



1 NGC Case No. 17-06

2 STATE OF NEVADA

3 BEFORE THE NEVADA GAMING COMMISSION

4 In the Matter of the Exclusion of:

5 JAMES RUSSELL COOPER,
6 a.k.a.: James Russell Powel; James Rus-
7 sell Cooper, Jr.; and James R. Cooper.

8 From Licensed Gaming Establishments
9 in the State of Nevada.

FINAL ORDER OF EXCLUSION

10 On July 12, 2018, the Nevada Gaming Control Board ("Board") entered its Order
11 nominating JAMES RUSSELL COOPER ("COOPER") (a.k.a.: James Russell Powel; James
12 Russell Cooper, Jr.; and James R. Cooper) as a candidate to Nevada's List of Excluded
13 Persons pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") 463.151 through NRS 463.155 and
14 Nevada Gaming Commission ("Commission" or "NGC") Regulation 28. After being served
15 by certified mail with the Notice of Candidacy and Order of Nomination to List of Excluded
16 Persons on August 22, 2018, COOPER failed to request a hearing before the Commission
17 pursuant to NRS 463.153(1). On October 9, 2018, COOPER was served by certified mail
18 with a Bill of Particulars and Notice of Meeting. This matter came before the Commission
19 on November 15, 2018. COOPER, being duly noticed of the hearing did not appear either
20 in person or through legal counsel. EDWARD L. MAGAW, Deputy Attorney General for
21 the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, appeared at the hearing on behalf of the Board.
22 Having reviewed and carefully considered the record together with all evidence presented,
23 the Commission, believing to be fully advised on the facts and issues before it, finds as
24 follows:

25 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

26 1. Pursuant to NRS 463.151(3)(a), COOPER has been convicted of a crime that con-
27 stitutes a felony in this state. Specifically, on or about September 29, 2015, COOPER was
28 indicted by a Clark County Grand Jury for 60 counts, including theft and cheating at

1 gambling. On November 3, 2016, COOPER pleaded guilty to the crime of theft (Category C
2 Felony) in violation of NRS 205.0832 and NRS 205.0835(3), and was adjudged guilty ac-
3 cordingly. COOPER was sentenced to a maximum of 60 months in the Nevada Department
4 of Corrections, with eligibility for parole after 19 months. In addition, COOPER was or-
5 dered to pay \$1,050,000 in restitution for his crimes. The crime that lead the this felony
6 conviction centered on COOPER's involvement in a cheating scheme executed at a gam-
7 bling game offered at a licensed gaming establishment in Nevada for which COOPER was
8 functioning in the capacity of dealer.

9 2. Pursuant to NRS 463.151(3)(c), COOPER is a person of notorious and unsavory
10 reputation whose presence in a licensed gaming establishment would adversely affect pub-
11 lic confidence that gaming is free from criminal and corruptive elements. This reputation
12 is established based on the above described felony conviction. Specifically the underlying
13 criminal activity that lead to the felony conviction centered on COOPER's involvement in
14 a cheating scheme executed at a gambling game offered at a licensed gaming establishment
15 in Nevada for which COOPER was functioning in the capacity of dealer.

16 3. COOPER continues to pose a threat to the interests of the State of Nevada and
17 to licensed gaming as demonstrated through the above described felony conviction.

18 4. The race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, or sex of COOPER is not and has
19 not been considered for placing him on Nevada's List of Excluded Persons.

20 5. If any of the foregoing Findings of Fact shall be deemed Conclusions of Law, they
21 shall so be construed.

22 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

23 6. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to NRS 463.153(1).

24 7. The procedural requirements of the Nevada Gaming Control Act and NGC Reg-
25 ulation 28 have been satisfied.

26 8. The sole issue before the Commission is whether at least one of the criteria set
27 forth in NRS 463.151(3) to add COOPER to Nevada's List of Excluded Persons has been
28 met.

1 State of Nevada which conducts pari-mutuel wagering or operates any race book, sports
2 pool or games, other than slot machines only.

3 DATED this 15th day of November, 2018.

4 NEVADA GAMING COMMISSION

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7 TONY ALAMO, M.D., Chairman

8 Submitted by:
9 ADAM PAUL LAXALT
10 Attorney General

11 By: 

12 EDWARD L. MAGAW
13 Deputy Attorney General
14 Gaming Division
15 Attorneys for State of Nevada, *ex rel.* its
16 Nevada Gaming Control Board
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