

Transcript of the Testimony of

**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
MEETING OF 11-16-2023**

November 16, 2023



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STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 BOARD MEETING

This Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting was taken by Belinda K. Amerson, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, at the Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 5, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the 16th day of November, 2023.



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APPEARANCES :

CHAIRMAN RONNIE S. JOHNS

MS. HOOD

MS. HERNANDEZ

JULIE G. BERRY

MAJOR MCNEILL

FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER

CLAUDE D. JACKSON

JULIE A. LEWIS

LAMAR O. POOLE, JR.

KATRINA EMERY

RONALD J. SHOLES

ASHLEY ANDERSON TRAYLOR

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen.
I would like to call to order the
Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting on
Thursday, November 16th, 2023.

And, Ms. Hernandez, would you call
the roll, please?

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

MR. AVANT:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

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MS. LEWIS:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Colonel Davis.

MR. MAJ. MCNEILL:

Major McNeill for Colonel Davis.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

And Secretary Richard.

MS. EMERY:

1 Katrina Emery for Secretary Richard.

2 MS. HERNANDEZ:

3 We have a quorum.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 Okay. Thank you. We have a quorum.

6 Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, this is the
8 time of our meeting each month if there
9 are any public comments, anybody from the
10 public today would like to make a comment?

11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. DOMINIQUE:

13 Yes, sir, I would like to make a
14 public comment.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Come forward, sir. Just have a
17 seat. Please identify yourself on the
18 record.

19 MR. DOMINIQUE:

20 My name is Ferrante Dominique. I'm
21 from 57046 CPL Herman Brown, Junior Street
22 in Bayou Goula, Louisiana 70788. Also I
23 have a dual residence at 58215 Bayou Road,
24 Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Okay.

2 MR. DOMINIQUE:

3 I was just told at the Lucky Louie's
4 Casino that I was a black nigger and I had
5 to leave. I've been calling the
6 commission. I've been calling the state
7 police, and that's how I got here. I
8 rushed over here. I just -- I went there
9 with a hundred dollars and I won two
10 jackpots, and the machines cut off. I got
11 a ticket for \$12 and a ticket for \$8, and
12 this is the \$20 that I left with.

13 There's no way in the world I won
14 every hand and the jackpots and the
15 machine cut off. The machines are still
16 cut off right now, but the state trooper
17 didn't come. Sheriff Brett Stassi called
18 he works for the municipal, he's running
19 for sheriff in West Baton Rouge. I'm
20 actually -- I was going to donate to his
21 campaign, but he has enough money. And I
22 also was going to donate to Leo Fontenot
23 because they both are upstanding men and
24 both of them are my friends. And Brett's
25 friends with John Bell Edwards, and we

1 just transitioned to Jeff Landry. I'm
2 actually running for governor in the next
3 few years. I'm running for the mayor of
4 Plaquemine right now. But I need someone
5 to -- I mean someone needs to go to Lucky
6 Louie's Casino and find out what's going
7 on. I got all the records, the cameras.
8 I took pictures. I even got a picture
9 where I won the jackpot, and I never got
10 to go to the -- to the bonus.

11 So I really don't know -- I mean I'm
12 just here to comment that I believe that
13 the state gambling is rigged.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Okay. Mr. Dominique, I'm going to
16 have to kind of cut you off for a second.

17 MR. DOMINIQUE:

18 That's okay. I'm nervous, but I
19 just --

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 No, sir. We appreciate you being
22 here. We're going to -- I can assure you
23 we're going to get with state police about
24 --

25 MR. DOMINIQUE:

1 Okay. I got a -- I got a ticket
2 next flight to Houston.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 Okay. But we can only discuss
5 what's on our agenda today.

6 MR. DOMINIQUE:

7 Okay. Can I see an agenda? I don't
8 have an agenda.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 So we're going to have to ask you to
11 excuse yourself from the table --

12 MR. DOMINIQUE:

13 Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 -- but I can assure you that we take
16 all of this very seriously.

17 MR. DOMINIQUE:

18 Yes, sir.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 And we will absolutely be in touch.

21 MR. DOMINIQUE:

22 Okay. I'm on my way to Jill Crafts'
23 office. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Thank you, sir.

1 MR. DOMINIQUE:

2 Okay. God bless you all.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 Yes, sir. Good luck to you.

5 MR. DOMINIQUE:

6 And, look, I got this here on my
7 hand, 48 for Louisiana. We the richest
8 state in the world per capita.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Yes, sir.

11 MR. DOMINIQUE:

12 God bless.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Thank you very much.

15 Okay. Any other public comments for
16 anything on the agenda today?

17 Seeing none. Members, before you we
18 have the minutes from the October the
19 19th, 2023 meeting. I would ask for a
20 motion to waive the reading and approve
21 those minutes.

22 Ms. Berry has made that motion. Mr.
23 Jackson has seconded that motion.

24 Is there any opposition? Hearing
25 none, that motion carries.

1 We would enter revenue reports.

2 Ms. Jackson, good morning.

3 MS. JACKSON:

4 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board
5 Members. My name is Donna Jackson with
6 Louisiana State Police Gaming Audit
7 Section.

8 In October, the 14 operating
9 riverboats generated adjusted gross
10 receipts of \$132,508,618. The state
11 collected fees totalling \$28,489,353.

12 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal
13 year '23-'24 to date are \$554.7 million, a
14 decrease of \$3.9 million or 1% from fiscal
15 year '22-'23.

16 As of October 31st, 2023, the state
17 collected \$119.3 million in fees for
18 fiscal year '23-'24.

19 Page 2 shows the riverboat revenue
20 broken down by regional market. The
21 overall decrease from September was almost
22 \$7 million or 5%. Compared to last
23 October, this month's revenues represent
24 an increase of \$1.5 million or 1.2%.

25 Next is the summary of October 2023

1 gaming activity for Harrah's New Orleans,
2 found on page 3. Harrah's generated
3 \$19,642,152 in gross gaming revenue.
4 These revenues represent a decrease from
5 last month of \$1 million or 5%, and a
6 decrease of \$2.7 million or 12% for the
7 same month last year.

8 During October, the state received
9 \$5,505,465 in minimum daily payments.

10 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal
11 year '23-'24 to date are \$75.7 million, a
12 decrease of \$11.5 million or 13% from
13 fiscal year '22-'23.

14 As of October 31st, 2023, the state
15 collected \$21.8 million in fees for fiscal
16 year '23-'24.

17 Next I'll present the revenues for
18 Slots at the Racktracks. During October,
19 the four racetrack facilities combined
20 generated adjusted gross receipts of
21 \$22,354,384, a decrease of \$2.7 million or
22 11% from September 2023, and a decrease of
23 \$3.3 million or 13% when compared to the
24 same month last year.

25 During October, the state collected

1 \$3.4 million in fees. Adjusted gross
2 receipts for fiscal year '23-'24 to date
3 are \$100 million, a decrease of \$5.9
4 million or 6% from fiscal '22-'23.

5 As of October 31st, 2023, the state
6 has collected approximately \$15 million in
7 fees for fiscal year '23-'24.

8 I'll now move to the video gaming
9 information. There are 11,834 video
10 gaming devices activated at 1,390
11 locations. Net device revenue for October
12 2023 was \$59,360,167, a decrease of
13 \$724,384 or 1.2% when compared to
14 September 2023, and a decrease of \$3.6
15 million or 5.7% when compared to last
16 October. Total franchise fees for October
17 2023 totaled \$18 million.

