order (“Order”) by the Comptroller.

ARTICLE I

COMPTROLLER’S FINDINGS

The Comptroller finds, and the Bank neither admits nor denies, the following:

- (1) Beginning in March 2010, the Bank became aware of suspicious transactions associated with the manipulation and fabrication of accounts receivables and factoring invoices.
- (2) The Bank failed to adhere to its internal policies and procedures governing the monitoring and reporting of suspicious activity, including the maintenance of appropriate

documentation to support its Suspicious Activity Report (“SAR”) determinations, and failed to file timely SARs.

(3) By reason of the foregoing failure to file timely SARs, the Bank violated 12 C.F.R. § 21.11.

Pursuant to the authority vested in him by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended, 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b), the Comptroller hereby ORDERS that:

ARTICLE II

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING

(1) Within forty-five (45) days of this Order, the Board shall prepare and submit to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (“OCC”) for a prior written determination of no supervisory objection, a written program of policies and procedures to ensure, pursuant to 12 C.F.R. § 21.11, the timely and appropriate review of suspicious activity and the timely filing of SARs, including but not limited to, the identification and reporting of all suspicious activity across all monitoring channels (*e.g.*, transaction monitoring, enhanced due diligence processes, law enforcement requests).

(2) Upon receiving written notice of no supervisory objection from the OCC, the Board shall ensure that the Bank implements and thereafter adheres to the policies and procedures required by this Article.

ARTICLE III

APPROVAL, IMPLEMENTATION, AND REPORTS

(1) In the event the OCC asks the Bank to revise the policies and procedures required by Article II, the Bank shall promptly make necessary and appropriate revisions and resubmit the

materials to the OCC for a prior written determination of no supervisory objection. Thereafter, the Bank shall immediately adhere to the revised policies and procedures.

(2) During the term of this Order, the required plans, programs, policies, and procedures shall not be amended or rescinded in any material respect without a prior written determination of no supervisory objection from the OCC.

(3) During the term of this Order, the Bank shall revise the required policies and procedures as necessary to incorporate new, or changes to, applicable Legal Requirements and supervisory guidelines following the procedures above.

(4) By the end of every calendar quarter, the Board shall submit a written progress report to the OCC setting forth in detail the actions taken to comply with this Order, the results and status of those actions, and any further actions needed.

(5) All communication regarding this Order shall be sent to:

Nancy Sundstrom
Assistant Deputy Comptroller
Minneapolis Field Office
222 South 9th Street, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

or such other individuals or addresses as directed by the OCC.

(6) The Board shall ensure that the Bank has processes, personnel, and control systems to ensure implementation of and adherence to the plans, programs, policies, and procedures required by this Order.

ARTICLE IV

OTHER PROVISIONS

(1) Although this Order requires the Bank to submit certain actions, plans, programs, and policies for the review or prior written determination of no supervisory objection by the OCC, the Board has the ultimate responsibility for proper and sound management of the Bank.

(2) If, at any time, the Comptroller deems it appropriate in fulfilling the responsibilities placed upon him by the several laws of the United States to undertake any action affecting the Bank, nothing in this Order shall in any way inhibit, estop, bar, or otherwise prevent the Comptroller from so doing.

(3) This Order constitutes a settlement of the cease and desist proceeding against the Bank contemplated by the Comptroller, based on the practices and violations of law or regulation described in the Comptroller's Findings set forth in Article I of this Order. The Comptroller releases and discharges the Bank from all potential liability for a cease and desist order that has been or might have been asserted by the Comptroller based on the practices and violations described in Article I of the Order, to the extent known to the Comptroller as of the effective date of the Order. Nothing in the Stipulation or this Order, however, shall prevent the Comptroller from:

- (a) instituting enforcement actions, other than a cease and desist order, against the Bank based on the findings set forth in Article I of this Order;
- (b) instituting enforcement actions against the Bank based on any other findings;

- (c) instituting enforcement actions against the Bank's institution-affiliated parties based on the findings set forth in Article I of this Order, or any other findings; or
- (d) utilizing the findings set forth in Article I of this Order in future enforcement actions against the Bank or its institution-affiliated parties to establish a pattern or the continuation of a pattern.

