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Gambling Commission
Comm. & Legal Division

STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Suspension of the License to Conduct Gambling Activities of:	)	NO. CR 2014-00440
Tia R. George Wenatchee, Washington,	)	**SETTLEMENT ORDER**
Licensee.	)	

I.

This Settlement Order is entered into between the Washington State Gambling Commission and Tia R. George. Gregory Rosen, Assistant Attorney General, and Melinda Froud, Staff Attorney, represent the Gambling Commission. Tia R. George, licensee, represents herself.

II.

The Washington State Gambling Commission issued Tia R. George the following license.

Number 68-07820, authorizing Card Room Employee activity, currently with Papa's Casino in Moses Lake and formerly with Buzz Inn Casino in East Wenatchee.

The license expires on March 23, 2015, and was issued subject to Ms. George's compliance with state gambling laws and rules.

III.

The Director, issued a Notice of Administrative Charges and Opportunity for an Adjudicative Proceeding to the licensee on April 18, 2014. On May 1, 2014, Commission staff received the licensee's request for a hearing. The following summary of facts and violations were alleged in the Notice of Administrative Charges.

IV.

SUMMARY:

Tia R. George was issued a Notice of Violation and Settlement (NOVAS)[1] for failing to accurately report her tips. Ms. George failed to timely pay the NOVAS.

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[1] NOVAS- Notice of Violation and Settlement identifies the violation and gives the licensee the opportunity to pay a fine to settle the matter.

VIOLATIONS:

1) RCW 9.46.075 Denial, suspension, or revocation of license, application, or permit
The Commission may deny an application, or suspend or revoke any license or permit issued by it, for any reason or reasons, it deems to be in the public interest. These reasons shall include, but not be limited to, cases wherein the applicant or certified employee, or any person with any interest therein:
(The following subsection applies.)

(1) Has violated, failed or refused to comply with the provisions, requirements, conditions, limitations or duties imposed by chapter 9.46 RCW and any amendments thereto, or any rules adopted by the Commission pursuant thereto, or when a violation of any provision of chapter 9.46 RCW, or any Commission rule, has occurred upon any premises occupied or operated by any such person or over which he or she has substantial control.

2) WAC 230-03-085 Denying, suspending, or revoking an application, license or permit
We may deny, suspend, or revoke any application, license or permit, when the applicant, certified employee, or anyone holding a substantial interest in the applicant's or certified employee's business or organization:
(The following subsections apply.)

(1) Commits any act that constitutes grounds for denying, suspending, or revoking licenses or permits under RCW 9.46.075.

(3) Has demonstrated willful disregard for complying with ordinances, statutes, administrative rules, or court orders, whether at the local, state, or federal level.

3) WAC 230-15-425 Internal controls
(The following subsection applies.)

(2) Licensed card room employees must follow the internal control procedures for their individual functions.

4) WAC 230-15-475 Tips from players and patrons to card room employees
(The following subsection applies.)

(6) Employees must…
(d) accurately report all tips to their employer as described in the licensee's internal controls.

Tia R. George failed to comply with internal control procedures by under-reporting her tips by approximately $43 on June 14, 2013, in violation of WAC 230-15-425 and WAC 230-15-475. As a result, she has demonstrated willful disregard for complying with Commission rules, and there are grounds to suspend Tia R. George's license based on RCW 9.46.075(1) and WAC 230-03-085(1) and (3).

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V.

The licensee acknowledges that she has read the Notice of Administrative Charges and understands the facts contained in it. Ms. George has waived her right to a hearing based on the terms and conditions of this Settlement Order.

1) Tia R. George agrees that her license is **suspended for a period of twenty (20) days**, provided that:

a) **Ten (10) days of the suspension shall not be currently served, but shall be deferred for a period of one year** from the date of entry of this Settlement Order, subject to the following: The licensee agrees not to violate the terms of this Settlement Order, or any of Washington's gambling statutes or regulations during the one (1) year term. If the licensee violates this Settlement Order or gambling statutes or regulations, and if the violation is the type that warrants the filing of administrative or criminal charges, then the Director may impose the ten-day deferred suspension of the current gambling license and any subsequently acquired gambling licenses.

b) The parties agree that the Director of the Washington State Gambling Commission, pursuant to this Settlement Order, has discretion to determine whether the licensee has violated any term of this Settlement Order. In the event the Director determines that a violation has occurred, he may suspend the license issued to the licensee, and any subsequently acquired licenses, for up to ten days, by mailing or delivering a Notice of Order of Administrative Charges to the licensee. This suspension shall be in addition to any consequences of the new violation. The licensee shall be afforded the opportunity to have an Adjudicative Proceeding, which includes a hearing on the alleged violations.

c) **The licensee shall serve the remaining ten (10) days of this suspension, as follows**:

- **The suspension period will begin at 8:00 a.m. on June 9, 2014, and runs through June 18, 2014.**
- **The licensee may resume gambling activities at 8:00 a.m. on June 19, 2014.**

d) During this period of suspension, the licensee shall not conduct any gambling activities. Ms. George's suspension does not prevent her from working in any non-gambling activity, such as employment in restaurants located in card rooms.

2) Ms. George agrees to accurately report all of her tips as described in her employer's internal controls. Failure to do so will likely result in the revocation of Ms. George's license.

3) **The signed Settlement Order must be received by Commission staff by May 30, 2014.** Please mail to Commission Headquarters at the following address:

Washington State Gambling Commission
Attention: Communications and Legal Division
P.O. Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

Or delivered (in person or via private courier) to the following address:

Washington State Gambling Commission
Attention: Communications and Legal Division
4565 7th Avenue SE; Third Floor
Lacey, WA 98503

DATED this 5/27 day of ~~MAY~~ June, 2014.

David Trujillo, Director

APPROVED FOR ENTRY:
By her signature, the licensee understands and accepts the terms and conditions of this Order.

Tia R. George (DATE) 5/27/14
Licensee.

Melinda Froud, WSBA #26792
Staff Attorney, Washington State Gambling Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Gregory Rosen, WSBA# 15870
Assistant Attorney General
Representing the Washington State Gambling Commission