

Charitable Law Section 30 East Broad Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 Office: 614-466-3181 Fax: 614-466-9788

June 10, 2025

Fraternal Order of Orioles Nest #315 3151 Mahoning Road Canton, OH 44705

## Notice of Intent to Deny the Application for a 2025 Type III Instant Bingo and Type III Electronic Instant Bingo License

- A. For purposes of this Notice: the terms "you" or "your" shall refer to the organization "Fraternal Order of Orioles Nest #315" and specific terms contained herein shall have the same meaning as defined and set forth in the provisions of Chapter 2915 of the Revised Code and Agency 109:1 of the Administrative Code.
- B. Rule 109:1-4-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code imposes upon an applicant for a license under Chapter 2915. of the Revised Code and Agency 109:1 of the Administrative Code "the burden of demonstrating to the attorney general, by clear and convincing evidence, that the applicant is eligible, qualified, and suitable to be granted and retain the license or endorsement for which application is made under the applicable standards and requirements of Chapter 2915. of the Revised Code and Agency 109:1 of the Administrative Code."
- C. The Ohio Attorney General's Office hereby informs you that you have not met your burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence your eligibility, qualification and suitability for bingo licensure. Therefore, pursuant to Chapter 2915 of the Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 109:1 of the Ohio Administrative Code, the Ohio Attorney General intends to deny your 2025 Type III Instant Bingo and Type III Electronic Instant Bingo License Application based on the following circumstances:
  - 1. On December 6, 2021, Todd Dimichele was convicted of Conspiracy To Operate Illegal Gambling Businesses and Money Laundering Conspiracy in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 5:21-CR-00539-DCN ("Case No. 5:21-CR-00539"), either of which constitute a felony or gambling offense.
  - 2. The Bill of Information in Case No. 5:21-CR-00539 set forth the factual background underlying the Conspiracy To Operate Illegal Gambling Businesses and Money Laundering Conspiracy offenses Todd Dimichele was convicted of. The Information identified bank accounts in the name of a business entity known as F.D. Enterprises, Inc. where proceeds from the illegal gambling businesses were deposited. It also sought the forfeiture of \$114,714.00. Christina Dimichele was an initial director of F.D. Enterprises, Inc. when it was incorporated and no changes to her status appear to date in the Secretary of State's records for the business. Todd Dimichele is currently the statutory agent for the entity.

- 3. Todd Dimichele and Christina Dimichele were named as Claimants in a Complaint seeking forfeiture of the \$114,714.00 filed in the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 5:18-CV-02927. The Complaint alleged that Todd Dimichele and Christina Dimichele were "involved in operating illegal gambling businesses located in Stark County, Ohio, and concealment and money laundering of illegal proceeds from those businesses." It identified them as "coconspirators" and further alleged that they "utilize[d] nominees to conceal the true ownership and management of the illegal gambling businesses and to aid in the concealment from law enforcement of income and assets generated from the operation of those illegal gambling businesses." The \$114,714.00 amount that was seized was eventually ordered forfeited in Case No. 5:21-CR-00539.
- 4. Your Internal Revenue Service Form 990 for the tax year 2023 the most recent such filing for you identifies Christina Dimichele as your President and in whom your "organization's books are in the care of." Christina Dimichele also continues to serve as a member of your board.
- 5. Todd Dimichele completed and submitted your 2024 bingo license application using the name of your Vice President, Rolando DiMickele.
- 6. On Question 19 of your 2025 Bingo License Application you identify "By Grace Through Faith Missions" as an organization that you will distribute a percentage of the net profit you generate through the conduct of bingo. Todd Dimichele and Christina Dimichele incorporated By Grace Through Faith in 2017 and continue to run the organization. Additionally, Todd Dimichele incorporated and operates the business, Popo, LLC, that owns the building that you lease from Popo, LLC and where you meet and intend to conduct bingo.
- D. In view of the foregoing, the Ohio Attorney General's Office intends to deny your Type III Instant Bingo and Type III Electronic Instant Bingo License because you have not met your burden of demonstrating to the attorney general, by clear and convincing evidence, that you are eligible, qualified, and suitable to be granted a license under the applicable standards and requirements of Chapter 2915. of the Revised Code and Agency 109:1 of the Administrative Code and based on the following reasons:
  - 1. Ohio Revised Code Section 2915.09 prohibits a charitable organization from permitting "any person whom the charitable organization knows, or should have known, has been convicted of a felony or gambling offense in any jurisdiction to be a bingo game operator." In violation of Section 2915.09 of the Revised Code, you permitted Todd Dimichele, a person convicted of a felony and/or a gambling offense, to serve as a bingo game operator.
  - 2. Ohio Revised Code Section 2915.14 prohibits a charitable organization from permitting "any person whom the organization knows, or should have known, has been convicted of a felony or gambling offense in any jurisdiction to be a bingo

