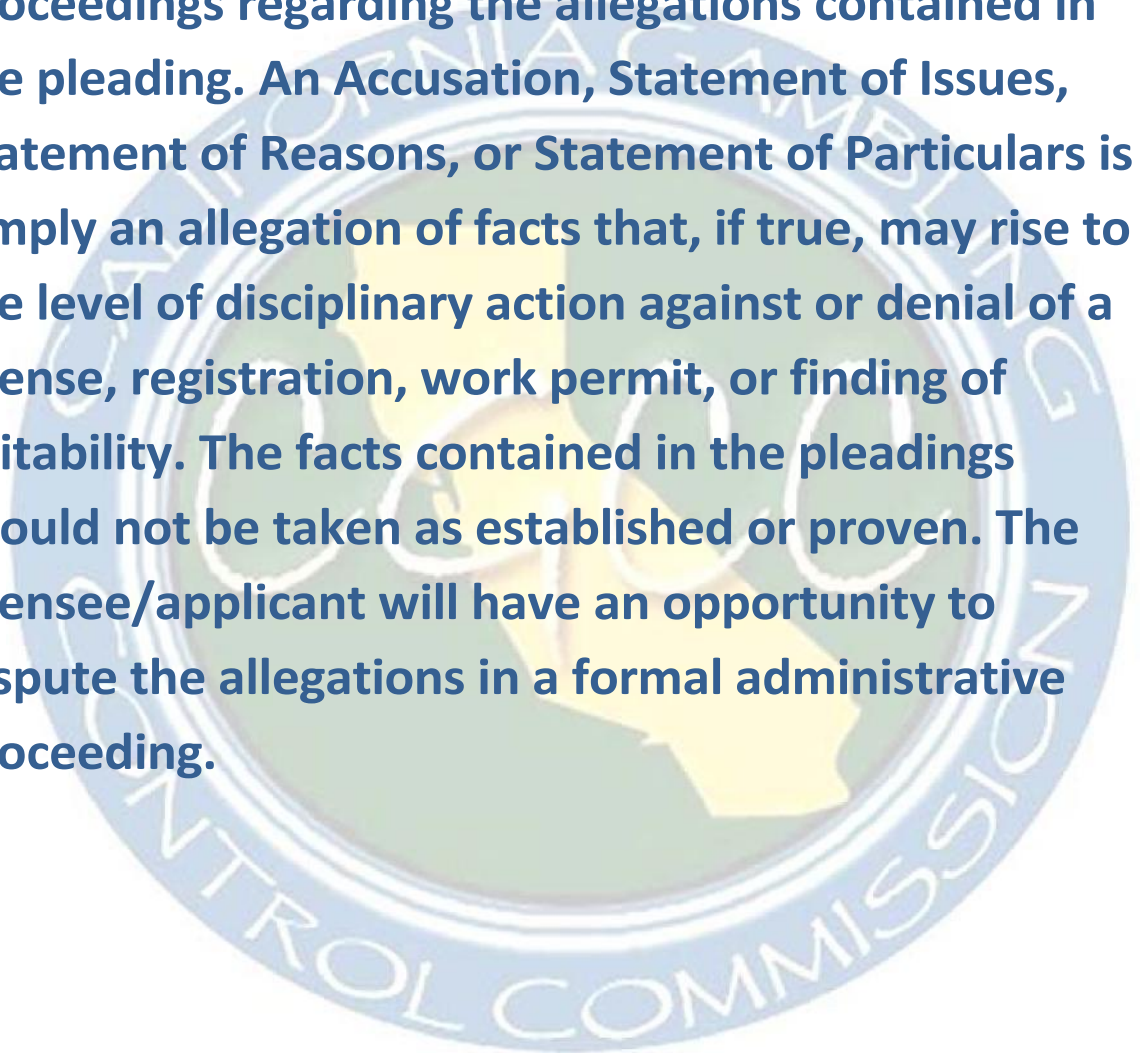


**The Commission is providing a copy of this pleading (Accusation, or Statement of Reasons, Statement of Particulars, or Statement of Issues) so the public is as informed as possible of pending administrative proceedings regarding the allegations contained in the pleading. An Accusation, Statement of Issues, Statement of Reasons, or Statement of Particulars is simply an allegation of facts that, if true, may rise to the level of disciplinary action against or denial of a license, registration, work permit, or finding of suitability. The facts contained in the pleadings should not be taken as established or proven. The licensee/applicant will have an opportunity to dispute the allegations in a formal administrative proceeding.**



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 8 *Attorneys for Complainant*

9  
 10 **BEFORE THE**  
**CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION**  
 11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

