

BEFORE THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

CHAYANNE KOOCH,)	OAH Case No. 25-290-81
)	
Petitioner,)	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS
)	OF LAW, AND PRELIMINARY ORDER
v.)	
)	
IDAHO TRANSPORTATION)	
DEPARTMENT,)	
)	
Respondent)	
_____)	

A remote hearing was held in this matter via Zoom on October 23, 2025. Petitioner Chayanne Kooch (“Petitioner Kooch”) appeared and gave testimony; the Idaho Transportation Department (“ITD”) appeared through counsel Paul Schlegel, and offered the testimony of Krishna Kiger, the Registrations Program Supervisor for ITD.

Based upon the administrative record and the testimony provided at hearing, the Hearing Officer makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law pursuant to Idaho Code IDAPA 62.01.01.252.01.d.

WRITTEN EVIDENCE

In transmitting this matter to the Office of Administrative Hearings (“OAH”), ITD provided the extant agency record (“Hearing Packet”) which contained the following items of evidence, some of which were later numbered as proposed ITD exhibits:

- Idaho Proof of Registration (Plates on Order), dated April 14, 2023, for plate no. “K00CHI” (Proposed Exhibit 1)
- License Plate Cancellation Notification for plate no. “K00CHI”, dated April 30, 2025 (Proposed Exhibit 1)
- Amended License Plate Cancellation Notification for plate no. “K00CHI”, undated (Proposed Exhibit 1)

- Idaho Proof of Registration (Plates on Order), dated May 6, 2025, for plate no. “H00CHI” (Proposed Exhibit 3)
- License Plate Cancellation Notification for plate no. “H00CHI”, dated May 8, 2025 (Proposed Exhibit 3)
- Amended License Plate Cancellation Notification for plate no. “H00CHI”, undated (Proposed Exhibit 3)
- Email from Krishna Kiger to Petitioner Kooch dated August 12, 2025 (Proposed Exhibit 4)
- Email from Krishna Kiger to Petitioner Kooch dated September 18, 2025 (Proposed Exhibit 4)
- List entitled “Description of Exhibits – Common Internet and Dictionary Resources” and attached documents from list (Proposed Exhibit 5)
- Copy of IDAPA 39.02.60, “Rules Governing License Plate Provisions”
- Copy of Idaho Code §49-409
- Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law, and Preliminary Order, Albert Pete Veenstra v Idaho Transportation Department, dated July 1, 2025 (Proposed Exhibit 2)

In advance of the hearing on this matter, ITD supplemented its initial hearing packet submissions with respect to Proposed Exhibit 4, adding the “Request for Reconsideration” letter from Petitioner Kooch. No objection was made to these exhibits, which were admitted. (Hearing Record (“HR”), 56:11-59:21.)

In advance of the hearing, Petitioner Kooch also submitted an Exhibit A, “Description of Exhibits – Internet and Dictionary Resources” and attachments. No objection was made to this exhibit, which was admitted. (Hearing Record (“HR”), 56:11-59:21.)

Finally, at the time of hearing and pursuant to Idaho Code §67-5251(7), the Hearing Officer advised the parties of his intent to take official notice of Spotify’s labeling (or lack thereof) of a song at issue, Alan Jackson’s “Chattahoochee”, as having explicit lyrics. (HR, 1:05:05-1:05:56.)

While Petitioner Kooch did not object to this official notice (HR, 1:09:30-1:09:39), counsel for ITD did object, and also requesting the Hearing Officer take notice of results for “Coochie” in Spotify. (HR, 1:05:56-1:08:59.) ITD’s objection was overruled, and the request for additional official notice also denied. (*Id.*)

At the conclusion of hearing, the matter was deemed submitted. (HR, 1:09:57-1:10:00.)

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner Kooch requested, and was issued, a personalized license plate for a 2013 Ford Escape displaying the message “K00CHI” on April 12, 2023, with an initial expiration date of February 29, 2024. Exhibit 1.

