
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING/WORKSHOP HEARING

LOCATION

Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148
Betty Easley Conference Center
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida 23299-0850

(Page Nos. 1 - 101)

Thursday, December 4, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 11:36 a.m.

BEFORE: Vice Chair Julie I. Brown
Commissioner Chuck Drago
Commissioner John D'Aquila
Commissioner Tina Repp

Stenographically Reported By:
I. Iris Cooper
Stenographic Reporter

Job No.: 409228

1 APPEARANCES:

2 COMMISSION MEMBERS:

3 Vice Chair Julie I. Brown
4 Commissioner Chuck Drago
5 Commissioner John D'Aquila
6 Commissioner Tina Repp

5

6 PARTICIPANTS:

7 - Emily Alvarado, Chief Attorney in Litigation

8 - Joe Dillmore, Director, Division of Pari-Mutuel
9 Wagering

9 - Justin Hundersmarck, Senior Attorney

10 - Jamie Pouncey, Program Administration

11 - Marc Taupier, Deputy General Counsel

12 - Carl Herold, Director of Law Enforcement

13 - Brandon McCaffery, Deputy Executive Director

14 - Elina Valentine, General Counsel

15 - Alana Zimmer, Executive Director

16 OTHERS PRESENT:

17 - Various Members of the Public

18 - The Florida Channel

19 - Jonathan Zachem, Counsel for PPI, Inc.

20 - Ryan Bishop, General Manager for PPI, Inc.

21 - John Keenan, Director of Security, Safety and
22 Compliance for PPI, Inc.

22 - Edgar Diaz, Appears by phone

23 - Dan McGinn, Counsel for William Walden

24 - William Walden

25

	INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS	Page 3
		PAGE
1		
2	1. Approval of Meeting Minutes	
3	1.1. October 16, 2025	6
4	2. Executive Director update	
5	2.1. Florida Gaming Control Commission's	7
6	recommendation, as required by Section	
7	551.106(1)(b), Florida Statutes,	
	regarding slot machine license fees.	
8	2.2. Update of Ownership for St. Petersburg	9
	Kennel Club, Inc.	
9	3. PPI, Inc. presentation	17
10	4. Discussion of renewal application for Slot	
11	Machine Licenses	
12	4.1. 2025-074980 - South Florida Racing	39
	Association, LLC	
13	4.2. 2025-075326 - Casino Miami, LLC	39
14	5. Discussion of Default Final Orders	
15	5.1. 2025-031355 - Pensacola Greyhound	40
16	Racing, LLP	
17	5.2. 2025-032827 - Beker Vives, Guillermo	46
	Alejandro	
18	6. Discussion of Settlement Offer	
19	6.1. 2025-053137 - St. Petersburg Kennel	47
20	Club, Inc.	
21	7. Discussion of Recommended Orders	
22	7.1. 2025-002407 - Zerilli, Joseph Alexander	49
23	7.2. 2025-011098 - Diaz, Edgar David	50
24	8. Discussion of Request for Waiver	
25	8.1. 2025-083794 - Walden, William Parrish	57

1	INDEX - (Continued)	Page 4
2		
3	9. Discussion of License Denials	PAGE
4	9.1. 2025-082142 - Johnson, Marketa Antrenell	68
5	9.2. 2025-082203 - Figueroa, Anisha S.	73
6		
7	10. Discussion of Rulemaking	
8	10.1. Rules 75-14.022, 75-14.048, and 75-14.074, F.A.C.	76
9	10.2. Rules 75-2.002-.022, .024-.027; 75-3.0015, .003-.004; 75-5.002-.003; 75-11.002-.004, .0149, .016, .021-.022; 75-14.002, .012, .019, .076, F.A.C.	82
10		
11	11. Public Comment	86
12		
13	12. Closed Attorney-Client Session	
14	12.1. B25017696 - State of Florida v. Roye	89
15	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	101
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 Thereupon, the following proceeding began at 9:30 a.m.:

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning, everyone, and
3 welcome to our December 4th Florida Gaming Control
4 Commission meeting. Please stand for the pledge of
5 allegiance, which will be led by Commissioner Chuck
6 Drago.

7 (Pledge of allegiance.)

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
9 Commissioner Drago. And welcome, all. As we move
10 into closing out this year at 2025, I did just want
11 to note before we get into our meeting a few
12 things, express some gratitude to various groups.

13 First, I want to thank my colleagues here,
14 Commissioners over the years. And particularly
15 this year, I want to thank you for the work that
16 you do, for always being intellectually curious,
17 for being respectful of each other and the parties,
18 and also for your friendship.

19 Second, I would like to thank our senior
20 leadership team here, our staff members who not
21 only work hard, they work long. But they always go
22 above and beyond, and they do jobs even outside of
23 their own jobs.

24 Especially this year, you guys have been above
25 and beyond. And thank you to the new folks that

1 have been here who have gotten up to speed really
2 quickly. And finally, I would like to thank our
3 stakeholders, our industry folks here.

4 Not just here, but across the state, I want to
5 thank you for your involvement in our proceedings.
6 I thank you for your participation. And I also
7 want to thank you for always keeping us informed of
8 hot, pressing issues that we are very receptive of.

9 So thank you all. And we're going to get
10 right into our meeting, unless my colleagues have
11 anything else to add. Okay. Thanks. We're going
12 to go into the approval of our meeting meetings
13 from October 16, 2025. Can I please get a motion
14 to approve.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And a second.

17 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
19 aye.

20 (Multiple ayes.)

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And now we're
22 getting into our executive director update. We
23 have a few items under there and want to welcome
24 Director Zimmer back.

25 MS. ZIMMER: Good morning. Thank you. First,

1 we've got our recommendation for slot machine
2 license fees. Before January 1, 2026, Section
3 551.106 of Florida Statutes requires the Commission
4 to evaluate the license fee and recommendations to
5 the president of the Senate and the Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives regarding the optimum
7 level of slot machine license fees to adequately
8 support the slot machine regulatory program.

9 The letter to the Senate president and Speaker
10 of the House will include the following relevant
11 points. The Commission's overall operations are
12 primarily funded by the following moneys deposited
13 into the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund.

14 Taxes and fees on pari-mutuel permit holders
15 conducting pari-mutuel activities under Chapter 550
16 Florida Statutes in operating cardrooms under
17 Section 849.086 Florida Statutes and slot machine
18 license fees under Chapter 551 Florida Statutes.

19 As a result of recent amendments to Florida
20 law, the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund revenue
21 deposits have decreased by approximately \$8.7
22 million annually.

23 Section 550.135 of the Florida Statutes
24 authorizes the Commission to use slot machine
25 license fees to fund the direct and indirect

1 operating expenses of the Commission's operations
2 and to provide funding for relevant enforcement
3 activities in accordance with authorized
4 appropriations.

5 Fiscal year 2024 to 2025 total annual deposits
6 retained in the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund do
7 not exceed the total \$33.2 million overall FGCC
8 agency appropriation. However, with its current
9 cash balance, the Commission collects enough
10 revenue to cover its direct and indirect cost in
11 the short term.

12 However, should the appropriations remain at
13 the current or increased levels, additional revenue
14 will be necessary to cover direct and indirect
15 expenditures of the Commission.

16 With these factors in mind, the Commission is
17 unable to recommend a change to the annual slot
18 license fee without another funding source
19 necessary to sustain the mission and operation of
20 the Commission.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Director Zimmer.
22 Commissioners, are there any questions or
23 comments on that item?

24 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We can move

1 along to 2.2.

2 MS. ZIMMER: Thank you. First of all, I'd
3 like to thank -- I'd like to update the
4 commissioners on the anticipated change to the
5 ownership structure of permit holder St. Petersburg
6 Kennel Club, Incorporated.

7 On October 30, 2025, the Commission received
8 notice that the ownership of Rally Development,
9 L.L.C., the 100 percent owner of the St. Petersburg
10 Kennel Club, will change after certain entities
11 exercise warrants to purchase membership units in
12 Rally Development.

13 Based on the information provided to the
14 Commission, this change to the ownership structure
15 will not result in any change in the direct
16 ownership of St. Petersburg Kennel Club or its
17 permit.

18 St. Petersburg Kennel Club will now have a new
19 ultimate equitable owner, Christopher Spence, who
20 will indirectly own more than 5 percent of
21 St. Pete. Spence currently holds an occupational
22 license with the Commission and has no
23 disqualifying offenses that would impact his
24 licensure with the Commission.

25 The other ultimate equitable owners of

1 St. Peters Kennel Club will not change.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for that update.

3 Commissioners, any questions on 2.2? Seeing
4 none, we can continue with the executive director
5 update.

6 MS. ZIMMER: That's what we have for the
7 executive director report, so we're finished with
8 that.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Would you like to move on
10 to our director of gaming enforcement?

11 MS. ZIMMER: Yes, that would be great. Thank
12 you.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Director Herold.

14 MR. HEROLD: Good morning.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning.

16 MR. HEROLD: Nice and brisk outside, so very
17 energetic, to say the least.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Freezing.

19 MR. HEROLD: Yes. This past month in the
20 gaming enforcement unit, we've had another
21 successful month. Just highlight some of the items
22 on my list here and take questions as you deem
23 appropriate.

24 This last month, the investigative teams
25 touched about 119 investigations. That's how many

1 they were actively working. The number of slot
2 machines that were seized during operations this
3 past month, 295 slot machines.

4 And that allowed us to either close or have an
5 impact on nine illegal businesses across the state.
6 We arrested 14 individuals with a total of 23
7 charges. And then there was \$169,077 seized over
8 this last month.

9 Essentially, we had 14 operations that we
10 participated in either fully or as assisting. We
11 seized -- well, I said we seized 295 slot machines.
12 In total, the number of evidentiary items that were
13 seized were 302.

14 They can involve other items that may not
15 qualify as stray slot machines. And then we were
16 -- we did not destroy any machines. However, the
17 momentum is beginning to build with the destruction
18 of slot machines. We are actively doing that, and
19 there will be more.

20 We were fortunate, even though I'm not
21 reporting it in this particular month's report, I
22 am proud to say that we partnered with the Brevard
23 County Sheriff's Office earlier this week and were
24 able to destroy about 147 illegal slot machines in
25 a quite spectacular fashion. That was exciting as

1 well.

2 I'll pause there for a moment.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

4 MR. HEROLD: Commissioner Drago usually has a
5 question at this point.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: My reputation is really,
8 really getting bad.

9 MR. HEROLD: Have I somehow vented your
10 reputation a little bit?

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I just want to say -- I
12 want to thank also Sheriff Ivey and his
13 coordination and work with us, in particular with
14 Director Herold and law enforcement folks.

15 We had some successful operations there. And
16 that relationship between this agency and the
17 various agencies throughout the state to accomplish
18 our mission has been outstanding, and I saw it with
19 Sheriff Ivey.

20 He was very enthusiastic to work with us, and
21 that says a lot for our folks and for him and his
22 folks. So I just wanted to say that I appreciate
23 what you guys have done and appreciate that
24 relationship and enthusiasm from Sheriff Ivey as
25 well.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
2 Commissioner Drago.

3 Commissioners, any other questions or
4 comments?

5 COMMISSIONER REPP: In regards to the Brevard
6 destruction, I was there. It was incredible.
7 Sheriff Ivey was wonderful. But I'd like to
8 specifically thank the Ocala agents that we have
9 that made that possible.

10 They're incredibly talented and dedicated, and
11 we are deeply appreciated. And their efforts that
12 led to us being able to destroy those machines is
13 deeply appreciated by the Commission. Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And appreciate
15 all the work that you've been doing this month. I
16 know it's even going to pick up even more over the
17 next few weeks, so thank you.

18 MR. HEROLD: Yes, we have a lot of work ahead
19 of us, for sure. Moving on the intel and
20 analytical side of the team. They conducted 14
21 subject backgrounds and six business backgrounds.
22 They also conducted three employee backgrounds for
23 onboarding of individuals.

24 They attended four intel meetings. And then
25 as part of that, we've received 214 investigative

1 leads this past month. That's down from last
2 month. It was about 300, but I'm not complaining
3 that the number of leads have gone down.

4 We still out of that 214 -- you've got the
5 breakdown there, but ten of those were able to be
6 assigned to investigators for active investigation.
7 Many of those were shared with local law
8 enforcement and that kind of stuff.

9 Another interesting and relevant bit of
10 information is our warehouse space. The warehouse
11 space at this time continues to be 80,000 square
12 feet, roughly. And we are looking for some
13 additional warehouse space at this time.

14 But our available space for warehousing
15 dropped from last month. Last month, it was 32,960
16 square feet. And it stands now at 26,620 square
17 feet, which is about 33 percent of the total
18 warehouse space that we have.

19 And the total number of slot machines, 7,647.
20 Once again, the agency works very hard to try and
21 destroy these machines and get them once they're
22 through the legal process, criminal process, get
23 rid of them as quickly as possible.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Director Herold, the
25 Brevard County destruction, that cost the state no

1 dollars at all; is that correct?

2 MR. HEROLD: And thank you for bringing that
3 up. Commissioner Drago was talking about it, and I
4 would also add my thanks to Sheriff Ivey and his
5 team. But partnering with our local law
6 enforcement to destroy these in some fashion that
7 benefits them because it educates the public and
8 helps carry the message for us.

9 But also at the same time, they bore part of
10 the expense of destroying these machines. And I
11 think that truly adds into the collaborative effort
12 that we have with our partner agencies.

13 Not only are we sharing the workload, but
14 we're also sharing in the destruction load. I'm
15 very thankful for that.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And I remember when we
17 first started out, we contemplated that there
18 weren't going to be cost associated with it, so I
19 really commend you on the partnerships that
20 have been evolving.

21 MR. HEROLD: Right. Yes. No. I'm truly
22 thankful for those relationships that we have with
23 our partner agencies. And then as the last part of
24 my briefing is the training that we had this past
25 month. We had one or two of the agents go to some

1 firearms instructor.

2 We have our analyst using -- getting some
3 training on an analyst notebook piece of software,
4 and that's simply to manage and discern some of the
5 intel information that we've received.

6 And then lastly, they've received training in
7 criminal organizations and cartels. Apparently,
8 there's a trend, and it may have always been there.
9 But a lot of these criminal organizations are
10 laundering money through casinos, both legal and
11 illegal.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We'll just pause.

13 Commissioners, any questions or comments?
14 This monthly report is even more thorough with a
15 lot of the charts and deciphering the different
16 categories.

17 And I know you all are working on with the
18 collaboration of our director of HR and admin to
19 make it more of a matrix so that this information
20 could be possibly publically disseminated, too, so
21 that they can see the different categories of
22 enforcement.

23 MR. HEROLD: I agree. You know, the amount of
24 work and the good work that we do in totality, my
25 partners here at the table, certainly, I couldn't

1 do any of this and be anywhere near as successful
2 without having this fantastic group around me and,
3 of course, the amazing leadership from the
4 Commission and from legislature and Governor
5 DeSantis as well.