18 Fiscal year to date Net device
19 revenue is \$242.6 million, a decrease of
20 \$13.7 million or 5.4% when compared to
21 last fiscal year.

22 As of October 31st, 2023, the state
23 has collected \$73.5 million in franchise
24 fees for fiscal year 2024.

25 Next, I'll present the October

1 revenue for Sportsbook. During October,
2 the 18 retail sportsbooks accepted over
3 \$32 million in sports wagers, resulting in
4 net proceeds of approximately \$3.3 million
5 and \$342,067 in state taxes.

6 The nine mobile sportsbook operators
7 accepted over \$276 million in sports
8 wagers, resulting in net proceeds of \$39.2
9 million and almost \$5 million in taxes
10 paid to the state.

11 Finally, for Daily Fantasy Sports,
12 gross revenues for October was \$1.9
13 million, with net revenue of approximately
14 \$206,000 and taxes of \$16,500.

15 Any questions?

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. Any questions from the board
18 for Ms. Jackson?

19 So, Ms. Jackson, I -- if I'm not
20 mistaken, this may be a new record month
21 for sports -- for sports wagering.

22 MS. JACKSON:

23 Mobile, yes, sir.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 For mobile, yeah. Total -- total

1 amount.

2 MS. JACKSON:

3 Right. Total -- yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 So if my math is correct, we get
6 about 308 million wagering in October.

7 MS. JACKSON:

8 Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Okay. Large numbers.

11 Okay. Any questions? Hearing none,
12 Ms. Jackson, thank you very much for your
13 great work.

14 Now, moving to compliance reports
15 for the third quarter of 2023.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

17 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board
18 Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General
19 Jeremy Gathe. And today I'll present the
20 staff reports for riverboat and racetrack
21 casino licensees' compliance with
22 employment and procurement conditions for
23 the third quarter of 2023.

24 I'll begin with the riverboats. The
25 third quarter reports are taken from

1 figures reported by 15 operating
2 riverboats to the Louisiana Gaming Control
3 Board.

4 In the third quarter of 2023,
5 approximately 9,171 people were employed
6 by the riverboat industry. Of that number
7 8,988 were Louisiana residents; 5,647 were
8 minorities, and 5,030 were women.

9 Four licensees achieved total
10 compliance this quarter, and those
11 licensees are Golden Nugget Lake Charles,
12 L'Auberge Baton Rouge, Margaritaville
13 Resort Casino and L'Auberge Lake Charles.

14 Next I'll address employment.
15 Eleven licensees did not meet their total
16 employment goals, and they are: Diamond
17 Jacks Casino & Resort, which achieved 11
18 out of a goal of 650; Sam's Town Hotel &
19 Casino which achieved 394 out of a goal of
20 700; Horseshoe Bossier City which achieved
21 542 out of a goal of 1,000; Boomtown New
22 Orleans, which achieved 451 out of a goal
23 of 555; Belle of Baton Rouge Casino, which
24 achieved 143 out of a goal of 450;
25 Treasure Chest Casino, which achieved 352

1 out of a goal of 500; The Queen Baton
2 Rouge, which achieved 422 out of a goal of
3 450; Amelia Belle Casino which achieved
4 164 out of a goal of 325; Horseshoe Lake
5 Charles which achieved 571 out of a goal
6 of 650; Boomtown Casino Bossier which
7 achieved 304 out of a goal of 650; and
8 Bally's Shreveport, which achieved 631 out
9 of a goal of 950.

10 All licensees either meet or
11 exceeded their goals in all of the
12 subcategories under the main category of
13 employment with the exception of Treasure
14 Chest Casino, which achieved 45.5% out of
15 a goal of 51.86% under the subcategory of
16 female employment.

17 Next I'll address procurement.
18 Licensees are grouped according to three
19 subcategories which appear in your report.
20 Those subcategories are Louisiana,
21 minority and female procurement.

22 Under Louisiana procurement, all
23 licensees either met or exceeded their
24 goals. Under the subcategory of minority
25 procurement, two licensees did not achieve

1 compliance with their voluntary
2 conditions, and those licensees are
3 DiamondJacks Casino, which achieved 2.4%
4 out of a goal of 10%, and Bally's
5 Shreveport, which achieved 9.3% out of a
6 goal of 13%.

7 For female procurement, one licensee
8 did not achieve compliance with its
9 voluntary conditions, and that is Bally's
10 Shreveport, which achieved 13.9% out of a
11 goal of 15%.

12 Are there any questions regarding
13 the riverboats?

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Any questions, Members? If I could
16 make a comment, I -- I did communicate
17 with Bally's yesterday about not meeting
18 their minority and their women goals.
19 They have acquired -- Members of the
20 Board, this is for your knowledge. They
21 have acquired a new female minority vendor
22 just a few weeks ago, and -- and they have
23 assured me that their goals will be met in
24 the future. So I feel comfortable after
25 -- after visiting with them on that.

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Okay.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

Yes, that's correct.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

Now we're going to the racetracks. In the third quarter of 2023, approximately 1,243 people were employed by the racetrack casino. Of that number, 1,023 were Louisiana residents, 654 were minority, and 733 were women. All of the racetracks achieved total compliance this quarter with the exception of Delta Downs, which did not achieve its Louisiana employment condition. It achieved 59.3% out of the 80% condition.

Under procurement, all licensees either met or exceeded their goals in all of the subcategories.

Are there any questions regarding the racetracks?

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Any questions, Members?

No questions.

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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you, Mr. Gathe. I appreciate the comments. And Members, as you realize, a little further down in the agenda today we will be discussing employment goals.

Okay. Members, as you remember, last month we had some discussion about the compulsive gambling issues, particularly down in the New Orleans area, and our board member, Judge Sholes asked if it would be possible for us to gather some more information on that.

So we have invited Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, who heads up the Metropolitan Human Services District, and I think she's here with us today.

DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good. Could you come forward, please?

Good morning.

1 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

2 Good morning.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 May I address you as Dr. Dunham?

5 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

6 Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Is that correct?

9 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

10 That's fine. That's perfectly fine.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 That's close. Okay. Thank you very
13 much for being here with us. I think you
14 brought your laptop with you, but we're
15 not able to hook it up.

16 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

17 Yeah. Yeah. And I put a lot of
18 time in those slots for you all. That's
19 okay. I could talk to that too.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Dr. Dunham, if you would, give us
22 kind of a concise report. We've got a
23 very, very long agenda today and I sure
24 don't want to cut you short because this
25 is very, very important to us, but I know

1 we have a lot of questions from some board
2 members, including myself.

3 So let's proceed with your
4 presentation and maybe share with the
5 board what -- what y'all are doing in your
6 service district for the compulsive
7 gambling issues.

8 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

9 Okay. Absolutely.

10 Well, good morning to the committee
11 members and thank you for --

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 Would you put the microphone a
14 little closer to you and for the record
15 identify yourself.

16 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

17 Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham, the
18 executive and medical director for
19 Metropolitan Human Services District.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Okay. Thank you.

