



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION

"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"

December 29, 2020

TIFANNIE GIBSON
8710 TERRACE RD SW
LAKEWOOD, WA 98498

RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION; CR 2020-00063

Dear Tifannie Gibson:

Enclosed is an Order of Default entered by the Commission on December 17, 2020, revoking your license to conduct gambling activities. This action occurred because you did not timely respond by requesting a hearing to the administrative charges mailed on September 17, 2020.

You have the right to move to vacate this Order. If you do so, we must receive your request by the 10th day after the Order was mailed. Your motion must include the specific grounds upon which relief is requested and must be submitted to:

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

You also have the right to submit a Petition for Judicial Review. If you do this, you must submit it within 30 days of the date the Order was mailed. RCW 34.05.514 explains where you must file this petition and RCW 34.05.546 explains what information your Petition must include.

This is not meant to be a full explanation of all the statutes and regulations you would need to understand to move to vacate or Petition for Judicial Review. Please call me at (800) 345-2529, extension 3473, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator
Legal & Records Division

Enclosure

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION**

7 In the Matter of:

NO. CR 2020-00673

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TIFANNIE S GIBSON,
License No. 68-23344,

FINAL ORDER OF THE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

Licensee.

This matter having come before the Washington State Gambling Commission (Commission) on December 17, 2020, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and issues its Final Order:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Washington State Gambling Commission issued Tifannie Gibson License No.: 68-23344 authorizing Public Card Room Employee activity at Emerald Downs in Auburn, Washington and Roxy's Bar & Grill in Seattle, Washington.

2. This license, which expires on October 20, 2021, was issued subject to Gibson's compliance with state gambling laws and Commission rules.

3. Gibson has been licensed since 2006.

4. On March 27, 2020, a WSGC Special Agent received a call from Ronald "Tony" Johns, the General Manager of Palace Casino in Lakewood. Johns was reporting that the casino had accepted and cashed a paycheck that was later returned with a "stop payment."¹

¹ Casinos are authorized to cash paychecks, although do so at their own discretion.

1 5. According to Johns, on February 5, 2020, Tifannie Gibson, a licensed Card Room
2 Employee, had asked the shift supervisor, Anthony Szrama to cash a paycheck for her. Szrama
3 had known Gibson for years. On top of playing frequently at Palace, she had previously worked
4 at Chips Casino, which is both physically attached to and owned by the same group as Palace.

5 6. Johns believed at the time that Szrama was asking about a Palace Casino
6 employee named "Tiffany", not Gibson. On February 14, 2020, Johns discovered that it was
7 Gibson who cashed the check using her driver's license. At the time it was cashed, a copy of
8 Gibson's license was taken, and her identification information was transcribed onto the check.

9 7. On March 30, 2020, Palace's Staff Accountant, Jennifer Hohenschuh, emailed
10 the Special Agent with copies of Gibson's license, the returned check, and an email from an
11 employee of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) outlining that a stop was placed on the check on
12 February 6, 2020.

13 8. On April 6, 2020, Alexander Hicks, a payroll employee for CHI responded to an
14 email sent by the Special Agent asking a series of bulleted questions.

15 9. Hicks informed the Special Agent that initially the \$1,017 check was to be direct
16 deposited into an account, but could not be because the account listed by Gibson was not valid.
17 Gibson had requested a paper check be issued immediately because she "has bills and absolutely
18 cannot wait." In response, Hicks issued the check numbered 6582227 to Gibson by mail on
19 January 23, 2020.

20 10. Gibson reported that she had not received the check in the mail on January 30,
21 2020. In response, CHI printed and mailed a replacement check, check number 6585977
22 overnight via FedEx on January 31, 2020.

23 11. According to Hicks, check number 6585977 was deposited into a new account by
24 Gibson on February 5, 2020. This means that Gibson had deposited the replacement check,
25 6585977 earlier in the day, and then proceeded to cash the original check with the stop placed
26 on it, number 6582227, later that evening at Palace.

1 12. On April 7, 2020, the Department of Licensing (DOL) responded to a request
2 from the Special Agent. The DOL confirmed that Gibson had never reported her driver's license
3 lost or stolen.

4 13. On April 20, 2020, Gibson agreed to speak with the Special Agent over the phone.
5 Gibson told the agent that she received both checks within three days of a new and unrelated
6 check being direct deposited into her new account. She claimed that she hadn't been paid in
7 over a month, and that the two paper checks were for the pay she was owed.

8 14. Gibson told the Special Agent that she told Szrama to call her if there were any
9 issues with the check. He had not called her. Gibson told the Special Agent that she was unaware
10 that check 6582227 had been returned to Palace. This was confirmed by Johns, as Palace had
11 closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 17, 2020 and had yet to reopen. Gibson told
12 the Special Agent that she intended to contact Palace to repay the \$1,017.

13 15. A review of Gibson's Sonoma player tracking software showed that on February
14 5, 2020 she bought in for a total of \$220 at one of Palace's Pai Gow tables. She continued to
15 play until she cashed check 6582227 at 8:57 p.m. Gibson proceeded to buy in the entire \$1,017
16 she had cashed out from 8:57 p.m. until 9:07 p.m., losing the entirety of the cashed money in
17 about ten minutes.