2. On April 30, 2025, ITD issued a “License Plate Cancellation Notification” to Petitioner Kooch regarding the personalized plate, which stated, in relevant part:

You are receiving this letter because during a recent audit of personalized license plates issued to Idaho vehicles, your personalized plate K00CHI was flagged as having a double meaning which the state considers inappropriate for display on an officially issued license plate.

In accordance with Idaho Code, this license plate must therefore be cancelled and recalled, effective May 30, 2025. Display of these plates on your vehicle after that date will be considered a fictitious display of plates, which will subject you to possible citation by law enforcement (**Idaho Code 49- 456**).

You may select an alternative plate to replace the current one by filling out and returning the attached Personalized Plate Correction Form (ITD 3423). Please select a new personalization if applicable, or enter a standard-issue county plate text you own. Fees paid are not subject to refund. Either option will be a no-fee replacement by the Idaho Transportation Department.

Exhibit 1 (emphasis in original).

3. Petitioner Kooch requested, and was issued, a personalized license plate for a 2021 Lincoln Nautilus displaying the message “H00CHI” on or about May 6, 2025, with an initial expiration date of May 31, 2027. Exhibit 3.

4. On May 8, 2025, ITD issued a “License Plate Cancellation Notification” to Petitioner Kooch regarding the personalized plate, which stated, in relevant part:

You are receiving this letter because during a recent audit of personalized license plates issued to Idaho vehicles, your personalized plate H00CHI was flagged as having a double meaning which the state considers inappropriate for display on an officially issued license plate.

In accordance with Idaho Code, this license plate must therefore be cancelled and recalled, effective Jun 07, 2025. Display of these plates on your vehicle after that date will be considered a fictitious display of plates, which will subject you to possible citation by law enforcement (**Idaho Code 49- 456**).

You may select an alternative plate to replace the current one by filling out and returning the attached Personalized Plate Correction Form (ITD 3423). Please select a new personalization if applicable, or enter a standard-issue county plate text you own. Fees paid are not subject to refund. Either option will be a no-fee replacement by the Idaho Transportation Department.

Exhibit 3 (emphasis in original).

5. On June 19, 2025, Petitioner Kooch submitted correspondence to ITD regarding the cancellation notices for the “H00CHI” and “K00CHI” license plates. “License Plate Cancellation Notification.” Exhibit 4. The letter stated, in relevant part:

I have held the plate “K00CHI” for over two years (since 4/12/2023) without issue. It directly references my last name, *Kooch*, and was originally submitted in good faith, with no intent to offend or provoke. Its approval and use during this time have been uneventful and fully compliant, to my knowledge.

I had yet to receive notice that “K00CHI” was being revoked, before submitting a request for the plate “H00CHI” at a physical DMV location. This plate was intended to complement the original in a lighthearted nod to the popular Alan Jackson song *Chattahoochee*, while still tying back to my last name. Unfortunately, I found that this request was also denied, only after calling the number listed on the license plate cancellation notice that I received for my original plate.

(Exhibit 4)(emphases added).

6. On September 18, 2025, ITD sent Petitioner Kooch two additional letters, both entitled “Amended License Plate Cancellation Notification,” one each for the plates “K00CHI”

and “H00CHI”. (Exhibits 1 & 3.)

7. The “Amended License Plate Cancellation Notification” regarding the plate “K00CHI” stated, in relevant part:

Here, **K00CHI** is a variation of the terms of “coochie,” “koochi[e],” “kooch,” or “cooch,” which refers to female genitalia. Therefore, this plate message is prohibited under the above-cited rules on the grounds of sexual connotation, profanity, and a reference to intimate body parts. For example, certain internet and dictionary resources show that:

- According to Google AI Overview the prompt meaning for “Koochi” can refer to a cute or slang term for the vulva in American English.
- According to UrbanDictionary.com, “Koochie” is slang for vagina.
- According to UrbanDictionary.com, “Kooch” is slang for “... female genitalia.”

Additionally, your apparent contention that **K00CHI** has a non-profane meaning does not alter the fact that the plate message has “a double meaning which the state considers inappropriate for display on an officially issued license plate,” as ITD provided in its initial *License Plate Cancellation Notification* letter dated April 30, 2025.

