

FILED
JUN 18 2021

OSHA REVIEW BOARD
BY *K. Kennedy*

NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
REVIEW BOARD

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF
THE DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, STATE
OF NEVADA,

Docket No. RNO 19-1974

Complainant,

vs.

PONDEROSA HOTEL, INC.,

Respondent.

DECISION OF THE BOARD AND FINAL ORDER

This matter came on for hearing before the Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Review Board on September 11, 2019. The deliberations and disposition of the matter also took place on the same day.

The hearing was conducted in furtherance of a notice duly provided according to law. Salli Ortiz, Esq., appeared on behalf of complainant, Chief Administrative Officer of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Division of Industrial Relations (the "State" or "OSHA"). Mark R. Thierman, Esq., Thierman Buck, LLP, 7287 Lakeside Drive, Reno, NV 89511, appeared on behalf of the Ponderosa Hotel, Inc., respondent. Kami Kesmiri, of the Ponderosa Hotel, Inc., (Ponderosa) also appeared on behalf of the respondent.

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1 The Board of Review members in attendance throughout this matter were Steve Ingersoll,
2 Chairman, and Members Frank Milligan and Lance Semenko. There being three members of the
3 Board present to hear this matter, with at least one member from management and one member
4 from labor in attendance, a quorum was present to hear the matter and conduct the business of
5 the Board.

6 Jurisdiction is not disputed and is conferred by NRS 618.315. Also, a complaint may be
7 prosecuted which arises before or during an inspection of the employer's workplace. *See*, NRS
8 618.435(1). And, Nevada has adopted all Federal Occupational Safety and Health Standards
9 which the Secretary of Labor has promulgated, modified or revoked and any amendments
10 thereto, which are deemed the Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Standards. *See*, NRS
11 618.295(a).

12 The State's complaint sets forth the allegations of the Citations which the State claims
13 constitute violations of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Regulations. At the outset of the
14 hearing, the State offered for admission into evidence, Evidence Packet Number 1, from the
15 Division of Industrial Relations, consisting of pages 1 through 172. The State also offered for
16 admission into evidence, Evidence Packet Number 2, consisting of pages 173 and 174. Exhibits
17 1 and 2 were admitted into evidence without objection. *Tr.*, p. 15;5-12. Respondent, the
18 Ponderosa Hotel, Inc., offered no exhibits for admission into evidence, opting, instead, to defend
19 by cross-examination of the State's witnesses and the testimony of the respondent's lone witness,
20 Kamy Keshmari.

21 This matter came to the attention of State OSHA by reason of a governmental referral
22 about alleged safety violations. The complaint consists of Citation 1, Items 1 through 4, each of
23 which is a serious violation and carrying a fine of \$5,000 reduced to \$1,800, for each item. The
24 complaint also included Citation 2, Items 1 through 5, each of which was classified as an "other"
25 violation with no fine being assessed for each item of Citation 2.

26 Briefly, the Ponderosa is a former hotel and casino situated on South Virginia Street in
27 Reno, Nevada. The property eventually evolved into a single room occupancy (SRO) form of
28 affordable housing. The rent charged the tenants is \$600 per month for a 400 square foot

1 (20'X20') premises, including a bathroom and kitchenette type facilities. Tr., pp. 40, 131, 132.
2 These SROs constitute a part of the affordable housing stock serving the greater Reno-Sparks
3 metropolitan area. Ownership claims it loses money on the rental units. The property
4 economically survives because of the rent paid by a commercial tenant owned by the respondent
5 and occupying the commercial space a part of the property. Tr., p. 43. Essentially, this business,
6 respondent claims, subsidizes with its rent, the affordable housing use of the property. Absent
7 this subsidy, market rate rent would have to be charged, a rate the tenants would be unable to
8 afford. Tr., p. 43.

9 The two Citations, with nine sub-parts, revolve around the condition of the premises as
10 opposed to any overt, unlawful conduct on the part of management or the employees. Citation 1,
11 Item 1, alleges a serious violation of 29 CFR 1910.37(b)(1), providing that each exit route must
12 be adequately lighted so that an employee with normal vision can see along the exit route.

