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BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

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

KEVIN PAUL WEST

Applicant.

CGCC Case No. CGCC-2025-0123-6B
BGC Case No. BGC-HQ2025-00002AL

DECISION AND ORDER

Hearing Date: January 27, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m.

This matter was heard by 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, via Zoom video conference, on January 27, 2026.

Kevin West (West) was present at the hearing without representation.

Elaine Yan, Deputy Attorney General, State of California (DAG Yan), represented complainant Yolanda Morrow, Director of the Department of Justice, Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau).

During the evidentiary hearing, Presiding Officer Paras Modha (PO Modha), Attorney IV of the Commission, took official notice and admitted into the administrative record the following documents: the Commission’s Notice and Agenda of Commission Hearing; the Commission’s Conclusion of Prehearing Conference letter; the Commission’s Notice of Hearing with attachments (A) West’s Initial Application for Key Employee License, and (B) the Bureau’s Cardroom Key Employee Initial Background Investigation Report; the Bureau’s Statement of Reasons; and West’s signed Notice of Defense form.

During the evidentiary hearing, PO Modha accepted into evidence Exhibits 1-17, Bates Nos. BGC 0001-0332, offered by the Bureau and identified on the Bureau’s Exhibit List pursuant to a stipulation between the parties.

PO Modha also accepted into evidence Exhibit A, Bates No. 001-010 offered by West, pursuant to a stipulation between the parties.

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FINDINGS OF FACT

Procedural History

1. On March 15, 2023, the Bureau received a Key Employee or TPPPS Supervisor: Supplemental Information form (Supplemental) and an Initial Application for Key Employee License from West (collectively referred to as “Application”).¹

2. On April 26, 2023, the Bureau issued temporary Key Employee License GEKE-0022805 to West which was valid through March 31, 2025.

3. On November 25, 2024, the Commission received a Cardroom Key Employee Initial Background Investigation Report (Background Report) on West from the Bureau. In the Background Report, the Bureau recommends that West’s Application be denied based on his failure to disclose several misdemeanor convictions.

4. On January 9, 2025, the Commission notified West that the Commission would consider his Application at its January 23, 2025, meeting.

5. On January 23, 2025, the Commission considered West’s Application and voted to refer its consideration to a Gambling Control Act (GCA) evidentiary hearing. Also, on January 23, 2025, the Commission sent West notice of its referral of his Application to a GCA evidentiary hearing.

6. On or about February 10, 2025, the Commission received a Notice of Defense form from West requesting an evidentiary hearing on the consideration of his Application.

7. On March 21, 2025, the Bureau issued a new temporary Key Employee License GEKE-002956 to West which will expire on February 28, 2027.

8. On September 19, 2025, the Commission sent a Notice of Hearing to West and DAG Yan. The hearing was set for January 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The Prehearing Conference was set for December 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

9. On October 7, 2025, the Bureau sent a Statement of Reasons to West and the

¹ On March 15, 2023, the Bureau received from West a Supplemental Information form CGCC-CH2-08 (Rev. 03/21), which was not the most recent version of the form. Therefore, West resubmitted a new supplemental on the correct form, CGCC-CH2-04 (Rev. 11/21), which was received by the Bureau on April 3, 2023, with identical responses.

1 Commission. In the Statement of Reasons, the Bureau alleges two causes for denial of the
2 Application. The first cause for denial alleges that West is disqualified from licensure based on a
3 failure to disclose multiple misdemeanor convictions on the Application. The second cause for
4 denial alleges that West failed to establish that he is a person of good character, honesty, and
5 integrity.

6 10. On December 2, 2025, the noticed Prehearing Conference was held before PO Modha.
7 West attended on his own behalf. DAG Yan attended on behalf of the Bureau.

8 11. The GCA hearing on the Application commenced and concluded on January 27, 2026.
9 PO Modha closed the administrative record and the matter was submitted for decision.

10 **West’s Employment History in Controlled Gambling**

11 12. West began working as a dealer at Diamond Jim’s Casino on November 1, 2009. The
12 purpose of the Application is to allow for West’s promotion to a Customer Service
13 Representative, a key employee position.

14 13. There was no evidence presented that West has had any derogatory employment
15 history while working in controlled gambling.

16 **West’s Application**

17 14. West’s Application consists of two parts. The first part is two pages and requires
18 the applicant to provide personal information. The second part is the Supplemental, which at the
19 time West filled it out was ten pages and contained twelve sections.