(Exhibit 1)(emphases added).

8. In turn, the “Amended License Plate Cancellation Notification” regarding the plate “H00CHI” stated, in relevant part:

Upon further review, ITD has affirmed that **H00CHI** must be cancelled and recalled because this message is prohibited under Idaho Code § 49-409(1) and IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08(b). IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08(b) provides: “The message, in any language, may not carry a **sexual connotation** nor consist of a term that is considered to be one of obscenity, contempt, prejudice, hostility, insult, racial or ethnic degradation, or profanity, as defined by common internet and dictionary resources. Further, IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08(b)(i) provides: “The message may not refer to any of the following: bodily functions, bodily fluids, or intimate body parts; sexual preference or orientation; acts of violence; illegal substances or the use thereof.”

Here, “H00CHI” can be considered another spelling for the term “Hoochie,” which refers to a sexually promiscuous person violates the above-cited rules prohibiting license plate messages that carry a sexual connotation. For example, certain internet

and dictionary resources show that:

- According to Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary & Thesaurus the prompt meaning for “hoochie” can refer to an insulting word for a woman who has had a lot of sexual partners.
- According to UrbanDictionary.com, “hoochie” is slang for a young woman who has many casual sexual partners or who dresses or behaves in a sexually provocative way.

Additionally, your apparent contention that “**H00CHI**” has a non-prohibited meaning does not alter the fact that the plate message has “a double meaning which the state considers inappropriate for display on an officially issued license plate,” as ITD provided in its initial License Plate Cancellation Notification letter dated April 30, 2025.

(Exhibit 3)(emphases in original).

9. At hearing, Petitioner Kooch explained that the plate “K00CHI” was derived from her last name with the addition of the “I” as a diminutive. (HR, 12:53-13:19.)

10. At hearing, ITD witness Ms. Kiger testified that, with respect to the “K00CHI” license plate, an ITD review group of 8 or 9 persons reached unanimous consensus that the term “coochie” was slang for vagina. (HR, 28:32-29:22 & 51:53-51:56.) Ms. Kiger also noted that, while the plate had been issued a couple of years earlier, it had subsequently been brought to her attention by an individual in the community. (HR, 56:52-57:26.)

11. Additionally, Ms. Kiger testified that, with respect to the “H00CHI” license plate, her team reached unanimous consensus that the term “hoochie” referred to a promiscuous woman/slut. (HR, 32:05-32:29 & 51:53-51:56)

12. With respect to the use of a review team, Ms. Kiger testified that “common knowledge” formed the basis for review of personalized license plate requests, with the use of common internet and dictionary resources as an additional or supplemental resource to “verify we’re not going the wrong direction” in terms of word meanings. (HR, 38:05-39:12.)

13. With respect to personalized license plates, ITD considers phonetic and alternate spellings of words, as people often try to disguise prohibited messages. (HR, 34:30-35:08.)

14. When a personalized license plate request seeks a word/phrase that could be construed as both as a clean message and as a prohibited message, the prohibited message would control ITD's decision. (HR, 38:04-38:38.)

15. ITD does not consider two plates read together as a basis for consideration, and are instead considered individually. (HR, 40:07-43:10.)

16. ITD does not maintain any list of what it considered to be common internet and dictionary resources, nor does it weigh resources that are identified as common internet and dictionary resources. (HR, 45:02-46:17.)

17. ITD does not utilize information from other states regarding their plate approval decisions. (HR, 49:15-50:09 & 52:05-52:31.)