13 Citation 1, Item 2, alleges a serious violation of 29 CFR 1910.212(a)(1), providing that
14 one or more methods of machine guarding shall be provided to protect the operator and other
15 employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, in-going
16 nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks. This charge concerned an allegation that the
17 elevator sheaves and cables were not guarded on top of the mezzanine exposing employees to the
18 rotating parts and in-going nip points of the equipment on the sixth floor of the boiler room.

19 Citation 1, Item 3, alleges a serious violation of 29 CFR 1910.305(b)(2)(i), requiring that
20 all pull boxes, junctions boxes, and fittings shall be provided with covers identified for the
21 purpose. It was alleged that throughout the hotel, exposed electrical wiring and missing cover
22 plates were observed.

23 Citation 1, Item 4, alleges a serious violation of 29 CFR 1910.305(d)(2), providing that
24 panelboards shall be mounted in cabinets, cutout boxes, or enclosures designed for that purpose
25 and shall be dead front. It is alleged here that throughout the hotel, panel boards were missing
26 the dead front.

27 Citation 2, Item 1, alleged an "other" violation of 29 CFR 1910.157(c)(1), which provides
28 that the employer shall provide portable fire extinguishers and shall mount, locate and identify

1 them so that they are readily accessible to employees without subjecting the employees to
2 possible injury. It was alleged that throughout the hotel the fire extinguishers were observed not
3 mounted or identified in multiple instances.

4 Citation 2, Item 2, alleged an "other" violation of 29 CFR 1910.303(b)(2), providing that
5 listed or labeled equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with any instructions
6 included in the listing or labeling. Here, in the hotel lobby convenience store, two freezers were
7 plugged into a flexible cord with a pre-punched knockout box that was not used and installed per
8 the manufacturer's instructions.

9 Citation 2, Item 3, alleged an "other" violation of 29 CFR 1910.303(g)(1), requiring that
10 sufficient access and working space shall be provided and maintained about all electric
11 equipment to permit ready and safe operation and maintenance of such equipment. It was alleged
12 that throughout the hotel, 120-240 volt panelboards were observed without sufficient access and
13 working space.

14 Citation 2, Item 4, alleges an "other" violation of 29 CFR 1910.305(g)(1)(iv)(A), which
15 provided that unless specifically permitted otherwise in paragraph (g)(1)(ii) of this section,
16 flexible cords and cables may not be used as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure. It
17 was alleged that extension cords were used as a substitute for fixed wiring in multiple instances.

18 Citation 2, Item 5, alleges an "other" violation of 29 CFR 1910.305(g)(1)(iv)(B), which
19 provides that unless specifically permitted otherwise in paragraph (g)(1)(ii) of this section,
20 flexible cords and cables may not be used where they run through holes in walls, ceiling or
21 floors. It was alleged here that a fan mounted above the door of the entrance to the hotel lobby
22 was observed with a flexible cord running through the false ceiling tile.

23 Pursuant to NAC 618.788, the burden throughout is upon the State or complainant to
24 prove each element of the Citations. That is, the State must prove the *prima facie* case which
25 attaches to each Citation. This means the State must show for each Citation: (1) the applicability
26 of the OSHA regulation to the matter at hand; (2) non-compliance with the OSHA regulation; (3)
27 employee exposure to the hazardous conditions, the subject of the OSHA regulation; and, (4) the
28 employer's actual or constructive knowledge of the wrongful conduct. *See, Original Roofing*

1 *Company, LLC. v. Chief of Administrative Officer of the Occupational Safety and Health*
2 *Administration*, 442 P.3d 146, 149 (2019). These factors apply, whether the State has alleged a
3 serious violation or a violation of a less than serious or "other" nature. *Brennan v. Occupational*
4 *Safety and Health Review Com'n.*, 511 F. 2d 1139, 1143 (9th Cir., 1975).

5 At the outset of the hearing, the parties, by and through counsel, stipulated that a *prima*
6 *facie* case exists for all claims. Each Citation, therefore, required no additional proof of liability.

7 According to Ms. Ortiz, counsel for the State:

8 The parties have had discussions, and we are, at this point stipulating to the facts
9 in this case as supported by the record. We're stipulating the citations are valid,
10 and they are properly supported. We have stipulated to abatement, which is going
11 to include a monitoring inspection to allow them [respondent] time to abate
12 properly.

