



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

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WILLIAM J. PANTELE

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER/SECRETARY TO THE BOARD
W. CURTIS COLEBURN, III

2901 HERMITAGE ROAD
P.O. BOX 27491
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23261
FAX (804) 213-4411
TDD LOCAL (804) 213-4687

January 12, 2010

Mr. Wes Crowder
Post Office 4433
Lynchburg, Virginia 24502

Dear Mr. Crowder:

Please let me begin by thanking you for your patience with us as we work diligently to provide your organization the clarification of the activity known by numerous names such as **Queen of Hearts**, etc. It is our understanding that this game, and its variants, has become prevalent in Lodges within the Commonwealth and we welcome the opportunity to review the matter and provide your organization guidance as to whether or not the game constitutes illegal gambling.

A meeting was held recently with staff from the Division of Charitable Gaming to determine whether this game would be considered a raffle or as a game of chance by their agency. Upon full consideration of the statutory information presented, **it was determined that the game was not a raffle and thus would constitute illegal gambling and would need to be ceased on ABC licensed premises.**

Please take this opportunity to advise your organization's Lodges that the **Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control will be looking for this activity during regular inspections, unannounced observations and upon investigating any complaints received about this activity.** Please do not hesitate to contact me at 804.213.4569 if you have any further questions or if I can provide additional clarification regarding this or any other matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn P. Walker', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn P. Walker
Deputy Director
Bureau of Law Enforcement

Cc: Regional Special Agents in Charge
Division of Charitable Gaming