6 So it's not me, certainly. It's a group
7 effort, and so I'm very thankful for that.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

9 Commissioners, any further comments?

10 That concludes your report.

11 MR. HEROLD: Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

13 And, Director Zimmer, are we done with the
14 executive director report?

15 MS. ZIMMER: Yes.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We're going to
17 move on to Item 3, PPI presentation. We have three
18 speakers under this. And before they begin, I do
19 want to thank them all for coming out here and
20 working on this.

21 I know we tasked you with coming and sharing
22 with us and the public some of this information, so
23 appreciate the experts that are here on behalf of
24 PPI.

25 MR. ZACHEM: Thank you, Madam Vice Chair. You

1 know, fortunately, we brought some people along who
2 know a lot more than I do when I present before you
3 on some of these subject matters, so we have some
4 of them here today.

5 My name is John Zachem. It's been my
6 privilege to represent PPI for a few years now, and
7 we've brought with us -- first of all, I want to
8 introduce Mr. Ryan Bishop, general manager for
9 Pompano Harrah's and Caesars.

10 MR. BISHOP: Thank you, folks. First and
11 foremost, I want to show appreciation and gratitude
12 for allowing us to present to you today. As you
13 said, my name is Ryan Bishop. I've been the senior
14 vice president and general manager at Harrah's
15 Pompano Beach for about a year and a half now.

16 That being said, I've been with Ceasars
17 Entertainment my entire career. I started out as a
18 poker dealer at the Flamingo Las Vegas when I was
19 21 years old. I've grown my entire career with
20 Ceasars.

21 And I'm proud to say that we've always
22 consistently been a pioneer when it comes to
23 regulatory compliance, responsible gaming.

24 You know, we've always been the gold standard
25 of that, and I'm excited to be able to show you

1 what that looks like here at Harrah's Pompano
2 Beach.

3 So I brought John Keenan with me, my director
4 of compliance, to go into a little bit more detail
5 on what that looks like at Harrah's Pompano Beach.
6 Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Bishop.

8 MR. KEENAN: Good morning, Commissioners.
9 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My
10 name is John Keenan, and I serve as director of
11 security, safety and compliance at Harrah's Pompano
12 Beach, part of Ceasars Entertainment.

13 I want to begin by emphasizing our unwavering
14 commitment to regulatory compliance and the safety
15 of our guests and staff. At Harrah's Pompano
16 Beach, we take a proactive approach in identifying
17 and addressing potential violations, particularly
18 of those involving underage individuals.

19 Every violation cited by the FGCC, and prior
20 to that the DBPR, involving minors since at least
21 2009 resulted in our own internal detection and
22 self-reporting. This reflects our strength and
23 security of our surveillance teams, our departments
24 and operational protocols.

25 Before I go any further, I'd like to share my

1 background. I've been at Harrah's Pompano Beach
2 since 2009, dedicating my career to ensuring
3 compliance and building a culture of accountability
4 and responsible gaming.

5 Prior to joining Harrah's, I served as slot
6 operations specialist with a former gaming
7 regulatory body, the DBPR. And that experience
8 gave me a deep understanding of the regulatory
9 standards which I have carried forward in my role
10 here.

11 Before I go on to some of the performance
12 metrics, I just want to know if you had any
13 questions about what I just stated?

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Seeing none,
15 thank you.

16 MR. KEENAN: No problem. In 2024, which is
17 the year in question that we're here today for and
18 the incident, we welcomed over 1.2 million patrons.
19 Out of that, 1,075 minors were successfully turned
20 away by security before entering the gaming floor.

21 Eleven breaches did occur, which represented
22 in .001 percent of total traffic. And two minors
23 gamed at a slot machine at a rate of .0002 of all
24 patrons. Although these numbers demonstrate strong
25 performance, our goal remains zero minors on the

1 gaming floor.

2 And we continue to refine our processes and
3 technology and training to achieve that standard.
4 Moving on to some of the things that we've done
5 over the years and especially recently from the
6 re-brand to Harrah's.

7 We invested heavily in surveillance
8 enhancements, including high-resolution panoramic
9 cameras, 360 cameras to eliminate blind spots to
10 ensure monitoring of the gaming floors, the
11 outside, the parking garage, the new sections that
12 we've built, and we lead the way in technology for
13 that.

14 In 2024, we also made significant investment
15 in the ID detection technology. The IDVisor Smart
16 V2 scanners are at all entrances for my security
17 guards.

18 These scanners verify identification in under
19 a second ensuring fast and accurate age checks,
20 which also uses color-coded alerts, green for legal
21 age, red for underage, and yellow for IDs that are
22 expired.

23 Along with that, we have audible notifications
24 to prevent mistakes for the officers. It detects
25 fake IDs by using advanced bar code analysis and

1 can integrate with the DMV databases to ensure
2 added security.

3 It creates a time stamp digital record for
4 auditing purposes, and it helps in investigations.
5 And moving on to our zero tolerance policy when it
6 comes to minors.

7 If one of our officers allows a minor to enter
8 the gaming floor, they immediately receive a final
9 written warning, and they undergo rigorous training
10 after that. And we bring them in, and we talk
11 about the incident in question.

12 We'll show them the surveillance footage to
13 make sure we can coach them on what they did wrong
14 and what they could do better. The second strike
15 is immediate termination, and this approach
16 reinforces accountability and compliance.

17 If anybody has any questions for that?

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I do have just a quick
19 question about the 11 breaches that you cite of the
20 minors. Are there specific reasons that those
21 breaches happen? Are they due to false IDs or just
22 letting them in?

23 MR. KEENAN: Out of the 11, I do have a
24 breakdown of what the breaches were. A lot of them
25 are large groups that come through. And, you know,

1 we go to check the ID or they hand us an ID. And
2 the officer scans, and it doesn't scan properly.

3 Or they just have a lapse in judgment, and
4 there is a human element to that, to that part.
5 But we are working -- you know, we do audits now
6 daily when we go and check and make sure that
7 they're all using the ID detects for anybody under
8 the age of 30, and I'll get into that a little
9 later.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

11 MR. KEENAN: Of course. Any other questions?

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

13 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Are these scanners
14 portable that the security folks are walking around
15 with, or do they have to come through a particular
16 station or something to be scanned?

17 MR. KEENAN: They're at all entrances, and
18 they are handheld. They can be on the podium, or
19 they can be handheld, and they can just scan IDs
20 and passports as they come through.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: On the groups that
23 come in, just so I understand, does the group
24 leader hand maybe perhaps hypothetically a group of
25 24 IDs to put in, or do they come in one by one?

1 MR. KEENAN: It would be one by one. They
2 would slow the group down. And they would --
3 anybody that's under the age of 30, they would ID,
4 scan the ID, welcome them to Harrah's Pompano Beach
5 and answer any questions that they have. But what
6 we do is we slow them down, and we make sure we
7 scan every individual.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And back to the training
9 that you said after the first reprimand, is it
10 one-on-one training, or is it really all of staff
11 training on the security detail?

12 MR. KEENAN: We bring in that officer, and we
13 do one-on-one training with a supervisor. We
14 retrain them on our slide show presentation, as
15 well as go over the incident with them and explain
16 what the issues were.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

18 MR. KEENAN: Moving on to training, our
19 onboarding is a two-day orientation which covers
20 responsible gaming and Project 21 for all of our
21 employees. After that, security officers are
22 shadowed.

23 They shadow seasoned officers for at least
24 three days, sometimes five days if they need more
25 training. But that ensures that they go through ID

1 verification, and they sit there, and they ask
2 questions, and they learn from seasoned officers as
3 they are on post.

4 As well as they are reviewing all SOPs we have
5 in security and have sign-offs for all those SOPs
6 as well. They also attend quarterly training with
7 me and the security manager, as well as the
8 supervisors.

9 And we do gambling deterrence every March,
10 June, September, December, and additional security
11 post training in August. Our annual responsible
12 gaming training, we train all team members which is
13 approximately 400 team members in 2024.

14 And that results in approximately 200 hours of
15 training for all of our employees. Each security
16 officer completes at least eight hours annually
17 specifically just related to underage gaming, ID
18 detection, and on-post awareness, whether it's
19 safety of individuals, dealing with trip and falls,
20 and ID detection.

21 Moving on to Project 21, that is something
22 that Caesars put in place in 1989. It was the
23 first in the casino industry to focus on underage
24 gaming, as well as alcohol service to minors. The
25 program is a cornerstone of our compliance strategy

1 and reflects Caesars leadership and responsible
2 gaming.

3 Project 21 is based on the principle that 21
4 is the legal age to gamble at Caesars properties,
5 which includes mandatory ID checks for anybody who
6 appears under the age of 30.

7 Our employee training, every team member is
8 trained to enforce these standards, identify
9 potential violations. The training is reinforced
10 through onboarding, quarterly refreshers, and
11 responsible gaming courses, like I spoke about
12 earlier.

13 Project 21 is not just a policy. It's
14 integrated into our broader responsible gaming
15 initiatives. In responsible gaming, we have
16 signage, public awareness campaigns through our
17 property in all locations, ATMs, NRTs, cages,
18 marketing, Caesars reward centers, mutuals areas,
19 which is brochures for individuals, that deal with
20 responsible gaming and posters around property that
21 provide awareness for that as well.

22 Our technology solutions like the ID scanners
23 I talked about and digital alerts for patrons who
24 have self-excluded so if a patron self-voluntarily
25 self-excludes because they have a gaming problem,

1 we have a detection system.

2 If they put a card in, it's immediate
3 notification to security and surveillance. And we
4 go approach the individual and escort them out the
5 building and give them some brochures and let them
6 know that they're still self-excluded and they're
7 not allowed to be here.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's great.

9 MR. KEENAN: Any questions on that?

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: You had mentioned that
12 new security folks get training for a few days by a
13 senior security person?

14 MR. KEENAN: Yes, sir.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Does that senior security
16 person get any extra training on how to train a
17 person? Do they get any advanced training on how
18 you have to go about in training a person ensuring
19 that they're understanding that you're meeting
20 objectives, is that what training is, that type of
21 thing?

22 MR. KEENAN: Yes, sir. Actually, just to
23 become a senior security officer, you have to
24 undergo -- you have to take a test and meet with me
25 and the director of -- sorry -- the security

1 manager as well. It's like an interview process.

2 All of our senior officers are also EMTs or
3 trained in CPR. They're CPR certified, and they
4 respond to guests who have fallen in the casino.
5 As well as they under SOP training, and they have
6 been there -- some of my senior officers have been
7 there before I've even arrived on property. So
8 they're very seasoned, and they're well trained.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

10 Commissioner D'Aquila.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I don't know if this
12 is a question for you, Mr. Keenan or Mr. Bishop.
13 Does there appear to be under 30 standard typical
14 in the on-premise casino industry? That might be
15 more a question for -- I'm curious with our
16 brethren in Vegas or --

17 MR. BISHOP: That has always been the Ceasars
18 standard is under 30. At the end of the day, there
19 is a human element to it, so what does 30 look
20 like? We've always leaned on the side of just ask
21 for the ID and make sure it's right. But
22 everywhere in Nevada, the standard was always 30.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: It is an industry
24 standard in Nevada?

25 MR. BISHOP: It is, but it's an industry

1 standard that started with us, and that's -- you
2 know, we've always been a pioneer in the gaming
3 industry when it comes to better ways to regulate,
4 better ways to have good relationships with
5 commissioners and regulatory bodies.

6 And it's something that we've always led the
7 pack with that, and so everybody else has kind of
8 fallen in line. But, yeah, 30 is the standard.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And does the
11 Project 21, it's also applicable in Nevada as well?

12 MR. BISHOP: Yeah. It's across our entire 54
13 properties in the U.S.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is it also focused, that
15 aspect, on the underage drinking at the restaurants
16 as well?

17 MR. BISHOP: Yeah. So Project 21 folds up
18 onto our broader compliance and responsible gaming
19 program, but it's focused on underage gaming and
20 underage drinking. You know, the standards in
21 Nevada are a little different.

22 Nevada underage are allowed to be on the
23 floor. They're just not allowed to game. Whereas,
24 in Florida, they're not allowed to be on the floor
25 in any way, whether they game or not. So that is

1 one of the big distinctions between Nevada and
2 Florida.

3 Nevada is you can walk through a casino if
4 you're underage, as long as you don't play. Our
5 standard is they can't walk through the front
6 entrance.

7 You know, to John's point, when a group of 12
8 people come, the security guard is looking and he's
9 doing what they can. And occasionally people go,
10 and they can kind of slip through.

11 It's very, very exceedingly rare that one
12 person walks up, the security guard looks at them
13 and they're underage, and they let them in.
14 There's always some type of extenuating
15 circumstances.

16 You know, and when you see, you know, a little
17 over a million people per year coming through the
18 door, there are going to be those occasions where
19 it was either a lapse of judgment or just
20 distraction that's causing it.

21 But, you know, when you look at our training,
22 100 percent of our employees go through training
23 every single year. It doesn't matter if you're a
24 cook or you're a steward that cleans kitchens,
25 you're going through responsible gaming, right.

1 And, you know that's -- we always say in
2 meetings, whose job is it to ID? And everybody
3 better raise their hand. It doesn't matter if
4 you're my director of finance or if you're a
5 security guard at the door.

6 We all have the same responsibility to ensure
7 that people are gaming responsibly and of age. So
8 it's something that we always try to keep the moral
9 high ground, and 100 percent of our underage are
10 always self-reported.

11 And that's something that I'll continue to do.
12 It's very important to us that we meet regulations
13 and then when we do slip up that we're very
14 accountable to them, that we immediately
15 self-report.

16 We immediately pull the tape and work with our
17 local folks to ensure that what happened isn't
18 going to happen again.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Great.

20 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm glad you mentioned
21 that. That was going to be my next question was
22 whether or not if the cook comes walking by on his
23 break or whatever, he sees a kid in there that he
24 knows to tell somebody, that he has to tell
25 somebody, and he knows who to tell; right?

1 MR. BISHOP: Everybody. And when you look at
2 the incidents that we have, it's rarely children.
3 It's usually some people that look a little older.
4 Like we don't have 10-year-olds that get on the
5 casino floor, right.

6 It's something that we don't have much at our
7 property for underage folks. You know, the amount
8 of underage folks trying to access property more
9 than doubled in '24 over '23. We built a Top Golf
10 across the street.

11 We think that might have had something to do
12 with it, a little bit younger generation. But it's
13 something that every single person in every
14 department, they get it on property orientation.

15 And they get a yearly compliance training to
16 ensure that it's everybody's job to make sure that
17 we're compliant and know what to do.

18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Great.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's great.

20 MR. BISHOP: Yeah. I mean, you hate to have
21 anybody get through. But the fact that everyone
22 that gets through, we do a really good job of
23 catching them and catching them immediately. I
24 know we have some details on each incident.