13 And the only contested matter here is the penalty amount. So that is what we are
14 hearing testimony on, and that is what we'll be arguing over. Tr., p. 10;2-11.

15 Board counsel then inquired of counsel for both parties: "The contents of the complaint is
16 (sic) stipulated as true. There is no dispute over liability, on (sic)[only] the amount of damages?"
17 Tr., p. 11;10-12. To the question, Ms. Ortiz answered: "Correct." Mr. Theirman then responded
18 for the respondent with the answer, "Yes" when asked if that was how he understood the
19 stipulations. Tr., p. 11;10-15.

20 Citation 1, Items 1 through 4 and Citation 2, Items 1 through 5 are deemed proved and
21 sustained. A *prima facie* case for each Citation is deemed established. Liability is accordingly
22 deemed established for each Citation and Item thereunder. The only matter left for resolution is
23 the amount of the penalty or assessment, in each instance. In that regard, as indicated, there are
24 no penalties associated with Citation 2, Items 1 through 5. With the stipulation on the *prima*
25 *facie* case, no further proof of Citation 2, Items 1 through 5, is necessary.

26 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

27 This matter came to the attention of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration
28 of the Division of Industrial Relations of the Department of Business and Industry, State of
Nevada, Complainant (State or State OSHA) on June 25, 2019, by virtue of a governmental
referral. Exhibit 1, pp. 3, 4. The respondent, the Ponderosa Hotel, Inc., (Ponderosa) is a

1 domestic corporation (limited liability corporation, Tr., p. 39;7-9), Exhibit 1, pp. 1, 2, located at
2 515 So. Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada. Exhibit 1, p. 1. While labeled a “hotel,” the Ponderosa
3 is a part of the affordable housing stock of the greater Reno-Sparks area, serving as a single room
4 occupancy apartment of 400 square feet, for which rent of \$600 per month is charged. Tr., p.
5 40;8.

6 The allegations of the State’s complaint involve the conditions of the property rather than
7 overt conduct of personnel. The parties have, however, by stipulation simplified the proceedings.
8 They have stipulated and agreed that the contents of the complaint are true, Tr., p. 11;10-15, that
9 the Citations of the complaint are valid and properly supported and that the parties have
10 stipulated to abatement. Tr., p. 10;2-11. The parties have further stipulated that the only
11 remaining contested matter is the amount of the penalty. Tr., p. 10;10-12.

12 By reason, then, of the stipulations of the parties that liability is established, no further
13 analysis of Citation 2, Items 1 through 5 is needed. A *prima facie* case for Citation 2, Items 1-5
14 has been made out and no penalty phase analysis is required because no fines are being assessed
15 as each Item of Citation 2 is deemed a non-serious offense warranting no gravity-based penalty.
16 See, Complaint, Exhibit 1, pp. 86-97, Exhibit 1, pp. 50-64. A *prima facie* case must be proven,
17 even for a less than serious offense but that is resolved by the stipulation that a *prima facie* case
18 has been made out and the Ponderosa is liable. Since there are no fines or penalties assessed for
19 Citation 2, Items 1-5, Tr., p. 26;12-14, and the Ponderosa agrees it is liable for each Item, nothing
20 more is required to sustain Citation 2, Items 1-5. Citation 2 is sustained in its entirety.

21 To the extent any of the Conclusions of Law, below, constitute Findings of Fact or a
22 mixed Findings of Fact and Conclusion of law, they are incorporated herein.

23 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

24 To the extent any of the Findings of Fact constitute Conclusions of Law or mixed
25 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, they are incorporated herein. By reason of the parties'
26 stipulations at the outset of the hearing that the contents of the complaint are true, there is no
27 dispute over liability as pled by the State, and that the Citations in the complaint are valid and
28 properly supported, proof of the elements of a *prima facie* case for Citations 1 and 2 and each

1 subpart is deemed to be established. Further, liability of the Ponderosa for each Citation and sub-
2 part is deemed established, with only damage amounts left to be proven. As no damages are
3 assessed for any of Citation 2, Items 1-5, no further proof is required and Citation 2, Items 1-5, is
4 sustained. Except for proof of damages, the liability phase of Citation 1, Items 1-4, is sustained
5 as the Ponderosa is deemed liable. Tr., p. 10;2-11. According to the Ponderosa: "...right now,
6 we're in the healing process, and the fixing process, not the blaming process." Tr., pp. 14;24,
7 25;1-2.

