

BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application for Renewal of  
Key Employee License for:  
  
**BRANDON WONG**  
  
Applicant.

CGCC Case No. CGCC- 2024-0125-7

**DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER**

Hearing Date: June 20, 2024  
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, and held via Zoom video conference, on June 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Brandon Wong (Applicant) failed to appear and was not represented at the hearing.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

3. On or about October 3, 2023, the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau) received a renewal Application for Key Employee License (Application) from Applicant.

4. On December 14, 2023, the Commission received the Bureau’s Cardroom Key Employee Renewal Background Investigation Report (Bureau Report) on Applicant.

5. On January 25, 2024, the Commission considered Applicant’s Application and voted to refer it to a Gambling Control Act (CGA) evidentiary hearing pursuant to title 4, CCR section 12054(a)(4).

6. Applicant received notice of the Commission’s consideration of their Application in two ways. First, Commission staff mailed a GCA evidentiary hearing referral letter to Applicant’s address of record via U.S. regular mail and certified mail on January 26, 2024, which included a blank Notice of Defense form with instructions to return it to the Commission within 30 calendar days of service and that the failure to do so may result in the Commission issuing a default decision denying Applicant’s Application. Commission staff did not receive a Notice of

1 Defense form or any communication from Applicant within 30 calendar days of service. (Exhibit  
2 A.)

3 7. Second, the Commission served a Notice of Hearing Without Applicant  
4 Participation to Applicant’s address of record via certified mail, on April 19, 2024, with Exhibit  
5 A attached, notifying Applicant that due to their failure to return the Notice of Defense form  
6 within 30 days of receipt, a hearing via Zoom video conference will be conducted on June 20,  
7 2024, at 10:00 a.m., where the Commission may issue a default decision without Applicant’s  
8 participation.

9 **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

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

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

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

18 11. An application will be denied if the Commission finds that the applicant has not  
19 satisfied the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 19857. (Cal. Code Regs., tit.  
20 4, § 12040, subd. (a)(1).)

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

22 (c) An applicant for any license, permit, finding of suitability, renewal, or  
23 other approval shall be given notice of the meeting at which the  
24 application is scheduled to be heard. Notice shall be given pursuant to  
Section 12006.

25 \* \* \*

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

28 \* \* \*

(F) That the waiver of an evidentiary hearing, or failure of the applicant to submit a Notice of Defense, or failure by the applicant to appear at the evidentiary hearing, may result in a default decision or a hearing without applicant participation in accordance with Section 12057.

13. Title 4, CCR section 12057, subdivision (a), provides in pertinent part:

(a) When an applicant fails to submit a completed Notice of Defense, CGCC-CH1-03 according to the timelines on the form, affirmatively waives his, her, or its right to an evidentiary hearing, or fails to appear at an evidentiary hearing, the Commission will, based on the interests of justice and judicial economy:

(1) Issue a default decision after the consideration of the Bureau report, any supplemental reports by the Bureau, and any other documents or testimony provided or which may be provided to the Commission before the decision is issued;

\* \* \*

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

15. The Commission has jurisdiction to adjudicate this case by default.

16. The Commission may deny Applicant’s Application based upon the Bureau Report, any supplemental reports by the Bureau and any other documents or testimony already provided to it, pursuant to title 4, CCR sections 12052, subdivision (c)(2)(F), and 12057, and Business and Professions Code section 19857.

17. The Commission may also deny Applicant’s Application based upon failure of the Applicant to prove to the Commission that Applicant is qualified to receive a license or other approval as required by Business and Profession Code section 19856, subdivision (a), and title 4, CCR section 12060, subdivision (k).

18. An interim renewal license will be valid for a period of two years from the date the previous license, work permit, or other approval involving a finding of suitability, as well as an interim renewal license, expires, or until a decision is final under Section 12066, whichever is

1 earlier, and is not subject to renewal pursuant to title 4, CCR section 12035, subdivision (c)(2).

2 19. Therefore, as Applicant did not return a Notice of Defense form, did not attend the  
3 default hearing, and did not submit any information or evidence in favor of granting their  
4 Application, Applicant's burden of demonstrating why a license should be issued pursuant to  
5 Business and Professions Code section 19856, subdivision (a), and title 4, CCR section 12060,  
6 subdivision (k), was not met. By failing to meet the burden of proving qualifications for  
7 licensure, Applicant has failed to satisfy the Commission that Applicant is a person that is in all  
8 other respects qualified to be licensed pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19857,  
9 subdivision (c). As a result, the Commission finds that pursuant to title 4, CCR sections 12040,  
10 subdivision (a)(1), 12052, subdivision (c)(2)(F), and 12057, Applicant's Application is subject to  
11 denial.

12 **NOTICE OF APPLICANT'S APPEAL RIGHTS**

13 Applicant has the following appeal rights available under state law:

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

15 (a) After the Commission issues a decision following a GCA hearing conducted  
16 pursuant to Section 12060, an applicant denied a license, permit, registration, or  
17 finding of suitability, or whose license, permit, registration, or finding of suitability  
18 has had conditions, restrictions, or limitations imposed upon it, may request  
reconsideration by the Commission. A request for reconsideration must be:

19 (1) Made in writing to the Commission, copied to the complainant. The  
20 Bureau may provide a written response to the Commission within 10 calendar  
days of receipt of the request; and,

21 (2) Received by the Commission and complainant within 30 calendar days of  
22 service of the decision, or before the effective date specified in the decision,  
whichever is earlier.

23 (b) A request for reconsideration must state the reasons for the request, which  
24 must be based upon either:

25 (1) Newly discovered evidence or legal authorities that could not  
26 reasonably have been presented before the Commission's issuance of  
the decision or at the hearing on the matter; or,

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(2) Other good cause which the Commission may decide, in its sole discretion, merits reconsideration.

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

A decision of the commission after an evidentiary hearing, 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 held to consider that petition, 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 or restrictions on a license after an evidentiary hearing will be subject to judicial review as provided in Business and Professions Code section 19870, subdivision (f). Neither the right to petition for judicial review nor the time for filing the petition will be affected by failure to seek reconsideration.

**ORDER**

1. BRANDON WONG’s Renewal Application for Key Employee License is DENIED.
2. BRANDON WONG’s Interim Renewal License GEKE-002655 is no longer valid and cannot be used hereafter.

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**DECLARATION OF ERICKA RAMIREZ**

I, Ericka Ramirez, declare as follows:

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

On January 26, 2024, I mailed a Gambling Control Act hearing referral letter to Brandon Wong at [REDACTED] by regular mail and certified mail pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 4, Division 18, Chapter 1, section 12006. This letter provided notice to Brandon Wong that consideration of their application was being referred to a Gambling Control Act hearing pursuant to CCR, Title 4, Division 18, Chapter 1, section 12060(b). This letter included a Notice of Defense form (CGCC-CH1-03) with instructions to return the Notice of Defense to the Commission within 30 calendar days of service in order to preserve their right to an administrative hearing.

Today is April 2, 2024, and I have not received the Notice of Defense form or any communication from Brandon Wong 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 April 2, 2024, in Sacramento, California.



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Ericka Ramirez