Further, nothing in the Stipulation or this Order shall affect any right of the Comptroller to determine and ensure compliance with the terms and provisions of the Stipulation and this Order.

(4) This Order is and shall become effective upon its execution by the Comptroller, through his authorized representative whose hand appears below. The Order shall remain effective and enforceable, except to the extent that, and until such time as, any provision of this Order shall be amended, suspended, waived, or terminated in writing by the Comptroller or his authorized representative.

(5) Any time limitations imposed by this Order shall begin to run from the effective date of this Order, as shown below, unless the Order specifies otherwise. The time limitations may be extended in writing by the OCC for good cause upon written application by the Board. Any request to extend any time limitation shall include a statement setting forth in detail the special circumstances that prevent the Bank from complying with the time limitation, and shall be accompanied by relevant supporting documentation. The OCC decision regarding the request is final and not subject to further review.

(6) The terms and provisions of this Order apply to Stearns Bank, N.A. and all its subsidiaries, even though those subsidiaries are not named as parties to this Order. The Bank shall integrate any activities done by a subsidiary into its plans, policies, programs, and processes

required by this Order. The Bank shall ensure that its subsidiaries comply with all terms and provisions of this Order.

(7) This Order is intended to be, and shall be construed to be, a final order issued pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b), and expressly does not form, and may not be construed to form, a contract binding the Comptroller or the United States. Without limiting the foregoing, nothing in this Order shall affect any action against the Bank or its institution-affiliated parties by a bank regulatory agency, the United States Department of Justice, or any other law enforcement agency.

(8) The terms of this Order, including this paragraph, are not subject to amendment or modification by any extraneous expression, prior agreements, or prior arrangements between the parties, whether oral or written.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 18th day of April 2016.

//s// Nancy M. Sundstrom

Nancy M. Sundstrom
Assistant Deputy Comptroller
Minneapolis Field Office

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
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**STIPULATION AND CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE
OF A CONSENT ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States of America (“Comptroller”), based upon information derived from the exercise of his regulatory and supervisory responsibilities, intends to issue a cease and desist order to Stearns Bank, N.A., St. Cloud, Minnesota (“Bank”), pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b), for violating 12 C.F.R. § 21.11;

WHEREAS, in the interest of cooperation and to avoid additional costs associated with administrative and judicial proceedings with respect to the above matter, the Bank, through its duly elected and acting Board of Directors (the “Board”), has agreed to execute this Stipulation and Consent to the Issuance of a Consent Order (“Stipulation”), that is accepted by the Comptroller, through his duly authorized representative;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the above premises, it is stipulated by the Bank that:

ARTICLE I

JURISDICTION

(1) The Bank is a national banking association chartered and examined by the Comptroller pursuant to the National Bank Act of 1864, as amended, 12 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*

(2) The Comptroller is “the appropriate Federal banking agency” regarding the Bank pursuant to 12 U.S.C. §§ 1813(q) and 1818(b).

(3) The Bank is an “insured depository institution” within the meaning of 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b)(1).

ARTICLE II

CONSENT

(1) The Bank, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, consents and agrees to issuance of the accompanying Consent Order by the Comptroller.

(2) The terms and provisions of the Consent Order apply to the Bank and all of its subsidiaries, even though those subsidiaries are not named as parties to the Consent Order.

(3) The Bank consents and agrees that the Consent Order shall be deemed an “order issued with the consent of the depository institution” pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(h)(2), and consents and agrees that the Consent Order shall become effective upon its execution by the Comptroller through his authorized representative, and shall be fully enforceable by the Comptroller pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(i).

(4) Notwithstanding the absence of mutuality of obligation, or of consideration, or of a contract, the Comptroller may enforce any of the commitments or obligations herein undertaken by the Bank under his supervisory powers, including 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b), and not as

a matter of contract law. The Bank expressly acknowledges that neither the Bank nor the Comptroller has any intention to enter into a contract.

(5) The Bank declares that no separate promise or inducement of any kind has been made by the Comptroller, or by his agents or employees, to cause or induce the Bank to consent to the issuance of the Consent Order and/or execute this Stipulation.

