

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO GOVERNOR

H. CHARLES GAUDIN CHAIRMAN

DECISION OF THE LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

IN RE: PAMELA THOMAS NO. P040019536

This is an appeal by Pamela Thomas from the Hearing Officer's decision revoking her non-key gaming employee permit. The decision was based on charges of a theft related crime, "Cheating and Swindling." After the decision, Ms. Thomas completed a pre-trial diversion program.

The Louisiana Gaming Control Board, after consideration of the transcript of the hearing and exhibits introduced at the hearing, finds that Ms. Thomas does not meet the general suitability standards of La. R.S. 27:28, more particularly the standard of honesty. Ms. Thomas' non-key gaming employee permit should be revoked for this reason.

ORDER

This matter having been considered by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board in open meeting of February 21, 2006:

IT IS ORDERED THAT the Hearing Officer's decision is AFFIRMED.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED on this the day of February, 2006.

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

BY:

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT A CERTIFIED COPY HAS BEEN MAILED, OR SERVED ON

STATE OF LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING AUGUST 22, 2005

HEARING OFFICER JOSEPH E. ANZALONE, JR.

IN RE: PAMELA THOMAS

#P040019536

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APPEARANCES:

For the State of Louisiana: Mr. Mike Daniels Assistant Attorney General 1885 N. 3rd Street Livingston Bldg. 5th Floor Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Ms. Pamela Thomas 3451 Pines Road Shreveport, LA 71119 Absent

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The Louisiana State Police, Casino Gaming Division ("Division") seeks to revoke the non-key employee permit currently issued to Ms. Pamela Thomas alleging she faces unresolved charges on cheating/swindling her employer, Boomtown Casino, out of a sum less than three hundred (\$300.00) dollars.

In connection with the proposed revocation on May 25, 2005, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board ("Board") issued a notice of recommendation of revocation, order of immediate emergency suspension, and notice of hearing immediately suspending the privileges of the permit and setting the matter for suspension for June 6, 2005.

Ms. Thomas received personal service of the notice as evidenced by the record. On June 6, 2005, this court sustained the immediate emergency suspension and set the matter for final revocation for August 22, 2005. A copy of the order of suspension and notice of hearing was sent to Ms. Thomas' last known address via certified mail, return receipt requested. Ms. Thomas received these communications on June 10, 2005, as evidenced by the return receipt made part of this record.

The court ruled Ms. Thomas' absence a personal preference and allowed the Division to proceed.

STATE'S EVIDENCE AND CONTENTIONS:

The State offered, filed, and introduced into evidence an exhibit file marked S-1 (in globo) and containing the following documents:

- 1. Service Return/Receipt Form Notice of Recommendation of Revocation, Order of Immediate Emergency Suspension, and Notice of Hearing;
- 2. Uniform Traffic Summons, Parish of Bossier-May 1, 2005;
- 3. Louisiana State Police Voluntary Statement dated May 5, 2005;
- 4. Bill of Information filed May 1, 2005, charging Ms. Thomas with cheating and swindling in the 26th Judicial District Court;
- 5. Criminal case minutes from the 26th Judicial District Court, Parish of Bossier reflecting that Ms. Thomas pled guilty and trial is set for October 19, 2005.

Division agent, Ms. Tammy Panepinto, testified that she was familiar with Ms. Thomas' file. A Division investigation revealed that a bill of information charging Ms. Thomas with cheating and swindling was filed in the 26th Judicial District Court Parish of Bossier.

Charges are currently pending with trial set for October 19, 2005.

LICENSEE'S EVIDENCE AND CONTENTIONS:

None submitted.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

On August 17, 2005, Ms. Thomas pled not guilty to charges of cheating and swindling in the 26th Judicial District Court, Parish of Bossier. Trial is set for October 19, 2005.

APPLICABLE LAW:

La. R. S. 27:28(B)(1)(b)(c) and (2) provides:

The board or division, where applicable, shall not grant a license or permit, enter into a casino operating contract, or issue any other approval pursuant to the provisions of this Title to any person who is qualified on the basis of the following criteria:

- (1) The conviction or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere by the applicant or any person required to be suitable under the provisions of this Title for any of the following:
 - (b) Theft or attempted theft, illegal possession of stolen things, or any offense or attempt involving the misappropriation of property or funds.
 - (c) Any offense involving fraud or attempted fraud, false statements or declaration.
- (2) There is current prosecution or pending charge against the person in any jurisdiction for any offense listed in Paragraph (1) of this Subsection

REASONS FOR DECISION:

On August 17, 2005, Ms. Thomas pled not guilty to charges of cheating and swindling in the 26th Judicial District Court, Parish of Bossier. Trial is set for October 19, 2005.

Because she faces unresolved charges of a theft related crime, she is statutorily disqualified from participating in the gaming industry, and her permit must be revoked.

Because the charges are unresolved, justice demands the revocation be without prejudice.

IN RE: PAMELA THOMAS #P040019536

JUDGMENT

After a review of the pleadings and the evidence, and consideration of the argument of counsel, and for the reasons aforesaid:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the non-key gaming employee permit issued to Ms. Pamela Thomas is REVOKED, without prejudice.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this

Joseph E. Anzalone, Jr.

Hearing Officer

day of December, 2005.

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT A CERTIFIED

A TRUE COPY ATTEST LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

HEARING OFFICE TOUROUGE, LA LOTIS