22 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

23 Thank you for this opportunity to
24 share some information with you about what
25 we're doing in New Orleans. And I know

1 that there were questions that were
2 specifically asked; hopefully, I'll go
3 over the answer to those. If not, I'll
4 answer afterwards.

5 So I wanted to start off with just a
6 little bit of a historical note on where
7 we have been for quite sometime in the
8 region 1 area, which previously existed
9 prior to us becoming a local government
10 entity being responsible for the services
11 for Orleans, St. Bernard and Plaquemines
12 Parishes. Mental illness, addiction and
13 interventional and developmental
14 disability services are our -- is our
15 purview and gambling falls under addictive
16 disorders.

17 So we have through statutory
18 requirement, the requirement to treat
19 people with compulsive gambling disorders
20 as a part of an addictive spectrum. In
21 addition to, we have a contractual
22 agreement with the Louisiana Department of
23 Health through the Office of Behavioral
24 Health, which requires that we provide
25 services for people with gambling

1 disorders.

2 One of the things that we did that
3 may not be on your radar is pre-Katrina we
4 actually did stand up a room and board
5 gambling residential facility and it was
6 called Core South.

7 Core South was intended to provide
8 an opportunity for people to have a place
9 to stay overnight, but during the day they
10 connected to outpatient services at MHSD
11 and with other providers in the area.
12 That program I think may have been under
13 five years in existence before pre --
14 before Katrina and it was never
15 resurrected again, and so we were left
16 without a residential program in the area.

17 At the time funding and support was
18 clearly indicated for it and continues to
19 be indicated, but we've not revisited
20 that. As you know, the only residential
21 program currently exists in Shreveport
22 Core.

23 But in terms of what we have
24 provided and what's the requirements of
25 us, we have a lot of program requirements

1 and treatment priorities. Categorically
2 we provide outpatient treatment and that
3 treatment includes group and individual
4 therapy in person and online.

5 We also provide referrals for
6 financial counselling. And we do the
7 individual therapy with therapists, who
8 are licensed compulsive gambling trained.
9 And we have on staff three people who have
10 the licensed compulsive gambling
11 certification and other certifications,
12 and we have one contractor who we recently
13 contracted with.

14 The other priority has been to
15 provide community awareness of gambling,
16 because like the other substance abuse
17 disorders, they don't get the press, the
18 knowledge, the information generally in
19 communities about people suffering with
20 this condition. It's a very devastating
21 condition too, as many of you all know,
22 for people to have. And so we do a lot of
23 gambling awareness around that.

24 We -- also, we have a pretty robust
25 data system around which we direct and

1 determine what is necessary for our
2 communities. So a lot of what we do is
3 data driven decision-making, and then we
4 have a workforce development as a more
5 recent, more robust effort.

6 Though we have always been required
7 to have on staff people with compulsive
8 gambling certification, it's always been
9 very difficult to find people in this
10 state who have that certification and who
11 can really, really do a reputable job for
12 working with compulsive gamblers.

13 So we look at performance and
14 accountability. And we also have
15 certification requirements that we comply
16 with. For our programatic services side,
17 we operate compulsive gambling services in
18 person out of four of five clinics, but
19 you can get virtual -- and virtual
20 services out of all of clinics and
21 in-person services depending upon where
22 the counselors are residing.

23 The counselors -- the counselling
24 staff also are civil servants, but also we
25 have contractors who have in the past and

1 currently work with us.

2 Our credentialed staff are also all
3 licensed addiction counselors who have
4 gone on to get an additional certification
5 in compulsive gambling, and two of them
6 also provide supervision for gambling.

7 Financially, we have historically
8 received funding interagency transfer from
9 the Department of Health for both
10 treatment and prevention for gambling.
11 Prevention dollars have hovered around
12 20,000. It hasn't really changed very
13 much, at least not in the last five, six
14 years; but in our treatment dollars have
15 hovered around 150,000, and more recently
16 also the Office of Behavioral Health
17 actually through a private program
18 initiative increased our budget by a half
19 million. And I'll talk a little bit more
20 about the purpose of that and -- and what
21 has been the outcome of that funding.

22 In terms of trending, our prevention
23 dollars have been pretty much fully spent
24 and have been consistently used more for
25 community awareness, education. It also

1 supports our media campaign around
2 gambling; and, of course, treatment I've
3 -- I've reported to you what that 150 has
4 traditionally provided for us.

5 Now, for the communication part of
6 this, we have three staff. They are very
7 -- we have an aggressive marketing
8 campaign, and we use a diversified number
9 of media vibes. For example, we have
10 cable television commercials. We have
11 outdoor and indoor ads. We have digital
12 promotion. We have radio commercials, and
13 we have community engagement efforts.

14 Most of this started more robustly
15 in 2017, and has continued through the
16 present fiscal year. We have partnered
17 with other agencies and entities to put
18 together panel discussion and outreach for
19 community awareness about compulsive
20 gambling, particularly with the online
21 betting and the uptake in gaming that has
22 really, really plagued our youth
23 specifically.

24 So our data shows a lot, and I'll
25 just go through a few points with you.

1 With regards to the demographics of the
2 people that we see at Metropolitan, 75
3 percent of them are -- who have gambling
4 concerns, 75 percent of them are African
5 American, 13 percent Caucasian, white, 9
6 percent Asian. The age diversification is
7 80 percent adult, 20 percent youth.

8 And then gender 53 percent edged out
9 a little bit more for people who come to
10 Metropolitan, 53 percent are women or
11 females, and 45 percent male, 2 percent
12 identified as transgender.

13 When you look at the state hotline
14 data, the number 1 grouping again is
15 African American. Number 2, white
16 Caucasian. And with regards to persons
17 served by the national hotline measures,
18 it's males more than females, a little bit
19 different from our demographics. And in
20 terms of bi-parish of the tri-parish area,
21 Orleans Parish clearly has 80 percent of
22 the people who are calling in to the
23 hotline for services. And then with
24 regards to by age group, the highest age
25 group that the hotline data is showing in

1 our area is 55 to 64. And number 2, is 45
2 to 54 years old. And then the third group
3 really is unknown. They're not
4 identifying their age.

5 That was the 2024 data. I do have
6 data from 2021 through 2024, but we'll --
7 we'll move on from that.

8 With regards to calls that we're
9 getting in our regional area, we have seen
10 an uptick in the number of calls directly
11 to Metropolitan for our care center
12 specifically for services around gambling.
13 And FY '21, we got 62 calls that were
14 specific to gambling and these calls may
15 have been for other things as well, but
16 certainly gambling was a part of it.

17 FY '22, 94 calls; FY '23, 126 calls
18 directly for gambling services in our
19 region. And so far we've gotten about 17
20 calls from July through September.

21 We think that the call volume is not
22 as high because people know that there is
23 a limited amount of services that are
24 available in our area with the exception
25 of the district itself, there's not much

1 more in the private sector that's going
2 on, which are also supports why a gambling
3 facility becomes so, so important because
4 the intensity that's needed at a
5 residential level is really what begins
6 the grounding process and the healing
7 process, and then you can reduce the
8 intensity in the community-based services
9 but you've got to get that intense
10 introduction to reforming for people to do
11 better.