(6) The Bank expressly acknowledges that no officer or employee of the Comptroller has statutory or other authority to bind the United States, the United States Treasury Department, the Comptroller, or any other federal bank regulatory agency or entity, or any officer or employee of any of those entities to a contract affecting the Comptroller's exercise of his supervisory responsibilities.

(7) The Consent Order constitutes a settlement of the cease and desist proceeding against the Bank contemplated by the Comptroller, based on the practices and violations of law described in the Comptroller's Findings set forth in Article I of the Consent Order. The Comptroller releases and discharges the Bank from all potential liability for a cease and desist order that has been or might have been asserted by the Comptroller based on the practices and violations described in the Consent Order, to the extent known to the Comptroller as of the effective date of the Consent Order. Nothing in this Stipulation or the Consent Order, however, shall prevent the Comptroller from:

- (a) instituting enforcement actions other than a cease and desist order against the Bank based on the findings set forth in Article I of the Consent Order;
- (b) instituting enforcement actions against the Bank based on any other findings;

- (c) instituting enforcement actions against the Bank's institution-affiliated parties based on the findings set forth in Article I of the Consent Order, or any other findings; or
- (d) utilizing the findings set forth in Article I of the Consent Order in future enforcement actions against the Bank or its institution-affiliated parties to establish a pattern or the continuation of a pattern.

Further, nothing in this Stipulation or the Consent Order shall affect any right of the Comptroller to determine and ensure compliance with the terms and provisions of this Stipulation or the Consent Order.

ARTICLE III

WAIVERS

- (1) The Bank, by executing this Stipulation and consenting to the Consent Order, waives:
 - (a) Any and all rights to the issuance of a Notice of Charges pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b);
 - (b) Any and all procedural rights available in connection with the issuance of the Consent Order;
 - (c) Any and all rights to a hearing and a final agency decision pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818(b) and (h), 12 C.F.R. Part 19;
 - (d) Any and all rights to seek any type of administrative or judicial review of the Consent Order;
 - (e) Any and all claims for fees, costs, or expenses against the Comptroller, or any of his agents or employees, related in any way to this enforcement

matter or the Consent Order, whether arising under common law or under the terms of any statute, including, but not limited to, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. § 504 and 28 U.S.C. § 2412;

- (f) Any and all rights to assert this proceeding, this Stipulation, consent to the issuance of the Consent Order, and/or the issuance of the Consent Order, as the basis for a claim of double jeopardy in any pending or future proceeding brought by the United States Department of Justice or any other governmental entity; and
- (g) Any and all rights to challenge or contest the validity of the Consent Order.

ARTICLE IV

CLOSING

(1) The provisions of this Stipulation and the Consent Order shall not inhibit, estop, bar, or otherwise prevent the Comptroller from taking any other action affecting the Bank if, at any time, he deems it appropriate to do so to fulfill the responsibilities placed upon him by the several laws of the United States of America.

(2) Nothing in this Stipulation or the Consent Order shall preclude any proceedings brought by the Comptroller to enforce the terms of the Consent Order, and nothing in this Stipulation or the Consent Order constitutes, nor shall the Bank contend that it constitutes, a release, discharge, compromise, settlement, dismissal, or resolution of any actions, or in any way affects any actions that may be or have been brought by any other representative of the United States or an agency thereof, including, without limitation, the United States Department of Justice.

(3) The terms of this Stipulation, including this paragraph, and of the Consent Order are not subject to amendment or modification by any extraneous expression, prior agreements or prior arrangements between the parties, whether oral or written.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned, authorized by the Comptroller as his representative, has hereunto set her hand on behalf of the Comptroller.

//S// Nancy M. Sundstrom

Nancy M. Sundstrom
Assistant Deputy Comptroller
Minneapolis Field Office

4/18/2016

Date

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned, as the duly elected and acting Board of Directors of Stearns Bank, N.A., St. Cloud, Minnesota, have hereunto set their hands on behalf of the Bank.

//s// Christopher Coborn
Christopher Coborn

4/04/2016
Date

//s// Norman Skalicky
Norman Skalicky

4/05/2016
Date

//s// Kelly Skalicky
Kelly Skalicky

4-6-2016
Date

//s// Donald Weeres
Donald Weeres

4-5-2016
Date

//s// Thomas Williams
Thomas Williams

4/5/16
Date