

STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION,
DIVISION OF PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING,

Petitioner,

v.

FGCC Case No.: 2023-014183

MICHELLE CELESTA VALDIVIA PALACIOS,

Respondent.

_____ /

FINAL ORDER

This matter appeared before the Florida Gaming Control Commission at a duly-noticed public meeting October 5, 2023, for final agency action pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes. After a complete review of the records in this matter, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

1. An Administrative Complaint was filed in this case on June 27, 2023, alleging that Respondent is in violation of rule 75-11.005(4), Florida Administrative Code, and alleging that Respondent is subject to exclusion from all licensed pari-mutuel facilities in the state of Florida under sections 550.0251(6), Florida Statutes. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit "1" and incorporated by reference.

2. The Administrative Complaint, Election of Rights form, an Explanation of Rights, and a cover letter were served on Respondent via mail service on June 30, 2023. Proof of service is attached hereto as Exhibit "2" and incorporated by reference.

3. The Election of Rights form, Explanation of Rights, and cover letter informed Respondent that a written response to the Complaint, including the right to request a hearing, was

due within 21 days of actual service of the Complaints. *See* § 120.569(1), Fla. Stat., and Fla. Admin. Code R. 28-106.111.

4. Petitioner informed Respondent that the failure to file a timely response to the Complaint would be deemed a waiver of the right to a hearing.

5. Respondent has not filed a timely response to the Complaint. Respondent has not submitted any evidence or made any allegations that would support the application of the doctrine of equitable tolling.

Having considered the Complaint, the service of the Complaint with Election of Rights form, Explanation of Rights, and cover letter on Respondent along with Respondent's failure to respond, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises, it is hereby:

ORDERED and ADJUDGED:

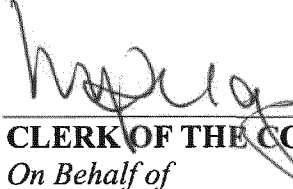
6. The allegations of fact and the conclusions of law in the Administrative Complaint are adopted in their entirety herein.

7. Respondent is hereby **PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED** from all pari-mutuel facilities within the state of Florida.

This Final Order shall take effect upon being filed with the Clerk of the Commission.

DONE AND ORDERED this 9th day of OCTOBER, 2023.

FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION



CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

On Behalf of

Julie Brown, Vice-Chair

John D'Aquila, Commissioner

Charles Drago, Commissioner

Tina Repp, Acting Commissioner

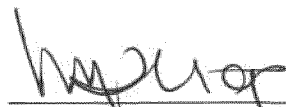
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Any party to this proceeding has the right to seek its judicial review under section 120.68, Florida Statutes, by the filing of an original notice of appeal pursuant to rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Commission, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2202 (Email: clerk@fgcc.fl.gov), and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate Florida district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed (received) by the Clerk of the Commission within thirty (30) days after the date this Order is filed with the Clerk of the Commission.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of OCTOBER, 2023, a true and correct copy of this Final Order has been sent via U.S. Mail to:

Michelle Celeste Valdivia Palacios
6460 50th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709



CLERK OF THE COMMISSION
Florida Gaming Control Commission

CC: Ebonie Lanier

STATE OF FLORIDA
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MICHELLE CELESTE VALDIVIA PALACIOS,

Respondent.

_____ /

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

The Florida Gaming Control Commission, Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering (“Petitioner”), files this Administrative Complaint against Michelle Celeste Valdivia Palacios (“Respondent”), and alleges:

1. Petitioner is the state agency charged with regulating pari-mutuel wagering and cardroom operations pursuant to chapters 550 and 849, Florida Statutes.
2. At all times material hereto, St. Petersburg Kennel Club, Inc. was a facility operated by a permit holder authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering and cardroom operations in the State of Florida.
3. At all times material hereto, Respondent held a Pari-Mutuel Wagering General Individual Occupational License, number 11941317-1022, issued by Petitioner.
4. On or about February 22, 2023, Respondent was employed as a Cardroom Cocktail Waitress at St. Petersburg Kennel Club, Inc.



5. On or about February 22, 2023, Respondent was seen transferring patron's meals and meals for herself to a private prime comp check to be paid by the facility, which is against company policy.

6. Following the discovery of the incident and questioning by investigations, Respondent voluntarily resigned from St. Petersburg Kennel Club, Inc.

COUNT I

7. Petitioner realleges and incorporates the allegations contained within paragraphs one through six as though fully set forth herein.

8. Rule 61D-11.005(4), Florida Administrative Code, provides, in pertinent part, that “[n]o person shall, either directly or indirectly (a) [e]mploy or attempt to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud any participant in a game or the cardroom operator.”

9. Based on the foregoing, Respondent violated rule 61D-11.005(4), Florida Administrative Code, by employing a device, scheme, or artifice to defraud the cardroom operator.

COUNT II

10. Petitioner realleges and incorporates the allegations contained within paragraphs one through six as though fully set forth herein.

11. Section 550.0251(6), Florida Statutes, provides in relevant part:

In addition to the power to exclude certain persons from any pari-mutuel facility in this state, the commission may exclude any person from any and all pari-mutuel facilities in this state for conduct that would constitute, if the person were a licensee, a violation of this chapter or the rules of the commission. The commission may exclude from any pari-mutuel facility within this state any person who has been ejected from a pari-mutuel facility in this state or who has been excluded from any pari-mutuel facility in another state by the governmental department, agency, commission, or authority exercising regulatory jurisdiction over pari-mutuel facilities in such other state.

(Emphasis supplied).

12. Based on the foregoing, Respondent is subject to exclusion from all licensed pari-mutuel wagering facilities in the state of Florida under section 550.0251(6), Florida Statutes, based on her violation of rule 61D-11.005(4), Florida Administrative Code.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests the Florida Gaming Control Commission enter an Order excluding Respondent from all licensed pari-mutuel wagering facilities in the state of Florida, and any other remedy provided by chapters 550 and 849, Florida Statutes, and/or the rules promulgated thereunder.

This Administrative Complaint for FGCC Case Number 2023-014183 is signed this 23rd day of June, 2023.

/s/ Emily A. Alvarado

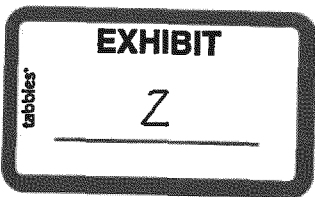
Emily A. Alvarado
Deputy Chief Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 1025200
Florida Gaming Control Commission
Office of the General Counsel
Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering
2601 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2202
Telephone: (850) 717-1783
Facsimile: (850) 921-1311
Primary: Emily.Alvarado@flgaming.gov
Secondary: Ebonie.Lanier@flgaming.gov

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REQUEST A HEARING

Pursuant to sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, you have the right to request a hearing to challenge the charges contained in this Administrative Complaint. If you choose to request a hearing, you will have the right to be represented by counsel, or other qualified representative, to present evidence and argument, to call and cross-examine witnesses, and to have subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum issued on your behalf.

Any request for an administrative proceeding to challenge or contest the charges contained in this Administrative Complaint must conform to rule 28-106.2015, Florida Administrative Code. Pursuant to rule 28-106.111, Florida Administrative Code, you must request a hearing within 21 days from receipt of this Notice, or you will waive your right to request a hearing.

Mediation under section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available to resolve this Administrative Complaint.



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