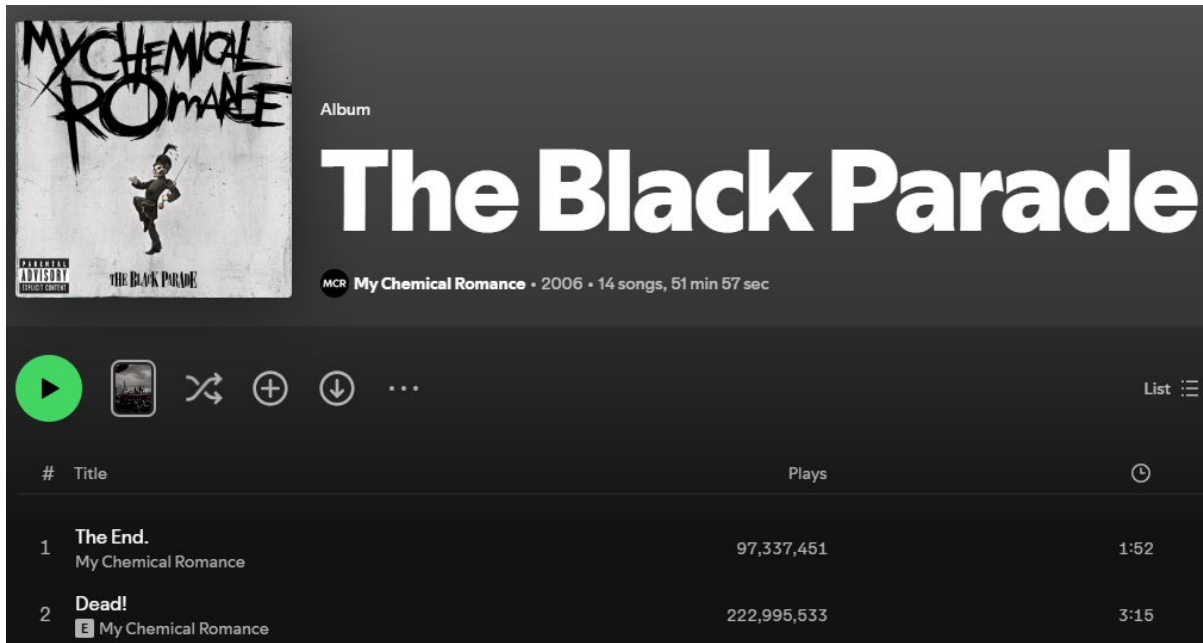
18. Cambridge and Merriam-Webster dictionaries' definitions of "hoochie" reflect that it is a slang term for a sexually promiscuous woman. (Exhibit 5.)

19. An Urban Dictionary definition of "hoochie" from 2019 reflects that it is in reference to a "young woman who has many casual sexual partners or who dresses or behaves in a sexually provocative way." (Exhibit 5.)

20. Urban Dictionary definitions of "koochie" and "kooch" from 2003 reflect that it is a slang term for female genitalia. (Exhibit 5.)

21. Users may provide new definitions to Urban Dictionary via submission; however, such submissions are subject to moderator review/approval before publication. (Exhibit A.)

22. Spotify is a music-streaming service, and labels songs with explicit lyrics with an "E" to denote explicit lyrics, such as, e.g., My Chemical Romance's song "Dead":



The Alan Jackson song “Chattahoochee” – which, relevant here, contains the lyric “Well, way down yonder on the Chattahoochee / It gets hotter than a hoochie coochie” is not labeled as containing explicit lyrics by Spotify:



23. The Hearing Officer finds both Petitioner Kooch and Ms. Kiger’s testimony credible, and otherwise uncontradicted by other evidence in the record.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Because she is challenging ITD's action, Petitioner Kooch bears the burden of proving that ITD acted improperly in issuing its License Plate Cancellation Notifications (and related Amended License Plate Cancellation Notifications) for the "K00CHI" and "H00CHI" plates. *See, e.g., Intermountain Health Care, Inc. v. Board of Cnty. Comm'rs of Blaine Cnty.*, 107 Idaho 248, 251 (Ct. App. 1984), *reversed on other grounds by* 109 Idaho 299 (1985) (burden of proof is on the party challenging government action); *accord*, 2 Am. Jur. 2d Administrative Law § 342.