25 Almost every one of them, they're on the floor

1 for two minutes or four minutes. It's a very, very
2 short amount of time. And somebody, whether it's a
3 marketing rep or a bartender or whoever immediately
4 goes, hey, that person does look underage.

5 You know, and that's -- in a lot of
6 jurisdictions, they don't check IDs at the door,
7 right. We check IDs at the door here in Florida.
8 And I think it would very easy to fall into a sense
9 of, well, they check IDs at the door.

10 That person must be old enough, right. And
11 that's not how we operate. We still do it. You
12 know, if they're -- sometimes they get a little
13 frustrated. They get carded four times, but that's
14 what happens when you're --

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Listen; as a parent of two
16 under 21, I'm a big proponent of get carded, get
17 carded, get carded.

18 MR. BISHOP: I wish I still got carded. I
19 haven't got carded in ages.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

21 MR. BISHOP: Yes.

22 MR. KEENAN: And going back to touch on that,
23 if somebody does get on by a security officer, the
24 majority of people go to the cage. And they
25 immediately get caught because they have to get a

1 player's card, and you have to be 21.

2 And they give them the ID. And then as soon
3 as the cage recognizes that, they call security,
4 and we get them off the floor. That's why our
5 detention times are so quick.

6 And time on the floor is very important to us.
7 So those two minutes, four minutes that Ryan is
8 talking about are very crucial. If they don't go
9 to the cage and they go to poker, they get caught
10 by the poker brush, or they get caught by the poker
11 cage.

12 The other day, slots called us. And they
13 said, hey, these people look like they're underage,
14 and we went over. We talked to them. We carded
15 them. So it's not just security that cards. It's
16 every single person and at the bars as well. If
17 somebody looks underage, the bartenders, that's
18 their job to card as well.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Great.

20 MR. KEENAN: So just touching back on Caesars
21 responsible gaming program, it's unique in the
22 industry, and it incorporates scientific research
23 and partial data and proactive employee engagement.

24 Our training empower staff to recognize and
25 respond to concerns, especially the underage

1 gambling is prevented before it even starts.

2 Project 21 sets the standard and demonstrates our
3 commitment to protecting our guests, maintaining
4 integrity, and supporting the communities that we
5 have.

6 And to conclude, our record shows a strong
7 commitment to compliance and partnership with the
8 FGCC. We have acted on every recommendation.
9 We've always sought approval for all issues. We
10 self-report all incidents next day.

11 And then sometimes in real time, I'll call the
12 supervisor on duty. Whenever a minor gets on the
13 floor, I'll give her a heads up, hey, we had a
14 minor. We're investigating. You'll have the
15 report in the morning as soon as we're done.

16 And that is something I started as soon as I
17 got here because I knew as a gaming regulator, that
18 was important to me was transparency and just
19 giving us a heads up for when I came in the next
20 day.

21 I can review the incident, and we can work
22 together with the facility in order to get all the
23 information. Thank you for your time and
24 consideration. I'll answer any questions that you
25 have.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any other
2 questions?

3 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you very much for
4 coming in. I really appreciate you coming up here
5 taking the time out of your busy day to explain
6 this. It's clear that you have a robust training
7 process and system for the security.

8 And we share the same mission, right. I mean,
9 we both want a safe and secure environment for
10 people to go in. We want to maintain the integrity
11 of the industry, so we're all on the same page in
12 terms of our goals.

13 So if we can do anything for you, please come
14 to our meetings in the future. We're glad to have
15 you and welcome you to come and speak with us. Or
16 whatever may be going on, keep us in the loop as
17 well. So again, thank you very much for coming up.
18 We really do appreciate your time.

19 MR. KEENAN: I appreciate it.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
21 Commissioner Drago.

22 Commissioner D'Aquila.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I just wanted to say
24 thank you for your career commitment to legal and
25 safe gambling, especially in the state of Florida

1 and, Mr. Bishop, also your commitment to the
2 industry. We really appreciate you taking the
3 time. This was very helpful, to say the least.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I concur. Mr. Bishop,
5 Mr. Keenan, Mr. Zachem, it's so insightful to hear
6 from you directly. It's been really informative.
7 And it sounds like you do have an incredibly robust
8 program with Project 21. We really are grateful
9 for your service to patrons.

10 Any other questions? Commissioner Repp.

11 COMMISSIONER REPP: Thank you for coming
12 today. I think it's important not only for us to
13 hear, but for the people who are watching or are
14 going to watch this later to know that the state of
15 Florida is working hard with our partners.

16 And our partners are working hard to make sure
17 that safe, fun gambling is going on here in the
18 state of Florida. Thank you.

19 MR. KEENAN: Thank you so much. I appreciate
20 it.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Zachem.

22 MR. ZACHEM: I'll be very brief, since these
23 gentlemen did such a great job. But as I was
24 listening to this and hearing your questions, I
25 know you hold a commission meeting usually once a

1 year in South Florida.

2 If you have other topics from this to other
3 areas, I know there are other facilities that would
4 love to be able to have input and help you all out
5 because we do believe in the partnership between
6 the Commission, your staff, your team and you all.

7 We would love to work with you on any of those
8 areas. And maybe you have ideas that can help us
9 improve, or maybe we can inform you about some of
10 these issues.

11 So if I believe it's usually in May or
12 sometime in the summer, if you have a topic or two
13 that you're interested in, maybe your staff could
14 contact us.

15 It's obviously much easier while you're in
16 South Florida for us to be able to be there. But
17 we'd love to be able to work with you on different
18 things in the future.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That is a great idea Mr.
20 Zachem. We are looking at each other, Director
21 Zimmer and I. I think that would be great to have
22 some type of workshop on industry.

23 MR. ZACHEM: I think it would be helpful. I
24 think it would be very helpful. But thank you all
25 very much. We appreciate it.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Appreciate your
2 time. We are moving on to two renewal applications
3 for slot machine licenses, 4.1 and 4.2.

4 Ms. Pouncey.

5 MS. POUNCEY: Good morning. Jamie Pouncey,
6 for the record. Item 4.1 is South Florida Racing
7 Association's application for its annual slot
8 machine license. They have submitted all the
9 required documents, including their fees.

10 And the division is recommending approval for
11 the renewal of their slot license valid from
12 December 22, 2025 to December 21, 2026.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

14 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can
15 we get a motion to approve the staff
16 recommendation.

17 COMMISSIONER REPP: Motion to approve staff
18 recommendation.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And a second.

20 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
22 aye.

23 (Multiple ayes.)

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. On to 4.2.

25 MS. POUNCEY: Item 4.2 is Casino Miami's

1 application to renew its slot machine license.
2 They have submitted the required documentation
3 along with their fees, and the division is
4 recommending approval of their license that will be
5 valid from December 7, 2025 through December 6,
6 2026.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pouncey.
8 Again, Commissioners, if there are no
9 questions, can we get a motion to approve the staff
10 recommendation.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Motion to approve.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And a second.

13 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
15 aye.

16 (Multiple ayes.)

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We're going to
18 move to discussion of the default final orders, 5.1
19 and 5.2.

20 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Good morning.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning.

22 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Justin Hundersmarck, for
23 the record. Item 5.1 is Pensacola Greyhound
24 Racing, L.L.P., Case No. 2025-031355. The case
25 materials include the three-count administrative

1 complaint alleging that a routine inspection on
2 April 9, 2025 showed that, first, respondent failed
3 to seal the evidence bag into which a damaged card
4 was placed.

5 Second, respondent failed to have supervisor
6 sign their name on an evidence bag containing a
7 damaged card. And third, respondent failed to
8 permanently alter a card removed from play so that
9 the card could not be put back into play.

10 The case materials include proof of service
11 via email, which was accepted by an attorney
12 associated with Pensacola Greyhound Racing on their
13 behalf. On September 22, 2025, respondent did not
14 return an election of rights by the 21-day deadline
15 of October 13, 2025.

16 However, after the default, respondent's
17 counsel provided a letter, which is included in the
18 case materials for your review. That letter from
19 respondent requests that the penalty imposed be a
20 fine of \$250 per count, which would be \$750 total
21 for the three counts.

22 Therefore, the Commission should enter an
23 order finding that the respondent was properly
24 served the administrative complaint, did not
25 respond within the deadline and waived the right to

1 request a hearing;

2 That the factual allegations in the
3 administrative complaint are accepted as the
4 findings of fact in this case, and imposing on
5 respondent a penalty authorized under Section
6 849.08614 Florida Statutes.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Hundersmarck. Before I get into questions from
9 commissioners, can you just talk about the
10 procedural defect of not responding within the
11 appropriate time frame and your thoughts on that,
12 lack of compliance?

13 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So to elect their due
14 process rights, they have 21 days, and they did not
15 in this case -- it doesn't help us know how they
16 feel about the allegations.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: In their response, their
18 letter --

19 MS. ALVARADO: So they have 21 days to respond
20 with an election of rights requesting a hearing in
21 this case. They did not respond. Once it was
22 placed on the agenda, they became aware that they
23 failed to respond within the 21 days.

24 They sent over a letter with a suggestion of
25 what fine they would like per count in this case,

1 which is \$250 per count. You're not required to do
2 that. It's not a settlement that you agreed on
3 beforehand, but it's just a suggestion from the
4 facility.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Appreciate the
6 clarification.

7 Commissioners, do you have any questions for
8 staff or comments on this item?

9 I will just start the discussion. This
10 license holder -- this permit holder has four prior
11 consent orders. Are they all of the rules or a
12 specific rule?

13 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So these were all the
14 damage card violations, those four prior consent
15 orders. But three of them were about rules, other
16 than the violations alleged in the current case.
17 None of them involved admissions of the
18 allegations. And again, one of them was the exact
19 same rules, but they were all relating to damaged
20 cards.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes, Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: The timing of those,
23 how long ago were those?

24 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: One was February 2018. And
25 then the most recent one was 2020, December 2020.

1 There was another one in January of 2020.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And the fines have varied
3 from \$200 to \$750?

4 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So the past ones have
5 ranged from \$200 to \$750 for one violation, most
6 recent being \$400.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Commissioners,
8 any comments or thoughts on this? Again, we're
9 dealing with a three-count complaint. The proposal
10 from the permit holder is \$250 per violation.

11 Commissioner D'Aquila.

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: My comment would be
13 \$250 is typically a first time, based on our
14 history and so forth. And considering the multiple
15 offenses and the lack of reply on time, I might
16 suggest \$750 in this particular matter.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Have a proposal
18 of --

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm sorry. I didn't hear
20 the whole -- was that \$750 per incident,
21 Commissioner D'Aquila?

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yes.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any comments,
24 Commissioner Drago, or insight into the proposal?

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I don't have any great

1 insight. But I think that's a reasonable amount I
2 think based on the facts of this case.

3 MS. ALVARADO: Just for the record or clarify,
4 is that \$750 per count?

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Per count.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And three counts.

7 Commissioner Repp, any comments or thoughts?

8 COMMISSIONER REPP: I would agree and concur.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can we get a motion,
10 Commissioner D'Aquila.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I make a motion that
12 we settle at \$750 or the appropriate language,
13 counsel.

14 MS. ALVARADO: This wouldn't be a settlement.
15 It's a default. We would enter a final order
16 issuing of \$750 per count.

17 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you for the
18 clarification. I would propose that we enter a
19 default order at \$750 per count for a total of
20 \$2,350.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That sounds good. Is there
22 a second?

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those
25 in favor, say aye.

1 (Multiple ayes.)

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We are on to
3 5.2.

4 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item 5.2 is Guillermo
5 Alejandro Beker Vives, Case No. 2025-032827. The
6 case materials include the administrative complaint
7 alleging that respondent was a patron of and was
8 excluded from Casino Miami.

9 The administrative complaint seeks permanent
10 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
11 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.
12 The case materials include the USPS tracking number
13 and confirmation of delivery on September 29, 2025.

14 Respondent did not answer by the 21-day
15 deadline on October 20, 2025. Therefore, the
16 Commission should enter an order with the following
17 findings, that the respondent was properly served
18 the administrative complaint, did not respond
19 within the deadline, and waived the right to
20 request a hearing, that the factual allegations of
21 the administrative complaint are accepted as the
22 findings of fact in this case, and that respondent
23 shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel
24 facilities and any facility, a slot machine
25 licensee in Florida.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
2 Mr. Hundersmarck.

3 If there are no questions on this item, can we
4 please get a motion to approve the staff
5 recommendation as presented.

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I make a motion to
7 approve the staff recommendation.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And a second.

9 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
11 aye.

12 (Multiple ayes.)

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Item passes unanimously.
14 We're on to the discussion of settlement offer,
15 Item 6.1.

16 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item 6.1 is St. Petersburg
17 Kennel Club, Inc., doing business as Derby Lane
18 and/or Win! Derby, Case No. 2025-053137. On August
19 4, 2025, an administrative complaint was filed
20 against respondent alleging a violation of Rule
21 75-11.020(1)(b) Florida Administrative Code by
22 failing to ensure a lockbox was secured to the
23 poker room table.

24 Respondent seeks the adoption of the proposed
25 settlement and consent order to resolve this case.

1 Pursuant to the terms of the proposed order,
2 respondent will pay an administrative fine of \$750.

3 Respondent will also provide all of their
4 staff with additional training on the requirements
5 of Rule 75-11.020(1)(b) Florida Administrative
6 Code.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
8 Mr. Hundersmarck.

9 Commissioners, this is one that we took up
10 during closed attorney-client meeting, and we want
11 to thank our staff for getting to a place that
12 looks good.

13 If there are no questions on this item, can we
14 get a motion to approve the settlement and consent
15 order.

16 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make that motion.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And a second.

18 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will second that
19 motion.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
21 aye.

22 (Multiple ayes.)

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And on to
24 discussion of recommended orders. We have two of
25 them, and we do have a speaker on Item 7.2.

1 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 7.1 is Joseph
2 Alexander Zerilli, Case No. 2025-002407.
3 Petitioner Joseph Alexander Zerilli submitted an
4 application for a pari-mutuel wagering general
5 individual occupational license.

6 After review of the application, the
7 Commission issued a letter of license denial
8 notifying petitioner of its intent to deny the
9 application and the request for waiver based on
10 petitioner's two disqualifying felony convictions.

11 Those were first burglary of an unoccupied,
12 and second grand theft in the third degree, both
13 out of Broward County from 2004.

14 Petitioner requested an informal hearing,
15 which was held on October 8, 2025. On November 20,
16 2025, the hearing officer recommended granting
17 petitioner's application.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
19 Mr. Hundersmarck. I'm still reading the
20 recommendation here.

21 Commissioners, are there any questions of
22 Mr. Hundersmarck?

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: So we're in a posture to
25 either adopt the hearing officer's recommended

1 order, correct, or issue a letter of license
2 denial?

3 MS. ALVARADO: You could either adopt the
4 hearing officer's recommended order, or you could
5 give us a recommendation, how you'd like to change
6 it, I guess, what you're not adopting from the
7 recommended order, and what penalty you would like
8 for us to go forward with in a final order.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

10 Commissioner D'Aquila.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'm ready to propose a
12 motion to the hearing officer's recommendation.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second on that?