12 We screen every call that comes in
13 through our care center. We use the live
14 bet screening tool. You all probably know
15 that's a two -- a two questionnaire; two
16 questions questionnaire that is both valid
17 and reliable and highly predictable. If
18 the person answers yes to one or two of
19 those, there is a likelihood that you need
20 to be assessing them for a compulsive -- a
21 gambling disorder.

22 We have had about a total of --
23 number of people who have called over the
24 years. From FY '21 to '24, that number
25 number -- number of people screened has

1 been 11,989 people, but a very, very small
2 percentage of those people actually come
3 into service, less than 2 percent.

4 So even though we know that the
5 people are out there, they are not coming
6 into treatment. They also are more likely
7 to make an appointment but not keep the
8 appointment. So about 30 percent of the
9 time they are scheduling an appointment
10 but are not showing up. Well, 30 percent
11 of the time they're showing up for an
12 appointment, which means 70 percent of the
13 time they are not keeping the appointment
14 that they show up for. And that just
15 speaks to the need for urgency. In -- in
16 real time supports for addictive
17 disorders, you can miss that window, you
18 miss that opportunity, then you probably
19 are going to miss an opportunity of a
20 lifetime in some cases for those
21 individuals.

22 We currently have seen for this
23 quarter for this fiscal year, 35 people
24 have actually completed, gone through the
25 process of care at MHSD.

1 Now, what happened, 2022, the Office
2 of Behavioral Health asked that we pilot a
3 residential program to see if, or to see
4 what would be needed if we were going to
5 put a residential program in the area.
6 It's in our purview Metropolitan's
7 responsibility is to survey, do
8 surveillance, do research and understand
9 what are the needs of those populations
10 that we serve. It wasn't an unreasonable
11 ask, and what we did was they wanted to
12 house a program in an existing licensed
13 addictions counsellor's residential
14 addictions program and figure out how that
15 could work to mix people with primary
16 addiction, gambling disorder with people
17 who have psychoactive substance disorders
18 or substance use disorders. And we did.

19 The original idea was to do five
20 beds, male beds and see how that worked.
21 Well, from the beginning, it was a
22 challenge to do that to even isolate out
23 because of the structure of the program.
24 We did this partnership with Bridge House
25 in New Orleans. It was very difficult to

1 isolate out the beds because the program
2 is so addiction centered for substance use
3 disorders. It's difficult to create an
4 environment where those people could be
5 separate and so forth.

6 So what we did was we created a
7 parallel process, a program wherein the
8 people who have the compulsive gambling
9 disorder were able to do a separate track
10 that was complimentary to their substance
11 use track. Because everybody at Bridge
12 House is there because they have an
13 identified substance abuse disorder.

14 So they continue that work, but we
15 added meetings, more didactic meetings and
16 our referrals are the part of a process to
17 treat them. But unfortunately, that
18 program has licensed addiction counselors
19 and people who do that work for substance
20 use, but he was not trained to do gambling
21 work.

22 So what we did was we hired a
23 counselor to work specifically with him to
24 help him and us put in place a program
25 that would be reputable for this parallel

1 process.

2 We consulted with Janet Miller, who
3 was extremely helpful to us and who we
4 also recognized runs the Core program and
5 certainly does this and would be able to
6 maybe advise; and her advice was very
7 helpful to us. But what was painfully
8 obvious was that you cannot successfully
9 treat a person who has a gambling disorder
10 in a program that is not exclusively
11 staffed and intentionally focussed on
12 gambling as the primary disorder that the
13 person is presenting with.

14 Now, what the data shows, though, is
15 that in at least 40 percent of the cases
16 people who have a gambling disorder have
17 other cooccurring conditions, mental
18 illness, bipolar disorder being often or
19 mood disorders being common, and they also
20 require high-intensity services because in
21 their active addiction and in their most
22 acute phase, they can become suicidal, and
23 often do commit suicide. And so the need
24 for people who are trained to treat mental
25 illness as well as gambling disorder is

1 critical for that population because we're
2 losing a lot of them to the mental illness
3 side of the problem, even though the
4 gambling problem is the thing that is
5 driving the -- the pain and the need for
6 services.

7 So the two things that we learned
8 from that pilot, we -- well, before I say
9 that, Grace House -- I mean the Bridge
10 House program, they screened and assessed
11 more than 75 men in treatment and 29 women
12 in treatment because we also had them to
13 screen the people at Bridge House, which
14 is the parent -- the female side of that
15 program. We also had them -- they
16 actually served 18 males and six females
17 for compulsive gambling disorder, though,
18 over 20 percent of the people identified
19 as having positive symptoms of a
20 compulsive -- of a gambling disorder, but
21 the participation in this parallel program
22 was optional. So nobody was required to
23 participate. So 18 males did. Six
24 females did at the other program. And
25 overall 211 persons were served in group

1 therapy, and that was from 2022 to 2023,
2 that one-year pilot ended in September of
3 this year.

4 So what did we learn? Two major
5 lessons we learned. I mentioned one
6 already. That gambling disorder treatment
7 should exist in the dedicated gambling
8 residential program, but that you have to
9 have behavioral health services available
10 as well. Behavioral health meaning mental
11 health treatment as well as substance use
12 treatment, because of the co-occurrence of
13 these conditions and the impact they have
14 on each other.

15 So and when we say in behavioral
16 health that all of these conditions are
17 primary, which means you have to offer 100
18 percent of care to each one of these
19 conditions if you want one of them to get
20 better. And so co-occurring treatment is
21 what we need here. And, secondly,
22 aggressive planning is needed to develop
23 the workforce.

24 So today if we had another program
25 in New Orleans or in Baton Rouge or

1 wherever in the southern part of the
2 state, we would not have the staff who are
3 licensed and credentialed to do the work.
4 And so workforce development is critical
5 at this -- at this juncture.

6 And so what we have done as a result
7 of the pilot is moved in the direction of
8 developing the workforce. And so as a
9 result of that, we have contracted with
10 two national trainers who we agreed with
11 doing 20 hours of immersed training, 30
12 hours of immersed training for 20
13 individuals over a two-month period on
14 requirements for treating people with
15 gambling disorder. We complete the first
16 cohort of individuals last spring and we
17 are going to have that training resume for
18 the second cohort this coming January,
19 January through February.

20 Now, the interesting thing about
21 this group is now the gambling -- national
22 gambling community has a second credential
23 that you can get. You can get -- always
24 you can get a certified gambling
25 credential if you solely wanted to be a

1 person who treated people with gambling or
2 in conjunction with another condition, but
3 it was a singular certification.

4 Now what they have come out with
5 realizing that many, many people don't
6 even like to do that. Many people are not
7 so inclined to just treat people with
8 gambling disorders. They now have a
9 co-occurring credential for anybody who is
10 licensed and works with behavioral health
11 issues in most cases or not, you can get a
12 primary care license, a primary care
13 physician, you could be a licensed nurse,
14 LPN, RN, whatever, if you have an interest
15 in working with people who suffer with
16 this condition, then you can get this
17 co-occurring credential.

18 And so our cohort of people who are
19 trained were nurses, social workers,
20 licensed addiction counselors, peers and
21 we opened it up to community partners.
22 And so the goal here is to train the
23 community around gambling. Because if you
24 ever decide to selectively treat that
25 population, as a healthcare provider, you

1 need to know what to ask, what to say, and
2 what to do. If somebody is sitting in
3 front of you not declaring and saying that
4 they have this condition, you need to be
5 able to ask the right questions so that
6 you can find out the right answers and get
7 them to the help that they -- that they
8 need.