8 By reason of the stipulations of the parties, only the penalty phase is left in dispute for
9 Citation 1, Items 1-4. The Board is of the opinion, it must give due consideration to four penalty
10 phase factors when assessing penalties. They are: "(1) the size of the employer's business; (2)
11 the gravity of the violation; (3), the employer's good faith; and (4) the employer's history of
12 OSHA violations." *Secretary of Labor v. Rawson Contractors, Inc.*, OSHRC Docket No. 99-
13 0018. *See also, J.A. Jones Constr. Co.*, 15 BNA OSHC 2201, 2213-14, CCH OSHD ¶ 41,033
14 (No. 87-2059, 1993).

15 The record is clear, the State applied all four of these criterion to each of the four Items to
16 Citation 1, which is the only Citation deemed serious and for which penalties were assessed.
17 Each of the five sub-parts to Citation 2, were deemed less than serious or "other" violations with
18 no penalties assessed. *See*, the Complaint, Exhibit 1, pp. 86-97, and the work sheets for all of the
19 violations, including Items 1 through 4 of Citation 1, Exhibit 1, pp., 36-64. *See also*, the
20 testimony of Jared Mitchell, a State OSHA safety supervisor, Tr., p. 16; and before that, a State
21 OSHA, a safety inspector. As the safety supervisor for this matter, he had the final say on the
22 penalties to be assessed. Tr., p. 18. That is, he reviewed and approved the work sheets
23 developed by the investigator for each charge and fines levied or rejected in this matter. Tr., p.
24 18. The work sheets show the classification assigned each Citation and the calculations and
25 factors considered to arrive at the penalty being assessed or rejected. Tr., p. 18.

26 For each sub-part of Citation 1, the classification was serious because it was determined
27 that the threat of harm was severe. Tr., p. 19. Exhibit 1, pp., 36-64. This finding set the tone to
28 find the gravity based fine to be levied in response to the serious classification. Specifically, for

1 Citation 1, Item 1, the potential harm was deemed serious because in the event of an accident or
2 fire where employees are trying to escape, if they can't see due to inadequate lighting, they could
3 not escape, would remain trapped and could possibly die. Tr., p. 19.

4 For Citation 1, Item 1, the State then considered the "probability" element. Probability is
5 the likelihood of an accident happening. Tr., pp. 19,20. For Citation 1, Item 1, the State
6 determined the likelihood was "lesser" because so few employees would be impacted. That is to
7 say, the number of employees in the immediate area of the threat posed by the conditions, not the
8 total number of employees at the Ponderosa, control the probability factor. Tr., p. 20. The
9 probability factor was clearly considered.

10 The State also considered the gravity of the violation. The gravity of the offense is a
11 function of the severity and probability elements. It is an element generated by computer. In
12 this case, for Citation 1, Item 1, a high degree of severity and a lesser degree of probability
13 generated a moderate classification. Tr., p. 20.

14 The State also considered for Citation 1, Item 1, the fourth element, the "gravity-based"
15 penalty. Tr., p. 20. This is also computer generated. Accounting for each of these factors, the
16 computer yielded a gravity based penalty of \$5,000 for Citation 1, Item 1. Tr., p. 20.

17 The gravity-based penalty is not, however, the end of the analysis. The State also
18 considers mitigating factors. The analysis of the fine to be assessed takes into account the size of
19 the company. Here, the State concluded that the Ponderosa employed 11 persons at the time.
20 Exhibit 1, p. 3. For employers of less than 20 employees, a 60% discount on the fine levied is
21 given. Tr., p. 21. Because the Ponderosa, the State found, employed less than 20 individuals, the
22 60% discount was given. Tr., p. 21.