13  
 14 IN THE MATTER OF THE STATEMENT OF  
 REASONS FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION FOR A  
 15 TRIBAL KEY EMPLOYEE LICENSE FOR:

16 **ANTHONY FILICE**

17 RESPONDENT.

Case No. CGCC-2025-0220-8A

**STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: May 5, 2026

Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

Hearing Place: 2399 Gateway Oaks, Ste. 100  
 Sacramento, CA 95833

**This hearing will be conducted by means of  
 video conferencing on ZOOM. The ZOOM  
 meeting code is 285 757 8614.**

21  
 22  
 23 Complainant alleges as follows:

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. Yolanda Morrow (Complainant) brings this Statement of Reasons for Denial of  
 26 Application for a Key Employee License solely in her official capacity as the Director of the  
 27 California Department of Justice, Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau).  
 28



1 Morrow and Ms. Asuncion informed Respondent and the TGA representatives generally of the  
2 basis of the Bureau's recommendation to deny the Application. The Tribal Gaming Agency did  
3 not provide any additional information.

4 6. On or about December 19, 2024, the Bureau notified Respondent that it had  
5 completed its background investigation in connection with the Application and issued its Tribal  
6 Key Employee Background Investigation Report Level III recommending that the Application be  
7 denied.

8 7. On February 7, 2025, the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission)  
9 notified Respondent that his Application would be considered by the Commission at 10:00 a.m.,  
10 on February 20, 2025. On that date, the Commission considered the Application and voted to  
11 refer the Application to an evidentiary hearing pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 4,  
12 section 12054, subdivision (a)(4)<sup>3</sup>, and determined that the hearing would be a Gambling Control  
13 Act hearing before the Commissioners. The Commission's notification to Respondent included a  
14 Notice of Defense, with instructions, which Respondent subsequently returned to the Commission  
15 on or about February 27, 2025, checking the box requesting an evidentiary hearing.

16 8. On November 21, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Hearing (Notice)  
17 informing Respondent that the evidentiary hearing would be conducted before the Commission  
18 on May 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., using Zoom video conferencing (Zoom meeting code 285 757  
19 8614). The Notice further provided that the evidentiary hearing would be preceded by a  
20 mandatory prehearing conference on March 24, 2026, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., also using Zoom  
21 videoconferencing and informing Respondent of the Zoom meeting code and password.

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<sup>3</sup> The statutes and regulations applicable to this Statement of Reasons are quoted in  
pertinent part in Appendix A.

1 **BURDEN OF PROOF**

2 9. Respondent has the burden of proving that he is qualified to receive a tribal key  
3 employee license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19856, subd. (a).)

4 **FIRST CAUSE FOR DENIAL**

5 **(Disqualified for Licensure)**

6 10. Respondent's Application is subject to discretionary denial on the ground that  
7 Respondent is ineligible for licensure because his prior conduct indicates that he is not a person of  
8 good character, honesty, and integrity within the meaning of the Gambling Control Act, and that  
9 his prior activities pose a threat to the public interest of this state, or to the effective regulation  
10 and control of controlled gambling. Respondent has two misdemeanor convictions not involving  
11 moral turpitude:

12 1) On March 6, 2009, Siskiyou County Superior Court convicted Respondent of  
13 violating Penal Code section 243.2 subdivision (a)(1), battery on a person while on school  
14 grounds, a misdemeanor. Respondent was sentenced to two days in jail, one year of probation,  
15 and was ordered to pay a fine. The sentence was suspended. Respondent disclosed this  
16 conviction on his Supplemental.

17 2) On May 20, 2013, the Siskiyou County Superior Court convicted Respondent of  
18 violating Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b), driving under the influence with a blood  
19 alcohol level of 0.08 percent or higher (DUI), and Penal Code section 1320, subdivision (a),  
20 failure to appear, both misdemeanors. Respondent was sentenced to two days in jail, three years  
21 of probation, and was ordered to complete a three-month alcohol program and to pay a fine.  
22 Respondent disclosed the convictions on his Supplemental.

23 (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19856, 19857, 19859, subds. (a) & (b) [mandatory denial], 19866.)

24 **SECOND CAUSE FOR DENIAL**

25 **(Ineligible for Licensure)**

26 11. Respondent's Application is subject to mandatory denial on the ground that  
27 Respondent is disqualified for licensure because he provided untrue and misleading information  
28 and failed to disclose on his Application information that is material to his Application, and

1 because he was convicted of a misdemeanor crime involving moral turpitude within the statutory  
2 10-year period. (Siskiyou County Sup. Ct. Case No. SCCR-CRF-2021-1349-1).