9 And so that's a logic model
10 operating around why we have invested a
11 significant amount of time into this pilot
12 project. And we'll continue to do these
13 trainings as well as boosters every year.
14 I've had the trainers to train our staff
15 as well on compulsive gambling.

16 And so that's kind of where we are
17 at MHSD with regards to our state
18 requirements for helping people with
19 disabilities that we are responsible for;
20 and we are postured to do whatever we need
21 to do that makes sense for human service
22 authority to do to support people who
23 suffer from a gambling disorder.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Thank you. Very helpful. You

1 talked about the uptick in the last two or
2 three years in your call numbers coming
3 in. Do you have any data as to where
4 those issues are coming from? Are they
5 coming from the casinos? Are they coming
6 from video poker? Are they coming from
7 sports wagering? Do you have anything on
8 that?

9 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

10 We did not query to that level. I'm
11 not sure that we are capturing that degree
12 of information. What we could provide
13 information on those, those people who
14 have completed treatment, the people are
15 in treatment currently, what was their
16 preferred activity.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Okay.

19 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

20 We can give you that, yeah.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Because you did mention online.

23 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

24 Uh-huh (affirmative response).

25 Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Technically, online gaming in
3 Louisiana is illegal. There are these
4 multitude of offshore online casino
5 operations that operate outside the United
6 States that are totally illegal. It's a
7 huge market. It's about 13- to
8 14-billion-dollar-a year market in the
9 United States, and -- and the industry as
10 a whole -- and I'm talking about the
11 entire country -- is very aware of that
12 and trying to work with Congress. We're
13 going to have to have something done on
14 the federal level to -- to ratchet that
15 back. And -- and so it -- it -- the
16 illegal online market is a huge problem --
17 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

18 Uh-huh (affirmative response).

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 -- that we as regulators here in
21 Louisiana can't do a thing about other
22 than advocate to -- to try to get
23 something in from the federal level to
24 help us with that.

25 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

1 Uh-huh (affirmative response).

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Now, mobile sports betting is whole
4 'nother arena. 85 percent of all sports
5 wagering today is done on this little
6 gizmo right here (indicating). So that's
7 the preferred method of particularly
8 younger people to do this.

9 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

10 Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 So I'm going to start with some
13 questions; and I know that Judge Sholes
14 had precipitated this conversation, so I'm
15 going to call on him first.

16 One second, Judge. Let me add you
17 in here. Okay.

18 MR. SHOLES:

19 Thank you, Dr. Dunham, for being
20 here. First, let me make sure that I am
21 clear. It is your recommendation that
22 they be an intensive inpatient program
23 available somewhere in the southern
24 portion of this state; is that correct?

25 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

1 Absolutely.

2 MR. SHOLES:

3 Am I also correct that to your
4 knowledge the legislature did appropriate
5 some funds for such a program; is that
6 right?

7 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

8 The pilot program was a portion for
9 that program, yes.

10 MR. SHOLES:

11 Now, many cities have a problem with
12 the unhoused population. Is it also your
13 understanding, am I correct, that a
14 significant number of people who are
15 homeless, part of their problem has been
16 that they had gambling issues; is that
17 correct?

18 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

19 Yeah. They suffer with mental
20 illness and substance abuse and gambling
21 disorders, yes.

22 MR. SHOLES:

23 And you are now developing
24 sufficient staff that if you had an
25 inpatient program, you'd have the people

1 to treat them?

2 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

3 Yes, sir, that's the goal.

4 MR. SHOLES:

5 Now, on the 988 numbers, do we have
6 a breakdown as to where those people when
7 they call in, where they are call --
8 coming from? Are they coming from north
9 Louisiana, central or south? Can we
10 determine that?

11 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

12 I -- I know that the Office of
13 Behavioral Health tracks that data, and we
14 can certainly get that from them. I was
15 not able to get 988 data in time for this
16 presentation, but that would be your
17 source of where those calls are coming
18 from, and also what percentage of those
19 calls are specific to gambling.

20 MR. SHOLES:

21 And if you could ask this community
22 to do anything to assist you, what would
23 it be?

24 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

25 We are really falling short here.

1 We are not doing the best that we can by
2 our citizens who are suffering from a
3 disease that is often paralytic in that we
4 say that these addictions hold people's
5 brains hostage. And it has nothing to do
6 with goodness or morality or that kind of
7 thing. It is a brain disorder just like
8 diabetes and the physical disorders.

9 And so what are we doing for those
10 conditions? We're doing everything we can
11 to treat people who have physical
12 maladies.

13 I would say the same, that this is a
14 malady that we need to really, really
15 think about funding more for the levels of
16 intervention that are proven to be the
17 most effective. And when I say levels of
18 intervention, it's the degrees of
19 intensity of services that we are able to
20 provide with residential being the most
21 intense; and in the world of addiction,
22 most people have to visit a period where
23 they are removed from the triggers and
24 they are given an intense period of weeks
25 of treatment so that they can reset and

1 recalibrate their brains. And then they
2 can begin the -- the recovery process in
3 the outpatient setting.

4 And we should have access across the
5 state -- easy access across the state for
6 anybody in the state of Louisiana to
7 receive those services.

8 MR. SHOLES:

9 Thank you, ma'am, very much.

10 Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate
11 time, I would like to make a request.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 Okay. Ms. Berry has some questions,
14 I think.

15 MS. BERRY:

16 First of all, Ms. Head-Dunham, I'd
17 like to congratulate you on your amazing
18 presentation. It was very, very
19 educational and very, very thorough. I
20 appreciate you putting all of that
21 together. Although we couldn't see the
22 slides, you did an excellent job. I just
23 have a couple of quick questions, I think.

24 Am I to assume that your services in
25 the gambling addiction counselling area are

1 free of charge as the Core services up in
2 Shreveport are?

3 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

4 Absolutely, they are.

5 MS. BERRY:

6 Absolutely. Good. I wanted to make
7 sure.

8 Another thing that interests me is
9 you mentioned that there is a shortage of
10 current healthcare professionals that are
11 certified for the gambling credentials to
12 serve that population that needs that
13 specific type of mental health
14 counselling.

15 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

16 Correct.

17 MS. BERRY:

18 What does it take to become
19 certified as a mental health professional
20 with gambling credentials? Is it that 30
21 hours that you -- (cell phone ringing) --
22 sorry, sorry about that.

23 Is it that 30 hours that you talked
24 about or is there any additional --

25 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

1 Yeah.

2 MS. BERRY:

3 -- certification rules or what --
4 what does it take to --

5 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

6 Yeah. So the 30 hours is the
7 minimum requirement, and that's more the
8 didactic component of the certification.
9 There is a part of it that's more
10 preceptorial, and then you do have to take
11 a certifying exam.

12 MS. BERRY:

13 So another goal would to get more
14 LPCs or mental health counsellors or
15 people like that to get the certification,
16 especially in the other areas of the state
17 because we have major casinos in the
18 Shreveport, the Lake Charles and New
19 Orleans also.

