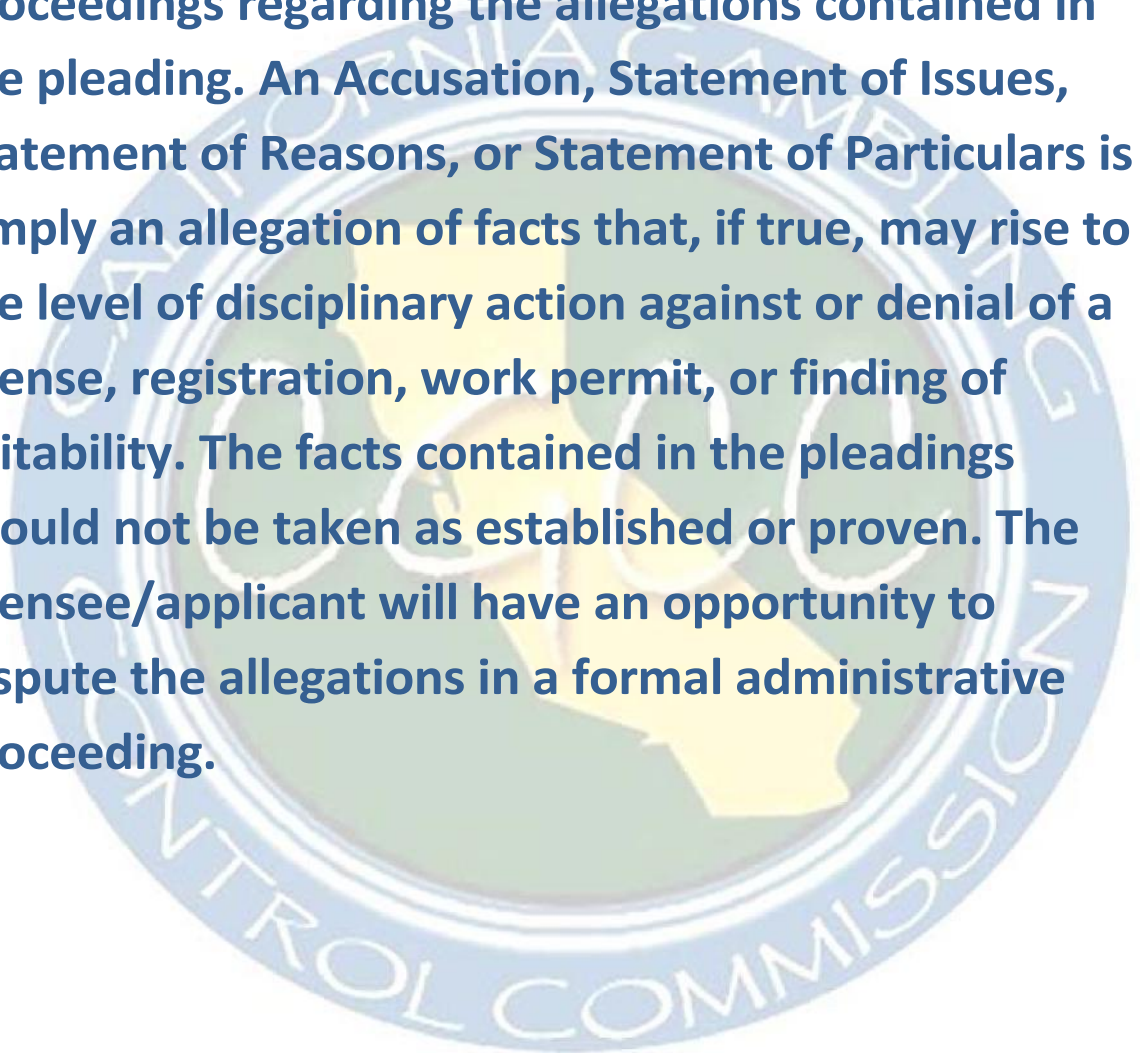


The Commission is providing a copy of this pleading (Accusation, or Statement of Reasons, Statement of Particulars, or Statement of Issues) so the public is as informed as possible of pending administrative proceedings regarding the allegations contained in the pleading. An Accusation, Statement of Issues, 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.



