BEFORE THE 1 CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION 2 3 CGCC Case No. CGCC-2022-0106-7C BGC Case No. BGC-HQ2022-00001SL In the Matter of the Application for a Third-4 Party Proposition Player Services Worker License Regarding: 5 TERI LYNN HALL **DECISION AND ORDER** 6 Applicant. 7 Hearing Date: August 18, 2022 10:00 a.m. Time: 8 9 This matter was heard by the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) 10 pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19870 and 19871 and Title 4, California 11 Code of Regulations (CCR) section 12060, and held via Zoom video conference, on August 18, 12 2022. 13 James Waian (DAG Waian), Deputy Attorney General, State of California, represented 14 complainant Yolanda Morrow, Director of the Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau), Department 15 of Justice, State of California. 16 Terri Hall (Hall) appeared on her own behalf without representation. 17 During the evidentiary hearing, Presiding Officer Russell Johnson took official notice of 18 the following: Notice and Agenda of Commission Hearing; the Commission's Conclusion of 19 Prehearing Conference letter; the Commission's Notice of Hearing with two attachments: (1) 20 Application for Third-Party Proposition Player Services Worker License and (2) the Bureau's 21 Background Investigation Report; the Bureau's Statement of Reasons; and Hall's signed Notice 22 of Defense. 23 During the evidentiary hearing, the Presiding Officer accepted into evidence Exhibits 1 24 through 11 offered by the Bureau, which contain bates numbering BGC002 to BGC131, with a 25 Table of Contents that separately identifies each document. 26 The record was closed and the matter was submitted on August 18, 2022. 27 /// 28

FINDINGS OF FACT

2 Procedural History

- 3 1. Hal
 - 1. Hall has been employed by L.E. Gaming, a licensed third-party proposition player services provider, since approximately April 2021.
 - 2. Hall submitted an initial Application for Employee Category License and a Commission Work Permit or TPPPS Worker: Supplemental Information form (collectively referred to as "Application") to the Bureau on or about April 8, 2021.
 - 3. The Commission issued Hall a Third-Party Proposition Player Worker Temporary License, number TPWK-000758, on April 13, 2021.
 - 4. On October 28, 2021, Bureau staff met with Hall by phone to inform her generally of the basis of the Bureau's recommendation to deny her Application.
 - On or about October 28, 2021, the Bureau issued its Third-Party Worker Initial
 Background Investigation Report, Level III, in which it recommended that the Commission deny
 Hall's Application.
 - 6. On January 6, 2022, the Commission referred consideration of the Application to an evidentiary hearing to be conducted as a Gambling Control Act hearing pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 18, Chapter 1, section 12060.
 - 7. On or about February 2, 2022, Hall submitted a Notice of Defense form to the Commission requesting an evidentiary hearing on the consideration of her Application.
 - 8. On March 1, 2022, a Notice of Hearing was sent to Hall and DAG Waian stating that an evidentiary hearing would be held before the Commission by means of video conferencing using Zoom on August 18, 2022, and a prehearing conference would be held on June 29, 2022.
 - 9. On or about July 6, 2022, the Commission received the Bureau's Statement of Reasons, wherein it requested that the Commission deny the Application based on allegations that Hall provided untrue or misleading information regarding her employment history on the Application and is unsuitable for licensure due to a misdemeanor conviction.
 - On June 29, 2022, the noticed Prehearing Conference was held before the
 Presiding Officer. DAG Waian attended on behalf of the Bureau. Hall attended on her own behalf