game operator in the conduct of electronic instant bingo." In violation of Section 2915.14 of the Revised Code, you permitted Todd Dimichele, a person convicted of a felony and/or a gambling offense, to serve as a bingo game operator in the conduct of electronic instant bingo.

- 3. Rule 109:1-4-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code allows the Attorney General to deny a license application if there has been the "[e]ntry of any civil or administrative judgment against the applicant, a key employee of the applicant, or any affiliate of the applicant that is based, in whole or in part, on conduct that allegedly constituted a felony crime, or involvement in illegal gambling in the state or other jurisdiction in which the conduct occurred that may affect the applicant's ability to properly perform his or her or its duties or reflect unfavorably on the integrity of charity gaming in Ohio." In violation of Rule 109:1-4-04 of the Ohio Administrative Code, there has been the entry of a civil or administrative judgment against a key employee of you, to wit: Todd Dimichele and/or Christina Dimichele, based, in whole or in part, on conduct that allegedly constituted a felony crime, or involvement in illegal gambling in this State in which the conduct occurred that affects your ability to properly perform your duties and/or reflects unfavorably on the integrity of charity gaming in Ohio.
- 4. Revised Code Section 2915.08(F)(3) states that "[i]f the attorney general has good cause to believe that any director or officer of the organization has breached the director's or officer's fiduciary duty to [the organization], the attorney general may refuse to grant a license to the organization." In violation of Revised Code Section 2915.08(F)(3), the Dimicheles' involvement in your operation, that of By Grace Through Faith, and Popo, LLC constitutes self-dealing between the organizations, thus breaching their fiduciary duties.

Pursuant to Section 119.07 of the Ohio Revised Code, you are entitled to a hearing on this matter if you timely request one. If you wish to request a hearing, the Attorney General's Office must receive the request from you within 30 days of the date of the mailing of this notice. You may email a request to the Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Law Section at <a href="mailto:kimberly.bossman@ohioago.gov">kimberly.bossman@ohioago.gov</a>. Alternatively, you may mail a request to:

Ohio Attorney General's Office Attn: Bingo Unit, Charitable Law Section 30 East Broad Street, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

In the event you timely request a hearing, you may appear in person and represent yourself or be represented by an attorney that is permitted to practice law in the State of Ohio.\* At the hearing, you may present evidence and examine witnesses appearing for and against you. In lieu of attending the hearing, you may also present your position, arguments, or contentions in writing. At all times, you have the burden of demonstrating to the attorney general, by clear and convincing evidence, that you are eligible, qualified, and suitable for licensure under Chapter 2915 of the Revised Code and Agency 109:1 of the Administrative Code.

\*Be advised that, under Ohio law, corporations must be represented by an attorney authorized to practice law in this State and that individuals not so authorized may not appear and represent those entities. If you have any questions regarding your status, you should contact an attorney for further guidance.

Very respectfully yours,

DAVE YOST Ohio Attorney General

Daniel W. Fausey
Section Chief

Ohio Attorney General's Office

Charitable Law Section

30 E. Broad Street, 25th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 466-3181

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