1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 THOMAS L. RINALDI
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
3 VIVIAN CHO
Deputy Attorney General
4 State Bar No. 293773
300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702
5 Los Angeles, CA 90013
Telephone: (213) 269-6603
6 Facsimile: (916) 731-2126
E-mail: Vivian.Cho@doj.ca.gov
7 *Attorneys for Complainant*

8
9 **BEFORE THE**
10 **CALIFORNIA GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION**
11 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

12
13 In the Matter of the Statement of Reasons for
14 Denial of Application for a Third-Party
Proposition Player Services License for:

15 **DERIA BRENDELL ROBERSON**

16 
17 

18 Respondent.

BGC Case No. BGC-HQ2024-00023AL

CGCC Case No. CGCC-2024-1010-9

19 **STATEMENT OF REASONS**

Hearing Date: January 23, 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**

20
21
22
23 Complainant alleges as follows:

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. Yolanda Morrow (“Complainant”) brings this Statement of Reasons solely in her
26 official capacity as Director of the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Gambling Control
27 (“Bureau”).

28 *///*

1 According to the court’s Active Warrant list, as of October 7, 2024, the warrant was still active
2 due to the outstanding status of the FTA and FTP and fines owed in the amount of \$4,110.

3 5. In accordance with Business and Professions Code section 19868, subdivision
4 (b)(1), on June 6, 2024, the Bureau sent a notice to Respondent and Designated Agent Fabiana
5 Arellano offering the opportunity for a meeting with Assistant Director Yolanda Morrow and
6 Manager II Jared Revak to discuss the basis for the Bureau’s recommendation to deny Roberson’s
7 license. Neither Roberson nor Arellano responded to the notice by the June 11, 2024 deadline,
8 thereby, waiving Respondent’s right to a meeting.

9 6. On or around August 6, 2024, the Bureau issued its Level III Third-Party Worker
10 Initial Background Investigation Report in this matter, recommending that the Commission deny
11 the Application on the ground that Respondent’s active warrant and failure to provide proof of
12 attempt to clear her active warrant demonstrate a blatant disregard for the law and, thus, a failure
13 to establish her eligibility and qualification for licensure.

14 7. On September 30, 2024, the Commission notified Respondent that the Application
15 would be considered before the Commission on October 10, 2024. At the October 10, 2024
16 meeting, the Commission deliberated and directed the Executive Director to cancel Respondent’s
17 temporary license pursuant to Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations, section 12128,
18 subdivision (a)(2). The Commission also voted, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title
19 4, section 12054, subdivision (a)(4), to refer the Application to an evidentiary hearing to be
20 conducted as a hearing under the Gambling Control Act, Government Code section 19800 et seq.
21 (“GCA”), pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12060.¹ On October 14,
22 2024, the Commission notified Respondent of its action upon the Application and provided
23 Respondent with a Notice of Defense form (CGCC-CH1-03).

24 8. On or around November 5, 2024, the Commission received Respondent’s Notice of
25 Defense dated November 5, 2024.


26
27
28 ¹ The statutes and regulations applicable to this Statement of Reasons are quoted in
pertinent part in Appendix A.r

PRAYER

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

- 1. Denying Respondent’s Application for Approval of a Third-Party Proposition Player Services Worker License; and
- 2. Taking such other and further action as the Commission may deem appropriate.

Dated: December 12 , 2025



 Yolanda Morrow, Director
 Bureau of Gambling Control
 California Department of Justice
 Complainant

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

APPENDIX A

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE

1. Business and Professions Code section 19811, subdivision (b), provides:

Jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over operation and concentration, and supervision over gambling establishments in this state and over all persons or things having to do with the operations of gambling establishments is vested in the commission.

2. Business and Professions Code section 19823 provides:

(a) The responsibilities of the commission include, without limitation, all of the following:

(1) 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.

(2) Assuring that there is no material involvement, directly or indirectly, with a licensed gambling operation, or the ownership or management thereof, 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.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “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.