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without representation. Hall's Employment History in Controlled Gambling 11. Hall worked at the Thunder Valley Casino Resort (Thunder Valley) as a Blackjack Dealer beginning in April 2018, until June 2019. 12. During the course of the Bureau's background investigation, it was determined that Hall's separation from employment with Thunder Valley was involuntary. 13. Hall began working for L.E. Gaming, Inc. (LE Gaming) in April 2021 as a Third Party Worker and was still employed in that position at the time of the hearing. Hall's Criminal History 14. On August 26, 2020, the Sacramento County Superior Court convicted Hall of violating Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b), driving under the influence (DUI) with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or higher, a misdemeanor. Hall was sentenced to two days in jail, three years of probation, ordered to complete a First Offender program, and was given the option to pay a fine or serve an additional four days in jail. 15. Hall disclosed the conviction on her Application. 16. On September 15, 2021, the Bureau contacted the court and was informed that Hall had completed the First Offender program and satisfied all fines. 17. The Bureau also offered as an exhibit, a Notice of Completion Certificate showing that Hall enrolled in the Bridges DUI Program on October 22, 2020 and completed the program on February 24, 2021. 18. Hall testified that the DUI occurred when she was pulled over for running a red light and a breathalyzer test revealed that she had alcohol in her system. Hall testified that she

satisfied all requirements and fines and has had no other convictions.

Failure to Disclose Termination from Thunder Valley

19. The Application required Hall to identify each place of employment for the past ten years, and for each, to indicate her reason for leaving, and if terminated, explain the circumstances. Hall wrote on the Application that her reason for leaving employment at Thunder Valley was "full time job offer."

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to accommodate her work schedule at Volt/Pegatron by only scheduling her to work weekends at Thunder Valley. However, due to a staffing change, Hall began working under a different supervisor who would not accommodate her schedule. Hall was faced with a scheduling conflict where she had to choose between the full-time position at Volt/Pegatron and the part-time position at Thunder Valley.

- 25. Hall testified that she decided not to continue working at Thunder Valley so that she could continue in the full-time position. Hall called Thunder Valley's attendance line to leave a message stating that she would not be at work that day. Hall testified that upon leaving that message on the attendance line, she knew that she would no longer work at Thunder Valley because she would be "pointed out."
- 26. Hall testified that Thunder Valley utilized a point system where employees would be terminated upon receipt of 12 points. When Hall called the attendance line for the final time, she had 11 points on her record and knew that she would accrue 2 more points for the "call out." Hall testified that she understood that having 13 points on her record would mean that she was pointed out and would "no longer have a job there."
- 27. Hall testified that when she wrote on the Application that the reason for her separation from employment with Thunder Valley was due to a "full time job offer," she considered that to be an accurate response. Hall testified that she did not intend to hide the circumstances surrounding her separation from the Bureau. Hall also testified that she was embarrassed and regretful of the fact that she did not give Thunder Valley a written two-week notice and she felt that disclosing that she left that employment by pointing-out would "look bad."
- 28. Hall testified that prior to learning that the Bureau considered her to have been terminated by Thunder Valley, she did not know exactly how to characterize her separation from employment. After Hall left a message on the attendance line stating that she was not coming to work that day, she believed that she was no longer employed at Thunder Valley. Hall received a final paycheck by direct deposit, but she never received a letter or other information from Thunder Valley stating that she was terminated.

29. Hall testified that in July 2022, she was approached by a former co-worker at Thunder Valley about the possibility of returning to work there. In these recent discussions, Thunder Valley characterized Hall's separation as a "job abandonment" because the expectation was that Hall should have continued to call the attendance line for each scheduled shift she could not complete until she was terminated.

LEGAL CONCLUSIONS

Applicable Legal Standards

- 30. Division 1.5 of the Business and Professions Code, the provisions of which govern the denial of licenses on various grounds, does not apply to licensure decisions made by the Commission under the Gambling Control Act. Business and Professions Code section 476(a).
- 31. Public trust and confidence can only be maintained by strict and comprehensive regulation of all persons, locations, practices, associations, and activities related to the operation of lawful gambling establishments and the manufacture and distribution of permissible gambling equipment. Business and Professions Code section 19801(h).
- 32. The Commission has the responsibility of assuring that licenses, approvals, and permits are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is inimical to the public health, safety, or welfare. Business and Professions Code section 19823(a)(1).
- 33. An "unqualified person" means a person who is found to be unqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Section 19857, and "disqualified person" means a person who is found to be disqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Section 19859. Business and Professions Code section 19823(b).
- 34. At an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 19870 and 19871 and CCR section 12060(b), the burden of proof rests with the applicant to prove his or her qualifications to receive any license under the GCA. 19856(a), CCR section 12060(i).
- 35. No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all of the information and documents submitted, the commission is satisfied that the applicant is a person of good character, honesty, and integrity. Business and Professions Code section 19857(a).

