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BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

CGCC Case No. GCADS-GEKE-002169

In the Matter of the Application for Approval
of Initial Gambling Establishment Key
Employee License Regarding:

DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER

ZACK ESMALI

Applicant.

Hearing Date: December 13, 2018
Time: 10:00 a.m.

1. This matter was scheduled for hearing before the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19870 and 19871 and Title 4, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 12060, in Sacramento, California, on December 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

2. Zack Esmali (Applicant) failed to appear and was not represented at the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT

3. On or about January 29, 2014, the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau) received an Application for Gambling Establishment Key Employee License from Applicant.

4. On or about June 12, 2018, the Bureau issued its Cardroom Key Employee Background Investigation Report (Bureau Report) in which it concluded that Applicant was unqualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19857 and disqualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19859. The Bureau recommended that the Commission deny Applicant's application.

5. On or about June 21, 2018, the Commission's Executive Director referred Applicant's application to an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Title 4, CCR section 12060, subdivision (a).

6. Applicant received notice of Commission consideration of Applicant's application in two ways. First, Commission staff mailed an evidentiary hearing referral letter via certified mail to Applicant's address of record on June 21, 2018 which included a blank Notice of Defense

1 form with instructions to return it to the Commission within 15 days of receipt or else the
2 Commission may issue a default decision. Commission staff received no response from Applicant
3 including a Notice of Defense form or otherwise as of August 10, 2018. (Exhibit A)

4 7. Second, Applicant further received notice of the hearing through a hearing notice
5 sent certified mail on August 17, 2018 to Applicant's address of record which included Exhibit A
6 and stated that the hearing was set to occur on December 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Commission
7 staff received no response.

8 **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

9 8. An application to receive a license constitutes a request for a determination of the
10 applicant's general character, integrity, and ability to participate in, engage in, or be associated
11 with, controlled gambling. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 19856, subd. (b).)

12 9. In addition, the burden of proving Applicant's qualifications to receive any license
13 from the Commission is on the applicant. (Bus. & Prof. Code § 19856, subd. (a).)

14 10. At an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections
15 19870 and 19871 and Title 4, CCR section 12060 the burden of proof rests with the applicant to
16 demonstrate why a license should be issued. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 12060, subd. (i).)

17 11. Title 4, CCR section 12052, subdivision (c), provides in pertinent part:

18 (c) An applicant for any license, permit, finding of suitability,
19 renewal, or other approval shall be given notice of the meeting at
20 pursuant to Section 12006.

21 * * *

22 (2) If the application is to be scheduled at an evidentiary
23 hearing, pursuant to subsections (a) or (b) of Section 12060, the
24 notice of hearing shall inform the applicant of the following:

25 * * *

26 (F) The waiver of an evidentiary hearing, or failure of
27 the applicant to submit a Notice of Defense, or failure of an applicant
28 to appear at an evidentiary hearing, may result in:

1. A default decision being issued by the
Commission based upon the Bureau report, any supplemental reports
by the Bureau and any other documents or testimony already

provided or which might be provided to the Commission

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2 12. The Commission takes official notice of the Bureau Report, any supplemental
3 reports by the Bureau and any other documents or testimony already provided to it in this matter
4 as required by Business and Professions Code section 19870, subdivision (a) and Title 4, CCR
5 section 12052, subdivision (c)(2)(F)(1).

6 13. The Commission has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

7 14. The Commission may deny Applicant's application based upon the Bureau report,
8 any supplemental reports by the Bureau and any other documents or testimony already provided
9 to it, pursuant to CCR section 12052, subdivision (c)(2)(F)(1), and Business and Professions
10 Code sections 19857 and 19859.

11 15. The Commission may further also deny Applicant's application based upon
12 Applicant's failure to prove to the Commission Applicant is qualified to receive a license or other
13 approval as required by Business and Professions Code section 19856, subdivision (a) and Title 4,
14 CCR section 12060(i).

15 16. Therefore, as the Applicant failed to return a Notice of Defense form, did not
16 attend the default hearing, and did not submit any information or evidence in favor of granting
17 Applicant's Application, Applicant did not meet Applicant's burden of demonstrating why a
18 license should be issued pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19856(a) and Title 4,
19 CCR section 12060(i). The Commission further finds that pursuant to California Code of
20 Regulations, Title 4, section 12052, subdivision (c)(2)(F)(1), Applicant's Application is subject to
21 denial.