2. Idaho Code §49-409, regarding personalized license plates, states:

PERSONALIZED LICENSE PLATES. (1) Any person who is the owner of a vehicle registered under section 49-402 or 49-434(1), Idaho Code, may apply to the department for personalized license plates in lieu of regular numbered plates except that this provision shall not apply to a vehicle registered under section 49-434(1), Idaho Code, with a maximum gross weight over twenty-six thousand (26,000) pounds or any vehicle registered under section 49-435, Idaho Code. In addition to the regular registration fees required in section 49-402(1) and (2), section 49-422, and section 49-434(1), Idaho Code, the applicant shall pay the initial program fee and the annual program fee specified in section 49-402, Idaho Code. All revenues from the initial program fee and the annual program fee shall be deposited in the state highway account. The personalized license plates shall be of the same color and design as other license plates, and shall consist of numbers or letters, or any combination thereof, not exceeding seven (7) positions. No more than one (1) particular combination of letters and numbers shall be in existence at any one (1) time. The form for application of the plates will be as prescribed by the director who, **at his discretion, may refuse to issue the plates.**

(emphasis added).

3. The governing ITD regulation (IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08) provides, in relevant part:

Acceptability of the personalized license plate message and issuance, denial or cancellation will be determined by the Department based on the following criteria:

...

b. The message, in any language, may not carry a **sexual connotation** nor consist of a term that is considered to be one of obscenity, contempt, prejudice, hostility, insult, racial or ethnic degradation, or profanity, as **common internet and**

dictionary resources.

...

- i. The message may not refer to any of the following: bodily functions, bodily fluids, or **intimate body parts**; sexual preference or orientation; acts of violence; illegal substances or the use thereof.

(emphases added).

4. IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08 additionally provides, with respect to personalized plates, the following considerations in the evaluation of personalized plates:

- c. The criteria in Paragraph 202.08.b. of this rule is not to be considered an exhaustive list. A compilation of words, terms or letter/number combinations **gathered from the experience of Idaho** and other states **may also be used as a guide**. The Department may also rely on information obtained from law enforcement agencies within or outside of Idaho.

(emphases added).

5. In addition to these statutory and regulatory controls, the State of Idaho is otherwise generally vested with the authority to limit what messages are conveyed on official license plates. *See generally Walker v. Texas Div., Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc.*, 576 U.S. 200, 216-217 (2015) (“Indeed, a person who displays a message on a Texas license plate likely intends to convey to the public that the State has endorsed that message. If not, the individual could simply display the message in question in larger letters on a bumper sticker right next to the plate. But the individual prefers a license plate design to the purely private speech expressed through bumper stickers. That may well be because Texas’s license plate designs convey government agreement with the message displayed.”) *and Hart v. Thomas*, 422 F. Supp. 3d 1227, 1233 (E.D. Ky. 2019) (“A license plate is government property upon which Kentucky has allowed some limited private expression in the form of vanity plates. Therefore, this Court finds that license plates, when made available for private expression, are a nonpublic forum.”). Given this, a State may limit the messages conveyed on vanity plates. *See, e.g., Mitchell v. Maryland Motor Vehicle Admin.*, 450

Md. 282, 311–12 (2016)(“The MVA rescinded Mitchell's plates not because of Mitchell's real or presumed intent, but based on the content with which Maryland is not willing to be associated, and the content the State is not willing to inflict upon the discerning public.”)(cleaned up).

6. As an initial matter, the Hearing Officer finds that the terms “hoochie” and “coochie” have, at a minimum, secondary meanings of a “sexual connotation” and an “intimate body part.” respectively, and are thereby license plate messages subject to rejection by ITD pursuant to IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08.

7. In so finding, the Hearing Officer concludes that the cited resources – for “H00CHI”, the Cambridge and Merriam-Webster dictionaries and the Urban Dictionary, and for “K00CHI”, the Urban Dictionary – are “common internet and dictionary resources.” *See generally*, Idaho Code § 67-5251(8).

