

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD**

**IN RE: THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION OF** )  
 )  
 )  
**PERONA, FELICIA YVETTE** ) **NO. DC-R-19-48**  
 )  
 )  
**LEVEL 3 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSEE.** )

*Via Regular & Certified U.S. Mail*

Felicia Yvette Perona

License No. 92D002053



**COMPLAINT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

The ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD (the “Board” or “IGB”) for its Complaint against FELICIA YVETTE PERONA (“Perona”), states as follows:

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1. The Board brings this action against Perona for her violations of certain provisions of the Illinois Gambling Act (“Act”) and the Board’s Adopted Rules (“Rules”) that prohibit the holder of any Board-issued license from engaging in conduct that is injurious to the public health, safety, morals, good order and general welfare of the people of the State of Illinois, or that would discredit or tend to discredit the Illinois gaming industry or the State of Illinois, including but not limited to the failure to comply with the Act and the Rules. This complaint is brought pursuant to Sections 5(b)(2), 5(c)(2), 5(c)(5), 5(c)(11), 5(c)(15) and 9(e) of the Act and Section 3000.110 of the Rules.

**PARTIES**

2. The Board is the Illinois regulatory agency charged with the responsibility of administering, regulating and enforcing the system of gambling established by the Act. The Board’s jurisdiction extends to every person, association, corporation, partnership and trust involved in riverboat gambling operations in Illinois. 230 ILCS 10/5(a)(1).
3. Perona is an occupational licensee holding a Level 3 license, No. 92D002053. At all times relevant hereto, Albert Sikirdji (“Sikirdji”) was her superior working as a Casino Operations Manager at HC Joliet, LLC d/b/a Hollywood Casino Joliet (“HCJ”) located in Joliet, Illinois.

## FACTS

4. On June 5, 2019, the HCJ ticket redemption server became inoperable, resulting in patrons being unable to be paid for vouchers issued by HCJ slot machines.
5. At 10:51 p.m., while the redemption server was inoperable, HCJ Cage Supervisor Felicia Perona notified IGB Agent Fidel Castellanos (“Castellanos”) that a patron was demanding that the HCJ cage redeem his slot voucher for an amount greater than \$1,200.
6. Video surveillance footage shows that at 10:45 PM, the same patron had approached the cage with a ticket for \$2,200.
7. HCJ Internal Control G-15.2 in effect at that time stated that in the event the equipment used to scan vouchers located at the casino cage is unable to communicate with the voucher system for any reason, “[o]nly vouchers of under \$1,200 will be paid. For any voucher that is \$1,200 and above, the patron will be told that they have to wait for the equipment to come back on line.”
8. Agent Castellanos informed Perona that the patron could not be paid, and that Perona could not violate internal controls.
9. Agent Castellanos offered to intervene with the patron, but Perona stated to him that Sikirdji was with the patron and Castellanos would not be needed.
10. Notwithstanding the internal controls against it, Sikirdji had already approved Perona redeeming a voucher for that same patron in an amount exceeding \$1,200 while the operative equipment was disabled.
11. Video surveillance footage shows that earlier on June 5, 2019, at 10:16 p.m. Perona cashed a ticket in the amount of \$1,210 for a patron.
12. At no time in her later conversation with Agent Castellanos did Perona tell him that Sikirdji had already violated internal control G-15.2 by approving she pay the patron \$1210 as cashier.

## COUNT I

**(86 Ill. Adm. Code § 3000.110(a))**

13. The Board re-alleges Paragraphs 1 through 12 of the Disciplinary Complaint as if fully alleged in this Count and incorporates them herein by reference.
14. Pursuant to Section 3000.110(a) of the Rules, a holder of any license shall be subject to fines, suspension or revocation of his license if she engages in activity that is injurious to the public health, safety, morals, good order and general welfare of the people of the State of Illinois, or that would discredit or tend to discredit the Illinois gaming industry or the State of Illinois. Such activities include, but are not limited to, failing to comply with the Act, the Rules, an Owner Licensee’s internal control system or any federal, state or local law or regulation. 86 Ill. Adm. Code § 3000.110(a).

15. Perona is subject to disciplinary measures under Section 3000.110(a) of the Rules because she failed to comply with the HCJ internal controls—acquiescing to a wrongful act and/or failing to report same; conduct which is injurious to the public health, safety, morals, good order and general welfare, and as such is conduct which discredits or tends to discredit the Illinois gaming industry and the State of Illinois.

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, Perona should be disciplined in a manner deemed appropriate by the Board.

**COUNT II**  
**(230 ILCS 10/9(e)(5))**

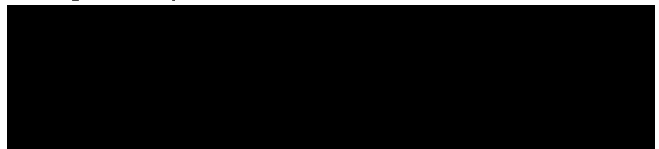
16. The Board re-alleges Paragraphs 1 through 12 of the Disciplinary Complaint as if fully alleged in this Count and incorporates them herein by reference.

17. Pursuant to Sections 9(e)(5) of the IGA, “[t]he Board may suspend, revoke or restrict” any licensee for any just cause. 230 ILCS 10/9(e)(5).

18. As a cage supervisor it is incumbent upon Perona to adhere to all rules and other measures which safeguard the propriety of casino financial operations, her willingness to follow her supervisor Sikirdji’s wrongful directive and violate internal controls provides just cause for Board action to discipline her.

WHEREFORE, based on the foregoing, Perona should be disciplined in a manner deemed appropriate by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the administrator.

Marcus Fruchter, Administrator

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

**NOTIFICATION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

The Illinois Gaming Board, upon review of a summary of the evidence, finds facts sufficient to its authority under the Illinois Gambling Act and the Adopted Rules to impose the following discipline against the occupational licensee **FELICIA YVETTE PERONA**:

Occupational licensee Ms. Perona is hereby issued a fine of \$150.00 (One Hundred Fifty Dollars and no cents) for violations of the Illinois Gambling Act and the Adopted Rules, as set forth in Disciplinary Complaint, No. DC-R-19-48, unless she files an Answer to said Complaint within 21 days from the date of service of the Complaint pursuant to Rule 3000.1125, 86 Ill. Adm. Code § 3000.1125. If licensee Perona chooses to file an Answer, which complies with every requirement of Rule 3000.1125, a hearing officer will be appointed. The Answer shall be mailed to: Illinois Gaming Board c/o Legal Department, 160 North LaSalle Street, Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60601.

Illinois Gaming Board

By 

Marcus Fruchter  
Administrator

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.