- 36. No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all of the information and documents submitted, the commission is satisfied that the applicant is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state, or to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of controlled gambling or in the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto. Business and Professions Code section 19857(b).
- 37. An application for a license will be denied if the Commission finds that the applicant has not satisfied the requirements of Business and Professions Code section 19859. CCR section 12040(a)(1).
- 38. The Commission shall deny a license to any applicant who is disqualified for failure of the applicant to provide information, documentation, and assurances required by this chapter or requested by the chief, or failure of the applicant to reveal any fact material to qualification, or the supplying of information that is untrue or misleading as to a material fact pertaining to the qualification criteria. Business and Professions Code section 19859(b).

Assessment of Hall's Suitability for Licensure

- 39. The Commission does not believe that Hall's DUI conviction indicates she lacks the requisite honesty, character, and integrity required for licensure. The DUI is Hall's only criminal conviction and she expeditiously satisfied all conditions of her sentence. Therefore, Hall has met her burden of proving that she is a person of good character, honesty, and integrity. As a result, Hall is qualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19857, subdivision (a).
- 40. The Commission is also satisfied that Hall is a person whose criminal record does not pose a threat to the public interest of this state, or to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of controlled gambling or in the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto. As a result, Hall is qualified for licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19857, subdivision (b).

- 41. The Commission also finds that Hall is not disqualified from licensure based on her disclosure on the Application that she left employment at Thunder Valley for a full-time position. Hall's explanation was true in that she made a conscious decision not to work at Thunder Valley any longer because the schedule conflicted with her newer full-time position. Hall chose the full-time position over the part-time one by leaving a message on the attendance line stating that she was not coming to work and she understood that she was no longer going to work at Thunder Valley after leaving the message.
- 42. Based on the evidence presented, it is unclear whether Hall was in fact "terminated," as the Bureau alleges, which would have required her to indicate "yes" and explain the circumstances of the termination on the Application. Thunder Valley did not characterize the separation as a "termination" on the employment verification form and indicated that there is no derogatory employment history to report and that Hall is eligible for rehire. Hall testified that in her more recent discussions with Thunder Valley, she was told her separation from employment was considered a "job abandonment." The only written communication Hall received that characterized her separation as a termination was from the Bureau. Further, Hall provided additional information to the Bureau when requested describing the exact circumstances of her separation from employment with Thunder Valley. Given these circumstances, Hall's testimony is credible that she believed the information she provided on the Application was truthful, and that she did not intend to withhold information, or provide misleading or untruthful information to the Bureau.
- 43. Based on the foregoing, Hall has also met her burden of proving that her characterization on the Application that she left her employment with Thunder Valley for a full-time position was not based on an intent to conceal information, or provide untrue or misleading information to the Bureau. As a result, Hall is not disqualified from licensure pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19859, subdivision (b).
- 44. 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 Hall's Application.

ORDER 1 1. Hall's Application for a Third-Party Proposition Player Services Worker License is 2 APPROVED. 3 2. No costs are awarded. 4 3. Each side to pay its own attorneys' fees. 5 This Order is effective on September 26, 2022. 6 DocuSigned by: Dated: 9/26/2022 7 Signature: 38D0AB38C651466. Paula LaBrie, Chair 8 DocuSigned by: 9 Dated: 9/26/2022 Signature: Camileen Gaigiani, Commissioner 10 DocuSigned by: 11 Dated: 9/26/2022 Eric Heins Signature: Eric Heins, Commissioner 12 DocuSigned by: 13 Dated: 9/26/2022 William Liu Signature: 14 William Liu, Commissioner 15 DocuSigned by: Dated: 9/26/2022 Signature: 16 14B4AD3B90F8462.. Edward Yee, Commissioner 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 9

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