FILED April 26, 2024 11756-2024 Board Clerk PGCB

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD	:	PGCB GAMING ID NO. 41397-6
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS	:	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
AND ENFORCEMENT,	:	
Complainant	:	INVESTIGATION ID#
	:	41397-E10879-24
V.	:	
	:	BCC INCIDENT#
	:	RC-E-0964946-24
	:	
ANTHONY LAUSH,	:	COMPLAINT FOR
Respondent	:	REVOCATION

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Complainant, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Gaming Control Board, Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement, located at 303 Walnut Street, Strawberry Square, 10th Floor, Commonwealth Tower, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101, states the following with respect to Respondent, Anthony Laush:

PARTIES

- Anthony Laush (hereinafter referred to as "Respondent") is the holder of a Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit (GID# 41397-6) as renewed by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board ("Board") on January 18, 2024.
- 2. The Bureau of Investigations and Enforcement (hereinafter referred to as "BIE") is the investigative body established by 4 Pa.C.S. §1517(a) for the purpose of, *inter alia*, investigating licensees, permittees, registrants and other persons for potential violations of 4 Pa.C.S. §§1101 et seq., known as the Pennsylvania Race Horse

Development and Gaming Act (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), including potential violations referred to the Bureau by the Board or other persons.

STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION

- 3. The Office of Enforcement Counsel, pursuant to 4 Pa.C.S. §1517(a.2)(1)(iii) has the authority to initiate, in its sole discretion, proceedings for non-criminal violations of the Act by filing a complaint or other pleading with the Board.
- 4. The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board has jurisdiction to impose administrative sanctions upon licensees, permittees, registrants and other persons for potential violations of the Act, pursuant to 4 Pa.C.S. §1518(c), which include but are not limited to, refusal to issue or renew a license or permit, suspension or revocation of a license or permit, assessment of civil penalties, restitution, cease and desist order or issuance of a letter of reprimand or censure.
- 5. Venue is proper pursuant to 58 Pa.Code §491a.8(e), which states, that hearings will be conducted in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, unless otherwise directed by the Board.

FAILURE TO MAINTAIN SUITABILITY

- 6. Paragraphs 1-5 are incorporated herein.
- On or about October 18, 2023, Respondent applied for the renewal of his Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit to work as a Table Games Floor Supervisor at Rivers Casino Pittsburgh ("Rivers").
- 8. Respondent was approved by the Board for the renewal of his gaming level 2 permit on January 18, 2024.

- 9. On or about January 19, 2024, the Rivers received an anonymous handwritten letter via USPS Mail with no return address that alleged collusion and cheating was occurring in the casino and involved Interblock Roulette and the Respondent and two other individuals. As a result, surveillance personnel conducted a surveillance review and notified the Board's Bureau of Casino Compliance ("BCC") and the Pennsylvania State Police of their findings.
- 10. More specifically, the letter indicated that the dealer on the game would purposefully spin the ball in an incorrect direction in order to cause an invalid game. Then, the supervisor would accept the spin without surveillance review and allow the guests to make bets late on the game.
- 11. According to BCC, the normal operation of the Interblock Roulette game requires the dealer to spin the ball in the opposite direction as the wheel. While the ball is still spinning, the Interblock system informs the players to place final bets and then ultimately no more bets can be placed before the ball lands on a number on the wheel.
- 12. According to BCC, if table games personnel spins the roulette ball in the same direction as the wheel improperly, the Interblock camera and sensors do not identify that a spin has occurred, and players can continue to place bets while the spin is occurring and once the ball has landed on a number. In these cases, procedure requires that a Table Games Supervisor is called over to the Interblock dealer station where the spin is validated. In these cases, the spin should be voided and all bets should have been cancelled.
- According to BCC's compliance review, from December 20, 2023 to March 14, 2024,
 the Respondent and Robin Schnepp ("Schnepp"), a table games dealer, engaged in

collusion where on multiple occasions their actions allowed bets to be placed on invalid spins and after the winning number had been determined which resulted in monies being paid to the patrons to which they were not entitled.