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there any discussion on
17 it? All those in favor, say aye.

18 (Multiple ayes.)

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The item
20 passes.

21 7.2, we do have a speaker on this who is on
22 the phone telephonically. We'll go into our staff
23 presentation first, and then we will have him
24 speak.

25 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item 7.2 is Edgar David

1 Diaz, Case No. 2025-011098. Petitioner Edgar David
2 Diaz submitted an application for a cardroom
3 employee occupational license.

4 After review of the application, the
5 Commission issued a letter of license denial
6 notifying petitioner of its intent to deny the
7 application based on petitioner's disqualifying
8 felony conviction and based on a 2023 revocation of
9 his prior occupational license.

10 A disqualifying conviction was for aggravated
11 battery of a pregnant victim out of Marion County
12 Florida in 2022. Petitioner requested an informal
13 hearing, which was held on October 8, 2025.

14 On November 24, 2025, the hearing officer
15 recommended granting petitioner's application by
16 entering a stipulation and consent order with
17 conditional terms of the license to include a
18 probationary period and surrender of the license
19 upon any criminal or administrative offenses.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
21 Mr. Hundersmarck.

22 Commissioners, before we get to the speaker,
23 do you have any questions of our staff?

24 Mr. Diaz, you have to push star 6 to unmute,
25 but you are on the phone, if you can confirm.

1 MR. DIAZ: Yeah, I'm here.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We hear you.

3 You have the floor, sir.

4 MR. DIAZ: Okay. Thank you. Good morning,
5 Commissioners. My name is Edgar Diaz. I'd like to
6 thank you guys first for the opportunity to be in
7 front of you again. I wish I could be there in
8 person. I normally am for the past few meetings
9 that I've attended.

10 However, because of work, I wasn't able to
11 attend this time in person. But this is very
12 important to me, so I wanted to make sure I was
13 here in any way that I could be.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

15 MR. DIAZ: Over the past few years, I've taken
16 steps to move away from the unfortunate situation
17 that I regret and use it as motivation to make real
18 change in my life. I've pivoted my life and
19 focused on making better choices.

20 One of the biggest accomplishments I've done
21 so far is I've gotten to the fire safety field,
22 which I'm very proud of. I've also moved into a
23 better environment near the Dell.

24 And since, I've stayed grounded and thankfully
25 did therapy, learned what I could. I've worked on

1 building healthier habits and becoming a more
2 responsible and stable person.

3 Getting the gaming occupational license back
4 would mean a lot to me and those around me. It
5 would allow me to keep building on the progress
6 I've made, and it would help me stay in a civil
7 path and continue supporting myself and moving
8 forward in a positive direction.

9 I've done everything that's been asked of me.
10 I believe I'm ready to return to work in the
11 industry. It's something I've done since I was
12 very young, and it's something I'm very passionate
13 about, and I hope that today the feeling is mutual.

14 I would like to thank you guys for all the
15 time that you've spent looking into this throughout
16 these hearings, as well as the hearing officer.
17 And I just want to thank you for your time and
18 considering of my request. I truly appreciate the
19 opportunity to speak in front of you guys today.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Diaz. I do
21 just have one question for you. And I really
22 appreciate your participation in these proceedings.
23 The last you appeared before us, we were talking
24 about your probation. I know you were going to
25 work on terminating the probation early. Has that

1 been completed?

2 MR. DIAZ: Yeah. That was completed shortly
3 after the first hearing I had with you guys. This
4 was in 2024, I believe, or 2023. Yes, it's been
5 terminated for quite some time.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

7 Commissioners, are there any questions of
8 Mr. Diaz?

9 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: No. Thank you again,
11 Mr. Diaz, for your participation. You will be on
12 mute now.

13 Commissioners, this is one of those cases
14 where I have never seen this many amount of
15 character references. This is the most I've seen
16 talking about the rehabilitation of this
17 individual, and I think that it's apparent the
18 hearing officer probably took that into
19 consideration in granting -- in recommending a
20 conditional license. Are there any comments?

21 Commissioner Repp.

22 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'd just like to say we
23 did see a lot of letters. I appreciate the
24 seriousness of the charge that Mr. Diaz had pled
25 to, but I see no other criminal charges. The fines

1 of probation have been taken care of.

2 And he also has a prior history in the
3 industry and as a dealer without any known
4 incidents, and he's really put a great deal of
5 effort into pursuing this license and the
6 seriousness of it.

7 And the letters of recommendations were not
8 just -- they were very credible. They were very in
9 depth and gave us a lot of information regarding
10 his character. And I think in this matter and its
11 unique set of circumstances that Mr. Diaz does not
12 pose any threat to fair gaming or to the safety of
13 our patrons at our local gaming facilities. And I
14 would agree with the hearing officer's
15 recommendation.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Very well articulated,
17 Commissioner Repp.

18 Commissioner D'Aquila.

19 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Is that a motion?

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Sounded like one.

21 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make that motion to
22 approve.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can I get a second?

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will second that
25 motion.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any comments?

2 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
4 aye.

5 (Multiple ayes.)

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Thank you,
7 Mr. Diaz.

8 And thank you to the hearing officer for her
9 thoughtfulness and her time.

10 MS. ALVARADO: Before we move on, just to
11 clarify, you would like us to enter into the
12 granting a license with the conditions that were
13 provided?

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's what
15 Commissioner Repp -- that was her motion.

16 COMMISSIONER REPP: The staff recommendation.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Hearing officer
18 recommendation.

19 MS. ALVARADO: I'm sorry. Hearing officer's
20 recommendation.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And that's correct.
22 Commissioner D'Aquila, with your second.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Are we clear? And we are
25 moving on to Item 8, discussion of request for a

1 waiver, actually 8.1. And we do have a speaker on
2 this item as well.

3 MS. ALVARADO: Good morning. Emily Alvarado,
4 for the record. Item 8.1 is William Parrish
5 Walden, Case No. 2025-083794. Here, the applicant
6 is applying for a pari-mutuel wagering professional
7 individual occupational license.

8 Upon review of the completed application, it
9 appeared that the applicant was convicted of the
10 felony offense of robbery out of Mississippi from
11 April of 2015.

12 On November 21, 2025, a waiver interview was
13 conducted and was documented in the meeting
14 materials. Here, the applicant is applying to be a
15 trainer.

16 They have sent in two additional
17 recommendation letters that were added as a
18 supplemental to the meeting materials, I believe,
19 yesterday. He did disclose the conviction on his
20 original application.

21 He has completed his rehabilitation, and
22 probation was discharged in 2017. He was denied a
23 license when we were under DBPR in 2022. He does
24 have other offenses, but all of them are
25 misdemeanors and not disqualifying offenses.

1 So here, the Commission can decide to grant
2 the waiver and issue the occupational license. And
3 if not, we'd ask that you allow us to issue a
4 letter of license denial in this case.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.
6 And welcome, Mr. McGinn.

7 MR. MCGINN: Good morning. Thank you,
8 Vice Chair. My name is Daniel McGinn. For the
9 record, I'm with Jones Walker in Tallahassee. I
10 certainly would like to represent Mr. Walden, but
11 he did make the trip down here.

12 So prior to me giving you kind of my take on
13 this and answering any questions the Commission may
14 have, I'd like to allow Mr. Walden to speak.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Certainly.

16 Thank you, Mr. Walden, for making the trip.

17 MR. WALDEN: Thank you guys for having me.
18 Sorry. I'm nervous.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Don't be.

20 MR. WALDEN: I just want to begin by
21 expressing my gratitude to the Florida Gaming
22 Control Commission for taking the time out of their
23 busy schedule to review my application.

24 Relatively speaking, for my profession, I do a
25 lot of public speaking. You would think that by

1 now I'd be better at it. But alas, I'm not, so
2 please bear with me.

3 On November 23, 2020 is the day that I look
4 back on with mixed emotions. It served as the
5 final day in a 12-year battle of drug and alcohol
6 addiction, 12 years that I tore through the lives
7 of my loved ones and those that I hold dear like a
8 wrecking ball.

9 It also serves as the first day of new journey
10 in sobriety and recovery, a new life that's been 5
11 years and 12 days since I've ingested a mood or
12 mind-altering substance.

13 I now a beautiful wife, Tessa; 2 and a half
14 year old son, Wade; and a year-old daughter,
15 Hailey. I train raise horses. That is my job.
16 That's my passion. First and foremost, I love the
17 horses. I love my job. I love the industry. I
18 love the people I work with. I love the game.

19 We've only been training racehorses for a
20 little under four years. In those four years, our
21 horses have amassed over \$7.3 million in earnings.
22 In the last two years, we've qualified three horses
23 for the Breeders' Cup.

24 We've had three graded stakes winners,
25 including our first Grade 1 this year, including a

1 top filly placing in the 2025 Kentucky Oaks. I say
2 we all -- I say we in all this because the real
3 credit goes to the incredible men and women that
4 are involved in my team.

5 I don't really want to talk about my career as
6 a horse trainer because I believe that the
7 immediate success and quick rise and growth of our
8 stable in the industry serves a greater purpose, a
9 greater purpose being a platform that allows me to
10 publicly tell my story and reach out to those out
11 there suffering from the disease of alcoholism and
12 drug addiction.

13 I have obtained numerous speaking engagements
14 in 2025, most notably being one of three keynote
15 speakers of the Kentucky Recovery Rally held at the
16 State Capital Building and also a keynote speaker
17 at the Stable Recovery Spring Gala fundraiser, as
18 well as numerous speaking engagement at schools
19 through podcasts or public interviews.

20 I would like to close by -- sorry if I get
21 emotional. I would like to close talking about a
22 gentleman named Bob Hanes. Bob Hanes and I met two
23 months ago. I had a filly running in a stake race
24 at Laurel Park in Baltimore, Maryland.

25 Bob was introduced to me by a friend. Bob

1 lost his 23-year-old son to an overdose of heroin.
2 I love training racehorses. That's my job. But I
3 believe that what I'm called to do is to be a light
4 for those out there who are struggling with what I
5 struggled with for 12 years.

6 Bob and I speak twice a week. The
7 relationship I have with Bob is not to replace the
8 one he had with his son. But he says he feels like
9 by speaking with me weekly, he feels a connection
10 to the one he lost. That's what's important here,
11 and I want that to be noted.

12 Like I said, I really appreciate you guys
13 taking the time to review my application. Thanks.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Walden.
15 Mr. McGinn.

16 MR. MCGINN: Thank you, Chair. As Mr. Walden
17 described, under a decade ago while under the
18 influence, Mr. Walden committed a disqualifying
19 offense. Once he regained his composure, he
20 immediately turned himself in to the authorities.

21 And he went through the process, completed all
22 of the requirements from the court case and
23 continued on his way. Unfortunately, the path to
24 sobriety is long and difficult for almost everyone,
25 except for the luckiest of those on the path.

1 While working through some of these
2 difficulties, he admittedly hit some bumps in the
3 road, committed some non-disqualifying
4 misdemeanors, all of which have been disclosed to
5 the Commission and are available in the meeting
6 materials.

7 Since 2020, Mr. Walden has been sober, and his
8 record has been clean as he continues on his
9 journey. He's currently licensed in ten states,
10 including the major racing jurisdictions in
11 America, Kentucky, California, New York, Louisiana.
12 He's also licensed in Canada (inaudible).

13 He's been very successful in training horses
14 and would like to bring his business to Florida.
15 He's a frequent participant in the racetrack
16 chaplaincy programs that he described.

17 As he said, he was a keynote speaker in some
18 of their conferences. He spoke before the Kentucky
19 legislature during their Addiction Awareness Week
20 this past year.

21 He is a frequent speaker for Stable Recovery,
22 which is the program for Back of the Track
23 assistance for the workers who may be experiencing
24 similar problems.

25 And he also during the most recent Breeders'

1 Cup coverage had his story told by NBC Sports.

2 There is a video available, but I didn't want to
3 trouble our friends with The Florida Channel by
4 attempting to rebroadcast copyrighted material.

5 But it is out there. The staff does have the
6 link available. As Ms. Alvarado was kind enough to
7 point out, there have been supplemental character
8 references added to this record since the initial
9 publication last week.

10 As we all know, the statute at issue here that
11 provides the waiver and that also allows the
12 Commission to have the disqualifying offenses be
13 reviewed and held against or granted.

14 It's not intended to be an ongoing punishment
15 for whatever the initial disqualify offense was.
16 Really what we're trying to do here is make sure
17 that the racing in Florida is protected, there's
18 not an issue with integrity, and that the health,
19 safety, and welfare of the people of Florida would
20 not be endangered by the approval.

21 And I think here, Mr. Walden's activities
22 since the time of his sobriety and his ongoing
23 licensure in other states kind of demonstrate that
24 he would not be the sort of person who would cause
25 issues for the state of Florida were his

1 application be approved.

2 With that, we do recommend that -- or ask that
3 the staff approve the waiver request.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. McGinn.

5 Actually, you articulated my thoughts just now.

6 But even before Mr. Walden spoke, had thoughts on
7 this looking at all of the different licenses he's
8 had in various states.

9 But I have to tell you, Mr. Walden, I was very
10 moved by what you said, by your ability to come up
11 here, too, and tell your story so candidly, really.
12 And it's obvious from your background, your
13 application, how passionate you are about the
14 industry.

15 I commend you for that. But even hearing you
16 today, you live for horses, and it's great to hear
17 that. So I'm very supportive of Mr. McGinn's
18 comments here today.

19 Commissioner D'Aquila.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: If it's acceptable,
21 I'm ready to grant the motion.

22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Can I?

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Go ahead,
25 Commissioner Drago.

1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Mr. Walden, can I ask you
2 a question, quickly. I just want to say thank you
3 for coming in, and congratulations on your
4 sobriety. And I find it very interesting that
5 you've made a point about going about trying to
6 help others that suffer the same addiction that you
7 did.

8 When you do that, what do you tell people the
9 reason or how, what brought you to sobriety? Is
10 there something that you tell other people, this is
11 what got me to this point of sobriety?

12 MR. WALDEN For me, personally, yeah, I do. I
13 try to articulate it as best I can. For most
14 people, it's different. For me, it was pure
15 hopelessness. I can remember the two weeks before
16 November 23rd.

17 I quit lying to people. I told everybody what
18 I was doing, and that was I was holed up in a hotel
19 room smoking crack and shooting heroin. And I
20 remember the last ten days, all my loved ones knew
21 exactly what I was doing and knew that my life was
22 in the balance, even the phone didn't ring.

23 I can't tell you how alone, how miserable that
24 felt. And I decided right then and there that life
25 was worth more. And I don't know. It was

1 surrender. I had to wave the white flag.

2 I had to completely surrender my life over to
3 the care of those that had gone before me that were
4 currently sober that had been through what I had
5 been through.