18 16. On June 20, 2020, Gibson agreed to a follow up interview with the Special Agent.
19 Gibson told the Special Agent that she had missed two paychecks (not including the check that
20 was successfully direct deposited). When asked why this contradicted with CHI's records
21 showing only one missed paycheck, she did not respond.

22 17. When asked whether she was given specific instructions by CHI to return or
23 destroy check 6582227 if she received it following the issuance of the replacement check
24 numbered 6585977, Gibson said she could neither confirm nor deny that she was.
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1 18. When asked if the reason that she had told CHI to immediately issue her a paper
2 check (which became check 6582227) was that she had bills and was at risk for eviction, Gibson
3 confirmed that was true.

4 19. The Special Agent asked why she cashed and immediately spent the entirety of
5 her paycheck when she was at risk for eviction, Gibson responded that she was trying to make
6 extra money.

7 20. Gibson has worked in the gambling industry since 2006. In addition, Gibson's
8 Sonoma player tracking records show her 2020 losses to be over \$2,000, with lifetime losses of
9 over \$26,000. When pressed about the legitimacy about her claim that she wanted to make extra
10 money, Gibson did not respond.

11 21. On June 17, 2020, Johns emailed the Special Agent to inform him that Gibson
12 had made her third and final payment to Palace for the returned \$1,017. Johns expressed that he
13 wished to continue to pursue administrative action against Gibson.

14 22. Director David Trujillo issued administrative charges on September 16, 2020
15 alleging that Gibson's actions constituted a violation of RCW 9.46.075 and WAC 230-03-085.
16 Further, that she could not show by clear and convincing evidence that she was qualified for
17 certification as required by RCW 9.46.153(1), and that her actions warranted revocation of her
18 certification pursuant to RCW 9.46.075(1) and (8), and WAC 230-03-085(1) and (9)(a), (c), and
19 (d).

20 23. Gibson was sent the charges by regular and certified mail on September 17, 2020
21 to the last address the Gambling Commission had on file.

22 24. Pursuant to WAC 230-17-010, a response was required to be received by the
23 Commission by October 12, 2020. To date, the Commission has received no communication
24 from Gibson.

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1 **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

2 1. Tifannie Gibson received proper notice within three days of September 17, 2020
3 charges via regular and certified mail pursuant to RCW 34.05.413 RCW 34.05.434, WAC 230-
4 17-005, WAC 230-17-010, and WAC 10-08-130.

5 2. The Commission can take final action against Tifannie Gibson's gambling license
6 under Case Number CR 2020-00673 pursuant to RCW 9.46.075, RCW 34.05.440(1), RCW
7 34.05.461, and WAC 230-03-085.

8 3. Tifannie Gibson's license should be revoked under Case Number CR 2020-00673
9 pursuant to RCW 9.46.075, RCW 9.46.153(1), RCW 34.05.440(1), RCW 34.05.461, and WAC
10 230-03-085.

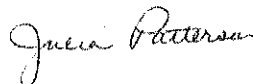
11 **III. ORDER**

12 This matter having come before the Commission at its December 17, 2020, Commission
13 meeting, the Commissioners having heard arguments, been given the chance to review the
14 administrative record, and being fully advised in this matter, now therefore:

15 It is hereby **ORDERED** that Tifannie Gibson's gambling license, Number 68-23344, is
16 **REVOKED.**

17 DATED this 17th day of December, 2020.

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20 _____
BUD SIZEMORE, Chair

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JULIA PATTERSON, Vice Chair

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ALICIA LEVY

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24 _____
LAUREN KING

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DATED this 17th day of December, 2020.

BUD SIZEMORE, Chair

JULIA PATTERSON, Vice Chair



ALICIA LEVY

LAUREN KING

1 **NOTICE**

2 Reconsideration: RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 230-17-140 provide that a party may file a
3 petition for reconsideration of a final order. A petition for reconsideration must be received no
4 later than thirteen (13) days after the date this final order is mailed. Any motion for
5 reconsideration must state the specific grounds supporting the party's request for
6 reconsideration.

7 Stay of Final Order: Filing for reconsideration does not stay the effectiveness of this
8 Order. WAC 230-17-145 provides that a party may petition the Commission for a stay of a final
9 order. Any petition for a stay should be received by the Commission within thirteen (13) days
10 after the date this final order is mailed.

11 Judicial Review: RCW 34.05.542 provides that a party may appeal this final order by
12 filing a petition for judicial review within thirty (30) days after service of this order. A petition
13 for judicial review must be filed with the appropriate superior court and served upon both the
14 Commission and the Office of the Attorney General.

15 Service: This Order was served on you three days after it was deposited in the United
16 States Postal Service regular mail, excluding the date of mailing. WAC 230-17-035.

17 Any motions or petitions for judicial review should be served on or mailed to:

18 Washington State Gambling Commission
19 Legal and Records Division
20 4565 7th Avenue S.E., Lacey, WA
21 P.O. Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504-2400


Doug Van de Brake
Attorney General's Office
1135 Washington St. SE
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I certify that on the date below I served a copy of the foregoing document on all parties
3 and/or their counsel by United States Postal Service regular mail to the following:

4 TIFANNIE GIBSON
5 8710 TERRACE RD SW
6 LAKEWOOD WA 98498

7 EXECUTED this 29 day of December, 2020, at Lacey, Washington.

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10 Ashlie Laydon
11 Rules Coordinator
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