20 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

21 Yes. It is our hope that in
22 piloting this for LDHODH that this is
23 something that they will consider piloting
24 throughout the entire state or funding
25 this training curriculum, this workforce

1 development curriculum that we have in
2 place across the state. Because you're
3 right, I mean people are gambling across
4 the state --

5 MS. BERRY:

6 Exactly.

7 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

8 -- right.

9 MS. BERRY:

10 Right.

11 DR, HEAD-DUNHAM:

12 And they're doing all types of
13 gambling across the state. And when you
14 see the types of gambling that a
15 significant percentage of people are doing
16 that is illegal, that's a problematic
17 conundrum for a person requesting care.
18 And so what was being said by Mr. Johns
19 about looking how we're going to rectify
20 that is so critical, because most of the
21 time people are committing illegal acts as
22 a result of this disability, and it makes
23 it very hard for them to come out of the
24 shadows to get help.

25 MS. BERRY:

1 Well, they'll be in the right place
2 if they go to your facility, and I
3 appreciate everything we're doing over
4 there, and I appreciate you giving your
5 presentation.

6 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

7 Thank you.

8 MS. BERRY:

9 It was amazing. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Thank you, Ms. Berry.

12 I do know that we have
13 representation from the Department of
14 Health here today. Was there anything
15 you'd like to add or --

16 MS. STUBBS:

17 Dr. Dunham does the best job.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Okay. Thank -- thank you, Ms.
20 Stubbs for being here today with your
21 staff. We greatly appreciate it.

22 Any other questions for Ms. Stubbs
23 at this point from anyone?

24 I -- I -- just a couple more
25 questions, Ms. Dunham.

1 I was in the state senate when there
2 was money put into the capital outlay
3 program for another facility. Originally
4 it was \$7 million, if I'm not mistaken. I
5 was very aware of that. As I realize now
6 and I've looked at the capital outlay
7 budget from this last session, there's
8 only 5 million left. I'm not sure who
9 stole the other 2 million, but I don't
10 know, I shouldn't use that word. But
11 anyway, the other 2 million was probably
12 in either priority one or priority two.
13 I'm not sure where it was. But the 5
14 million that's actually in the capital
15 outlay right now is a priority five, which
16 is almost a wish list, so --

17 And I hope that the incoming
18 administration will see fit to not only
19 restore some of that, but maybe enhance
20 that -- that number.

21 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

22 Yeah.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 But has there been any type of a
25 construction budget talked about or

1 identified a location? Has there been any
2 -- any planning done for such a facility
3 if the funding becomes available?

4 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

5 No planning that directly involves
6 Metropolitan.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Okay.

9 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

10 Now, Metropolitan was -- is as
11 you're probably aware, considered an
12 agency that could very well do that
13 project. Whether or not the funding is
14 actually transferred to Metropolitan or
15 provided for us to do that, that's to be
16 determined by the legislature. But there
17 is no project underway that I'm aware of
18 construction underway, building sought,
19 that type of thing. I'm not aware of
20 anything like that.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 I think originally that was
23 designated to the Odyssey House --

24 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

25 Yes, that's what I understand.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 -- in New Orleans. But I think
3 there was a recent article in the last
4 couple of days of that funding being
5 transferred to -- to your -- to your
6 program.

7 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

8 Correct.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Of course, that's up to the
11 legislature --

12 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

13 Correct.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 -- as we know.

16 And last, you talked a little bit
17 about your -- your budget. Could you give
18 me once again how much your --
19 Metropolitan is actually spending right
20 now on compulsive gambling?

21 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

22 So we're spending like 350,000 is
23 where we landed last year roughly with the
24 prevention budget as well. Our budget is
25 over -- just over 600,000 for this coming

1 -- for the existing year, FY '24 and --

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Your budget for compulsive gambling?

4 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

5 Yes, uh-huh (affirmative response).

6 Yes, because the pilot project is still
7 underway.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9 Okay.

10 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

11 And we are working to make wise
12 decisions about how we should continue to
13 expand the opportunity for us to do
14 really, really, really good work. And so
15 most of the money is centered around
16 workforce development. We really do need
17 to have peer support specialists who are
18 trained in compulsive gambling themselves,
19 have that history, be a part of the
20 services as one of the things that we have
21 learned. But what we were expected to do,
22 which we realize is really not going to be
23 a best practice, was to use that money in
24 existing programs.

25 And so that's a very costly thing to

1 do. And that did not make sense for
2 people, and so that's not the direction we
3 went in. But the Office of Behavioral
4 Health is still working with us on how
5 that funding could best serve and really
6 kind of -- really, honestly try to hold
7 down how much money really do you need to
8 stand up a program that supports a
9 community program as well as a residential
10 program because there are so many
11 different types of referrals that really
12 do need to be in place while a person has
13 this disease. It's not just about the
14 active treatment, licensed clinical
15 professionals, you know, there are other
16 aspects of this that need to be addressed.
17 And so those other supportive services are
18 costly as well. So we're working on that.

19 Do we need to bring case managers?
20 Yeah, we do. Do we need to pay for peers?
21 Yes, we do. But we have to find these
22 people and train these people as well on
23 how to do this work.

24 Financial counselling is a big deal.
25 How do we do that? Do we contract with

1 financial advisors? How do we -- so
2 that's where we are. We're in the throes
3 of trying to figure all of that out.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 And I presume that you work very
6 closely with the Louisiana Association of
7 Compulsive Gambling?

8 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

9 Not exceptionally closely, but I am
10 aware of the role and I work more closely
11 with the Office of Behavioral Health, and
12 they have those connections.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 All right. Any further questions?
15 Judge, you have anything?

16 MR. SHOLES:

17 No, sir. Mr. Chairman, what I would
18 like to do is at the appropriate time I'd
19 like to request that we explore with staff
20 the development of a resolution from this
21 board asking the legislature to provide
22 funding or assistance with the development
23 of an inpatient treatment facility in the
24 other portions of the state that do not
25 have those services now.

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. We can absolutely do that.

MR. SHOLES:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Dr. Dunham, thank you so much for your work. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us today, and we hope to work very closely with you. This Board is taking the issue of compulsive gambling very seriously. And with the enormous amount of money being wagered on sports wagering in the last couple of years, it -- it no doubt is bringing some new awareness to -- to the issue.

So we thank you and we look forward to continue working with you.

DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

Well, thank you so much for this opportunity to share some information with you all and hopefully we can work more closely together.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Sounds great. Thank you so much.

1 Thank you for being here. Have great
2 holidays.

3 DR. HEAD-DUNHAM:

4 You too.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Okay. Members, we're going to move
7 into casino gambling issues. First on the
8 agenda today is the consideration of a
9 temporary certificate of compliance for
10 the alternate riverboat inspection of the
11 gaming vessel of Louisiana I Gaming, a
12 partnership in commendum doing business as
13 Boomtown New Orleans.

14 Ladies?

15 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

16 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
17 Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney
18 General Delancey Houston. With me today
19 is Moriah Reed from AVS. We are here in
20 the matter of the issuance of temporary
21 certificate of compliance to Boomtown
22 Casino, which is located in Harvey,
23 Louisiana.

