

Julianne C. Wheeler *Attorney* 

Direct Line: 602-885-7485 jcw@wheelerlawgroup.law

**Toni Hannigan** *Paralegal* 

Direct Line: 602-228-4809 toni@wheelerlawgroup.law

May 2, 2024

# VIA EMAIL jim@landarizona.net

James Kunisch LandArizona/JAK LLC 2015 Freda Lane Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007

Re: HT 4 Notice and Claim of Mechanics' Lien ("Mechanics' Lien")

Settlement Offer subject to Rule 408, Arizona Rules of Evidence

Dear Mr. Kunisch:

As you know from our April 29, 2024, conversation, this firm represents HT4, the entity that recorded the attached Mechanics' Lien against real property owned by LandArizona/JAK LLC (LandAZ"). During our conversation you advised me that, although you stated, in your January 30, 2024 letter to Rodney Schlesener of HT4, that you "sought legal counsel from [your] attorney at Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod" ("JHKM"), you are not, in fact, represented by that firm. Instead, you used Rocket Lawyer and communicated with Joseph Brophy, an attorney at JHKM, about the dispute between LandAZ and HT4 but never retained the firm as counsel. Accordingly, I am writing to you, instead of to Mr. Brophy, as you directed.

Your January 30, 2024, letter reflects a misunderstanding of Arizona law in several respects, only one of which is pertinent to this letter. Please note that a Conditional Waiver and Release on Final Payment must "follow substantially" the statutory form set forth in A.R.S. § 33-1008. A copy of that form is attached for your review. Under subsection (D) of that statute, a "waiver and release given by any claimant is unenforceable" if it does not substantially follow the attached form. The form that you presented to HT4 for signature does not come close to following Arizona's statutory form.



Way 7, 2024

Beyond that, LandAZ and HT4 had three (3) different contracts; one was for waterline work, a second for road earthwork and the third for earthwork for site pads. At your request, additional work was performed, all of which was described in an October 14, 2023, letter to you and summarized as follows:

HT4 recorded a lien for precisely this amount.

## RE-CAP

Money back on water line bill -

\$1,497.20 for pads

\$2,457.50 for road

\$375.00 for Tom Smith's hrs.

Total \$4,329.70

## Extra cost for hauling water

Truck time \$864.00

Extra rental time \$7,067.00

Labor costs \$4,000.00

Total \$11,931.00

Hose at well site \$175.00

Level around pump house \$100.00

Haul Road \$800.00

Total \$1,075.00

Electric Trench \$100 X 6 hrs = \$600.00

Extra cost for motels \$1,356.00

Total due \$19,291.70

GROSS RECEIPTS TAX \$954.00

GRAND TOTAL NOW DUE \$20,245.70

LandAZ paid only \$25,101.34; the amount recited in the form of lien waiver that you presented to HT4. In an apparent belief that the form of lien waiver that you presented to HT4, once signed, would act to provide LandAZ with a discount, you refused to pay more. Nowhere on the Conditional Waiver form does it state the name of the project for which lien rights were being waived or the nature of the work that was the subject of the form of lien waiver. Mr. Schlesener signed the document without any forewarning that LandAZ intended to pay nothing further for the additional work performed.

When we spoke, you told me that HT4 "cost you \$5,000" and claimed a right to backcharge for that amount. There are no communications from you that would explain a basis for doing that. In short, with the additional work performed on the waterline and because the form of lien waiver fails to comply with Arizona law, HT4 is due a minimum of \$20,245.70, plus statutory interest at 18% per Arizona's Prompt Pay Act to be calculated from the date due to the present, as well as attorneys' fees and costs.

In addition to the Mechanic's Lien Foreclosure claim, HT4 has a claim for unjust enrichment. There is little doubt that LandAZ has been unjustly enriched by the work that HT4 performed. Yout material quantities were wrong. Material was hauled from your friend's house and water had to be hauled from Quartzsite because you failed to provide it. Both you and your wife agreed to pay for that extra work. In addition, HT4 sat on its hands for 11 days waiting for you to get your pump ready. As a result, HT4 is entitled to restitution from LandAZ in an amount equal to the reasonable value of the work and materials provided. We are prepared to offer the testimony of another contractor who performs similar work. That contractor will testify that the amount that HT4 seeks as restitution is equal to or less than the reasonable value of the work performed.