- 14. On December 20, 2023 and February 15, 2024, Respondent was working as a Table Games Supervisor at Rivers Casino when he colluded with Schnepp and deliberately approved invalid spins, without surveillance review in a manner that is inconsistent with Interblock Roulette which resulted in patrons placing bets after a winning number had been determined and those patrons being paid money which they were not entitled to and a loss to Rivers Casino.
- 15. More specifically, on December 20, 2023, Schnepp was acting as a table games dealer at an Interblock Roulette game when she spun the ball in the same direction as the wheel, causing an invalid spin that landed on the 2. When the ball landed on 2, Jack Mars, Player No. 4300809643 ("Patron Mars") and Concetta Valorie, Player No. 4301174279 ("Patron Valorie") increased their bets on 2. The Respondent arrived at the table and verified the spin, resulting in a \$2,760 and \$2,675 payout to the patrons to which they were not entitled.
- 16. More specifically, on February 15, 2024, Schnepp was acting as a table games dealer at an Interblock Roulette game when she spun the ball in the same direction as the wheel, causing an invalid spin that landed on the 00. When the ball landed on 00 Patron Mars and Patron Valorie placed winning bets. The Respondent arrived at the table and verified the spin, resulting in a \$2,725 and \$2,741 payout to the patrons to which they were not entitled.

- 17. According to the surveillance review, on February 15, 2024, Patron Mars arrived on the gaming floor at 7:27 p.m. and departed the gaming floor at 7:59 p.m. However, the Respondent, under the login of another table games floor supervisor, falsely rated Patron Mars as gaming at AP0409 from 7:01 p.m. to 7:32 p.m. when he did not in fact game at AR0409. This action resulted in Patron Mars being issued \$35 in food and beverage comps, which he was not entitled.
- 18. According to the surveillance review, on February 15, 2024, Patron Mars redeemed the \$35 in comps he was falsely issued at the Spiral Bar for a Grey Goose and orange drink and a Macanudo cigar (check number 7485).
- 19. According to BCC's compliance review, on March 14, 2024, the Respondent and Schnepp arrived to their schedule shifts on March 14, 2024 and were arrested by the Pennsylvania State Police and escorted from the premises.
- 20. According to BCC's compliance review, it is believed that Patron Mars and Patron Valorie are relatives and that the Respondent has a relative who lives with a relative of the patrons.
- 21. As a result of these actions, on or about March 18, 2024, Respondent was charged by the Pennsylvania State Police with one count of 4 Pa.C.S. § 3922(a)(1), "Theft By Decep-False Impression", a felony offense, 4 Pa.C.S. § 3925(a), one count of "Receiving Stolen Property", a felony offense, two counts of 18 Pa.C.S. § 1518(a)(7.1) "Knowingly By Trick/Fraud/Manipulation Win or Reduce A Loss", a misdemeanor offense and two counts of 18 Pa.C.S. § 1518(a)(17), "Unlawful To Take/Claim/Manipulate W/Intent to Defraud/Cheat", a misdemeanor offense.

- 22. According to the associated Criminal Complaint, from on December 20, 2023 and February 15, 2024, the Respondent, responded to Interblock Roulette Games when verbally requested from Table Games Dealer Schnepp and verified incorrect spins and allowed Patrons to place late bets which resulted in two patrons being paid for bets to which they were not entitled to on both occasions.
- 23. According to the associated Criminal Complaint, the Respondent fraudulently engaged in issues comps to under another employee's name, to which the patron was not entitled it.
- 24. According to the associated Criminal Complaint, the Respondent's actions were identified as a complex cheating scheme, that is designed to place wagers/bets after the outcome of the game has been determined and is being utilized to deceive the Rivers into paying out fraudulent winnings and the scheme can only be successful with the participation of Rivers Casino employees, Schnepp and the Respondent.
- 25. According to the associated Criminal Complaint, as a result of the Respondent's actions, the Rivers Casino suffered a total loss of \$10,818.
- 26. According to the docket sheet, the status of the case "Active", all charges are still pending and a Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for May 1, 2024.
- Respondent is not currently employed in a Pennsylvania licensed gaming facility or with a licensed gaming entity.
- 28. At no time did Respondent report these events to the Board.
- 29. Section 1202(b)(23) of the Act states that "[t]he board shall not approve an application for or issue or renew a license, certificate registration or permit unless it is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that the applicant

is a person of good character, honesty and integrity and is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits and association do not pose a threat to the public interest or the effective regulation and control of slot machine or table game operations to create or enhance the danger or unsuitable, unfair or illegal practices, methods and activities in the conduct of slot machine or table game operations or the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto." 4 Pa.C.S. §1202(b)(23).

- 30. Furthermore, 58 Pa. Code §421a.1(a) provides that, "A license, permit, certification or registration issuance, renewal or other approval issued by the Board is a revocable privilege. No person holding a license, permit, certification or registration, renewal, or other approval is deemed to have any property rights related to the license, permit, certification registration or authorization."
- At the time of application, Respondent agreed to a number of conditions with respect to Respondent's gaming level 2 permit.
- 32. One of the conditions the Respondent agreed to was to maintain the suitability requirements of the Act which include good character, honesty, and integrity.
- 33. Pursuant to 58 Pa. Code §423a.6.(b)(4), an individual whose application has been approved shall fully comply with each provision contained in the statement of conditions.
- 34. Pursuant to 58 Pa.Code §423a.6(b)(5), an individual's "failure to fully comply with any provision contained in an executed Statement of Conditions constitutes a violation and may result in Board-imposed administrative sanctions, up to and including

revocation, against the individual or entity to whom the license, permit, certification, registration or authorization was issued."