20 15. Section (4) of the Supplemental requires an applicant to disclose their criminal history.
21 Section (4)(A) asks the applicant: “HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OR PLED GUILTY OR NOLO
22 CONTENDERE (NO CONTEST) TO A MISDEMEANOR OR FELONY?” (Emphasis in original.) For each
23 conviction disclosed, the applicant must provide the approximate date of each conviction, the
24 arresting agency, the city and state of the court location, and the criminal conviction and factual
25 circumstances that led to the conviction.

26 16. West appropriately checked the box marked “yes” to the question in Section (4)(A)
27 of his Supplemental. West disclosed that he was arrested by the Bakersfield Police Department
28 and convicted on approximately May 1, 2005, for Driving Under the Influence and on February 1,

1 2006, for Driving on a Suspended License.

2 **The Bureau's Background Investigation**

3 17. In the course of the Bureau's background investigation, it was determined that West
4 had eleven misdemeanor convictions, nine of which he did not disclose on his Application.

5 18. On October 4, 2000, West was convicted of five counts of violating California Penal
6 Code section 594, subdivision (b)(4) (vandalism), by the Kern County Superior Court. West was
7 sentenced to three years of probation and ordered to pay restitution.

8 19. On September 19, 2001, West was convicted of violating Texas Statute section
9 481.121, subdivision (b)(1) (possession of marijuana, less than two ounces), by a court in Tarrant
10 County, Texas. West was sentenced to one year of probation, 24 hours of community service, and
11 ordered to pay a fine.

12 20. On April 19, 2005, West was convicted of violating California Vehicle Code
13 section 23152, subdivision (a) (driving under the influence), by the Kern County Superior Court.
14 West was sentenced to four days in jail, three years of probation, and ordered to pay a fine.

15 21. On May 12, 2006, West was convicted of violating California Vehicle Code section
16 14601.1, subdivision (a) (driving while license suspended), by the Kern County Superior Court.
17 West was ordered to pay a fine.

18 22. Also on May 12, 2006, in a separate case, West was convicted of violating Vehicle
19 Code section 4462.5 (show on vehicle/give officer unlawful registration) and Vehicle Code
20 section 14601.1, subdivision (a) (driving while license suspended). West was sentenced to three
21 years of probation and ordered to pay a fine.

22 23. On February 9, 2011, West was convicted of violating California Vehicle Code
23 section 23222, subdivision (b) (possession of marijuana, one ounce or less, while driving), by the
24 Los Angeles County Superior Court. West was ordered to pay a fine and restitution.

25 24. On October 20, 2023, the Bureau wrote to West and identified each conviction found
26 in the background investigation. The Bureau requested that West provide a signed and dated
27 statement explaining why he did not disclose all his convictions and the circumstances that led to
28 each of them.

1 25. West responded and for each conviction that was not disclosed, he provided a similar
2 explanation that the convictions occurred between seventeen and twenty-one years ago, he had no
3 records concerning the incidents, and the convictions completely slipped his mind while filling
4 out the Application. West also described the circumstances leading to each conviction.

5 26. The Bureau compared West's descriptions of the events leading to his convictions
6 with police reports from the incidents and found a discrepancy regarding his vandalism
7 convictions from 2000. West's statement described the circumstances leading to the convictions
8 as being "in possession of a video camera that contained footage of local graffiti artists painting."
9 However, the police report indicated that while West voluntarily took officers to the locations
10 depicted in the video, West admitted that he painted a character on a wall at one of the locations.

11 27. The Bureau wrote to West, stating that his prior statement did not indicate that he
12 participated in any of the graffiti and asked him to provide a statement explaining the
13 discrepancy.

14 28. West provided an additional statement explaining the discrepancy, noting that it was
15 extremely difficult for him to recount any details surrounding this incident because it occurred so
16 long ago and he hadn't thought about it in over twenty years. West wrote that he remembers that
17 he was honest with the officers at the time and "thinking back now, I believe I did paint a small
18 cartoon character somewhere, but I'm pretty sure the multiple counts came from the footage on
19 the video tape they confiscated." West described the incident as a childish mistake and stated he
20 has not been involved in any similar conduct since.

21 29. Regarding the 2006 conviction for unlawful registration, West's original statement to
22 the Bureau was that the conviction resulted from him "driving a vehicle with the wrong tags on
23 the plates." The Bureau obtained a copy of the police report which indicates that the registration
24 for the vehicle West was driving expired in September 2005; however, the vehicle had a 2006
25 registration sticker attached to the license plate. The Bureau requested that West provide a more
26 detailed statement regarding the incident.

