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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

TO: William Norwood, d/b/a The Edge Financial Group, LLC, a/k/a Edge Financial Group, and a/k/a The Edge
1007 7th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

DESIST AND REFRAIN ORDER
(For violations of California Financial Code section 22100 and 22161)

The California Commissioner of Business Oversight (“Commissioner”) finds that:

1. William Norwood, doing business as The Edge Financial Group, LLC, also known as Edge Financial Group, and also known as The Edge (hereinafter “Norwood/The Edge Financial”), using the business address of 1007 7th Street, Sacramento, California and a website located on the Internet at www.edgefinancialgroupllc.com, has engaged in the business of a finance lender since at least December of 2011 as described below.

2. Borrowers may request a loan online at edgefinancialgroupllc.com, and are told that, “Edge Financial Group provides various forms of debt, mezzanine and equity capital for commercial real estate and business property owners or developers nationwide and internationally.” Norwood/The Edge Financial represent to be “...a privately owned boutique investment firm that solicits, underwrites, processes, and funds private money loans” and that “[a]fter a loan request is approved and processed, the loan is funded with pooled funds created by the Edge Financial Group and offered to private investors.” Borrowers are told that the “...mission of The Edge Financial Group, LLC is to invest, enhance and preserve investor’s capital by offering our customers high quality, innovative loan products...”

1 3. Borrowers are also told that “The Edge is comprised of highly experienced
2 professionals with specialized expertise and over 20 years of experience in Economic
3 Development, Real Estate Development, Financial Advisory and Agriculture Development,
4 Technological Consulting, and Building Systems for Residential, Industrial and Commercial
5 Applications.” Borrowers are told that “[t]he experienced team at Edge Financial Group
6 develops and executes financial structures that turn problematic transactions into closings” and
7 that its “...ability to put together almost any required capital component for a transaction allows
8 us to provide our borrowers and clients with the best available capital structure for their specific
9 property transaction, and circumstance.”

10 4. Norwood/The Edge Financial has not been issued a license by the Commissioner
11 authorizing them to engage in the business of a finance lender under the California Finance
12 Lenders Law.

13 5. While engaging in business as a finance lender, Norwood/The Edge Financial
14 omitted material information to borrowers, including a history of bankruptcies and civil and
15 criminal judgments, including but not limited to:

16 a.) filing for Chapter 13 bankruptcy on December 18, 2003 in case number 03-
17 33573 before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California;

18 b.) filing for Chapter 13 bankruptcy on October 14, 2003 in case number 03-
19 31206 before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California;

20 c.) filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on August 5, 2011 in case number 11-39198
21 before the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of California, in which an adversary
22 proceeding was commenced in case number 11-02723 on November 14, 2011 for fraud and
23 which resulted in a default judgment against Norwood for his activities with The Edge Financial
24 Group, LLC in the amount of \$18,532;

25 d.) a judgment on December 14, 2010 in the amount of \$32,500 plus interest for
26 failure to repay borrowed monies in case number 2009-00055821 before the Superior Court of
27 California, County of Sacramento;

28 e.) a state tax lien on July 23, 2008 in the amount of \$8,975;

- 1 f.) a state tax lien on December 31, 2002 in the amount of \$2,413; and
2 g.) a federal tax lien on March 8, 2002 in the amount of \$5,069.

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4 Based on the foregoing findings, the California Commissioner of Business Oversight is of
5 the opinion that Norwood/The Edge Financial has engaged in business as a finance lender
6 without having first obtained a license from the Commissioner in violation of California
7 Financial Code section 22100. Pursuant to California Financial Code section 22712, William
8 Norwood, doing business as The Edge Financial Group, LLC, also known as Edge Financial
9 Group and also known as The Edge, is ordered to desist and refrain from engaging in the
10 business of a finance lender in the State of California without first obtaining a license from the
11 Commissioner, or otherwise being exempt. This order is necessary, in the public interest, for the
12 protection of consumers, and is consistent with the purposes, policies, and provisions of the
13 California Finance Lenders Law. This order shall remain in full force and effect until further
14 order of the Commissioner.

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16 In addition, the California Commissioner of Business Oversight is of the opinion that the
17 statements and/or representations made by Norwood/The Edge Financial were made with regard
18 to the business and were false, misleading, deceptive, or omitted material information necessary
19 to make the statements not false, misleading, or deceptive. Pursuant to California Financial Code
20 section 22712, William Norwood, doing business as The Edge Financial Group, LLC, also
21 known as Edge Financial Group and also known as The Edge, is ordered to desist and refrain
22 from advertising, printing, displaying, publishing, distributing, or broadcasting, or causing or
23 permitting to be advertised, printed, displayed, published, distributed, or broadcast in any
24 manner, any statement or representation with regard to the business subject to the provisions of
25 the California Finance Lenders Law, including the rates, terms, or conditions for making or
26 negotiating loans, that is false, misleading, or deceptive, or that omits material information that is
27 necessary to make the statements not false, misleading, or deceptive. This order is necessary, in
28 the public interest, for the protection of consumers, and is consistent with the purposes, policies,

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and provisions of the California Finance Lenders Law. This order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commissioner.

Dated: October 29, 2014
Sacramento, CA

JAN LYNN OWEN
Commissioner of Business Oversight

By: _____
MARY ANN SMITH
Deputy Commissioner