- a. With respect to the Cambridge and Merriam-Webster dictionaries, and specifically as to their definitions of “hoochie,” Petitioner Kooch does not offer any argument that these resources are not “common internet and dictionary resources.”
- b. Petitioner Kooch does, however, argue that Urban Dictionary is deficient as a “common internet and dictionary resource” given that is a random assemblage of definitions (rather than a comprehensive dictionary of English words), which definitions are submitted by site-users rather than a single authority. However, the governing regulation does not distinguish between “common internet and dictionary resources” which may be created by an authoritative source (e.g., the Merriam-Webster dictionary), by users (e.g., the Urban Dictionary), or by some other method, nor does it require such “common internet and dictionary resources” to be comprehensive in nature. Indeed, in certain circumstances, crowdsourced

internet resources, even where limited in scope, may be able to more rapidly update evolving definitions – especially in the slang context – than more formal dictionaries, which may only update on an annual basis. In any event, concerns about the user-submitted nature of Urban Dictionary is somewhat alleviated by the fact that the website reflects that it utilizes an approval process prior to publication of user-submitted definitions.

8. ITD’s use of a ‘review team’ in evaluating the words “hoochie” and “coochie” appears permissible pursuant to IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08.c “as a guide” which has been “gathered from the experience of Idaho.” *Accord* IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08.e. Importantly, where a mere “consensus” amongst a ‘review team,’ standing alone, would likely be legally insufficient to support a denial of a requested plate under the governing IDAPA, a consensus reached as to the slang meaning of a word, where aligning with “common internet and dictionary resources” (as here), would provide important support for the “common internet and dictionary resources,” reflecting that such meanings are, in fact, understood and in use (and, thereby, present a risk for running afoul of the limitations in the IDAPA). Thus, in this matter, the uniform consensus of the review team(s) regarding potential slang meanings of “hoochie” and “coochie” bolster those definitions found in the Cambridge dictionary, the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and the Urban Dictionary, and further help identify “letter/number combinations” which may attempt to circumvent immediate identification of a word running afoul of the limitations.

9. This established, Petitioner Kooch otherwise argues that the differences in spelling between her requested plates and ITD’s ‘words of concern’ (in particular, “H00CHI” versus “hoochie”, and “K00CHI” versus “coochie”) nevertheless warrant approval of her plates, citing,

by way of example, the homophones “thought” and “thot”¹. However, neither the statute nor regulation at issue constrain ITD’s rejections to the exact, generally-accepted spelling of a word, thereby ignoring other phonetic or alternate spellings (e.g., leetspeak) which may present impermissible messaging to the general public. Instead, the statute and regulation give ITD broad latitude to consider, for example, “letter/number combinations” which may convey an impermissible message. To construe the governing statute/regulation otherwise would create an exception that would swallow the rule – that is, any number of potentially offensive messages could be displayed on plates simply by changing the spelling by a single letter – which is plainly what is not contemplated for personalized license plates. Thus, if ITD can demonstrate that the requested message – irrespective of spelling – could be read, even if only phonetically, by some segment of the general public as a message prohibited by IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08, then this is sufficient to support the rejection of a requested personalized license plate message. Here, the differences in spelling are of no import, and can appropriately be construed by ITD to be capable of being read as “hoochie” and “coochie”.

10. Additionally, specifically as to the two words at issue, Petitioner Kooch argues the words have meanings other than those identified by ITD:

- a. With respect to “K00CHI”, Petitioner Kooch argues that this is simply her last name with a diminutive added. While the Hearing Officer accepts this as a credible explanation, Petitioner Kooch has not identified any statute, rule, or other decisional authority wherein an individual’s name – as here – can otherwise override the provisions of Idaho Code §49-409 and IDAPA 39.02.60.202.08.

Given the complexity and elasticity of language, there is always the potential that

¹ A slang term of disparagement derived from the abbreviation of a phrase regarding a sexually promiscuous woman.

a given name may have an unfortunate secondary offensive meaning. In the license plate context, this means that a requested message – even if an innocuous reference to one’s own name – may be construed, instead, by a member of the general public in the offensive sense (for example, the traditional nickname for Richard). Here, the potential reading of the secondary usage here (the offensive meaning, rather than a name with a diminutive) supports ITD’s rejection.

