

STATE OF FLORIDA  
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

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

Petitioner,

v.

FGCC Case No.: 2023-037689

LANICA WOODS,

Respondent.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**FINAL ORDER**

This matter appeared before the Florida Gaming Control Commission at a duly-noticed public meeting on February 1, 2024, 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:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Findings of Fact contained in the Recommended Order are hereby adopted as the Findings of Fact of the Commission.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Conclusions of Law contained in the Recommended Order are hereby adopted as the Conclusions of Law of the Commission.

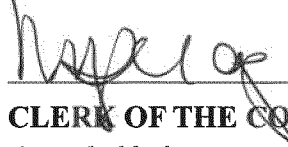
ORDERED and ADJUDGED:

1. The Hearing Officer's Recommended Order is adopted in full.
2. Respondent is hereby **PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED** from all pari-mutuel facilities and all facilities of a slot machine licensee within the state of Florida.

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

**DONE AND ORDERED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2024.

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

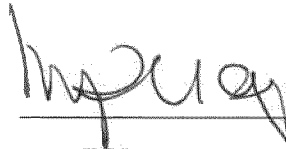
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

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@flgaming.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 8<sup>th</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2024, a true and correct copy of this Final Order has been sent by U.S. Mail to:

**Lanica Woods**  
6514 NW 13th Ave., Apt. 310  
Miami, FL 33147  
laniwoo3@gmail.com



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**CLERK OF THE COMMISSION**  
Florida Gaming Control Commission

CC: Ebonie Lanier

<b>FILED</b>	
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION	
Date:	<u>1/29/2024</u>
File Number:	_____
BY: MELBA L. APELLANIZ CLERK OF THE COMMISSION	

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

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FGCC Case No.: 2023-037689

LANICA WOODS,

Respondent.

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HEARING OFFICER'S RECOMMENDED ORDER

THIS MATTER came before Elizabeth K. Stinson, designated Hearing Officer for the Florida Gaming Control Commission ("Commission"), on November 15, 2023, in Tallahassee, Florida, in accordance with the provisions of sections 120.569 and 120.57(2), Florida Statutes, for consideration of the Commission's Administrative Complaint filed against Lanica Woods ("Respondent"), in FGCC Case Number 2023-037689 ("Administrative Complaint"). The Commission was represented by Emily A. Alvarado, Deputy Chief Attorney. Respondent appeared *pro se* and the hearing was held telephonically. Both sides were permitted to present witnesses, proffer items into evidence, and otherwise fully participate in the hearing.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. On or about August 24, 2023, the Commission filed an Administrative Complaint against Respondent alleging that on or about July 1 to July 2, 2023, Respondent was a patron at Calder Casino, that on or about July 2, 2023, Respondent was ejected from Calder Casino, that on or about July 5, 2023, Respondent was permanently excluded from Calder Casino, and that Respondent is subject to exclusion from all licensed pari-mutuel facilities and all facilities of a slot machine licensee in the state of Florida.

2. On or about September 20, 2023, Respondent requested an informal hearing pursuant to section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes.

The November 15, 2023, Informal Hearing

3. At the informal hearing on November 15, 2023, the Commission presented the issues raised in its Administrative Complaint. The Hearing Officer granted the Commission's motion to accept the Findings of Fact in the Administrative Complaint as the undisputed facts in the case and accepted the investigative packet into the record.

4. The investigative packet that was admitted into the record contained an Incident Detail Report setting out the events leading up to Respondent's ejection and exclusion from Calder Casino.

5. The Incident Detail Report includes a narrative report of video footage of Respondent and another patron swapping cards to improve their hands and capping bets, a type of cheating.

6. The Incident Detail Report states that an independent review of surveillance footage shows that Respondent and the other patron were using a food container to conceal the swapping of cards.

7. At the hearing, Respondent testified about the events that surrounded her exclusion from Calder Casino:

a. Respondent testified that she was not new to playing card games at card room facilities in Florida, but she was new to playing a certain game at Calder Casino.

b. Respondent testified that what was listed as cheating in the investigative

report, was in fact, how the staff was telling her to play the game.

c. Respondent testified that she started playing the game around 10:00 pm, and she was playing the same way until 2:00 am.

d. Respondent then testified that she didn't think there was anything wrong with the way that she was playing the game because it took so long for the facility to tell her she was cheating.

e. Respondent testified that she read the investigative packet and that she did not dispute the allegations in the investigative packet, except that she had not kept up with the amount of money that she had won at the casino. Respondent then testified that the staff was supposed to be teaching her how to play the game.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

8. At all times material hereto, Calder Casino was a facility operated by a permitholder authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering, slot machine, and cardroom operations in the State of Florida.

9. On or about July 1 and July 2, 2023, Respondent was a patron of Calder Casino and was ejected from Calder Casino.

10. On or about July 5, 2023. Respondent was permanently excluded from Calder Casino.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11. The Hearing Officer has jurisdiction over this matter and the parties pursuant to section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes.

12. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to chapters 120,

550, and 551, Florida Statutes.

13. At all times material, Calder Casino was a facility operated by a permit holder authorized to conduct pari-mutuel wagering, cardroom, and slot machine operations in the State of Florida.

14. 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 the 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).

15. Section 551.112, Florida Statutes, provides:

In addition to the power to exclude certain persons from any facility of a slot machine licensee in this state, the commission may exclude any person from any facility of a slot machine licensee 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 facility of a slot machine licensee any person who has been ejected from a facility of a slot machine licensee in this state or who has been excluded from any facility of a slot machine licensee or gaming facility in another state by the governmental department, agency, commission, or authority exercising regulatory jurisdiction over the gaming in such other state. This section does not abrogate the common law right of a slot machine licensee to exclude a patron absolutely in this state.

(Emphasis supplied).

16. Respondent was a patron of and ejected from Calder Casino on July 1 and 2, 2023,



and permanently excluded from Calder Casino on July 5, 2023.

17. Pursuant to section 550.0251(6), Florida Statutes, and section 551.112, Florida Statutes, Respondent is subject to exclusion by the Commission from any licensed pari-mutuel facilities and any facility of a slot machine licensee in the State of Florida based on her ejection from Calder Casino.

18. Respondent's testimony neither mitigates the fact that Respondent was ejected and permanently excluded from Calder Casino, nor precludes the Commission from excluding Respondent from all licensed pari-mutuel facilities and all facilities of a slot machine licensee in the State of Florida.

19. There is competent substantial evidence to support the conclusions of law.

RECOMMENDED ORDER

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby recommended that the Florida Gaming Control Commission issue a Final Order permanently excluding Respondent from all pari-mutuel facilities and all facilities of a slot machine licensee in the State of Florida.

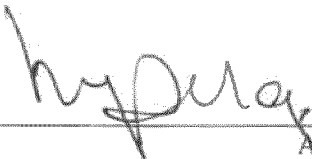
This Hearing Officer's Recommended Order in FGCC Case Number 2023-037689 is submitted this 29th day of January 2024.

Elizabeth K. Stinson  
Elizabeth K. Stinson  
Hearing Officer  
Florida Gaming Control Commission

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify this 29th day of January 2024, that a true copy of the foregoing "Hearing Officer's Recommended Order" has been provided by mail and email to:

**Lanica Woods**  
6514 NW 13 Ave, Apt. 310  
Miami, Florida 33147  
laniwoo3@gmail.com

  
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Agency Clerk  
Florida Gaming Control Commission