23 The State also mitigates for a clean historical record. The Ponderosa had no prior
24 violations and according to the State, a 10% discount applies for its clean prior history. The
25 State, therefore, the Board finds, considered for Citation 1, Item 1, all four of the factors required
26 of it to consider in the penalty phase. The Board finds and concludes that the factors were
27 correctly applied to Citation 1, Item 1, and as a result, the fine levied was reduced from the
28 gravity-based amount of \$5,000 to \$1,800 after the gravity based penalty was calculated for

1 Citation 1, Item 1. Tr., p. 21.

2 The Board also finds and concludes that the State completed the identical analysis it
3 applied to Citation 1, Item 1, to Citation 1, Items 2 through 4. That is, the State applied each of
4 the four penalty-phase elements to each of the other three Items to Citation 1. The State, then,
5 for each, applied the mitigating factors for prior history and size of the company. The end result
6 in each case was a serious violation yielding a gravity-based fine of \$5,000 which, when the
7 mitigating factors were applied, yielded a penalty of \$1,800 for Citation 1, Items 2 through 4.

8 The Board also finds and concludes, here, that the State properly applied the four penalty-
9 based factors to Citation 1, Items 2-4. Similarly, the Board correctly applied all the available
10 mitigating factors, properly yielding fines in each instance of \$1,800, for Citations 2-4. *See*,
11 Exhibit 1, Citation 1, Item 2, p. 39, Exhibit 1, Citation 1, Item 3, p. 42, and Exhibit 1, Citation 1,
12 Item 4, p. 46.

13 The State also considered Nevada's version of good faith and applied it to the Ponderosa
14 as another source of discount to the gravity-based fine. In Nevada, good faith is a function of
15 whether the employer has an adequate safety plan. Employers with 11 or fewer employees are
16 not required to have a safety plan. Tr., p. 35;13-20. Employers with 11 or fewer employees that
17 do have such a plan may be given a discount against the fine that would otherwise be assessed.
18 This is the extent of the good faith discount. Unfortunately, for the Ponderosa, it never presented
19 a qualified safety plan. This element was not, therefore, ignored. Ponderosa was simply not
20 eligible for a good faith discount as it was beyond dispute, the Ponderosa had no safety plan that
21 would entitle it to a good faith credit. Tr., p. 36;6-12.

22 The Ponderosa offered little in defense of itself. There was, however, an actual dispute
23 about the number of persons the Ponderosa employed. The State found and concluded that the
24 Ponderosa Hotel had 14 employee at the work site. *See*, Exhibit 1, p. 5. The number of 14
25 employees at the work site was found over the signature of John Hostetler, the employer
26 representative and a manager at the opening conference to the investigation of this claim. Exhibit
27 1, p. 5. True, the Ponderosa claimed it employed only 6-8 employees. Tr., p. 42. The
28 Ponderosa's problem, here, however is that its defense is based only upon the naked claim it

1 employed 6 or 8 employees. It produced no payroll records to support the number of employees
2 to which it lays claim. The Ponderosa provided no proof it was unable or incapable of producing
3 payroll records to support the number of employees it claimed at the work site. The Board,
4 therefore, draws the negative inference that since the Ponderosa could have produced payroll
5 records but did not, their production would not have supported the Ponderosa's claim it
6 employed less than 11 employees at the Hotel. *See, Bass-Davis v. Bass*, 172 Nev. 442, 448
7 (2006); *Turner v. Hudson Transit Lines*, 142 F.R.D. 68, 75 (S.D.N.Y., 1991). Receiving a
8 60% discount for employing less than 20 employees and receiving a 10% discount for having
9 with OSHA a clean history, the Ponderosa received all of the discounts from the \$5,000 penalty
10 taking it down to \$1,800 for a serious violation to which it was entitled. The State did not short
11 change the discounts given to the Ponderosa. The Ponderosa was given this 60% discount
12 which, when joined with the 10% discount for a clean record, reduced the fine for each Serious
13 Citation, Citations 1-4, to \$1800, the maximum allowable for these two factors.