3. Business and Professions Code section 19824 provides, in part:

The commission shall have all powers necessary and proper to enable it fully and effectually to carry out the policies and purposes of this chapter,^[2] including, without limitation, the power to do all of the following:

* * *

(b) For any cause deemed reasonable by the commission, deny any application for a license, permit, or approval provided for in this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, limit, condition, or restrict any license, permit, or approval, or impose any fine upon any person licensed or approved. The commission may condition, restrict, discipline, or take action against the license of an individual owner endorsed on the license certificate of the gambling

² “Chapter” refers to Business and Professions Code, division 8, chapter 5, (commencing with section 19800), also known as the Gambling Control Act.

1 enterprise whether or not the commission takes action against the
license of the gambling enterprise.

2 * * *

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

5 4. Business and Professions Code section 19850 provides, in part:

6 Every person who, either as owner, lessee, or employee, whether
7 for hire or not, either solely or in conjunction with others, deals,
operates, carries on, conducts, maintains, or exposes for play any
8 controlled game in this state, or who receives, directly or indirectly,
any compensation or reward, or any percentage or share of the money
9 or property played, for keeping, running, or carrying on any controlled
game in this state, shall apply for and obtain from the commission, and
10 shall thereafter maintain, a valid state gambling license, key employee
license, or work permit, as specified in this chapter. In any criminal
11 prosecution for violation of this section, the punishment shall be as
provided in Section 337j of the Penal Code.

12 5. Business and Professions Code section 19853, subdivision (a), provides in part:

13 The commission, by regulation or order, may require that the
14 following persons register with the commission, apply for a finding of
suitability as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 19805, or apply for a
15 gambling license:

16 * * *

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

18 6. Business and Professions Code section 19856 provides:

19 (a) Any person who the commission determines is qualified to
20 receive a state license, having due consideration for the proper
protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of
21 the State of California and the declared policy of this state, may be
issued a license. The burden of proving his or her qualifications to
22 receive any license is on the applicant.

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

25 (c) In reviewing an application for any license, the commission
shall consider whether issuance of the license is inimical to public
26 health, safety, or welfare, and whether issuance of the license will
undermine public trust that the gambling operations with respect to
27 which the license would be issued are free from criminal and dishonest
elements and would be conducted honestly.

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

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Business and Professions Code section 19866 provides:

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

10. Business and Professions Code section 19870 provides:

(a) The commission, after considering the recommendation of the chief and any other testimony and written comments as may be presented at the meeting, or as may have been submitted in writing to the commission prior to the meeting, may deny the application, grant a license to an applicant who it determines to be qualified to hold the license, or refer the application to an evidentiary hearing.

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

1 (c) If, during a meeting, the commission denies an application,
2 denies approval, or approves with limits, restrictions, or conditions,
3 the action shall be stayed for a period of 30 days after the meeting,
4 during which the applicant may request an evidentiary hearing. If the
5 applicant does not file a request for an evidentiary hearing within 30
6 days, the action of the commission taken at the meeting is final. If the
7 applicant waives the right to hearing and assents to the action of the
8 commission in writing, upon receipt of the waiver by the commission,
9 the action shall no longer be stayed. If the applicant files a timely
10 request for an evidentiary hearing, the action shall be vacated and the
11 application shall be reviewed de novo at the evidentiary hearing.

12 (d) When an application is denied after an evidentiary hearing,
13 the commission shall prepare and file a detailed statement of its
14 reasons for the denial.

15 (e) All proceedings relating to an application at a meeting of the
16 commission or at an evidentiary hearing shall be recorded
17 stenographically or by audio or video recording.

18 (f) A decision of the commission after an evidentiary hearing,
19 denying a license or approval, or imposing any condition or restriction
20 on the grant of a license or approval may be reviewed by petition
21 pursuant to Section 1085 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Section
22 1094.5 of the Code of Civil Procedure does not apply to any judicial
23 proceeding held to consider that petition, and the court may grant the
24 petition only if the court finds that the action of the commission was
25 arbitrary and capricious, or that the action exceeded the commission's
26 jurisdiction.

27 11. Business and Professions Code section 19871 provides:

28 (a) An evidentiary hearing described in Section 19870 shall be
conducted in accordance with regulations of the commission and as
follows:

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

(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 if 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.

1 (3) If the applicant does not testify on their own behalf, the
2 applicant may be called and examined as if under cross-
3 examination.