3 12. Respondent failed to disclose on his Application that he was terminated from his  
4 employment with Quality Inn and Suites because he left the front desk unattended in or about  
5 June of 2013. On his Application, Respondent listed his reason for leaving his employment with  
6 Quality Inn and Suites as “better opportunity.” When asked about the discrepancy in the reason  
7 for leaving Quality Inn and Suites, Respondent stated that a better opportunity and a bed bug  
8 infestation at Quality Inn and Suites were reasons for him leaving that job. Respondent stated  
9 that he would not answer any further questions regarding his employment with Quality Inn and  
10 Suites. Respondent failed to disclose required information that is material to his Application and  
11 provided inaccurate and misleading information to the Bureau regarding the circumstances  
12 surrounding his termination.

13 13. On March 23, 2022, the Siskiyou County Superior Court convicted Respondent of  
14 violating Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b), DUI, a misdemeanor, and Penal Code  
15 section 273a, subdivision (a), child endangerment. Child endangerment is a misdemeanor crime  
16 involving moral turpitude. Respondent was sentenced to 60 days in jail, four years of probation,  
17 and was ordered to complete a three-month alcohol program, a Child Abuse, Neglect, and  
18 Endangerment (CANE) program, and was ordered to pay a fine. These convictions occurred after  
19 Respondents submitted the Supplemental and therefore Respondent was not required to disclose  
20 them. Respondent’s statement and the California Highway Patrol arrest report state that  
21 Respondent had four children in the vehicle ages seven to 12, that Respondent was swerving in  
22 traffic, and speeding up 87 mph in a 55-mph zone and that Respondent’s blood alcohol level was  
23 recorded as 0.14 percent.

24 (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19856, 19857, 19859, subds. (a), (b) & (d)(1); Pen. Code, §§ 243.2, subd.  
25 (a)(1), 273a, subd. (1), 1320 subd. (a); Veh.Code § 23152, subd. (b).)

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**PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters alleged herein, and that following the hearing, the Commission issue a decision:

- 1. Denying Respondent’s Application; and
- 2. Taking such other and further action as the Commission may deem appropriate.

Dated: March 18, 2026

Respectfully submitted,  
  
ROB BONTA  
Attorney General of California  
CHRISTINE WILLIAMS  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
NOEL A. FISCHER  
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

*/s/Bart E. Hightower*  
BART E. HIGHTOWER  
Deputy Attorney General  
*Attorneys for Complainant*

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1 \* \* \*

2 (d) Take actions deemed to be reasonable to ensure that no  
3 ineligible, unqualified, disqualified, or unsuitable persons are  
4 associated with controlled gambling activities.

4 4. Business and Professions Code, section 19853, subdivision (a), provides:

5 The commission, by regulation or order, may require that the following  
6 persons register with the commission, apply for a finding of suitability as  
7 defined in subdivision (i) of 19805, or apply for a gambling license:

7 \* \* \*

8 (3) Any person who does business on the premises of a  
9 licensed gambling establishment.

10 5. Business and Professions Code, section 19870 provides:

11 (a) The commission, after considering the recommendation of the  
12 chief<sup>5</sup> and any other testimony and written comments as may be presented at  
13 the meeting, or as may have been submitted in writing to the commission  
14 prior to the meeting, may either deny the application or grant a license to an  
15 applicant who it determines to be qualified to hold the license.

14 (b) When the commission grants an application for a license or approval,  
15 the commission may limit or place restrictions thereon as it may deem  
16 necessary in the public interest, consistent with the policies described in this  
17 chapter.

16 (c) When an application is denied, the commission shall prepare and file  
17 a detailed statement of its reasons for the denial.

18 (d) All proceedings at a meeting of the commission relating to a license  
19 application shall be recorded stenographically or by audio or video recording.

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

24 6. Business and Professions Code, section 19871 provides:

25 (a) The commission meeting described in Section 19870 shall be  
26 conducted in accordance with regulations of the commission and as follows:

27 (1) Oral evidence shall be taken only upon oath or  
28 affirmation.

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5 "Chief" refers to the Director of the Bureau. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19805, subd. (d).)

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(2) Each party shall have all of the following rights:

(A) To call and examine witnesses.

(B) To introduce exhibits relevant to the issues of the case.

(C) To cross-examine opposing witnesses on any matters relevant to the issues, even though the matter was not covered on direct examination.

(D) To impeach any witness, regardless of which party first called the witness to testify.

(E) To offer rebuttal evidence.

(3) If the applicant does not testify in his or her own behalf, he or she may be called and examined as if under cross-examination.