When we spoke, you offered to resolve the matter for \$5,000.00. That offer is rejected. For purposes of settlement, only, and provided that a check for \$15,000 is received by either my office or HT4 **no later than close of business on May 9, 2024,** HT4 will accept \$15,000 as full and final payment for the amount due. I will prepare a Final Conditional Waiver and Release on Final Payment and present it to you after the check is received. Once the check clears the issuing bank, I will provide an Unconditional Waiver and Release on Final Payment, signed by Mr. Schlesener.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

WHEELER LAW GROUP, PLLC

Sincerely,

/s/Julianne C. Wheeler

Julianne C. Wheeler For the Firm

JCW/ cc: Rodney Schlesener Encl.

India Barana 计数字 有一致 二十五 CHARLES BROWN SERVERSE 

## PREPARED BY, RECORDING REQUESTED BY AND RETURN TO:

Jeff Veerhusen, As Ltd. Agent For National Lien & Bond Services LLC 428 E Thunderbird Rd, #131 Phoenix, AZ 85022

> NOTICE AND CLAIM OF MECHANIC'S AND MATERIALMAN'S LIEN OWNER OR REPUTED OWNER

LandArizona/JAK LLC

Cardiff By The Sea, CA 92007

2015 Freda Lane

CLAIMANT

HT4

PO Box 552

Safford, AZ 85548

Nature of improvements to be charged with a Lien:

General Contracting, Construction, & Repair

Amount of claim after deducting just credits and offsets:

\$20,245,70

## **REAL PROPERTY ADDRESS/LOCATION**

Quartzsite Land, 29884 N 53rd St, Quartzsite, AZ 85346 in the County of La Paz, APN: 302-56-003 A legal description of the property follows: THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 29. TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 19 WEST OF THE GILA AND SALT RIVER BASE AND MERIDIAN, LAPAZ COUNTY. ARIZONA (Section: 29 Township: 3N Range: 19W NE4 NE4 SEC 29 T-3N R-19W EX N 33' RD R/W).

- 1. I am the Claimant or have knowledge of the facts of this claim and make this affidavit in compliance with ARS 33-993.
- 2. Claimant has furnished labor, materials, machinery, fixtures or tools in the construction, alteration or repair of the buildings, other structures or above described improvements on Subject Real Property. This was done at the Request of Owner or Reputed Owner, or at the request of a person whom Claimant reasonably believed to be the lawful agent of Owner or Reputed Owner.
- 3. The Owner or Reputed Owner by whom Claimant was employed or to whom Claimant furnished materials was LandArizona/JAK LLC, 2015 Freda Lane, Cardiff By The Sea, CA 92007.
- 4. The labor, materials, machinery, fixtures or tools were furnished pursuant to a written contract, a copy of which is attached.
- 4. The building, structure or improvement or the alteration or repair of such building, structure or improvement was completed on
- 5. The Preliminary Twenty Day Notice required by ARS 33-992.01 was served on July 25, 2023.
- 6. If the lien against the dwelling of a person who became an owner-occupant prior to the construction, alteration, repair or improvement, the claimant has executed written contract directly with the owner-occupant. ARS 33-1002.

WHEREFORE Claimant demands a lien on the Subject Real Property and all improvements thereon in the amount set forth above, and in order to fix this lien has made this Notice and Claim in two or more original copies, causing one to be filed in the Office of the County Recorder of this County.

Dated November 21, 2023 for HT4, PO Box 552, Safford, AZ 85548

Jeff Veerhusen. As Ltd. Agent For, HT4

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY NOTARY PUBLIC**

State of Arizona	)
	)

County Of Maricopa

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN TO on the 21st day of November 2023 before me, Suzanne L. Hall NOTARY PUBLIC:

Signature What J. Wall
Notary Public in and for the State of Arizona
My Commission Expires: 01/01/2010 07/16/2026

SUZANNE L HALL Notary Public - Artzona Maricopa County Commission # 631718 My Comm. Expires Jul 16, 2026

# **Exhibit A - Property Description**

Owner: LandArizona/JAK LLC, 2015 Freda Lane, Cardiff By The Sea, CA 92007

Project: Quartzsite Land, 29884 N 53rd St, Quartzsite, AZ 85346

The following is a complete legal description, to the best of our knowledge, of the property to be liened. Information for this exhibit was obtained through the Recorder's Office where the property is located, or from other sources.

THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 3 NORTH, RANGE 19 WEST OF THE GILA AND SALT RIVER BASE AND MERIDIAN, LAPAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA (Section: 29 Township: 3N Range: 19W NE4 NE4 SEC 29 T-3N R-19W EX N 33' RD R/W)

File No: 5366 | AZ | Notice Requested by and Return To: National Lien & Bond Services LLC 428 E Thunderbird Rd, #131 Phoenix, AZ 85022 i Job No: 0723

Customer: LandArizona/JAK LLC Project: Quartzsite Land Rec. ID: 278721 FIRST CLASS MAIL Return Receipt Requested

#### TWENTY DAY PRELIMINARY NOTICE

In Accordance With Artzona Revised Statutes Section 33-992.01

THIS IS NOT A LIEN. THIS IS NOT A REFLECTION ON THE INTEGRITY OF ANY CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR TO: OWNER OR REPUTED OWNER

LandArizona/JAK LLC 2015 Freda Lane Cardiff By The Sea, CA 92007 TO: ORIGINAL CONTRACTOR OR REPUTED CONTRACTOR

PO Box 552 Safford, AZ 85548

TO: TENANT OR REPUTED TENANT

- 1. The following is a general description of the labor, service, equipment or materials furnished or to be furnished by the undersigned.
- General Contracting, Construction, & Repair 2. Estimated Price: \$75,000.00
- 3. The name of the person who furnished that labor, service, equipment or materials is:

HT4 PO Box 552 Safford, AZ 85548

4. The name of the person who contracted for purchase of that labor, service, equipment or material is:

LandArizona/JAK LLC 2015 Freda Lane Cardiff By The Sea, CA 92007 5. The description of the jobsite is. Quartzsite Land 29884 N 53rd St

Quartzsite, AZ 85346 County of La Paz. APN: 392-56-003

6. Date Claimant first provided said labor, services, equipment or materials: 07/13/2023

### NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER

If bills are not paid in full for the labor, professional services, materials, machinery, fixtures or tools furnished, or to be furnished, a Mechanic's Lien leading to the loss, through court foreclosure proceedings, of all or part of your property being improved may be placed against the property. You may wish to protect yourself against this consequence by either:

- 1. Requiring your contractor to furnish a conditional waiver and release pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes Section 33-1008, Subsection D. Paragraphs 1 and 3 signed by the person or firm giving you this notice before you make payment to your contractor,
- 2. Requiring your contractor to furnish a unconditional walver and release pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes Section 33-1008, Subsection D, Paragraphs 2 and 4 signed by the person or firm giving you this notice before you make payment to your contractor.

3. Using any other method or device that is appropriate under the circumstances.

Within ten days of the receipt of this preliminary twenty day notice the owner or other interested party is required to furnish all information necessary to correct any inaccuracies in the notice pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes Section 33-992.01, Subsection 1 or lose as a defense or lose as a defense any inaccuracy

Within ten days of the receipt of this preliminary twenty day notice if any Payment Bond has been recorded in compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes Section 33-1003. The owner must provide a copy of the Payment Bond including the name and address of the surety company and bonding agent providing the Payment Bond to the person who has given the preliminary twenty day notice. In the event that the owner or other interested party falls to provide the bond information within that ten day opnied, the claimant shall retain her rights to the extent precluded or prejudiced from asserting a claim against the bond fine band information."

> if Veerhusen, As U.d. Agent For, HT4, July 25, 2023 -DETACH HERE AND SEND LOWER PORTION TO CLAIMANT

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT	OF TWENTY DAY PRELIMINARY NOTICE
This acknowledges receipt on (today's date)	of a copy of the Twenty
Day Preliminary Notice at (address where notice received)	and the state of t
Date (date this acknowledgment is executed)	The state of the s
Signature of person acknowledging receipt, with title if acknowledgmen	nt is made for another person
Reference #: 778721   File #: 5366	

Prepared by National Lien & Bond Services LLC, 428 E Truncerbird Rd, #131, Phoenix, AZ, 85022, Phone. (602) 635-4628

# UNCONDITIONAL WAIVER AND RELEASE ON FINAL PAYMENT PURSUANT TO A.R.S. § 33-1008

Project:	
Job No.:	
furnished to the jobsite or to contracted) on the job of description) and does hereby waive or federal statutory bond right, any prights under any similar ordinance, r	full for all labor, services, equipment or material (person with whom undersigned (owner) located at (job and release any right to mechanic's lien, any state private bond right, any claim for payment and any rule or statute related to claim or payment rights for n, except for disputed claims for extra work in the
receives from this final payment	either has already paid or will use the monies he to promptly pay in full all of his laborers suppliers for all work, materials, equipment or -referenced project.
Dated:	
	>NAME OF COMPANY
	By
	>Name
	>Title

NOTICE: This document waives rights unconditionally and states that you have been paid for giving up those rights. This document is enforceable against you if you sign it, even if you have not been paid. If you have not been paid, use a conditional release form.