14 The dispute over the number of employees might have come into play on the good faith
15 item, where small employers, who are not required to have a qualifying safety plan, nevertheless
16 have such a plan. If they have such a plan and only employ under 11 employees, they are entitled
17 to up to an additional 25% discount. Ponderosa, however, never produced a qualifying safety
18 plan in the first place. Therefore, even if the Ponderosa in fact employed only 6 employees, it
19 was of no moment because the Ponderosa had no safety plan in the first place. None was
20 supplied the State. Tr., p. 36;6-12.

21 It is true, the number of employees comes in to play when assessing the size of the
22 penalty associated with a particular citation. *See*, Exhibit 1, pp. 36-64. *See also*, Tr., p. 27. The
23 higher the number of employees, the greater the fine to be levied because there are more
24 employees exposed to the presenting condition. The number of employees is not, however, the
25 total of employees at the job site. Rather, the number entails only that number of employees
26 directly involved with or impacted by the specific condition or incident for which the penalty is
27 being assessed. Tr., p. 28; 4-8. For this reason, the dispute over the total number of employees
28 was of no moment.

1 Ponderosa also questioned Citation 1, Item 2, the failure to provide guarding shields on
2 the elevator sheath and elevator cables on the sixth floor in the boiler room. Tr., p. 28;9-19. The
3 Ponderosa argued there should be no fine, because the elevator was strictly off limits. No one is
4 supposed to be there and if no one is there, there could be no violation. Tr., pp. 28-29.

5 The problem is, according to the State, during the investigation and interviews, it was
6 verified that two employees accessed the area. Tr., p. 28;9-19. In addition, if the area was off
7 limits, the Ponderosa produced no memo or policy making it off limits and provided no evidence
8 of training that made it clear the area was off-limits and personnel were subject to termination
9 should someone enter the area. This defense is reminiscent of the rogue employee defense. It is,
10 however, clearly lacking, given the absence of proof of training in the policy barring personnel
11 from the area, no showing of the policy, itself, no proof of training in the policy and the like.
12 *See, Sanderson Farms, Inc. v. OSHRC*, 348 F. App'x. 53, 57 (5th Cir. 2009).

13 The Ponderosa raises one final defense that doesn't fit in any traditional theory for an
14 affirmative defense. Ponderosa claims, it is being victimized and harassed with this complaint in
15 retaliation arising out of a dispute between the Ponderosa, on the one hand, and Karl Hall, City of
16 Reno Attorney and the City of Reno, on the other. The claim goes, the Ponderosa is being
17 excessively investigated and charged because Karl Hall and Reno want the Ponderosa persecuted
18 because of the Ponderosa's other business. Consequently, the fines levied, are impacted by
19 being excessive.

20 First, the Board finds and concludes that there is not a scintilla of evidence in the record
21 that any Board member is aware of the alleged feud between the Ponderosa and Karl Hall and the
22 City of Reno. Absent this knowledge, there could be no claim, the Board, itself, has joined in the
23 alleged retaliation. *See, Cohen v. Fred Meyer, Inc.*, 686 F.2d 793, 798 (9th Cir. 1982).

24 Further, there is no evidence brought forward linking State OSHA with Karl Hall and the
25 City, to pursue the Ponderosa, on behalf of Mr. Hall and the City. The Board finds and
26 concludes that no aspect of this case was impacted in any way by this alleged dispute between the
27 Ponderosa and the City Attorney, Karl Hall, the City of Reno.

28 ///

1 The Board finds and concludes as a matter of law that by stipulation, for each Citation
2 and each Citation Item, a *prima facie* case has been established. Ponderosa liability has been
3 proven. And, the Board finds and concludes, further, the State considered all four of the penalty
4 phase factors which give rise to the fines as levied herein and properly applied them. The
5 evidence is clearly present to affirm each fine of \$1,800 levied for Citation 1, Items 1 through 4.
6 The defenses mounted to challenge the fines levied are unavailing. The dispute over whether the
7 Ponderosa employed 6, 8, or the 11 claimed by the State has no significance in the determination
8 of the fines levied. Citation 1, Items 1 through 4, is sustained. Abatement is hereby ordered.

9 As for Citation 2, Items 1 through 5, no fines were assessed. The *prima facie* case for
10 each being conceded, no challenge to Citation 2 was meaningfully mounted and Citation 2, Items
11 1 through 5, is sustained. Abatement is hereby ordered.