24 On August 16th, 2023, AVS began the
25 inspection process for the approval of

1 Boomtown Casino's annual certificate of
2 compliance. On October 19th, 2023, an
3 extension of time to resolve this -- these
4 discrepancies was granted by the Board and
5 a temporary certificate of compliance was
6 issued with an expiration of November 19,
7 2023. Boomtown is requesting another
8 extension of time to resolve discrepancies
9 that remain outstanding.

10 Now Ms. Moriah Reed will provide the
11 details on AVS's inspection.

12 MS. REED:

13 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
14 Board Members. I am Moriah Reed, a naval
15 architect with American Vessels Services.
16 And I'm here to report the annual
17 certification for the CV Boomtown Belle 2
18 at Boomtown Casino of New Orleans in
19 Harvey, Louisiana.

20 The inspector's people and I did on
21 August 16th, 2023 attend the riverboat
22 Boomtown Belle Casino to conduct the
23 annual inspection in accordance with the
24 Louisiana Alternative Inspection Program.
25 The deficiencies from this survey are

1 noted on pages 6 through 9 of your annual
2 report. A follow-up inspection was done
3 and seven deficiencies remained. These
4 deficiencies were noted on pages 2, 3 and
5 4 of supplemental survey dated October 3rd
6 in your package.

7 At the October meeting, the board
8 unanimously voted to allow an extension
9 for November.

10 Another follow-up survey was
11 conducted on November 6, and three
12 deficiencies remain and are outstanding.
13 These deficiencies are noted on pages 2
14 and 3 of the supplemental survey dated
15 November 7 in your package.

16 As a result of these remaining
17 deficiencies not being completely
18 satisfied, the property has requested an
19 extension of their COC to allow sufficient
20 time to complete the deficiencies. The
21 delay appears to be material and
22 contractor availability.

23 AVS has worked with the property to
24 understand the remaining deficiencies and
25 AVS feels they do not pose a risk to the

1 safety of the passengers and crew of the
2 vessel. AVS also feels confident that the
3 property is working diligently on
4 satisfying these outstanding items and
5 that all remaining items should be
6 completed by the next board meeting.

7 The 2023 annual survey as required
8 by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board is
9 not complete. As such, the property has
10 requested an extension, and this extension
11 request letter from the property is in
12 your package.

13 It is the recommendation of AVS that
14 BOOMTOWN BELLE 2 be issued a temporary
15 certificate of compliance for December of
16 2023 to allow additional time to satisfy
17 the remaining deficiencies.

18 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

19 We now present these findings to the
20 Board and request that upon the Board
21 accepting the report submitted by AVS here
22 today, you will move with the issuance of
23 a temporary certificate of compliance to
24 Boomtown Casino, which will expire on
25 December 31st, 2023.

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Is there anyone from Boomtown here?

MS. KIRKLAND:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Come forward, please.

Good morning.

MS. KIRKLAND:

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

If you would, identify yourself for the record, please.

MS. KIRKLAND:

Tiffany Kirkland, director of property operations.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Ms. Perkins (sic), thank you for being here today.

You feel very confident that by December 31st of this year that all of this can be completed?

MS. KIRKLAND:

Yes, sir. The void three repairs are scheduled to began on October -- on November the 27th, and they should be

1 completed within a ten-day period. And
2 the fire panel has been ordered and
3 installation will be done before December
4 the 31st.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Okay. All right. Thank you for
7 being here.

8 Any questions from the Board?

9 If not, I would entertain a motion
10 to issue a temporary certificate of
11 compliance, which will expire on December
12 31st of 2023.

13 Judge Sholes has made a motion. Ms.
14 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.
15 Is there any discussion?

16 Is there any opposition to that
17 motion?

18 Hearing none, that motion carries.

19 So thank you for coming today.

20 MS. KIRKLAND:

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Thank you, Ladies.

24 Okay. Next, consideration of the
25 certificate of compliance for the

1 alternate riverboat inspection of
2 Horseshoe Entertainment L.P. doing
3 business as Horseshoe Bossier City Casino
4 & Hotel.

5 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

6 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
7 Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney
8 General Venise Johnson. With me is Moriah
9 Reed of AVS. We are here in the matter of
10 the issuance of a certificate of
11 compliance for Horseshoe Casino Bossier
12 City.

13 On October 17th, 2023, AVS began the
14 inspection process for the approval of the
15 Horseshoe Casino Bossier City a
16 certificate of compliance. Ms. Moriah
17 Reed will now provide the details of the
18 AVS inspection.

19 MS. REED:

20 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
21 Board Members. I'm Moriah Reed with
22 American Vessel Services, and I'm here to
23 report the annual certification for
24 Horseshoe Casino Bossier City.

25 The inspector's people and myself

1 did on October 18th of 2023 attend the
2 riverboat King of the Red to conduct an
3 annual inspection in accordance with the
4 Louisiana Alternative Inspection Program.

5 The inspectors reviewed fire
6 protection measures, egress routes,
7 observed emergency lighting, tested the
8 emergency generator, inspected the mooring
9 system and conducted a fire drill as well
10 as other required life safety items.

11 There were no deficiencies as noted
12 on page 5 of the annual survey report.

13 The 2023 annual survey as required
14 by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board is
15 now complete, and King of the Red is
16 considered fit to continue service as a
17 dockside gaming riverboat in the State of
18 Louisiana.

19 It is the recommendation of AVS that
20 the vessel the King of the Red be issued
21 the certificate of compliance for 2024.

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

23 We now present these findings to the
24 Board and request that upon the Board's
25 acceptance of the report submitted by AVS,

1 you will move for issuance of a
2 certificate of compliance for Horseshoe
3 Casino of Bossier City, which expires on
4 December 31st, 2024.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Everything complete.

7 MS. REED:

8 Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you, Horseshoe Bossier.

11 Any questions from the Board? Any
12 questions?

13 If not, Mr. Jackson has moved that
14 we issue a certificate of compliance for
15 the Horseshoe Bossier, which will expire
16 December 31st of 2024. Mr. Avant has
17 seconded that motion.

18 Is there any discussion?

19 Any opposition?

20 Hearing none, that motion carries.

21 Thank you very much.

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

23 Thank you.

24 MS. REED:

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Thank you, Moriah, have a safe trip.

3 Okay. Moving along to consideration
4 of a petition to the amend -- to amend the
5 terms of Louisiana Gaming Board Resolution
6 for the Treasure Chest Casino doing
7 business as Treasure Chest Casino.

8 Good morning.

9 MS. BOLES:

10 Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Members
11 of the Board. My name is Janet Boles, and
12 I represent Boyd Gaming within the State
13 of Louisiana.

14 This matter comes before you today
15 as a petition from Treasure Chest Casino
16 to -- they were awarded a resolution by
17 y'all to move onshore in December of 2021.
18 That resolution contained a provision
19 whereby they had to complete construction
20 within 24 months, which would be December
21 15th of 2023. We're here to ask for a
22 seven-month extension of that time.

23 The delay is required because of
24 permitting problems. It wasn't a problem.
25 It just took longer than we anticipated to

1 get the permits. We had to get a permit
2 from DNR, the Office of Coastal
3 Management, the Core of Engineers, and the
4 levee board; and it simply took longer
5 than anticipated.