- b. With respect to “H00CHI,” Petitioner Kooch points to the use of the phrasing “hoochie coochie” as lyrics from an Alan Jackson song. Indeed, there is no evidence in the record that suggests that the phrase “hoochie coochie” has an offensive meaning, either in the past (Mr. Jackson recorded “Chattahoochee” in 1992) or at present. However, as explained by ITD at hearing, ITD does not evaluate requested personalized license plates in conjunction with other plates – instead, they are evaluated individually. This is consistent with the governing statute and regulation, which make no discussion of evaluation of plates in any context other than individually-requested plates. Thus, where the phrase “hoochie coochie” may have no offensive meaning, the word “hoochie” – read in isolation, as it would on a license plate – could have a potentially offensive meaning as read by a member of the general public. Thus, ITD’s rejection of “H00CHI”, as a stand-alone message rather than as a component of the phrase “hoochie coochie,” appears supported by governing law.

11. Thus, in summary, Petitioner Kooch has not demonstrated that ITD’s identified meanings for the proposed plate messages of “H00CHI” and “K00CHI” are incorrect or otherwise unsupported by “common internet and dictionary resources.” Accordingly, Petitioner Kooch has

not met her burden in this matter, and as such, ITD's Amended License Plate Cancellation Notifications of September 18, 2025 for the requested plates "K00CHI" and "H00CHI" should be appropriately affirmed.

PRELIMINARY ORDER

Based on the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law set forth above, ITD's decisions to cancel and recall Petitioner Kooch's personalized license plates of "H00CHI" and "K00CHI", as reflected in the Amended License Plate Cancellation Notifications of September 18, 2025, are **AFFIRMED**.

RULE 626 NOTICE

This is a preliminary order of the presiding officer. It can and will become final without further action of the agency, and without any further notice to you, unless any party requests that either the presiding officer or the agency head review it. If no such request is made within fourteen (14) days of the service of this preliminary order, the order will become final, and you will then have twenty-eight (28) days to file a petition for judicial review with a district court, pursuant to Idaho Code Sections 67-5270 through 67-5279.

If you disagree with this preliminary order, you may file a "motion for reconsideration" with the presiding officer, or you may file a "petition for review" with the agency head. You are allowed to file both of these.

If you would like to file a motion for reconsideration of this preliminary order with the presiding officer, you must do so within fourteen (14) days of the service date of this order. After the presiding officer receives your motion for reconsideration, they have twenty-one (21) days to rule upon it. If they do not issue a ruling within twenty-one (21) days, your motion will be considered denied.

If another party has filed a motion for reconsideration of this preliminary order, you must file any opposition brief within fourteen (14) days from the service date of the motion for reconsideration. No further briefing by any party will be permitted unless the presiding officer, in their discretion, requests it.

You may file a petition for review regarding this preliminary order, with a supporting brief which sets forth the basis for review, directly with the agency head within fourteen (14) days of the service date of this order, unless the agency head sets a different deadline. The agency head may also notify the parties within fourteen (14) days of the service date of this order, that they, by their own choice, are reviewing this preliminary order, which notice will identify the issues the agency head will review. If a motion for reconsideration has been filed with the presiding officer, your petition for review, or the agency head's notice, does not have to be filed until fourteen (14) days after the motion for reconsideration process with the presiding officer is complete.

If another party has filed a petition for review of this preliminary order with the agency head, you must file any opposition brief within fourteen (14) days from the service date of the petition for review. No further briefing by any party will be permitted unless the agency head, in their discretion, requests it.

If you would like to request oral argument regarding any motion for reconsideration or petition for review, you must state so in your filings. The decision whether to have oral argument is a decision for the presiding officer or the agency head to make, and they may decide to not have oral argument, even if you or any other party has requested it.

If an agency head reviews a preliminary order, they have the option of either issuing a final order, remanding the matter back to the presiding officer, or holding additional hearings. You will be notified of the agency head's choice if the preliminary order is reviewed.

DATED: November 4, 2025.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

/s/ Bryan A. Nickels

Bryan A. Nickels
CALJ/Hearing Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 4, 2025, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

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Elaine Maneck, Deputy Clerk
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