- 35. Pursuant to 58 Pa.Code §421.a.1(i), "a person holding a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization issued by the Board shall have a continuing duty to maintain suitability and eligibility in accordance with the act and this part."
- 36. A gaming level 2 permit holder has an affirmative duty to maintain his or her suitability in accordance with 58 Pa.Code § 42la.l(e)(2)(i) and (ii) which states, in relevant part, that "[A]n applicant for or holder of a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization shall have a continuing duty to inform the Bureau of a change in circumstances that may render the applicant for or holder of a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization ineligible, unqualified, or unsuitable to hold a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization under the act and this part including an arrest, charge or indictment or conviction for an offense involving moral turpitude [or] an offense under 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to Crimes Code)."
- 37. A permittee has an affirmative duty to maintain his/her suitability in accordance with 58 Pa. Code §421a.1(f), which states, in relevant part, that "An applicant for or holder of a license, permit, certification or registration shall have a continuing duty to inform the Board of a change in circumstances that may render the applicant for or holder of a license, permit, certification or registration ineligible, unqualified or unsuitable to hold a license, permit, certification or registration under the standards and requirements of the act and of this part." (emphasis added)
- 38. Upon information in the above paragraphs received and believed, Complainant, through the Office of Enforcement Counsel, avers that on December 20, 2023 and

February 15, 2024, Respondent while acting as a Table Games Supervisor engaged in collusion with a Table Games Dealer to validate invalid spins on an Interblock Roulette machines and allowed Patrons to be paid winnings on invalid bets to which they were not entitled to.

- 39. Upon information in the above paragraphs received and believed, Complainant, through the Office of Enforcement Counsel, avers that on February 15, 2024, Respondent while acting as a Table Games Supervisor issued comps fraudulently to which the Patron was not entitled to and under the login name of another employee.
- 40. Respondent's actions were and are inconsistent with the good character, honesty and integrity standard imposed by the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
- 41. In accordance with 4 Pa.C.S. §1202(b)(14), the Board has the authority, "at its discretion, to issue, approve, renew, revoke, suspend, condition or deny issuance or renewal for various classes of employees as required under [the Act]."
- 42. The Board's authority to revoke is also reflected in 58 Pa. Code §421a.2(a)(5) which indicates that, "an application for issuance or renewal or a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization may be denied, or a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization may be suspended or revoked if the applicant for or holder of a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization, registration or authorization, registration or authorization, registration or authorization, registration or authorization may be suspended or revoked if the applicant for or holder of a license, permit, certification, registration or authorization has failed to comply with federal, state or local laws or regulations."
- 43. The Board's authority to revoke is also reflected in 58 Pa. Code §421a.2(f) which indicates that, "a denial of an application or nonrenewal, suspension or revocation of a license, permit, certification or registration may be made for a sufficient cause consistent with the act and the public interest."

- 44. It is consistent with the legislative intent of the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act to revoke Respondent's Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit, as reflected in 4 Pa.C.S. §1102(1), which states that, "the primary objective of this [Act] to which all other objectives and purposes are secondary is to protect the public through the regulation and policing of all activities involving gaming and practices that continue to be unlawful."
- 45. Respondent's alleged acts are inconsistent with the suitability requirements of the Act and the gaming level 2 permit issued to Respondent should be revoked.

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing paragraphs, Complainant seeks the following relief:

- A. A judgment that Respondent has violated 58 Pa. Code §421a.1(f) for failing to abide by the continual duty to inform the Board of actions which would render the Respondent unqualified or unsuitable to continue to hold a Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit.
- B. A judgment that Respondent violated 58 Pa.Code §421a.1(i) by failing to maintain the requisite suitability to hold a Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit.
- C. A judgment that Respondent has violated 58 Pa.Code §423a.6(b)(5) for failing to comply with the statement of conditions agreed to by Respondent at the time of application.
- D. A judgment that Respondent has violated 4 Pa.C.S. §1202(b)(23) in that Respondent failed to maintain the suitability requirements relating to good character, honesty and integrity.

- E. An order revoking the Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit issued to Respondent, Anthony Laush.
- F. Any and all other relief as the Board may deem necessary to protect the public interest of the citizens of this Commonwealth and the social effect of gaming, pursuant to 4 Pa.C.S. §1102(10).

