

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Before the Director of the Department of Insurance and Financial Services**

**In the matter of:**

**Department of Insurance and Financial  
Services,  
Petitioner**

**Case No.: 19-1036  
Docket No.: 19-001101**

**v**

**Metropolitan Bank of Detroit,  
Respondent.**

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**Issued and entered  
on May 3, 2019  
by Randall Gregg  
Senior Deputy Director and General Counsel**

**FINAL DECISION AND ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST**

**Background and Procedural History**

On January 29, 2019, the Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) issued a Temporary Order to Cease and Desist to Metropolitan Bank of Detroit (Respondent). The Order required that Respondent immediately cease and desist from “operating its website, [www.metrobod.com](http://www.metrobod.com), from conducting any and all operations as Metropolitan Bank of Detroit, and from committing any acts in violation of the Code. . . .” DIFS also issued a Notice of Charges on January 29, 2019, asserting that Respondent was in violation of the Banking Code of 1999, MCL 487.11101 *et seq.* (the Code). The body of the Notice of Charges contained a statement of facts and a notice of hearing informing Respondent that an administrative hearing on the matter would be held on March 13, 2019, at the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS). Both the Temporary Order to Cease and Desist and the Notice of Charges were mailed to Respondent at the address that it purported to occupy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, Detroit, MI 48226.

DIFS referred the matter to MAHS by order dated January 29, 2019, and the matter was duly assigned to Administrative Law Judge Stephen B. Goldstein. On January 30, 2019, MAHS issued a Notice of Hearing scheduling the matter for a hearing to convene at 9:00 a.m. on March 13, 2019. The Notice of Hearing was sent to Respondent’s purported address cited above.

The March 13, 2019, hearing convened as scheduled. Respondent failed to appear at the hearing; however, after Judge Goldstein found that Respondent was properly served with notice, the hearing proceeded in Respondent’s absence, pursuant to Sections 72 and 78 of the Michigan Administrative Procedures Act, MCL 24.271 *et seq.* (APA). DIFS moved for a default judgment against Respondent based on its failure to appear.


Judge Goldstein granted the Motion for Default Judgment and issued a Proposal for Decision (PFD) on March 18, 2019, in which he adopted the facts contained in the Notice of Charges and recommended that DIFS issue a Final Cease and Desist Order. Neither party filed exceptions to the PFD.

### FINAL ORDER TO CEASE AND DESIST

Upon review of the complete record in this matter and consideration of all pertinent law, DIFS finds that the factual findings in the PFD are in accordance with the preponderance of the evidence and that the conclusions of law contained in the PFD are supported by reasoned opinion. Moreover, pursuant to MCL 487.12304(1), because Respondent did not appear at the March 13, 2019 hearing, it is considered to have consented to the issuance of a cease and desist order. It is therefore **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The PFD is adopted in whole and made a part of this final decision.
2. Respondent Metropolitan Bank of Detroit shall immediately CEASE AND DESIST from operating its website, [www.metrobod.com](http://www.metrobod.com), from conducting any and all business operations as Metropolitan Bank of Detroit, and from committing any acts in violation of the Code.
3. This Order is effective on the date it is issued and entered and shall remain in effect until terminated, modified, or set aside in writing by the Director.

Dated: 5-3-19

  
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Randall Gregg  
Senior Deputy Director and General Counsel