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

12 (b) This section does not confer upon an applicant a right to
13 discovery of the department's investigative reports or to require
14 disclosure of any document or information the disclosure of which is
15 otherwise prohibited by any other provision of this chapter.

16 CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

17 12. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12040, provides, in part:

18 (a) An application for an initial or renewal license:

19 (1) Will be denied if the Commission finds that the applicant
20 has not satisfied the requirements of Business and Professions
21 Code section 19857; or,

22 (2) Will be denied if the Commission finds that any of the
23 provisions of Business and Professions Code section 19859 apply
24 to the applicant.

25 * * *

26 13. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12054, provides, in pertinent part:

27 (a) At a Commission meeting, the Commission may take, but is
28 not limited to taking, one of the following actions:

* * *

(4) Elect to hold or retract an evidentiary hearing in
accordance with Section 12056 and, for a renewal application,
issue an interim renewal license pursuant to Section 12035. The
Commission will identify those issues for which it requires
additional information or consideration related to the applicant's
suitability.

14. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12056, provides, in part:

(a) If the Commission elects to hold an evidentiary hearing, or an
applicant has elected to request an evidentiary hearing following a
Commission approval with conditions, restrictions, or limitations
pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Section 12054 or a
denial pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Section 12054,

1 the hearing will be conducted as a GCA hearing under Section 12060,
2 unless the Executive Director or the Commission determines the
3 hearing should be conducted as an APA hearing under Section
4 12058. . . .

5 15. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12060, provides:

6 (a) If the Executive Director determines it is appropriate, he or she
7 may set an application for consideration at a GCA hearing in advance of
8 a meeting pursuant to Section 12054. The Executive Director will give
9 notice to the applicant, pursuant to paragraph (2) subsection (c) of
10 Section 12052, to the Office of the Attorney General, and to the Bureau
11 no later than 90 calendar days in advance of the GCA hearing. The
12 Executive Director's determination will be based on information
13 contained in the Bureau's report or other appropriate sources including,
14 without limitation, a request from the Bureau or applicant as well as the
15 Commission's operational considerations.

16 (b) When a GCA hearing is elected pursuant to Section 12056,
17 subsection (a), the Executive Director will give notice to the applicant,
18 pursuant to paragraph (2) subsection (c) of Section 12052, to the Office
19 of the Attorney General, and to the Bureau no later than 60 calendar days
20 in advance of the GCA hearing.

21 (c) An applicant may request that his, her, or its GCA hearing be
22 held at a Southern California location instead of the Commission's
23 principal office in Sacramento, by completing the appropriate section on
24 the Notice of Defense, CGCC-CH1-03 (Rev. 08/21). The request must be
25 made on the initial Notice of Defense form submitted to the Commission
26 and Bureau within the timeframes specified on the form.

27 (1) The Executive Director will approve a Southern
28 California GCA hearing, if the request is timely made on the initial
Notice of Defense form and meets all of the following criteria:

(A) The GCA hearing is estimated by Commission
staff to last no longer than four hours.

(B) The primary residence of the applicant is located in
one of the following counties: Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles,
Orange, Riverside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San
Bernardino, Santa Barbara, or Ventura.

(C) A GCA hearing will be noticed for a Southern
California location only when it is in the best public interest,
promotes judicial economy, and comports with the
Commission's availability.

(2) If at any time before the hearing, the Executive Director
determines that the criteria in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of
paragraph (1) are no longer met, Commission staff may cancel the
Southern California GCA hearing and issue a new notice for a
hearing at the Commission's principal office in Sacramento.

(d) The presiding officer and her or his support staff will have no
communication with the Commission or Commission staff upon the

1 merits of an application prior to the evidentiary hearing. The Executive
2 Director will designate a presiding officer which will be:

- 3 (1) A member of the Commission's legal staff; or,
- 4 (2) An Administrative Law Judge.

5 (e) The applicant or the complainant, or the applicant and the
6 complainant, may request a continuance in writing to the Executive
7 Director stating the reason for the continuance and any proposed future
8 hearing dates. The Executive Director or Commission may approve the
9 request. For a Southern California GCA hearing, if a continuance is
10 granted, the hearing may be scheduled in Sacramento or Southern
11 California based on the criteria specified in subparagraphs (A) through
12 (C) of paragraph (1) of subsection (c).