27 30. West provided a more detailed statement admitting that he was aware of the fact he
28 was driving with an unlawful registration. West explained that though it was not an excuse, the

1 incident occurred due to a combination of him experiencing a financial hardship, extreme sadness
2 from losing his father, and the immense stress of expecting the birth of his daughter. West said he
3 was influenced by bad advice and “it was a stupid decision.”

4 31. Regarding West’s marijuana conviction in Texas in 2001, the Bureau found that West
5 had an active warrant for failing to pay the fine associated with the conviction. The Bureau
6 notified West of the outstanding fine and soon after West paid it. The Bureau verified with the
7 court that the fine was paid and the warrant was cleared.

8 **Andrea Farris’s Testimony During the Evidentiary Hearing**

9 32. Andrea Farris (Farris) is a Supervisor I at the Bureau. Farris supervises four
10 employees who conduct background investigations on applicants for key employee licenses and
11 work permits. Farris oversaw the Bureau’s investigation concerning West and reviewed and
12 edited the Bureau’s Background Report.

13 33. Farris testified that the Bureau recommends denial of West’s Application because he
14 failed to disclose nine misdemeanor convictions on his Application.

15 34. Farris testified that West’s explanation for not disclosing the convictions was that the
16 convictions slipped his mind, occurred long ago, and he did not have any records, which the
17 Bureau does not consider to be an adequate explanation.

18 35. Farris testified that the Bureau found it to be unreasonable for West to forget about
19 nine convictions and his failure was likely due to carelessness or dishonesty, both of which are
20 bad character traits.

21 **William West’s Testimony During the Evidentiary Hearing**

22 36. William West (William) is West’s older brother and a U.S. Army veteran and current
23 state of California employee with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

24 37. William testified that when he was in the army his parents told him that West was
25 “running with bad people.” William brought West to Texas to live with his family hoping to get
26 West away from bad influences.

27 38. William testified that West started at the bottom of the gaming industry, including
28 waiting tables and working as a banker. William is impressed that West worked his way up to a

1 key employee position given where he started in the industry and where he grew up.

2 39. William testified that from a financial standpoint, West is an upstanding person. He
3 pays his bills, provides for his daughter, and has his own house and car. William believes that
4 West personifies honesty and integrity.

5 40. William described West's failure to disclose some convictions as a case of
6 inexperience due to the key employee application process being completely new to West. In
7 William's opinion, West did not intend to deceive the Commission or Bureau, which is evident by
8 the fact that West disclosed the convictions that William considers to be the more egregious.

9 **West's Testimony During the Evidentiary Hearing**

10 41. West testified that his omissions on the Application were based on his ignorance of the
11 process and not due to an intent to deceive or withhold information from the Bureau or
12 Commission. West admitted that it was "a big mistake" to not get more details about his criminal
13 history before submitting the Application.

14 42. West testified that a former Human Resources employee at Diamond Jim's Casino
15 gave him the Application and asked him to fill it out within two weeks. West felt rushed. West
16 testified that he struggled to obtain the information to fill out the criminal history section.

17 43. West did an online search and found a website called Truthfinder that purported to
18 provide criminal history information for \$30. West paid \$30 and received a report from
19 Truthfinder indicating that he had one misdemeanor conviction for possession of marijuana. West
20 believed that he had a marijuana conviction, but thought it was expunged. West felt the
21 information from Truthfinder was inaccurate and could not be relied upon.

22 44. West told his supervisor that he was having a hard time locating old information he
23 needed to complete the Application and asked if he needed to disclose that he was convicted of
24 vandalism when he was 18 years old.

25 45. West's supervisor instructed him not to disclose the vandalism conviction. West's
26 supervisor told him to fill out the Application to the best of his ability and if more information
27 was needed, the Bureau would contact him. West also felt rushed by his supervisor.

28 46. West testified that he should have resisted the pressure to quickly turn in the

1 Application and taken the time to find the information needed. West regrets not asking the owner
2 of Diamond Jim’s Casino for assistance with the Application. However, West did not want to
3 upset his supervisor by “jumping the ladder” and he trusted his supervisor.

4 47. West testified that after he turned in the Application, the Bureau contact him for more
5 information and he was honest and transparent in his responses. West acknowledged that his
6 original responses to the Bureau were not as detailed as they should have been, but West was
7 confused and lacked information.