Respectfully Submitted By, Office of Enforcement Counsel

Date: April 26, 2024

Sarah Kolesor

Sarah E. Kolesar, Esquire Assistant Enforcement Counsel Pennsylvania Supreme Court ID #316475 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Office of Enforcement Counsel 303 Walnut Street, Strawberry Square Commonwealth Tower, 10th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717) 265-8324

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 26th day of April, 2024 a copy of the Complaint was served upon Respondent, Anthony Laush in the manner of certified mail, first class mail and electronic mail to Respondent's residence located at:

> Anthony Laush 108 Locust Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Email: tonelaush11@yahoo.com

Sarah Kolesor

Sarah E. Kolesar, Esquire Assistant Enforcement Counsel Pennsylvania Supreme Court ID #316475 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Office of Enforcement Counsel 303 Walnut Street, Strawberry Square Commonwealth Tower, 10th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101 (717) 265-8324

VERIFICATION

1, Sut Brettell hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Scott Brettell, BCC

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD	:	PGCB GAMING ID NO. 41397-
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT,	:	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Complainant	:	INVESTIGATION ID#
	:	41397-E10879-24
V.	:	
	:	BCC INCIDENT#
	:	RC-E-0964946-24
	:	
ANTHONY LAUSH,	:	COMPLAINT FOR
Respondent	:	REVOCATION

<u>ORDER</u>

AND NOW, this ______ day of _____, 2024, it is hereby ORDERED that the

Gaming Level 2 Employee Occupation Permit issued to Respondent, Anthony Laush (GID #

41397-6) is REVOKED.

By the BOARD

Denise J. Smyler Chair

If you disagree with the Board's Decision and Order you have the right to file an appeal with the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania within thirty (30) days of the date of the Order. See Pennsylvania Rule of Appellate Procedure 1512.

Notice of Hearing Rights

In accordance with 58 Pa. Code §493a.5, you have the following rights in connection with the attached pleading, which has been filed with the Clerk to the Board.

Answer to Filing

Within 30 days of service of the complaint or petition filed by the complainant, the respondent may file with the Clerk an Answer to the filing which may contain:

- (1) Admissions of matter complained of and the alleged facts, in whole or part.
- (2) New matter or explanation by way of defense.
- (3) Legal objections.
- (4) Affirmative defenses.
- (5) A request for a hearing.

Answers shall be filed with the Clerk and other parties **within 30 days** after the date of service of a complaint, petition, motion or other pleading, unless a different time is prescribed by the Board or presiding officer. **All Answers must be in writing**.

Hearing on the Merits

The respondent may be entitled to a hearing on the merits if the respondent files the required Answer within thirty (30) days.

Failure to File/Appear

Failure to timely file an Answer or to appear at a subsequent hearing constitutes an admission of all matters and facts contained in the complaint or petition and a waiver of the respondent's rights to a hearing. The Board may conduct a hearing despite a respondent's failure to timely file the required Answer or to appear at the hearing.

All responses may be filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals at the following address:

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Bureau of Hearings and Appeals Office of the Board Clerk 303 Walnut Street/ Strawberry Square Commonwealth Tower. 5th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101 (717) 265-7451 - phone (717) 265-7416 - fax boardclerk@pa.gov



HEARING REQUEST FORM FOR REVOCATION/SUSPENSION

PURSUANT TO 58 PA. CODE § 421a.1(a), A LICENSE, PERMIT, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION ISSUANCE, RENEWAL OR OTHER APPROVAL ISSUED BY THE BOARD IS A REVOCABLE PRIVILEGE.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE ADDRESS BELOW WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RECEIPT.

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Board Clerk 303 Walnut Street/Strawberry Square Commonwealth Tower, 5th Floor Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101 (717) 265-7451 - phone; (717) 265-7416 - fax

Via email to boardclerk@pa.gov

, request a hearing in this matter. I, (Please Print) Name

Please check one of the following options to participate in your hearing:

- Video hearing via Microsoft Teams Application from your computer, cell phone or other device. An invitation will be sent to the email address provided below.
- Telephone hearing where you will connect to the hearing via a Microsoft Teams Application and testify from your telephone. An invitation will be sent to the email address provided below.
- I do not wish to participate in the hearing by video or telephone. I wish to appear in person at a Board office. I understand that Board employees may appear by video even though I am appearing in person.

**Understand that if your hearing involves the use of video surveillance by the Office of Enforcement Counsel, you will be required to participate from a Board office nearest to the address provided below. You will be notified by the Board Clerk if that is necessary, and the location of the hearing.

I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the Office of the Clerk of any change of my physical or email addresses.

		(Signature) Street Address			
E-Mail Address	Street Ad				
	City	State	Zip		
Date	Telephone	Telephone number			