DISCIPLINE DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF A DISCIPLINE HEARING HELD PURSUANT TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS ACT 2002, S.O. 2002, C.30, Sch. B

BETWEEN:

REGISTRAR, MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS ACT, 2002

- AND -

1364279 ONTARIO INC. o/a BANK STREET KIA

- and -

SHIV DILAWRI

- and -

ASAD SHARIFI

Pursuant to Rule 1.07 of the Rules of Practice before the Discipline Committee and the Appeals Committee, I, the Chair of the Discipline Committee, have reviewed and considered the written Agreed Statement of Facts and Joint Submission on Penalty together with both Parties' waiver of a Hearing to this Proceeding and provide the following Order:

Date of Decision: April 29, 2021

Findings: Breach of Sections 4, 6, 7 and 9 of the Code of Ethics

Order:

- 1. The Dealer is ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$2,500 no later than July 31, 2021.
- 2. Sharifi is ordered to successfully complete the MVDA Key Elements Course Automotive no later than <u>December 31, 2021.</u> This date is subject to any pandemic related disruptions Georgian College may encounter in delivering this course within the specified timeframe.

- 3. The Dealer is ordered to ensure all sales staff employed by the Dealer have reviewed the August 2017 OMVIC advertising webinar. The Dealer will provide OMVIC with written confirmation from said staff that this has occurred, no later than <u>July 31, 2021</u>.
- 4. The Dealer ordered to offer all current and future sales staff the opportunity to complete the Course. Current sales staff will be offered the Course no later than <u>July 31, 2021</u>. Future sales staff will be offered the Course within 90 days of being retained in this capacity. The Dealer will incur all costs associated with this. It is understood between the parties this clause does not apply to sales staff who have completed the Course after January 1, 2009, or who are otherwise required to do so pursuant to the Act.
- 5. The Dealer, Dilawri, and Sharifi, agree to comply with the Act and Standards of Business Practice, as may be amended from time to time.

Written Reasons:

Reasons for Decision

Introduction

This matter proceeded on the basis of an Agreed Statement of Facts, Joint Submission on Penalty and the Parties' Waiver of Hearing, pursuant to Rule 1.07 of the Rules of Practice before the Discipline Committee and the Appeals Committee.

Agreed Statement of Facts

The parties to this proceeding agree that:

- 1. 1364279 Ontario Inc o/a Bank Street Kia (the "Dealer") was first registered as a motor vehicle dealer since around November 1999.
- 2. Shiv Dilawri ("Dilawri") was first registered as a motor vehicle salesperson under the Act in or around October 1982. At all material times, Dilawri has been the Director of the Dealer.
- 3. Asad Sharifi ("Sharifi") was first registered as a motor vehicle salesperson since around November 2007. Since in or around October 2017, Sharifi has been the sales manager, and person in charge of the day to day activities of the Dealer.
- 4. On or about March 4, 2016, Sharifi successfully completed Automotive Certification course (the "Course"). Included in the Course materials was information about a dealer's requirement to advertise all-inclusive vehicle prices ("all-in pricing").

OMVIC registrant education re: all-in pricing

 Since the Act was proclaimed, OMVIC has issued the following publications and webinars reminding dealers of their all-in pricing obligations, the dates of said publications are attached hereto as Schedule A. All of these publications continue to be available on OMVIC's website.

Direct correspondence with Dealer:

- 6. By letter dated April 9, 2010, the Dealer was reminded of the all-in pricing regulation.
- 7. During an inspection on or about April 16, 2013, a representative of the Registrar reminded the Dealer of the all-in pricing regulation.

Dealer's current non-compliance

- 8. During an inspection on or about October 27, 2020, a representative of the Registrar found the following all-in pricing non-compliance:
- On or before September 29, 2020 the Dealer advertised a 2021 Kia Seltos (VIN KNDEPCAA3M7108961) with an advertised selling price of \$26,790 plus HST and the cost of the license plates.
- 10. On or about September 29, 2020, Sharifi sold this vehicle on behalf of the Dealer and charged the purchaser an additional \$350 over the advertised price. As such, the vehicle's advertised price was not all-inclusive. This is contrary to section 36(7) of Ontario Regulation 333/08, as well as sections 4 and 9 of the Code of Ethics. The Dealer has since refunded the purchaser the amount they were charged over their vehicle's advertised price. The Dealer has since refunded the purchaser to the purchaser.
- 11. As the person in charge of the day to day activities of the Dealer, Sharifi has failed to ensure that the Dealer conducts its business in compliance with the Act and Code of Ethics and thus has personally contravened sections 6 and 9 of the Code of Ethics.
- 12. As the Director of the Dealer, Dilawri has failed to ensure that the Dealer conducts its business in compliance with the Act and Code of Ethics and thus has personally contravened sections 6 and 9 of the Code of Ethics.