8 48. When the Bureau sent West a list of his convictions and requested a written statement
9 about his criminal history, West was confused because the code numbers were the same for some
10 of the convictions and he did not realize that multiple convictions could arise from one incident.
11 West testified that he had completely forgotten about the 2011 conviction until he saw it listed by
12 the Bureau.

13 49. West testified that he has never gone through a comprehensive background
14 investigation of this kind and he had very little help. West testified that the Bureau was very
15 helpful throughout the course of the background investigation and over time provided him with
16 the information that he should have put on the Application. West thanked Farris and the Bureau
17 for their help.

18 50. West testified that his life has changed dramatically since his first conviction. West
19 left Bakersfield and got away from “horrible people who were treating him badly” and it changed
20 his life. West’s daughter is now attending college.

21 51. West testified that his coworkers at Diamond Jim’s Casino are like his family and he
22 has immense pride in his reputation in the gaming community. West testified that Diamond Jim’s
23 Casino has new Human Resources staff who are helpful and thorough and West wants to ensure
24 that another key employee does not make the same mistakes he did.

25 **West’s Character Statements by Friends, Patrons, and Colleagues**

26 52. Greg Barnes (Barnes) is a Pro Tennis Coach and a player. West always behaves in a
27 professional manner with a high regard for his responsibilities. West has consistently handled a
28 wide variety of challenges without losing his cool or reacting negatively. West’s character and

1 professionalism are consistently a strong asset.

2 53. Greg Agapitos (Agapitos) is a Senior Manager at Knighted Ventures and has known
3 West professionally for approximately 12 years. West is a man of integrity and regarded as one of
4 the most trusted dealers in the cardroom. Since West was promoted to Customer Service
5 Representative, Agapitos has noticed a significant improvement in player conduct and procedures
6 are followed more consistently. West swiftly addresses any abusive behavior, contributing to a
7 more professional and respectful gaming environment.

8 54. Trevor Phillips (Phillips) is a Supervisor at Knighted Ventures and has worked
9 alongside West for four years. Phillips has seen West's work ethic, attitude, and ability to deal
10 with tough situations and customers. West can handle any situation that arises. West has integrity
11 and shows respect for employees and employers and the TPPPS service. Phillips is grateful to
12 work alongside West and gain from his knowledge and experience in the gambling industry.

13 55. Samuel Davis (Davis) works in Security at Diamond Jim's Casino. Davis has worked
14 with West for many years across multiple departments and has extensive insight into West's
15 character and professionalism. West has an outstanding reputation for fairness and
16 professionalism. West is committed to maintaining a safe environment for all employees. West's
17 understanding and enforcement of casino rules and regulations has earned him respect from
18 employees and customers. West's decision making is always fair and well-reasoned.

19 56. Michael Henderson (Henderson) is West's coworker and friend. West took Henderson
20 "under his wing" when Henderson was a new dealer over a decade ago. West taught Henderson
21 how to be a productive cardroom employee and handle different situations mentally. West is a
22 reliable and genuine person.

23 57. Steven Wright (Wright) is a Customer Service Representative at Diamond Jim's
24 Casino and has known West in a professional and personal capacity for sixteen years. West is a
25 stand-up person whose character doesn't waver. West has integrity and passion for doing things
26 the correct way. West handles situations in a calm and fair manner while also protecting everyone
27 involved.

28 58. George Hardie, Jr. (Hardie) is the President of Wizard Gaming, Inc. dba Diamond

1 Jim’s Casino. West has worked at Diamond Jim’s Casino for approximately eighteen years
 2 primarily as a dealer and was recently promoted to Customer Service Representative. West is
 3 very productive and one of their best employees. West is punctual, well-liked by customers, and
 4 always volunteers. West follows the rules and has no write-ups.

5 59. West’s older brother, William, also provided a letter. William describes West as the
 6 most honest and trustworthy person he has known in his adult life. West is generous and
 7 compassionate, sometimes to a fault. Going forward, West will be able to mentor others
 8 attempting to gain a key employee position and ensure they do not make the same mistakes that
 9 he did. West shaped himself into a valuable member of the gaming community and worked his
 10 way up from the literal bottom of the industry to become a leader of his peers. William
 11 acknowledges that West’s failure to disclose his complete criminal history had to be investigated.
 12 William can unequivocally state that there was no intent by West to deceive in this matter. There
 13 were offenses reported by West that are far more egregious than those that were omitted. This
 14 should show the Commission that the offenses omitted were strictly left out due to West’s
 15 inexperience.