6 And so really what I preach to youth or
7 anybody going through what I went through is
8 complete surrender. It can't be this partial take
9 a little bit of your way and combine it with my way
10 and that way my agenda and your agenda are both
11 met. It doesn't work like that. It has to be
12 complete surrender.

13 I went through 20 different treatment
14 facilities before I finally got sober. And in 19
15 of those, I tried to take a little bit of my way
16 with it. I tried to keep my agenda. And
17 ultimately, I was unsuccessful.

18 To surrender to God is to surrender to those
19 that you entrust your care with. And if you trust
20 the process, it works. I mean, that's why we have
21 AA and all these numerous things for, is to trust
22 it. I don't know. That's just -- that's what's
23 worked for me, and I've seen it work in the lives
24 of others.

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I appreciate that very

1 much. Thank you. And I think you're going to be a
2 great spokesperson for this, in terms of helping
3 folks because you really have a good knack for
4 explaining exactly how you felt and what it was
5 like and that type of thing.

6 So I wish you all the luck with that and
7 helping others and with your career in and future.
8 Thank you for coming in here and taking the time to
9 talk with us. I know we all appreciate it.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, and your honesty
11 as well.

12 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Right.

13 MR. WALDEN: Absolutely. Thank you very much.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners.

15 Commissioner D'Aquila, can we please get a
16 motion.

17 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'd like to grant a
18 motion to --

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Grant the waiver.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Grant the waiver and
21 make this gentleman a trainer, a licensed trainer
22 in the state of Florida.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

24 And can we get a second, Commissioner Drago.

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
2 aye.

3 (Multiple ayes.)

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

5 Again, thanks for coming up here today.

6 Passes unanimously. We are going to move on to a
7 discussion of license denials.

8 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item 9.1 is Marketa
9 Antrenell Johnson, Case No. 2025-082142. The
10 division received a completed application on
11 September 18, 2025. The applicant is seeking a
12 slot machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel individual
13 combination occupational license.

14 Upon review of the application, it was
15 discovered the applicant was convicted of two
16 disqualifying offenses, first, aggravated assault
17 with a deadly weapon, a felony out of Miami County,
18 Florida from 2007; second, petite theft, a
19 misdemeanor also out of Miami-Dade from 2009.

20 On her initial application, she marked yes for
21 the question about whether she had been adjudicated
22 guilty of any criminal charges. And she listed the
23 details for all of the convictions she received as
24 an adult.

25 She marked no for the question about any

1 adjudications of guilt for the listed dishonesty
2 offenses from the statute, and she should have
3 marked yes because a petite theft misdemeanor
4 involves larceny.

5 When asked of the one deficiency letter to
6 provide arrest reports for some of the charges she
7 disclosed, she did so in an amended application.
8 She is applying to work as a security officer at
9 Calder Casino, which, again, requires a
10 slot/cardroom combo license.

11 Due to the felony, she is not eligible for a
12 waiver. In this case, we ask that you authorize
13 staff to issue a letter of license denial.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Commissioners,
15 do you have any questions of this item? I do
16 appreciate the fact that this applicant did
17 disclose the offenses that she thought in thorough.
18 Are there any outstanding fines or probation that
19 still remains?

20 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: In total, she has an unpaid
21 balance of just under \$1,500.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And the last offense that
23 occurred, was that in 2012?

24 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So the last one was 2009,
25 and then she was arrested again in 2012, but no

1 action was taken.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. 2009. And there
3 have been no other incidents?

4 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Since 2009, no.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, questions,
6 comments?

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I just need a little bit
8 more clarity on the offenses, if I could. So 2009,
9 we're talking about the petty theft?

10 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: And that was the
12 adjudicated withheld; right?

13 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: And that's the last one,
15 the last offense. Okay. I finally got it squared
16 in my head. Thank you.

17 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: That's the last conviction.
18 There was one more arrest after.

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Got you.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Other commissioners? A lot
21 of time has elapsed.

22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: A lot of time has
23 elapsed. One concern I have is the fact that I
24 think you said she still owes on her probation, her
25 court cost, or what does she owe?

1 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: They're across three
2 different convictions. Yes. The \$850 was for a
3 domestic violence/violation of injunction, court
4 cost. There was \$585.50 for the trespass after
5 warning, a misdemeanor in 2008, and then there was
6 \$50 for the most recent arrest. So a total of
7 \$1,485.50.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Was she on a payment plan?

9 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: I don't believe so. It
10 looks like she got a payment plan removed in 2011
11 for the trespass property after warning, and then
12 there's no further information. They're just
13 listed as unpaid court cost.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm just concerned about
16 someone that has not fulfilled their obligation in
17 terms of court cost and fines or whatever else they
18 are over a period from 2012, 13 years. She still
19 hasn't met her obligation to pay those fines. I
20 find that a little disturbing.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'm going to add to
23 that. I mean, I believe this applicant is applying
24 for a security officer position?

25 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes, at Calder Casino.

1 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: But in follow-up to
2 Commissioner Drago's point, she has consistently
3 failed to pay or be complaint with the laws as it
4 pertains to the court cost and fees that were
5 assessed by the state?

6 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yet is seeking a
8 license despite that. Thank you --

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: -- for clarifying.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners. It's a very
12 voluminous file so --

13 MR. TAUPIER: Marc Taupier, for the record.
14 Just for clarification, the payments on her court
15 cost went to a collection agency. So they're no
16 longer on the Clerk of Court, but they did forward
17 it to a collections agency. She does not have a
18 valid license because it was D-6th for that.

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm sorry, Marc. What
20 was the last thing you said?

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes, that last part.

22 MR. TAUPIER: She does not have a valid
23 license because of the D-6, which is failure to pay
24 court cost.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Going to

1 Commissioner D'Aquila's comments about the actual
2 position that she's applying for as a security
3 officer, a lot of the offenses that we have in the
4 record appear to be violent in nature.

5 Although time has elapsed, it is a little bit
6 concerning about the position she's applying for.

7 Commissioner Drago.

8 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I would make a motion to
9 deny the application.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion?

13 Technically, you're issuing a letter of license
14 denial.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Exactly.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
17 aye.

18 (Multiple ayes.)

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. That makes
20 Ms. Alvarado happy. Thank you. We are moving on
21 to Item 9.2.

22 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item 9.2 is Anisha S.
23 Figueroa, Case No. 2025-082203. The division
24 received a completed application on October 1,
25 2025. She is applying for a pari-mutuel

1 professional individual occupational license.

2 Upon review of the application, it was
3 discovered that the applicant was convicted of one
4 disqualifying offense, credit card theft, a felony
5 out of Fairfax County, Virginia from 2003. This
6 was not disclosed on the original application.

7 She is applying for the license in order to
8 work as a cardroom massage therapist at Tampa Bay
9 Downs. On her initial application, she only listed
10 the most recent conviction from 2025, but did not
11 list the three convictions from 18 to 24 years back
12 in Virginia, one of which was the disqualifying
13 credit card theft felony conviction.

14 After the one deficiency letter, she sent in
15 an amended application providing the court
16 disposition documents of the offenses that the
17 deficiency letter asked about. But some of the
18 sentencing information, she wrote on the criminal
19 history page of her amended application was still
20 incomplete or inaccurate.

21 Respondent turned in the waiver request form.
22 However, she did not mark the first conviction
23 disclosure box. But she should have marked that,
24 yes, she has a felony conviction, and did not mark
25 the third question, yes, about being a new

1 applicant of Florida who has been convicted of any
2 felony.

3 A second part to a waiver request is
4 completing a form called the release of information
5 and request for release of information. She
6 partially filled it out and signed it, but she did
7 not get it notarized, which the form requires.
8 Respondent also did not schedule or complete a
9 waiver interview.

10 Therefore, her request for waiver is
11 considered incomplete. In this case, we ask the
12 authorized staff to issue a letter of license
13 denial.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
15 Mr. Hundersmarck.

16 Commissioners, any questions on this item of
17 the staff? If not, we're ripe for a motion.

18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Can I just ask one
19 question, if I could.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Sure.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm just trying to get
22 clarity again on the charges. She was convicted of
23 battery in 2024, August of 2024?

24 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So that was the arrest, and
25 then disposition in March of 2025.

1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Right. Okay. I just
2 wanted to make sure that I was reading that right.
3 Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Are there any other
5 questions on this item? If not, we are ready for a
6 motion to either issue a letter of license denial
7 or grant the license.

8 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I make a motion to issue
9 a license denial.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second that motion.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
13 aye.

14 (Multiple ayes.)

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Passes
16 unanimously. And we're going into discussion of
17 rulemaking. I did want to note, Ms. Valentine, we
18 do have a speaker on this item.

19 MS. VALENTINE: The first item on the
20 rulemaking discussion is going into proposed
21 rulemaking for Rules 75-14.022, 75-14.048, and
22 75-14.074.

23 The Commission previously authorized staff to
24 initiate rule development for these three rules
25 based on the change to the tax reporting

1 requirements for slot machine winnings by the Big
2 Beautiful Bill, increasing the tax reporting limit
3 from \$1,200 to \$2,000.

4 And so now before you in the meeting
5 materials, you will see the proposed language for
6 each rule. And the only change that we are
7 requesting the Commission to authorize us to make
8 is to increase the limit from \$1,200 to \$2,000.

9 This would be a benefit to all of our permit
10 holders because it would be in line with what the
11 federal law now requires them to report.

12 So at this time, staff request that the
13 Commissioners authorize staff to move forward with
14 filing the language of each proposed rule as set
15 forth in the meeting materials and to authorize
16 Executive Director Zimmer to execute all documents
17 necessary to adopt the proposed rules as final, if
18 the Commission does not receive any comments or
19 request for public hearings on these rules.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Before we go into that, I
21 would like to hear from the speaker first.

22 Mr. Jonathan Zachem.

23 MR. ZACHEM: My comment is a little bit
24 broader. These are slot rules in this area, and we
25 would -- we understand what the goal and the

1 intention is in these areas.

2 When we have slot rules, we get that there's
3 an expedited time frame, but we're going to try and
4 make some comments. When the hearing is noticed
5 and we've spoken to counsel to make sure to be
6 there that we can participate.

7 But when we have slot rules that are open, we
8 do ask if it's not something that's expedited such
9 as this that we be given a little bit more time,
10 since our participants in South Florida are so far
11 away.

12 My understanding is that a good number of
13 folks would like to have workshops when you do all
14 open slot rules and hopefully be able to conduct
15 them in South Florida so that they can participate.
16 But with these, we're going to -- I think the most
17 appropriate thing is to make our comments for the
18 hearing that they're going to propose.

19 That's my understanding of the process. But
20 if in the future we get why it's going through
21 there, and we thank them for trying to help out.
22 But we have some comments that we think that might
23 help.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Zachem.

25 Ms. Valentine, would you like to respond,

1 please.

2 MS. VALENTINE: Yes. Thank you. At this
3 time, the Commission is not planning to hold a
4 hearing on these rules. Again, the change is only
5 limited to updating the rules to reflect federal
6 law on the tax reporting requirements.

7 And because our rules cite to the federal law
8 and provide a lower limit, we would like to be in
9 line with the Big Beautiful Bill and the Big
10 Beautiful Bill Act, I should say. We do not have a
11 hearing planned.

12 We would only hold a hearing if we are
13 requested to do so. If counsel has any language
14 that you would like to propose or for the
15 Commission to consider or if any of our permit
16 holders do, I would encourage them to follow the
17 process set forth in Chapter 120 by filing a
18 petition to initiate rulemaking.

19 That would get the request for any rule
20 changes in front of the commissioners to consider.
21 That is the appropriate venue to do so.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: If I'm understanding
24 this rule change that you are proposing is strictly
25 specifically on the recent tax change and nothing

1 else?

2 MS. VALENTINE: Correct.

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And if I understand
4 correctly, Mr. Zachem, your comments pertain to the
5 specific tax change and nothing else?

6 MR. ZACHEM: Both. But we're limiting it to
7 just the tax change for this format. We spoke to
8 counsel before, and we did previously request a
9 workshop. They explained how they're keeping it
10 narrow on this focus.

11 We understand that, and we withdrew our
12 request for the workshop. And the first time that
13 we saw the language, I believe, is when the records
14 were released within the last two days, so we've
15 had counsel taking a look at them.

16 And we think there might be an issue, but
17 we're not 100 percent sure. We're still looking at
18 it now, but we want to make sure we understand the
19 endeavors to comply with federal law and to make
20 sure with the tax change it gets there.

21 And if we have an issue, we want to be able to
22 present that at a hearing because we want it to be
23 compliant with federal law as well. Does that make
24 sense, Commissioner?

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I understand. Thank

1 you.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

3 Yes, Ms. Valentine.

4 MS. VALENTINE: Again, if anybody does have
5 any comments on the language of the rule and the
6 change of, you know, as the rules open, anybody can
7 submit comments and request a hearing within the 21
8 days. But the Commission staff have not planned a
9 hearing at this time. But if we are requested to,
10 we will hold one.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Valentine, can you just
12 cite those rules clearly, for the record.

13 MS. VALENTINE: Yes, I will repeat them. The
14 rules that we are requesting to be authorized to go
15 into proposed rulemaking is Rule 74-14.022, 14.048,
16 and 14.074.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And the request is also to
18 authorize staff --

19 MS. VALENTINE: Yes. Executive Director
20 Zimmer to execute all documents necessary to
21 effectuate the rule for final adoption, assuming
22 that there are no comments or statements made
23 during the hearing for the Commissioners to
24 consider.

25 If we do receive comments or we have a request

1 for a public hearing and we hold one, then this
2 will go again in front of the Commissioners for
3 consideration as we've done before.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That seems clear to me.

5 Commissioners, is it clear to you all? So
6 assuming we don't have comments or a request for
7 hearing, can we get a motion to the effect as
8 presented by Ms. Valentine authorizing staff to go
9 into rulemaking and our Executive Director Zimmer
10 execute all necessary documents.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those
15 in favor, say aye.

16 (Multiple ayes.)

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Item 10.2.

18 MS. VALENTINE: Item 10.2 is both an update
19 and a request to go into rule development, so I
20 will start with the update. The update is based on
21 a recent change to Florida law, each executive
22 branch agency such as the Commission is required to
23 review all of our rules on a five-year basis with
24 20 percent of the rules being reviewed in each year
25 for the next five years.

1 For the Commission, that review entails 36
2 rules per year. And the rules identified on the
3 agenda are the rules that we have now completed our
4 review.

5 In addition, by January 1, the Commission has
6 to prepare a report as to which of the reviewed
7 rules need no changes, need technical changes, or
8 need substantive changes for various reasons.

9 Based on our review, we have determined that
10 all of our rules are a valid exercise of delegated
11 legislative authority, that each rule has current
12 statutory authority, that it does not reiterate or
13 paraphrase statutory material, that it is in proper
14 form, and that it is consistent with express
15 legislative intent.