13 (f) The complainant will provide to the applicant, subject to
14 subsection (b) of Section 12056, at least 45 calendar days prior to the
15 GCA hearing, and the applicant must provide to the complainant, at least
16 30 calendar days prior to the GCA hearing, the following items:

- 17 (1) A list of potential witnesses with the general subject of
18 the testimony of each witness;
- 19 (2) Copies of all documentary evidence intended to be
20 introduced at the hearing and not previously provided;
- 21 (3) Reports or statement of parties and witnesses, if
22 available; and
- 23 (4) All other written comments, writings, or other items
24 containing relevant evidence.

25 (g) The provisions of subsection (f) of this section provide the
26 exclusive right to and method of discovery between the applicant and
27 complainant to a GCA hearing. Discovery is not permitted upon a
28 Commission member or an advisor of the Commission unless a showing
is made that they have direct personal factual information pertaining to
material issues related to the application at issue and the information to
be gained from the Commission member or advisor of the Commission is
not available through any other sources.

(h) A presiding officer will rule on the admissibility of evidence and
on any objections raised except for objections raised under subsection
(h). A ruling by the presiding officer is final.

- (1) In advance of the GCA hearing, upon a motion of a party
or by order of the presiding officer, the presiding officer may
conduct a pre-hearing conference, either in person, via
teleconference, or by email exchange, subject to the presiding
officer's availability and will issue a pre-hearing order if appropriate
or requested by either party. The pre-hearing conference and order
may address the following:

1 (A) Evidentiary issues;

2 (B) Witness and exhibit lists;

3 (C) Alterations in the Bureau recommendation;

4 (D) Stipulations for undisputed facts and/or the
admission of evidence including without limitation the
5 Bureau's report;

6 (E) Authorizing offsite livestreaming appearances for
parties or witnesses if good cause has been presented and
7 only if the process for offsite livestreaming has been
approved by the Executive Director; and,

8 (F) Other issues that may be deemed appropriate to
9 promote the orderly and prompt conduct of the hearing.

10 (2) The GCA hearing need not be conducted according to
technical rules of evidence. Any relevant evidence may be
11 considered, and is sufficient in itself to support findings if it is the
sort of evidence on which reasonable persons are accustomed to
12 rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of
any common law or statutory rule that might make improper the
13 admission of that evidence over objection in a civil action.

14 (i) The Commission may, at any time upon a showing of prejudice
by the objecting party:

15 (1) Prohibit the testimony of any witness or the introduction
of any documentary evidence that has not been disclosed pursuant
16 to subsection (f); or

17 (2) Continue any meeting or hearing as necessary to mitigate
18 any prejudice.

19 (j) The complainant will present all facts and information in the
Bureau report, if any, and the results of the Bureau's background
20 investigation, and the basis for any recommendation, if the Bureau filed
one with the Commission according to Business and Professions Code
21 section 19868, to enable the Commission to make an informed decision
on whether the applicant has met his, her, or its burden of proof. The
22 complainant may but is not required to recommend or seek any particular
outcome during the evidentiary hearing, unless it so chooses.

23 (k) The burden of proof is always on the applicant to prove his, her,
24 or its qualifications to receive any license or other approval under the
Act.

25 (l) The applicant may choose to represent himself, herself, or itself,
26 or may retain an attorney or lay representative. Lay representatives may
assist the applicant but are not authorized to serve as an attorney as
27 otherwise defined and regulated by state law.

28 (m) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (i), the complainant
and applicant will have the right to call and examine witnesses under

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

oath; to introduce relevant exhibits and documentary evidence; to cross-examine opposing witnesses on any relevant matter, even if the matter was not covered in direct examination; to impeach any witness, regardless of which party first called the witness to testify; and to offer rebuttal evidence. If the applicant does not testify on his, her or its behalf, the applicant may be called and examined, under oath, as if under cross-examination.

(n) Oral evidence will be taken upon oath or affirmation, which may be administered by the Executive Director, a member of the Commission, or the presiding officer if an Administrative Law Judge.

(o) At the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing, the members of the Commission will take the matter under submission, may discuss the matter in a closed session meeting, and may schedule future closed session meetings for deliberation.

LA2024604985
67975926