By failing to comply with the following section of the Act:

Regulation 333/08:

36. Advertising:

(7) If an advertisement indicates the price of a motor vehicle, the price shall be set out in a clear, comprehensible and prominent manner and shall be set out as the total of,

(a) the amount that a buyer would be required to pay for the vehicle; and

(b) subject to subsections (9) and (10), all other charges related to the trade in the vehicle, including, if any, charges for freight, charges for inspection before delivery of the vehicle, fees, levies and taxes.

It is thereby agreed that the Dealer has breached section 4(2) of the Code of Ethics, as set out in regulation 332/08:

Disclosure and marketing:

4(2) A registrant shall ensure that all representations, including advertising, made by or on behalf of the registrant in connection with trading in motor vehicles, are legal, decent, ethical and truthful.

It is thereby agreed that the Dilawri and Sharifi have breached section 6(2) of the Code of Ethics, as set out in Regulation 332/08;

Accountability:

6. (2) A registered salesperson shall not do or omit to do anything that causes the registered motor vehicle dealer who employs or retains the salesperson to contravene this Regulation or any applicable law with respect to trading in motor vehicles.

It is thereby agreed that the Dealer, Dilawri, and Sharifi have breached section 9(1) of the Code of Ethics, as set out in Regulation 332/08:

Professionalism

9. (1) In carrying on business, a registrant shall not engage in any act or omission that, having regard to all of the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded as disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unbecoming of a registrant.

Joint Submission on Penalty

- 1. The Dealer agrees to pay a fine in the amount of \$2,500 no later than July 31, 2021.
- Sharifi agrees to successfully complete the MVDA Key Elements Course Automotive no later than <u>December 31, 2021</u>. This date is subject to any pandemic related disruptions Georgian College may encounter in delivering this course within the specified timeframe.
- 3. The Dealer agrees to ensure all sales staff employed by the Dealer have reviewed the August 2017 OMVIC advertising webinar. The Dealer will provide OMVIC with written confirmation from said staff that this has occurred, no later than <u>July 31, 2021.</u>
- 4. The Dealer agrees to offer all current and future sales staff the opportunity to complete the Course. Current sales staff will be offered the Course no later than <u>July 31, 2021</u>. Future sales staff will be offered the Course within 90 days of being retained in this capacity. The Dealer will incur all costs associated with this. It is understood between the parties this clause does not apply to sales staff who have completed the Course after January 1, 2009, or who are otherwise required to do so pursuant to the Act.
- 5. The Dealer, Dilawri, and Sharifi, agree to comply with the Act and Standards of Business Practice, as may be amended from time to time.

Decision of the Chair

Having reviewed and considered the Agreed Statement of Facts, the Chair of the Discipline Committee hereby concludes that the Dealer, Dilawri and Sharifi have breached subsections 4, 6, 7 and 9 of the OMVIC Code of Ethics, as set out in Ontario Regulation 332/08, made under the *Motor Vehicle Dealers Act, 2002*. The Chair of the Discipline Committee also agrees with the Parties' Joint Submission on Penalty and, accordingly, makes the following Order:

- 1. The Dealer is ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$2,500 no later than July 31, 2021.
- 2. Sharifi is ordered to successfully complete the MVDA Key Elements Course Automotive no later than <u>December 31, 2021.</u> This date is subject to any pandemic related disruptions Georgian College may encounter in delivering this course within the specified timeframe.
- 3. The Dealer is ordered to ensure all sales staff employed by the Dealer have reviewed the August 2017 OMVIC advertising webinar. The Dealer will provide OMVIC with written confirmation from said staff that this has occurred, no later than <u>July 31, 2021</u>.
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- 5. The Dealer, Dilawri, and Sharifi, agree to comply with the Act and Standards of Business Practice, as may be amended from time to time.

Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council Discipline Committee

Stuart Sherman, Vice-Chair