16 Of those 36 rules, we have determined that 29
17 rules just require a technical change, and that is
18 to update our statutory grants of authority because
19 once the Commission was enacted, Section 16.712 of
20 the Florida Statutes have granted rulemaking
21 authority to the Commission, and we would like to
22 incorporate that rulemaking authority into all of
23 our rules as we go through the review.

24 Three of those rules require no change, and
25 four of those rules require what is referred to as

1 a substantive change, but it is not as significant
2 as it sounds.

3 A substantive change is either changing
4 references to the division to the Commission to
5 reflect the type to transfer and the creation of
6 the Commission, just slight rewarding for more
7 grammatical technical, I guess, clarity.

8 That's pretty much it. And so from the rules
9 that require substantive changes, we are asking the
10 Commission to authorize staff to go into rule
11 development. I will identify those rules.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is it .20.22.002 and .19?

13 MS. VALENTINE: Yes. 75-2.020, 75-11.022,
14 75-14.002, and 75-14.019.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Valentine, when we
16 authorize staff to go into rule development,
17 there's a process. Could you just articulate it
18 for the public.

19 MS. VALENTINE: Yes, of course. So rule
20 development means that the agency will follow a
21 notice of rule development. And it can, but it
22 does not have to include the proposed language. In
23 our case because the commissioners have not seen
24 the proposed language, our notice of rule
25 development for these rules will not include

1 proposed language.

2 At that time after the notice of rule
3 development is filed and before a notice of
4 proposed rulemaking is filed, outside entities can
5 request a workshop if they would like to
6 collaborate or suggest language.

7 By law, we have to wait seven days before we
8 can go from notice of development to notice of
9 proposed rulemaking. But in our case, the proposed
10 rules will be up for the commissioners'
11 consideration at our next meeting.

12 And so we will go into proposed rulemaking
13 longer than the seven-day statutory required
14 period. But we will still be within the time
15 period that the statute requires between
16 development and proposed rules.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for the overview.
18 So really you're asking for us to authorize staff
19 to go into rule development for those four --

20 MS. VALENTINE: Yes.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Zachem, I know you had
22 a card here for Item 10. I didn't know if you want
23 -- okay. Thank you.

24 Commissioners, are there any questions?

25 Thank you and your staff, too, for a lot of

1 work that went into this and identifying those 36
2 rules, too.

3 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can
4 we get a motion to authorize staff to go into rule
5 development for those four aforementioned rules.

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I make a motion to
7 authorize staff to go into development for those
8 authorized.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And a second.

10 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
12 aye.

13 (Multiple ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Valentine.

15 We are going to public comment. Is there
16 anybody from the public that would like to address
17 us on any matter at all? Seeing none, we do have a
18 closed attorney-client session that we're going to
19 go into. With that, I would ask our Mr. Taupier to
20 read the notice.

21 MR. TAUPIER: Marc Taupier, for the record.
22 The Office of the General Counsel request that the
23 commissioners to close the meeting so that the
24 Office of the General Counsel may seek advice from
25 the commissioners in a closed meeting concerning

1 litigation styled State of Florida versus Miguel
2 Alberto Roye, Case No. B25017696 in the County
3 Court of the 11th Judicial Circuit in and for
4 Miami-Dade County, Florida.

5 This advice relates to litigation strategy and
6 settlement negotiations and may therefore be
7 discussed in private pursuant to Sections 16.716
8 and 286.011(8) of the Florida Statutes.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Taupier.
10 Have to read the spiel here. In connection with
11 the performance of our regulatory duties, it is
12 necessary for us to hear information that is exempt
13 from confidentiality.

14 Specifically, Commission counsel will be
15 discussing litigation strategy and settlement
16 negotiations with the commissioners related to the
17 litigation that was previously mentioned.

18 The closed meeting is scheduled for
19 approximately just 15 minutes. Those in attendance
20 will be Vice Chair Julie Brown, Commissioner Chuck
21 Drago, Commissioner Tina Repp, Commissioner John
22 D'Aquila.

23 Commission staff, Executive Director, Alana
24 Zimmer; Deputy Executive Director, Brandon
25 McCaffery; General Counsel, Elina Valentine,

1 Director of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, Joe Dillmore;
2 Director of Gaming Enforcement, Carl Herold; Chief
3 of Law Enforcement, Gary Snyder; Deputy General
4 Counsel, Marc Taupier; Chief Attorney, Emily
5 Alvarado; and Senior Attorney, Justin Hundersmarck;
6 Business Manager, Dixie Parker; and Brandy
7 Humphries; as well as our certified court reporter.

8 In accordance with Sections 16.716 and
9 286.011(8)(c) of the Florida Statutes, the closed
10 meeting, including the necessity for closure and
11 the specific reasons thereby will be recorded by
12 our certified court reporter.

13 No portion of the closed meeting will be off
14 the record. The court reporter's notes will be
15 fully transcribed and filed with the Clerk of the
16 Commission. And a transcript will be made public
17 upon the conclusion of the litigation.

18 I will note for the record that the time is
19 now 11:04. Again, as I say, 15 minutes. So I will
20 ask the Florida Channel to discontinue the live
21 feed for the next 15 minutes or so, so that the
22 Commission may conduct the meeting, and then we
23 will reopen. Thank you, all.

24 MR. HEROLD: Madam Vice Chair, Gary will not
25 be here. He's supporting an investigative function

1 today.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for that
3 notation. And happy holidays to all.

4 (Recess 11:05 a.m. until 11:10 a.m. to begin
5 closed attorney-client session.)

