

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application for Initial Key Employee License for:  
**THOMAS TRUONG**  
  
Applicant.

CGCC Case No. CGCC-2024-0919-5E

**DEFAULT DECISION AND ORDER**

Hearing Date: January 23, 2025  
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 January 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

2. Thomas Truong (Applicant) failed to appear and was not represented at the hearing.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

3. On or about March 28, 2022, the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau) received an initial Application for Employee Category License: Key Employee License (Application) from Applicant.

4. On or about June 21, 2024, the Commission received the Bureau’s Level III Gambling Establishment Key Employee Initial Background Investigation Report (Bureau Report) on Applicant.

5. On September 19, 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

1 Applicant's address of record via U.S. regular mail and certified mail on September 20, 2024,  
2 which included a blank Notice of Defense form with instructions to return it to the Commission  
3 within 30 calendar days of service and that the failure to do so may result in the Commission  
4 issuing a default decision denying Applicant's Application. Commission staff did not receive a  
5 Notice of Defense form or any communication from Applicant within 30 calendar days of service.  
6 (Exhibit A.)

7 7. Second, the Commission served a Notice of Hearing Without Applicant  
8 Participation to Applicant's address of record via certified mail, on November 19, 2024, with  
9 Exhibit A attached, notifying Applicant that due to their failure to return the Notice of Defense  
10 form within 30 days of receipt, a hearing via Zoom video conference will be conducted on  
11 January 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., where the Commission may issue a default decision without  
12 Applicant's participation.

13 **DETERMINATION OF ISSUES**

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

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

19 10. At an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections  
20 19870 and 19871 and title 4, CCR section 12060, the burden of proof rests with the applicant to  
21 demonstrate why a license should be issued. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 4, § 12060, subd. (k).)

22 11. An application will be denied if the Commission finds that the applicant has not  
23 satisfied the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 19857. (Cal. Code Regs., tit.  
24 4, § 12040, subd. (a)(1).)

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

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

1 Section 12006.

2 \* \* \*

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

6 \* \* \*

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

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

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

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

22 \* \* \*

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

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

28 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

1 approval as required by Business and Profession Code section 19856, subdivision (a), and title 4,  
2 CCR section 12060, subdivision (k).

3 18. A temporary license will be associated with an application for an initial license.  
4 Upon issuance or denial of an initial license by the Commission, the temporary license will  
5 become void and cannot be used thereafter pursuant to title 4, CCR section 12122, subdivisions  
6 (a) and (d).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

(b) A request for reconsideration must 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 (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. THOMAS TRUONG’S Application for a Key Employee License is DENIED.
2. THOMAS TRUONG’S Temporary Key Employee License Number GEKE-002720 is void and cannot be used hereafter.

///  
///  
///

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

3. THOMAS TRUONG may not apply to the Commission or the Bureau for any type of license or work permit for one (1) year after the effective date of this Order.

This Order is effective on February 22, 2025.

Dated: 1/23/2025 Signature:   
928DBCE0554B423...  
Stacey Luna Baxter, Commissioner

Dated: 1/23/2025 Signature:   
2B4CE9520F8845C...  
Eric Heins, Commissioner

Dated: 1/23/2025 Signature:   
7722F4571120449...  
William Liu, Commissioner

Dated: 1/23/2025 Signature:   
14B4AD3B90F8462...  
Edward Yee, Commissioner

**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. Thomas Truong's case has been assigned to me for processing.

On September 20, 2024, I mailed a Gambling Control Act hearing referral letter to Thomas Truong 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 Thomas Truong 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 October 22, 2024, and I have not received the Notice of Defense form or any communication from Thomas Truong 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 October 22, 2024, in Sacramento, California.



---

SHANA MARQUEZ