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NOTICE OF APPLICANT’S APPEAL RIGHTS

Applicant has the following appeal rights available under state law:

Title 4, CCR section 12064, subdivision (a) and (b) provide, in part:

(a) After the Commission issues a decision following a GCA hearing conducted pursuant to Section 12060, an applicant denied a license, permit, registration, or finding of suitability, or whose license, permit, registration, or finding of suitability has had conditions, restrictions, or limitations imposed upon it, may request reconsideration by the Commission within 30 calendar days of service of the decision, or before the effective date specified in the decision, whichever is later.

(b) A request for reconsideration shall be made in writing to the Commission, copied to the Bureau, and shall state the reasons for the request, which must be based upon either:

- (1) Newly discovered evidence or legal authorities that could not reasonably have been presented before the Commission’s issuance of the decision or at the hearing on the matter; or,
- (2) Other good cause which the Commission may decide, in its sole discretion, merits reconsideration.

Business and Professions Code section 19870, subdivision (e) provides:

A decision of the commission denying a license or approval, or imposing any condition or restriction on the grant of a license or approval may be reviewed by petition pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Section 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure shall not apply to any judicial proceeding described in the foregoing sentence, and the court may grant the petition only if the court finds that the action of the commission was arbitrary and capricious, or that the action exceeded the commission's jurisdiction.

Title 4, CCR section 12066, subdivision (c) provides:

A decision of the Commission denying an application or imposing conditions on a license shall be subject to judicial review as provided in Business and Professions Code section 19870, subdivision (e). Neither the right to petition for judicial review nor the time for filing the petition shall be affected by failure to seek reconsideration.

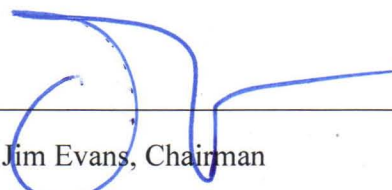
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ORDER

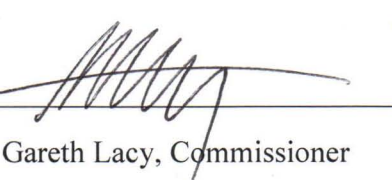
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3 1. ZACK ESMAILI'S Application for Gambling Establishment Key Employee
4 License is DENIED.

5 2. ZACK ESMAILI may not apply to the Commission or the Bureau for any type of
6 license, registration or work permit for one (1) year after the effective date of this Order.
7

8 This Order is effective on December 13, 2018.

9
10 Dated: 12/13/18 Signature: 
11 Jim Evans, Chairman

12
13 Dated: 12/13/2018 Signature: 
14 Paula LaBrie, Commissioner

15
16 Dated: 12/13/2018 Signature: 
17 Gareth Lacy, Commissioner

18
19 Dated: 12/13/18 Signature: 
20 Trang To, Commissioner
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DECLARATION OF Shana Marquez

I, Shana Marquez declare as follows:

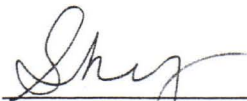
I am employed by the California Gambling Control Commission as an analyst in the Commission's Licensing Division. Zack Esmaili's case has been assigned to me for processing.

On June 21, 2018, I mailed a Gambling Control Act hearing referral letter to Zack Esmaili at [REDACTED] by certified mail pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 4, Division 18, Chapter 1, section 12006. This letter provided notice to Zack Esmaili that consideration of his application was being referred to a Gambling Control Act hearing pursuant to CCR, Title 4, Division 18, Chapter 1, section 12060(a). This letter included a Notice of Defense form (CGCC-ND-002) with instructions to return the Notice of Defense to the Commission within 15 days of receipt in order to preserve their right to an administrative hearing.

Today is August 10, 2018, and I have not received the Notice of Defense form or any communication from Zack Esmaili regarding a request for a Gambling Control Act hearing.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing statements are true and correct.

Executed on August 10, 2018, in Sacramento, California.



Shana Marquez