16 **PERTINENT LEGAL AUTHORITIES**

17 60. Division 1.5 of the Business and Professions Code, the provisions of which govern
 18 the denial of licenses on various grounds, does not apply to licensure decisions made by the
 19 Commission under the GCA. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 476, subd. (a).)

20 61. The GCA is an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the
 21 health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of California and shall be liberally construed
 22 to effectuate those purposes. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19971.)

23 62. Public trust that permissible gambling will not endanger public health, safety, or
 24 welfare requires that comprehensive measures be enacted to ensure that gambling is free from
 25 criminal and corruptive elements, that it is conducted honestly and competitively, and that it is
 26 conducted in suitable locations. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19801, subd. (g).)

27 63. Public trust and confidence can only be maintained by strict and comprehensive
 28 regulation of all persons, locations, practices, associations, and activities related to the operation

1 of lawful gambling establishments. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19801, subd. (h).)

2 64. An “unqualified person” means a person who is found to be unqualified pursuant
3 to the criteria set forth in Business and Professions Code section 19857, and “disqualified person”
4 means a person who is found to be disqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Business and
5 Professions Code section 19859. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19823, subd. (b).)

6 65. The Commission shall have all powers necessary and proper to enable it fully and
7 effectually to carry out the policies and purposes of this chapter. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19824.)

8 66. The Commission has the power to deny any application for a license, permit, or
9 approval for any cause deemed reasonable by the Commission. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19824,
10 subd. (b).)

11 67. The Commission has the power to take actions deemed to be reasonable to ensure
12 that no ineligible, unqualified, disqualified, or unsuitable persons are associated with controlled
13 gambling activities. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19824, subd. (d).)

14 68. The Commission has the responsibility of assuring that licenses, approvals, and
15 permits are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose
16 operations are conducted in a manner that is inimical to the public health, safety, or welfare. (Bus.
17 & Prof. Code, § 19823, subd. (a)(1).)

18 69. The Bureau relies, in large part, on the applicant’s disclosures while conducting a
19 background investigation. The failure to honestly, accurately, and completely disclose
20 information on an application subverts the Bureau’s efforts to conduct a thorough and complete
21 investigation. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19826, subd. (a), 19866.)

22 70. Both the substance of an applicant’s disclosures, and the truthfulness and
23 thoroughness of an applicant’s disclosures, are considered by the Bureau in making a
24 recommendation as to the applicant’s suitability for licensure, and by the Commission in making
25 a determination whether to approve or deny a license application. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19824,
26 subd. (a), 19826, subd. (a), 19866.)

27 71. An applicant seeking a license or any approval or consent required by the GCA
28 shall make full and true disclosure of all information to the Bureau and the Commission as

1 necessary to carry out the policies of this state relating to licensing, registration, and control of
2 gambling. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19866.)

3 72. The burden of proving his or her qualifications to receive any license from the
4 Commission is on the applicant. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19856, subd. (a); CCR § 12060, subd. (k).)

5 73. Every key employee shall apply for and obtain a key employee license, no person
6 may be issued a key employee license unless the person would qualify for a state gambling
7 license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19854.)

8 74. No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all of the information and
9 documents submitted, the Commission is satisfied that the applicant is a person of good character,
10 honesty, and integrity. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19857, subd. (a).)

11 75. No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all of the information and
12 documents submitted, the Commission is satisfied that the applicant is a person whose prior
13 activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the
14 public interest of this state, or to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, or
15 create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in
16 the conduct of controlled gambling or in the carrying on of the business and financial
17 arrangements incidental thereto. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19857, subd. (b).)

18 76. 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. (CCR § 12040, subd.
20 (a)(1).)

21 77. The Commission shall deny a license to any applicant who is disqualified for
22 failure of the applicant to clearly establish eligibility and qualification in accordance with the
23 GCA. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19859, subd. (a).)

24 78. The Commission shall deny a license to any applicant who is disqualified for
25 failure of the applicant to provide information, documentation, and assurances required by this
26 chapter or requested by the chief, or failure of the applicant to reveal any fact material to
27 qualification, or the supplying of information that is untrue or misleading as to a material fact
28 pertaining to the qualification criteria. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19859, subd. (b).)

1 79. An application will be denied if the Commission finds that any of the provisions of
2 Business and Professions Code section 19859 apply to the applicant. (CCR § 12040, subd. (a)(2).)