(4) The meeting need not be conducted according to technical rules relating to evidence and witnesses. Any relevant evidence may be considered, and is sufficient in itself to support a finding, if it is the sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule that might make improper the admission of that evidence over objection in a civil action.

(b) Nothing in this section confers upon an applicant a right to discovery of the department's<sup>6</sup> investigative reports or to require disclosure of any document or information the disclosure of which is otherwise prohibited by any other provision of this chapter.

7. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12056, subdivision (a) provides, in part:

If the Commission elects to hold an evidentiary hearing, the hearing will be conducted as a GCA hearing under Section 12060, unless the Executive Director or the Commission determines the hearing should be conducted as an APA hearing under Section 12058 . . .

8. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12060 provides, in part:

(b) When the Commission has elected to hold a GCA hearing, the Executive Director will give notice to the applicant, pursuant to paragraph (2) subsection (c) of Section 12052, to the Office of the Attorney General, and to the Bureau no later than 60 calendar days in advance of the GCA hearing.

<sup>6</sup> "Department" refers to the Department of Justice. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19805, subd. (h).)

**SPECIFIC STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

9. Business and Professions Code section 19856 provides, in part:

(a) The burden of proving his or her qualifications to receive any license is on the applicant.

(b) An application to receive a license constitutes a request for a determination of the applicant's general character, integrity, and ability to participate in, engage in, or be associated with, controlled gambling.

10. Business and Professions Code, section 19857 provides:

No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all of the information and documents submitted, the commission is satisfied that the applicant is all of the following:

(a) A person of good character, honesty, and integrity.

(b) 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.

(c) A person that is in all other respects qualified to be licensed as provided in this chapter.

11. Business and Professions Code section 19859 provides, in part:

The commission shall deny a license to any applicant who is disqualified for any of the following reasons:

(a) Failure of the applicant to clearly establish eligibility and qualification in accordance with this chapter.

(b) 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.

(d)(1) Conviction of the applicant, in the State of California, for any misdemeanor involving dishonesty or moral turpitude within the 10-year period immediately preceding the submission of the application . . . .

12. Business and Professions Code section 19866 provides:

1 An applicant for licensing or for any approval or consent required by this  
2 chapter, shall make full and true disclosure of all information to the  
3 department and the commission as necessary to carry out the policies of this  
4 state relating to licensing, registration, and control of gambling.

4 **VEHICLE CODE PROVISIONS**

5 13. Vehicle Code section 14601.5, subdivision (a) provides:

6 A person shall not drive a motor vehicle at any time when that person's  
7 driving privilege is suspended or revoked pursuant to Section 13353,  
8 13353.1, or 13353.2 and that person has knowledge of the suspension or  
9 revocation.

9 14. Vehicle Code section 23103 provides:

10 (a) A person who drives a vehicle upon a highway in willful or wanton  
11 disregard for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving.

12 (b) A person who drives a vehicle in an offstreet parking facility, as  
13 defined in subdivision (c) of Section 12500, in willful or wanton disregard  
14 for the safety of persons or property is guilty of reckless driving.

15 (c) Except as otherwise provided in Section 40008, persons convicted  
16 of the offense of reckless driving shall be punished by imprisonment in a  
17 county jail for not less than five days nor more than 90 days or by a fine of  
18 not less than one hundred forty-five dollars (\$145) nor more than one  
19 thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment, except as  
20 provided in Section 23104 or 23105.

18 15. Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b) provides:

19 It is unlawful for a person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of  
20 alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle.

21 16. Penal Code section 273a subdivision (a) provides:

22 Any person who, under circumstances or conditions likely to produce great  
23 bodily harm or death, willfully causes or permits any child to suffer, or inflicts  
24 thereon unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or having the care or custody  
25 of any child, willfully causes or permits the person or health of that child to be  
26 injured, or willfully causes or permits that child to be placed in a situation where his  
27 or her person or health is endangered, shall be punished by imprisonment in a county  
28 jail not exceeding one year, or in the state prison for two, four, or six years.

26 17. Penal Code section 242 provides:

27 A battery is any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of  
28 another.

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18. Penal Code section 243.2 subdivision (a)(1) provides:

Except as otherwise provided in Section 243.6, when a battery is committed on school property, park property, or the grounds of a public or private hospital, against any person, the battery is punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars (\$2,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

19. Penal Code section 1320 subdivision (a) provides:

Every person who is charged with or convicted of the commission of a misdemeanor who is released from custody on his or her own recognizance and who in order to evade the process of the court willfully fails to appear as required, is guilty of a misdemeanor. It shall be presumed that a defendant who willfully fails to appear within 14 days of the date assigned for his or her appearance intended to evade the process of the court.