12 Accordingly, it was, therefore, moved by Frank Milligan, seconded by Lance Semenko, in
13 RNO 19-1974 to accept the stipulation that the respondent, Ponderosa Hotel, Inc., was guilty as
14 charged for each of the citations set out in the complaint. Mr. Milligan further moved the fines
15 levied for Citations 1, Items 1 through 4, in the amount of \$1,800 for each, or a total levy of
16 \$7,200, were correct and should be sustained. The motion was adopted on a vote of 3-0. The
17 charges and fines as levied were sustained and affirmed by the Board and the Citations against
18 the Ponderosa Hotel, Inc., were confirmed as charged.

19 **DECISION AND FINAL ORDER OF THE BOARD**

20 Thus, the Board finds and concludes that Citation 1, Items 1-4 and Citation 2, Items 1-5
21 are affirmed, including the fines levied of \$1,800 each as well as all abatements required.

22 ACCORDINGLY, it is HEREBY ORDERED that Citation 1, Item 1, the penalty and
23 abatement are sustained;

24 That Citation 1, Item 2, the penalty and abatement are affirmed;

25 That Citation 1, Item 3, the penalty and abatement are affirmed; and

26 That Citation 1, Item 4, the penalty and abatement are affirmed.

27 It is FURTHER ORDERED that for Citation 2, Items 1 through 5, though no fines were
28 assessed, as the *prima facie* case for each was conceded and no challenge to Citation 2 was

1 meaningfully mounted, Citation 2, Items 1 through 5, are sustained and abatement is hereby
2 ordered.

3 **APPROVAL OF DECISION AS FINAL ORDER OF THE BOARD**

4 On June 9, 2021, the Board convened to consider adoption of this Decision, as written or
5 as modified by the Board, as the Decision and Final Order of the Board.

6 Those present and eligible to vote on this question consisted of three of the five current
7 members of the Board, to-wit, Chairman Ingersoll, Secretary Weber and Member Mulligan.
8 Board Spielberg and Macias were ineligible to vote on this matter as neither were present for the
9 hearing on the merits of this case and had not reviewed the record giving rise to the decision.
10 Secretary Rodd Weber has reviewed the entire record that was before the Board on this matter
11 and is, therefore, also eligible to consider whether this decision tracks the Board's disposition of
12 this matter according to NRS 233B.124. A quorum was, therefore, present and eligible to vote
13 on whether this draft decision accurately reflected the Board's rational and action taken by the
14 Board.

15 Accordingly, it was moved by Rodd Weber, seconded by Frank Milligan, to approve the
16 draft decision prepared by Board Counsel as it accurately reflected the action taken by the Board.
17 The Motion was adopted. Vote: 3-0-2 (Macias and Spielberg abstaining).

18 The Board authorizes the Board Chairman or his Designee, after any grammatical or
19 typographical errors are corrected, to execute, without further Board review, this Decision on
20 behalf of the Nevada Occupational Safety and Health Review Board.

21 Therefore, on June 9, 2021, this Decision is hereby adopted and approved, thereby
22 constituting the Board's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Decision of the Board and the
23 Final Order of the Board of Review.

24 DATED this 18th day of June, 2021.

NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD

25
26
27 By:  _____
Steve Ingersoll, Chairman

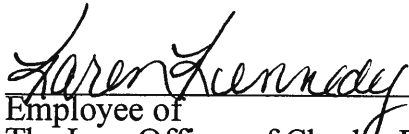
1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the Law Offices of Charles R.
3 Zeh, Esq., and that on this date I served the attached document, *Decision of the Board and Final*
4 *Order*, on those parties identified below by placing an original or true copy thereof in a sealed
envelope, certified mail/return receipt requested, postage prepaid, placed for collection and
mailing in the United States Mail, at Reno, Nevada:

5 Salli Ortiz, Esq.
6 DIR Legal
400 West King Street, Suite 201
7 Carson City, NV 89703

8 Mark R. Thierman, Esq.
9 Thierman Buck, LLP
7287 Lakeside Drive
Reno, NV 89511

10 Dated this 18th day of June, 2021.

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13 Employee of
The Law Offices of Charles R. Zeh, Esq.

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