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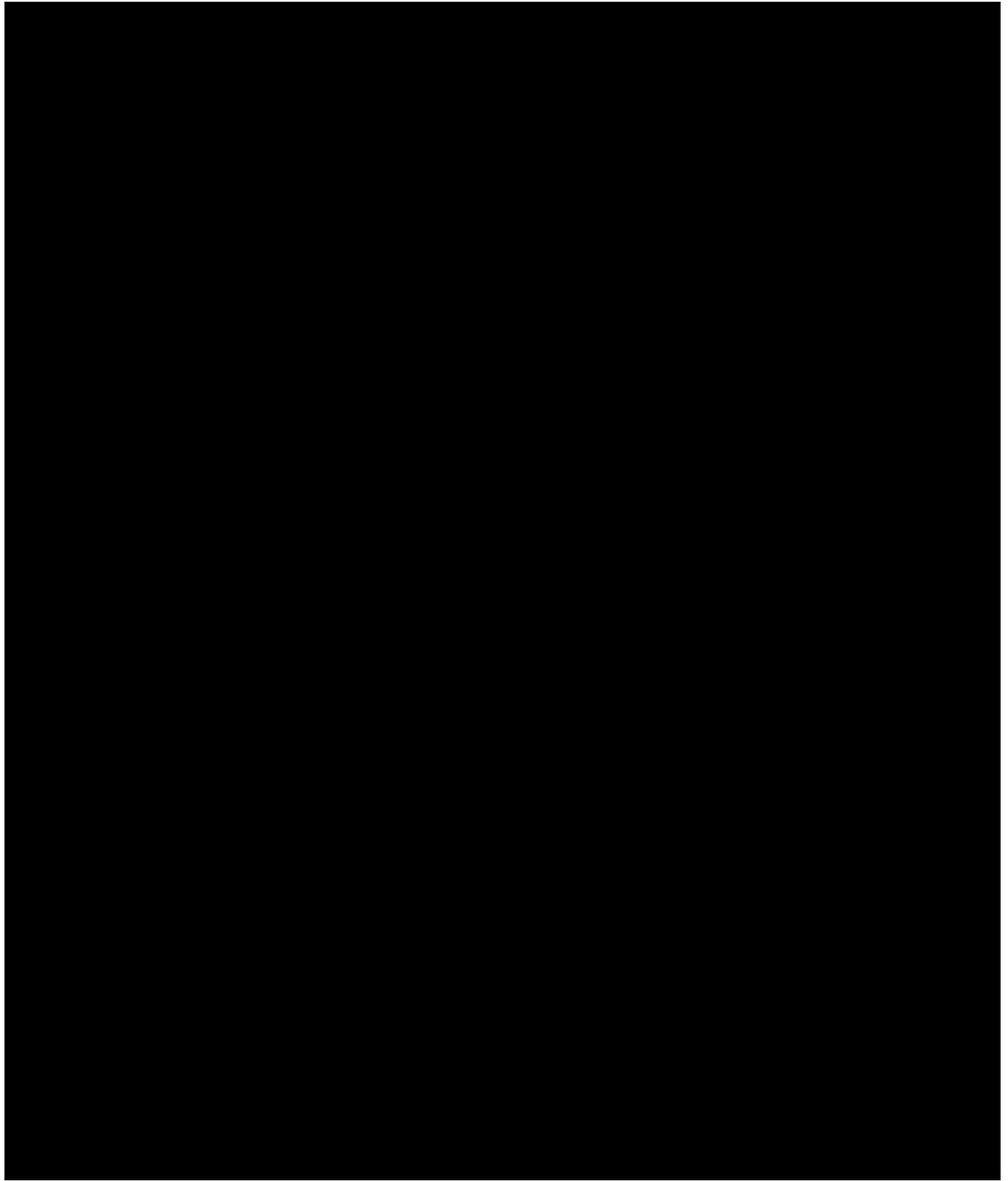
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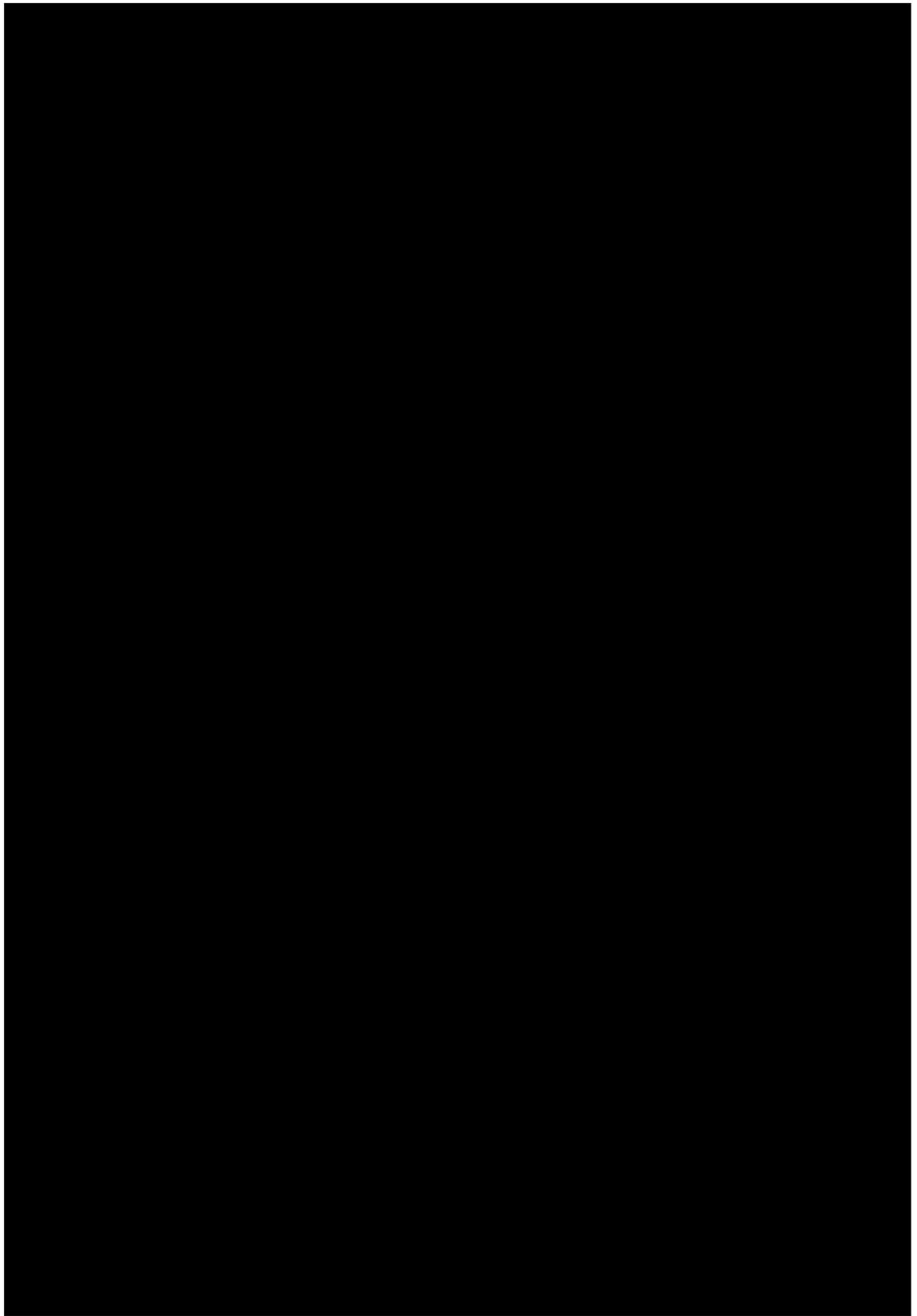
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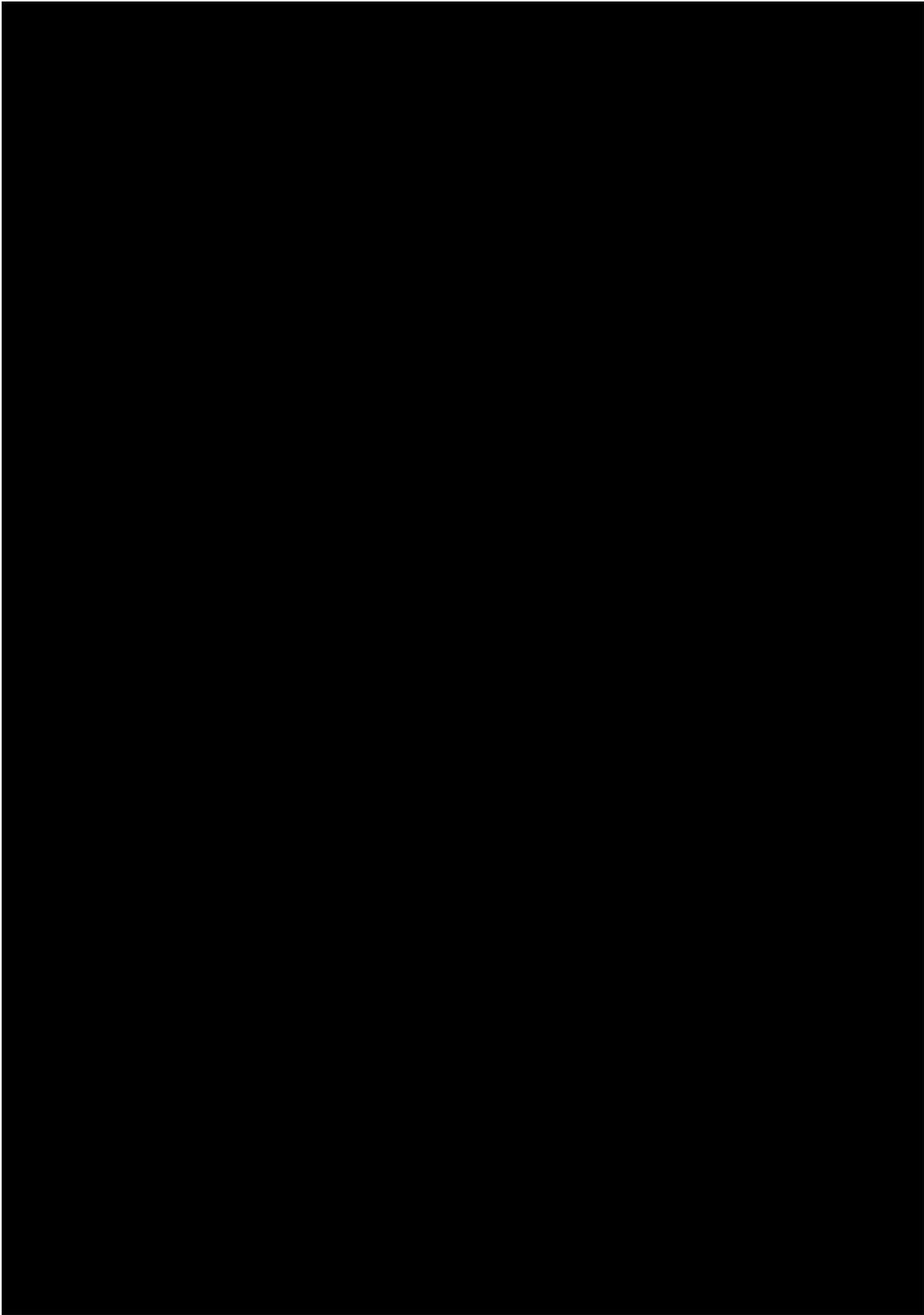
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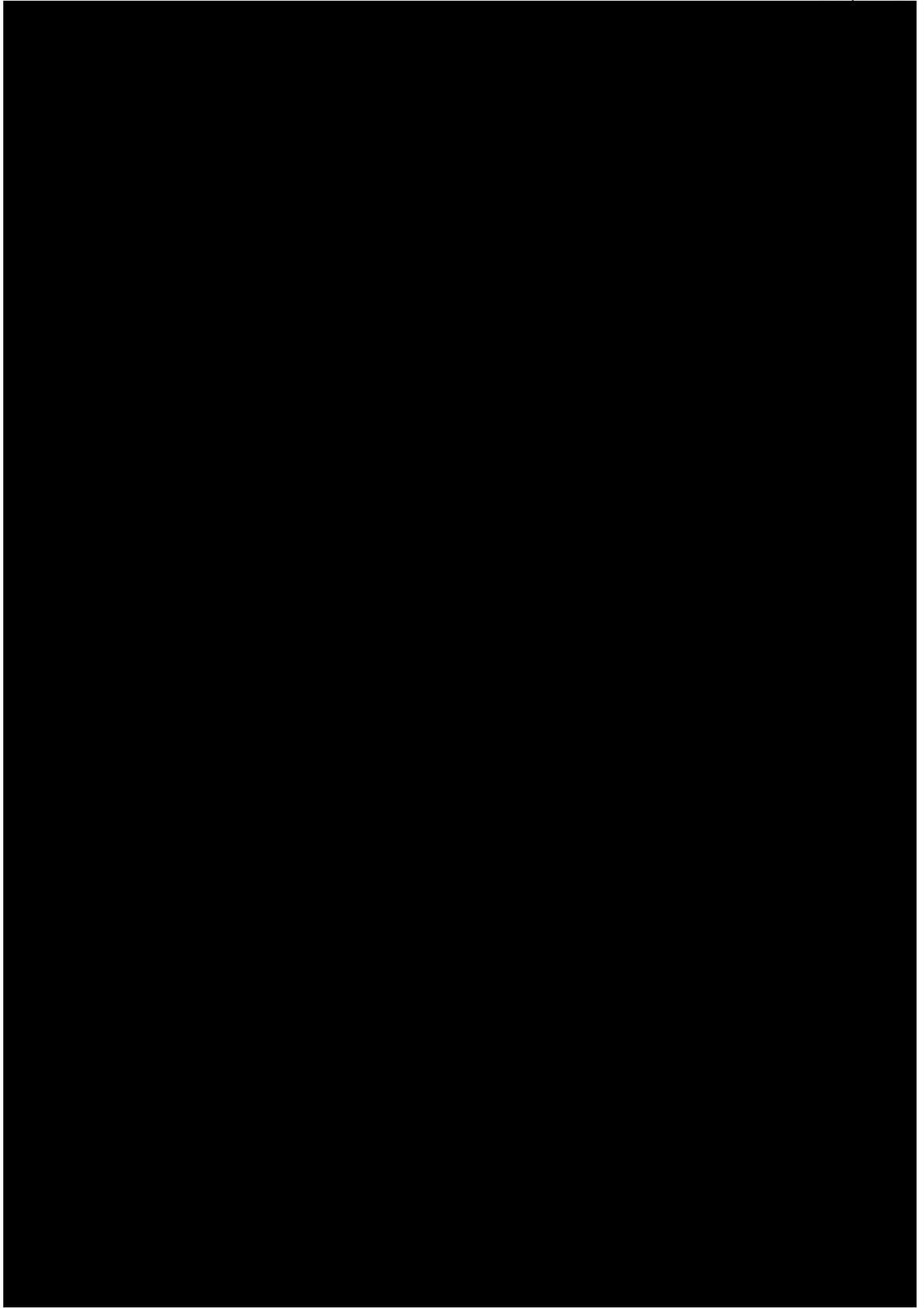
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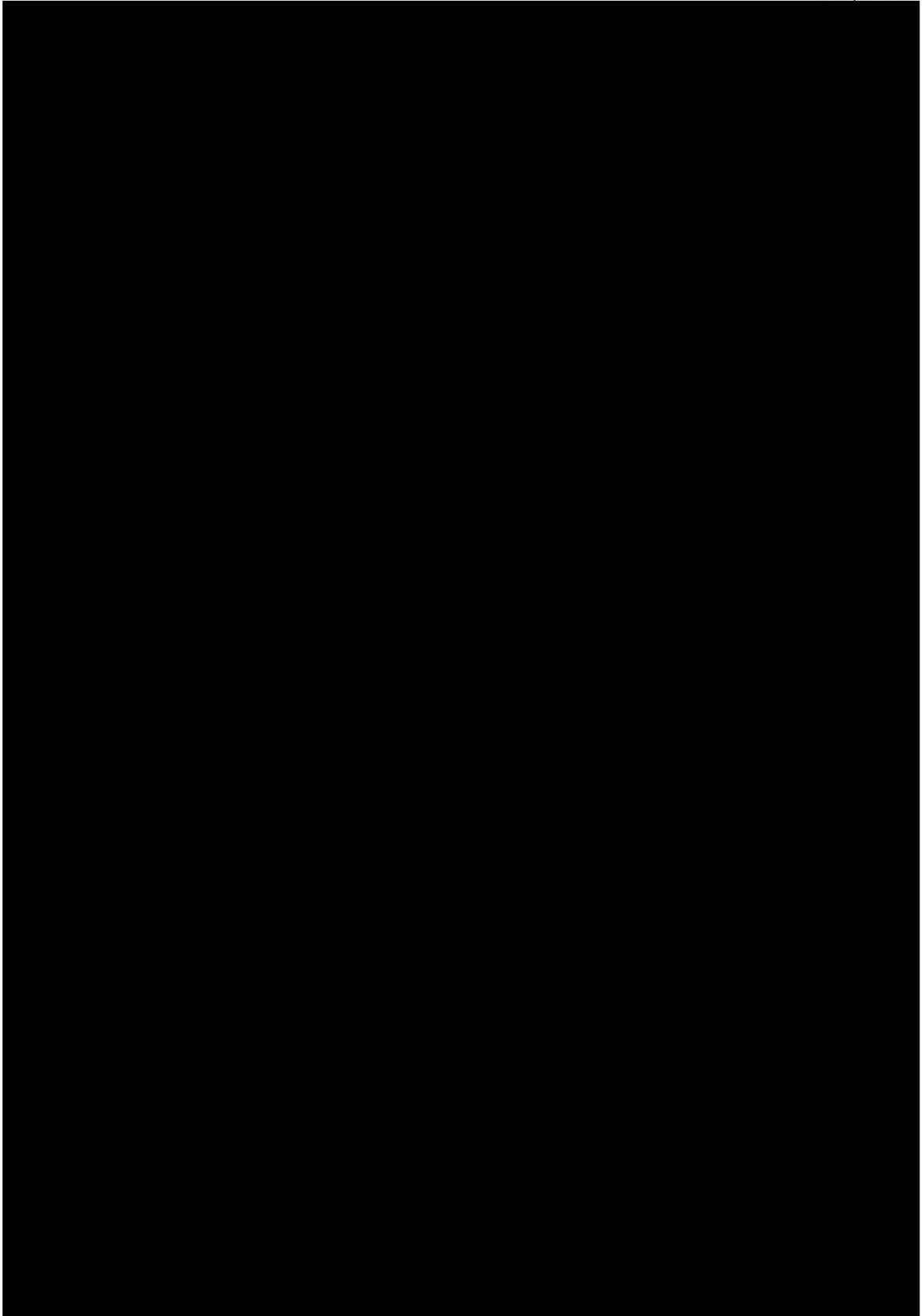
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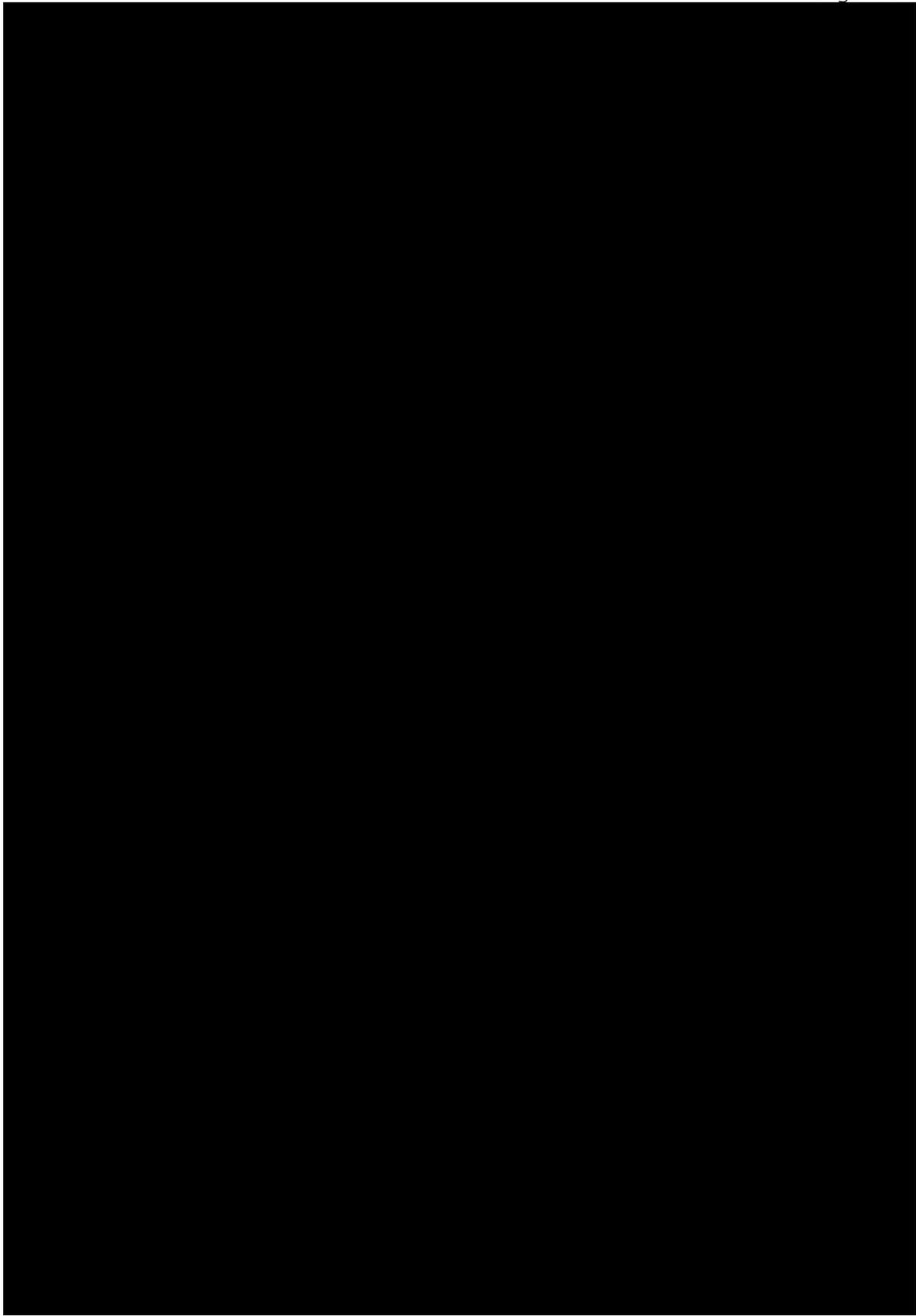
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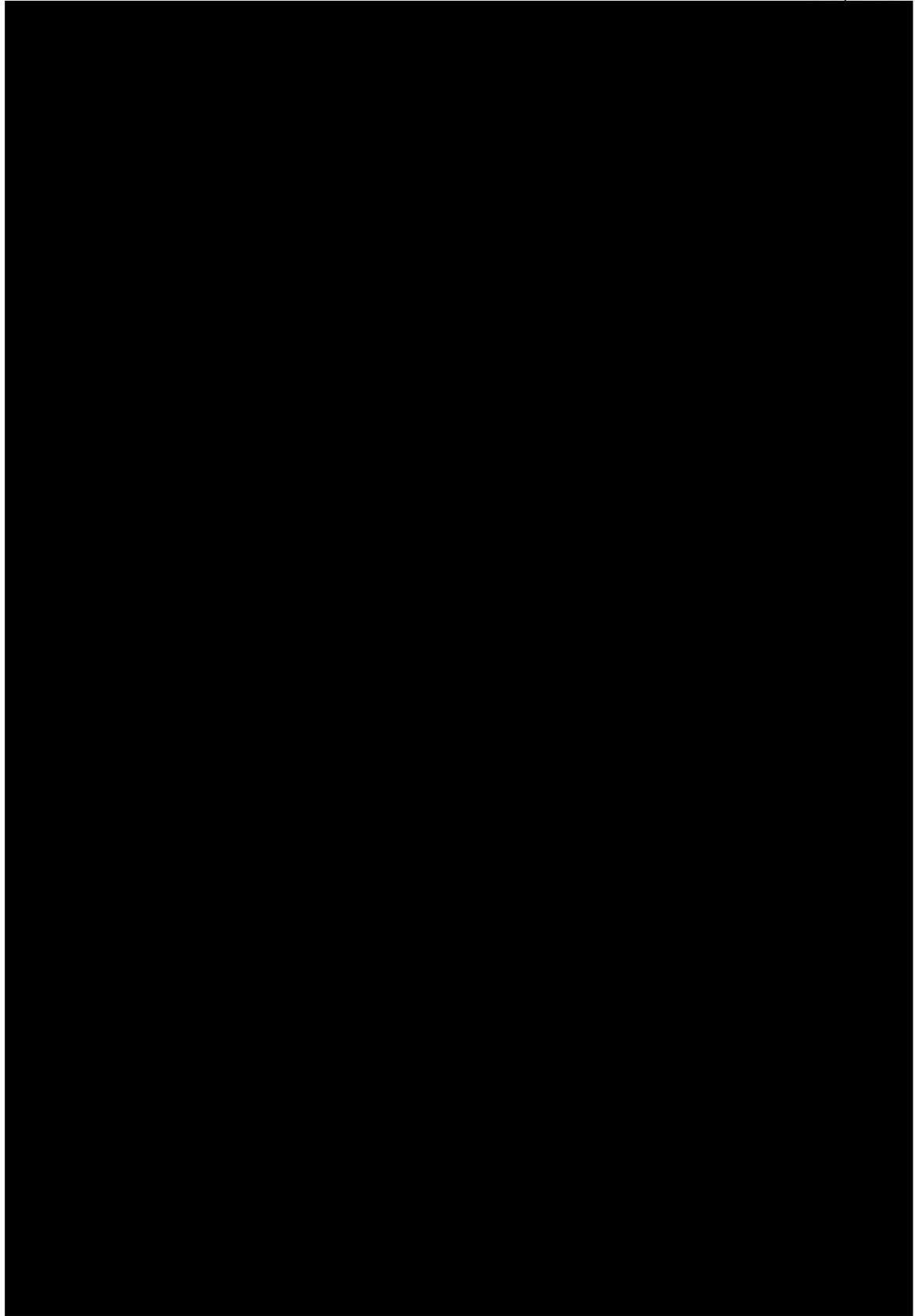
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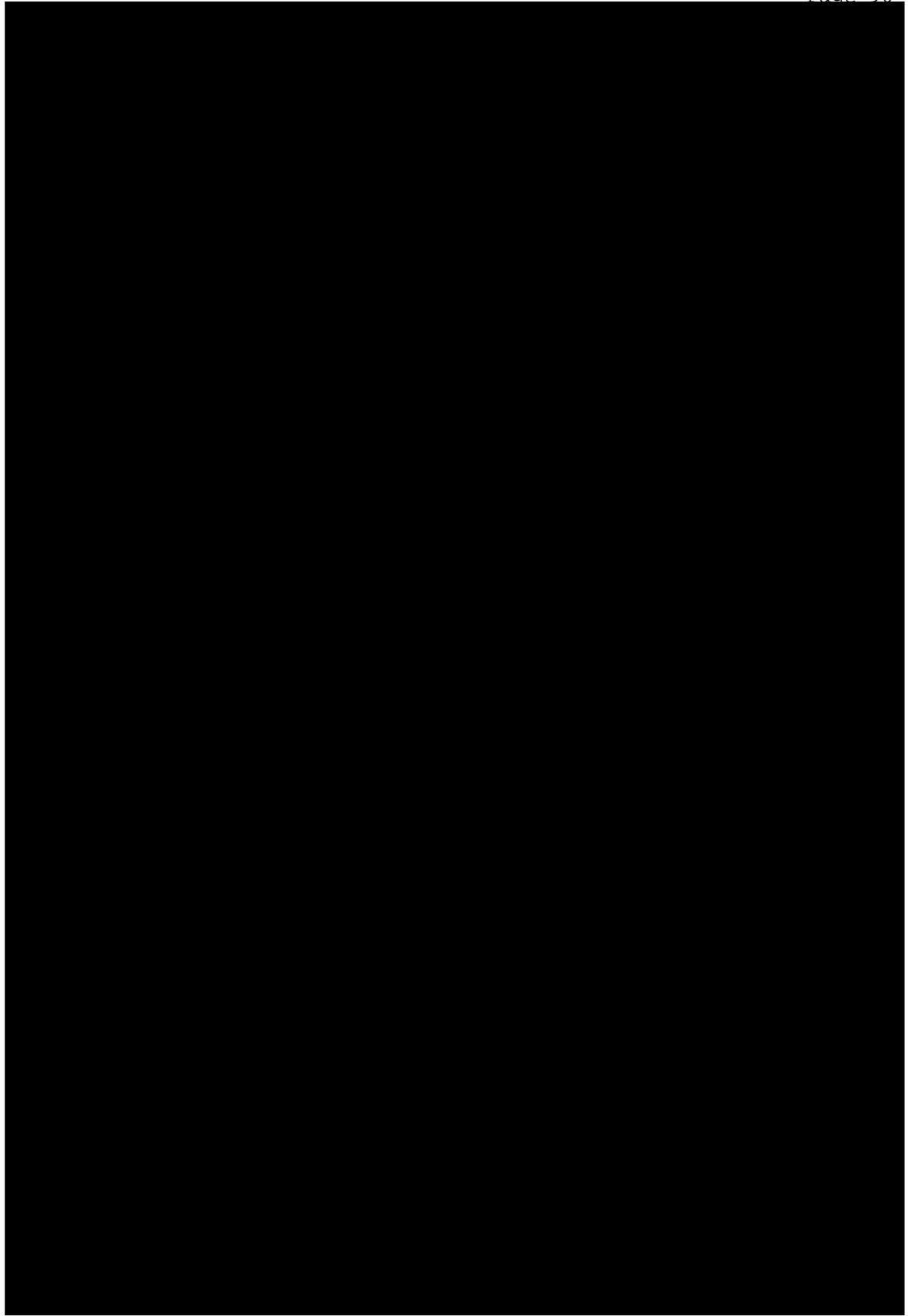
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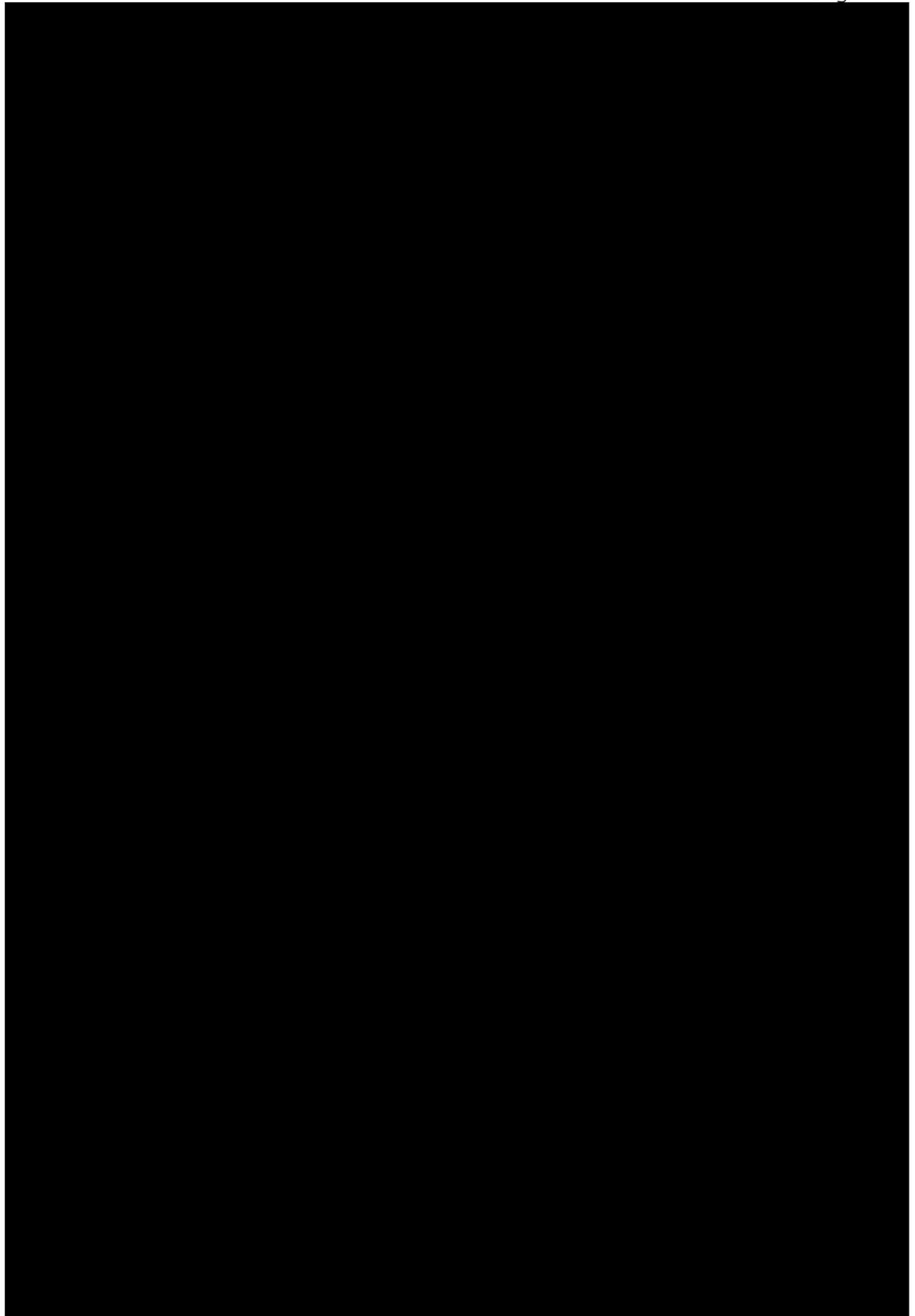
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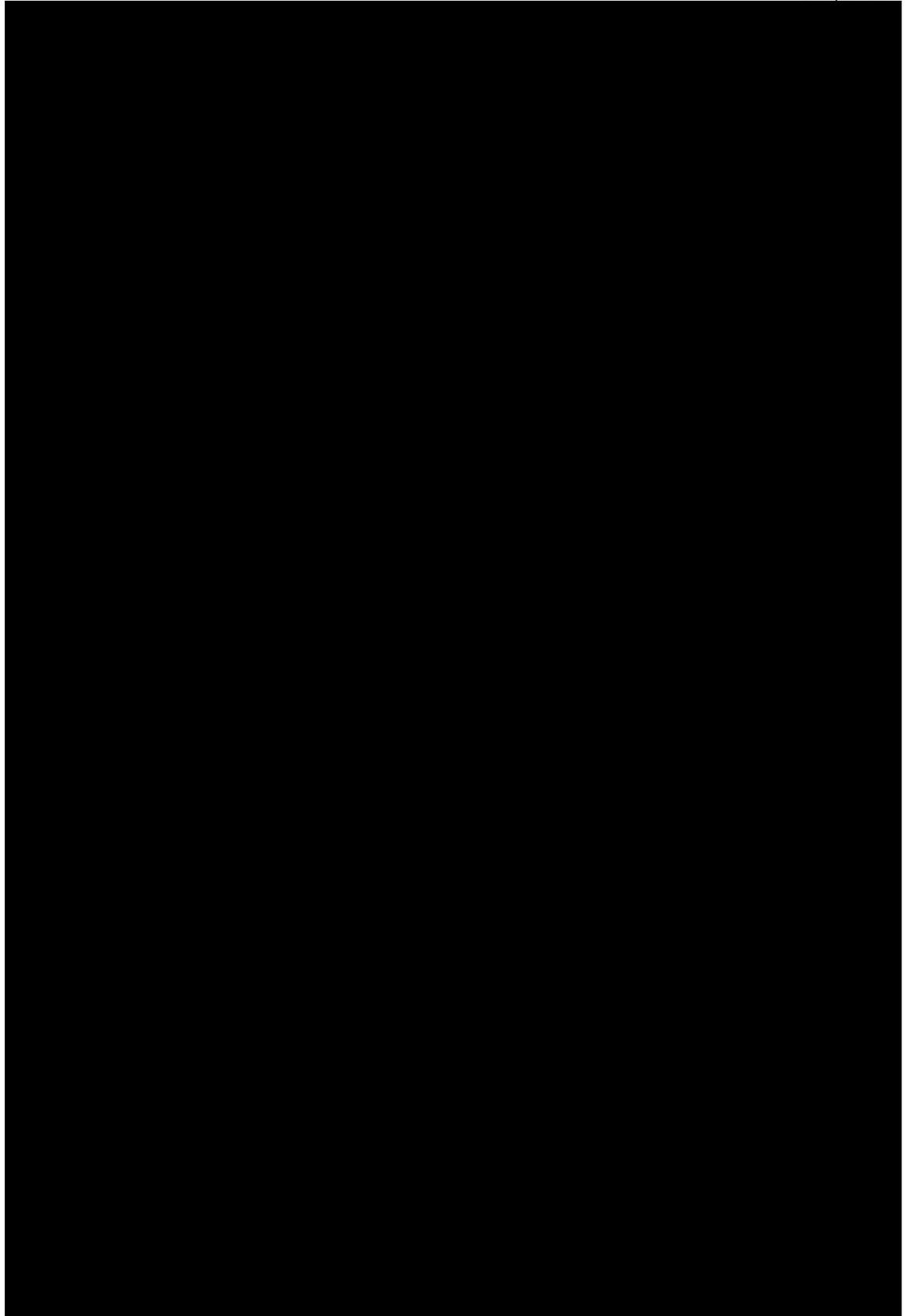
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7 (Recess 11:31 a.m. until 11:34 a.m.)

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning. The time is
9 11:34. We are still at the Florida Gaming Control
10 Commission's December 4, 2025 meeting, and we have
11 one item left after our closed attorney-client
12 session, which is now closed.

13 We're back open on the record. We are on to
14 Item 12.1, which is the State of Florida versus
15 Roye. We are ready for a motion from the
16 Commission, Commissioners. Commissioner Repp.

17 COMMISSIONER REPP: I would like to make a
18 motion to reject the settlement offer and proceed
19 with litigation.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
21 second?

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will second that
23 motion.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those
25 in favor, say aye.

1 (Multiple ayes.)

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Commissioners,
3 are there any other matters to address today?

4 Staff, do we have any other items to address?

5 So we do stand adjourned. Thank you, all.

6 Have a great holiday.

7 (Proceeding concluded at 11:36 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

I, I. IRIS COOPER, do hereby certify that I
was authorized to and did stenographically report
the foregoing proceeding, and that the transcript
is a true and complete record of my stenographic
notes.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2025.



I. Iris Cooper
Stenographic Reporter
Notary Public, State of Florida
My Commission No. 1366674
Expires: February 7, 2028