3 **ASSESSMENT OF WESTS' SUITABILITY FOR LICENSURE**

4 80. The earliest of West's convictions occurred in 2000 and stem from West recording
5 people making graffiti at several locations and West admitting to making a character at one
6 location. West was convicted of five counts of vandalism in relation to this incident.

7 81. The police report, West's prior statement to the Bureau and his testimony at the
8 hearing indicate that West was eighteen when the vandalism incidents occurred and he fully
9 cooperated with law enforcement. West testified that it was a childish mistake and he never again
10 engaged in similar conduct.

11 82. West testified that when he was filling out the Application it was difficult for him to
12 remember details about the vandalism incident. West paid for a criminal history report from
13 Truthfinder and the report did not include any information about a vandalism conviction. West
14 testified that his supervisor told him to disclose what he remembered and the Bureau would
15 contact him if they needed more information. When the Bureau contacted West about the
16 convictions, he was confused by the fact that there were five separate convictions from the same
17 incident.

18 83. West was convicted of possession of two ounces or less of marijuana in Texas in
19 2001. West testified that he did not recall this conviction at the time he filled out the Application.

20 84. When the Bureau notified West of the existence of the conviction and the related
21 unpaid fine, West quickly satisfied the fine.

22 85. In 2005, West was convicted of driving under the influence. West disclosed this
23 conviction on his Application.

24 86. In 2006, West was convicted of two counts of driving with a suspended license and
25 one count of showing an unlawful registration. All three convictions occurred at the same time.
26 West disclosed that he had a 2006 conviction for driving with a suspended license. When the
27 Bureau contacted West about the convictions, he was confused by the fact that there were three
28 separate convictions from the incident and two of the convictions were for violation of the same

1 statute.

2 87. In 2011, West was convicted for possession of one ounce or less of marijuana. West
3 testified that he had forgotten about this conviction when he filled out the Application.

4 88. West's testimony regarding his reasons for not disclosing each of his convictions was
5 credible. West acknowledged his past mistakes and has not had any recent convictions. West
6 understands that he should have done more to ensure he had all of the correct information to fill
7 out the Application. West indicated a desire to help others who face challenges filling out the
8 application.

9 89. West's failures to disclose were not purposeful, deliberate, or intended to conceal any
10 aspect of his criminal history. West's disclosure of two misdemeanor convictions on his
11 Supplemental which encompassed incidents and dates relating to four separate convictions, his
12 responsive written explanations to the Bureau, and credible testimony during the evidentiary
13 hearing, demonstrate an intent to provide true, accurate, and complete information. Therefore, the
14 Commission finds that West's Application is not subject to denial pursuant to Business and
15 Professions Code section 19859(b) and CCR section 12040(a)(2).

16 90. Additionally, there was no evidence that West has had any derogatory work history in
17 his many years of working in controlled gambling. Instead, the numerous letters of support from
18 various co-workers, TPPPS workers, cardroom patrons, and the owner of Diamon Jim's Casino,
19 provide substantial support of West's good character.

20 91. West met his burden of proving that he is a person of good character, honesty, and
21 integrity. Therefore, West is qualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code
22 section 19857(a).

23 92. West met his burden of proving that his prior activities, criminal record, reputation,
24 habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state, or to the effective
25 regulation and control of controlled gambling, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable,
26 unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of controlled gambling or in the
27 carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto. Therefore, West is
28 qualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19857(b).

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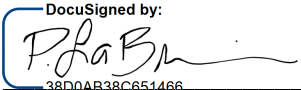
93. West met his burden of proving that he is a person that is in all other respects qualified to be licensed as provided in the GCA. Therefore, West is qualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19857(c).

94. All documentary and testimonial evidence submitted by the parties that is not specifically addressed in this Decision and Order was considered but not used by the Commission in making its determination on West's Application.

ORDER

1. Kevin Paul West's Initial Application for Key Employee License is APPROVED.
2. No costs are awarded.
3. Each side to pay its own attorneys' fees.

This Order is effective on April 7, 2026.

Dated: 4/7/2026 Signature: 
DocuSigned by: 38D0AB38C651466...
 Paula LaBrie, Chair

Dated: 4/7/2026 Signature: 
DocuSigned by: 2B4CE9520F8845C...
 Eric Heins, Commissioner

Dated: 4/7/2026 Signature: 
DocuSigned by: 7722F4674420449...
 William Liu, Commissioner

Dated: 4/7/2026 Signature: 
DocuSigned by: 14B4AD3B90F8462...
 Edward Yee, Commissioner