



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION

*"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"*

June 12, 2020

MARK RITZ  
1509 6<sup>TH</sup> ST PMB 183  
MARYSVILLE, WA 98270

**RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION; CR 2019-02032**

Dear Mark Ritz:

Enclosed is an Order of Default entered by the Commission on May 14, 2020, revoking your certification to conduct gambling activities. This action occurred because you did not timely respond by requesting a hearing to the administrative charges mailed on January 31, 2020.

You have the right to move to vacate this Order. If you do so, we must receive your request by the 10<sup>th</sup> day after the Order was mailed. Your motion must include the specific grounds upon which relief is requested and must be submitted to:

Washington State Gambling Commission  
Attention: Legal & Records Division  
P.O. Box 42400  
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

You also have the right to submit a Petition for Judicial Review. If you do this, you must submit it within 30 days of the date the Order was mailed. RCW 34.05.514 explains where you must file this petition and RCW 34.05.546 explains what information your Petition must include.

This is not meant to be a full explanation of all the statutes and regulations you would need to understand to move to vacate or Petition for Judicial Review. Please call me at (800) 345-2529, extension 3473, with any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator  
Legal & Records Division

Enclosure



1 them into a chip rack. When he later sent Shift Manager Cosmo Andoloro to retrieve the chips,  
2 they were not where Escalante left them.

3 6. The chips in question were collected the previous evening by one of the previous  
4 evening's floor supervisors, James Morgan to share with the other floor supervisors working at  
5 the time. Morgan was in the process of closing the second floor for the day, and accidentally  
6 left the chips.

7 7. On November 28, 2019, Andoloro began a review of the video surveillance  
8 recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> in order to find out what happened to the chips.

9 8. The video footage revealed that at 8:25 am, Mark Ritz approached the rack of  
10 chips on the second floor podium. Ritz picked up the rack, and removed the chips from the rack.  
11 Ritz placed the chips into his right front pants pocket. Ritz hunched over while doing this, in an  
12 apparent attempt to conceal his actions.

13 9. The surveillance footage shows Ritz taking the empty rack into a nearby supply  
14 closet. While there is no security camera in the supply closet, the empty rack was found on a  
15 shelf amongst cleaning supplies by Andoloro. Andoloro photographed the empty rack, and  
16 provided it to the WSGC.

17 10. Video surveillance shows Ritz then returned to the gaming floor. Per the  
18 narrative report Andoloro provided to the WSGC Special Agent, at the time Ritz returned to the  
19 floor "There is very little business and the floor man is available; but Ritz is not observed  
20 reporting the discovery or possession of the chips nor is he seen making any effort to return  
21 them."

22 11. The footage provided to WSGC picked up at 11:15 am, after business began  
23 picking up. At this time, Ritz removed the chips in his pocket, and placed them in his toke (tip)  
24 box. Ritz accomplished this by waiting for the Floor Supervisor to leave his immediate area,  
25 and slowly moved the chips over the course of the next two minutes.

1           12.     On November 29, 2019, Ritz was asked by Red Dragon staff to provide them  
2 with a written statement regarding the incident. In it, Ritz claimed that, "We were very very  
3 busy. There was zero time to do anything." These claims were directly refuted by both Clark  
4 and Andoloro, as well as the surveillance footage reviewed by WSGC's Special Agent.

5           13.     On January 2, 2020, WSGC Special Agents met with Ritz at the Everett Police  
6 Department to discuss their investigation. When questioned about the conflicting statements  
7 regarding the amount of business at the time of the incident, Ritz claimed that at the time he  
8 wrote his statement he was confused about which day was busy.

9           14.     Ritz also told Special Agents that he did not know why the rack was found in the  
10 supply closet, and did not remember putting the chips into his tip box. Ritz denied making any  
11 untrue statements.

12          15.     Later in the day, Ritz emailed the Special Agent conducting the investigation  
13 stating "regardless of how things 'looked' or however implausible my answers, I never ever  
14 intended to take chips from Red Dragon. If that's the determination then I did so  
15 absentmindedly--- and regretfully."

16          16.     Since the conclusion of the investigation, Ritz was terminated from his  
17 employment at Red Dragon, and is not currently working as a card room employee.

18          17.     Director David Trujillo issued administrative charges on January 31, 2020  
19 alleging that Ritz's actions constituted a violation of RCW 9.46.075 and WAC 230-03-085.  
20 Further, that he could not show by clear and convincing evidence that he was qualified for  
21 licensure as required by RCW 9.46.153(1), and that his actions warranted revocation of his  
22 certification pursuant to RCW 9.46.075(1) and (8), and WAC 230-03-085(1), (3), and (9)(a).

23          18.     Ritz was sent the charges by regular and certified mail on January 31, 2020 to the  
24 last address the Gambling Commission had on file.



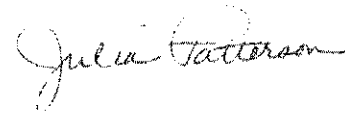
1 **III. ORDER**

2 This matter having come before the Commission at its May 14, 2020, Commission  
3 meeting, the Commissioners having heard arguments, been given the chance to review the  
4 administrative record, and being fully advised in this matter, now therefore:


5 It is hereby **ORDERED** that Mark Ritz's gambling license, Number 68-35080, is  
6 **REVOKED.**

7  
8 DATED this 14th day of May, 2020.

9   
10 \_\_\_\_\_  
BUD SIZEMORE, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JULIA PATTERSON, Vice Chair

11   
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
ED TROYER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ALICIA LEVY

1 **NOTICE**

2 Reconsideration: RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 230-17-140 provide that a party may file a  
3 petition for reconsideration of a final order. A petition for reconsideration must be received no  
4 later than thirteen (13) days after the date this final order is mailed. Any motion for  
5 reconsideration must state the specific grounds supporting the party's request for  
6 reconsideration.

7 Stay of Final Order: Filing for reconsideration does not stay the effectiveness of this  
8 Order. WAC 230-17-145 provides that a party may petition the Commission for a stay of a final  
9 order. Any petition for a stay should be received by the Commission within thirteen (13) days  
10 after the date this final order is mailed.

11 Judicial Review: RCW 34.05.542 provides that a party may appeal this final order by  
12 filing a petition for judicial review within thirty (30) days after service of this order. A petition  
13 for judicial review must be filed with the appropriate superior court and served upon both the  
14 Commission and the Office of the Attorney General.

15 Service: This Order was served on you three days after it was deposited in the United  
16 States Postal Service regular mail, excluding the date of mailing. WAC 230-17-035.

17 Any motions or petitions for judicial review should be served on or mailed to:

18 Washington State Gambling Commission  
19 Legal and Records Division  
20 4565 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E., Lacey, WA  
21 P.O. Box 42400  
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

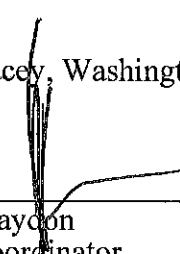
Doug Van de Brake  
Attorney General's Office  
1135 Washington St. SE  
P.O. Box 40100  
Olympia, WA 98504-0100

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on the date below I served a copy of the foregoing document on all parties and/or their counsel by United States Postal Service regular mail to the following:

MARK RITZ  
1509 6<sup>TH</sup> ST PMB 183  
MARYSVILLE, WA 98270

EXECUTED this 17 day of June, 2020, at Lacey, Washington.

  
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Ashlie Laydon  
Rules Coordinator