6 Upon receipt of the approval of the
7 permits, construction began in earnest and
8 we worked diligently ever since. We met
9 all construction goals and we have no
10 doubt that we will be essentially complete
11 by May 15th. But we have to seek an
12 amendment of the resolution that you
13 issued in December for seven months so
14 that we can complete construction and be
15 open for gaming on July 15th of 2024.

16 We have filed with you every month
17 work in progress showing what we've done.
18 And to date Treasure Chest has spent
19 approximately \$51.6 million on the
20 project. And we're on target for a
21 mid-May completion day, substantial
22 completion. And that will allow six to
23 eight more weeks to get ready for the
24 gaming operations to commence on July
25 15th.

1 With me is Kim Atlin, who is GM for
2 Treasure Chest and the regional vice
3 president for Boyd Vince Sports, if you
4 have any questions. But barring any
5 unforeseen circumstances or acts of God,
6 we will commit to you that we will be
7 ready for operation on July 15th, 2024.
8 And we just ask for that extension. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 So if I read right, application with
12 Coastal Management and the Army Corps of
13 Engineers was made in July of 2021, but it
14 was not approved until January of 2023?

15 MS. BOLES:

16 That's correct.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Why? Is that correct?

19 MS. BOLES:

20 Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Pretty much. Not surprising. Okay.
23 I've dealt with the Corps before.

24 UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

25 It surprised us a little bit.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Okay. Any questions from the board?

3 MS. BOLES:

4 And we waited until now to file our
5 application so that we would actually be
6 absolutely be prepared to represent when
7 we would be open. So we know that we have
8 to get the extension, that's why we waited
9 until now, didn't do it several months
10 back because we wanted to make sure we
11 were on target for substantial completion.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 All right. And Members, each month
14 we get a very comprehensive construction
15 report from the Treasure Chest.

16 Y'all are doing a great job of that.
17 I appreciate that very much. It gives us
18 a very detailed overview of where they are
19 in construction, and I'm very comfortable
20 as to the diligence that y'all are putting
21 into getting this completed.

22 So, Members, I -- I personally as
23 one board member am fine with this, but
24 we'll leave that up to the Members of the
25 Board.

1 Is there any questions from the
2 Board Members? Any questions?

3 Okay. If not, I would entertain a
4 -- wait, we have what you call AG's
5 office. We do not. Okay.

6 Okay. I would entertain a motion to
7 adopt a resolution for this request.

8 MR. SHOLES:

9 So moved.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Judge Sholes has made that motion
12 and Ms. Berry has seconded that motion.
13 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read the
14 resolution, please.

15 MS. HERNANDEZ:

16 On the 16th day November 2023, the
17 Louisiana Gaming Control Board did in a
18 duly noticed public meeting consider the
19 petition to amend terms of Louisiana
20 Gaming Control Board resolution filed by
21 Treasure Chest Casino doing business as
22 Treasure Chest Casino; and upon motion
23 duly made and seconded, the Board adopted
24 the resolution.

25 Whereas on December 16, 2021, the

1 Board adopted a resolution which contained
2 the following provision regarding its
3 riverboat gaming landside facility to seek
4 to complete construction of approved
5 project and commence gaming operations in
6 the facility for recommencement of gaming
7 operations upon the vessel within 24
8 months from this resolution date.

9 Failure to meet this deadline or to
10 receive an extension may result in
11 forfeiture of all privileges to the
12 license.

13 Whereas on October 11, 2023,
14 Treasure Chest filed a petition requesting
15 board approval to extend the 24-month
16 deadline -- 24-month deadline to complete
17 construction of the approved project and
18 commence gaming operations in the facility
19 to July 15th, 2024.

20 Now, therefore, be it resolved that
21 provision 2C of the December 16th, 2021
22 board resolution is hereby amended to
23 extend Treasure Chest's deadline to
24 complete construction of the approved
25 project and commence gaming operations in

1 the facility from December 16th, 2023 to
2 July 15th, 2024.

3 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,
4 Louisiana, this 16th of day of November
5 2023.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Okay. We have a motion by Judge
8 Sholes, seconded by Ms. Berry to adopt
9 this resolution.

10 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you call
11 the roll, please.

12 MS. HERNANDEZ:

13 Mr. Avant.

14 MR. AVANT:

15 Yes.

16 MS. HERNANDEZ:

17 Ms. Berry.

18 MS. BERRY:

19 Yes.

20 MS. HERNANDEZ:

21 Mr. Jackson.

22 MR. JACKSON:

23 Yes.

24 MS. HERNANDEZ:

25 Ms. Lewis.

1 MS. LEWIS:
2 Yes.
3 MS. HERNANDEZ:
4 Mr. Poole.
5 MR. POOLE:
6 Yes.
7 MS. HERNANDEZ:
8 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
9 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
10 Yes.
11 MS. HERNANDEZ:
12 Mr. Sholes.
13 MR. SHOLES:
14 Yes.
15 MS. HERNANDEZ:
16 Ms. Traylor.
17 MS. TRAYLOR:
18 Yes.
19 MS. HERNANDEZ:
20 And Chairman Johns.
21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
22 Yes.
23 So by unanimous vote that resolution
24 is hereby adopted.
25 Thank you for your hard work; and if

1 you want to finish the project earlier, we
2 will have no objection.

3 MS. BOLES:

4 We won't either. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Thank y'all. Good luck.

7 We will now move into the
8 consideration of the approval of
9 amendments to the compulsive gaming
10 program for Premier Entertainment
11 Shreveport LLC doing business as Bally's
12 Shreveport Casino & Hotel.

13 Good morning.

14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

15 Chairman Johns, Board Members, I'm
16 Assistant Attorney General Delancey
17 Houston.

18 MR. BARBIN:

19 I'm Jeff Barbin representing Bally's
20 Shreveport and joining me is Chip Bunyard.
21 He's the general manager of Bally's
22 Shreveport.

23 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

24 In 2001, the Louisiana legislature
25 passed the Uniform Compulsive Gaming Act.

1 Pursuant to that enactment, Louisiana
2 Gaming Control Board adopted rules 301
3 through 304 to aid in the development of a
4 statewide uniform compulsive gaming
5 program.

6 Louisiana Revised Statute 27:27.1A
7 provides in part that it is imperative for
8 the health, safety and welfare of the
9 citizens of the State of Louisiana that
10 all gaming licensees develop and implement
11 comprehensive compulsive and problem
12 gambling programs to be approved by the
13 Board. Amendments to the approved
14 programs must be submitted to the Board
15 for approval prior to the implementation.

16 Premier Entertainment Shreveport,
17 LLC doing business as Bally's Shreveport
18 Casino & Hotel has requested the Board's
19 approval to make changes to their program.

20 The proposed changes were reviewed
21 by our office, the Louisiana Office of
22 State Police Gaming Enforcement Division
23 and by Janet Miller, the executive
24 director of Louisiana Association on
25 Compulsive Gambling.

1 The licensee made all of the
2 revisions that were recommended by these
3 agencies and the program continues to
4 comply with all applicable laws and
5 requirements. Therefore, if it is the
6 Board's pleasure to approve these changes,
7 a resolution has been drafted for your
8 consideration.

9 MR. BARBIN:

10 And these are just the technical
11 amendments as Ms. Houston pointed out, so
12 we're happy to answer any questions you
13 have.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Correct. That's the way that I've
16 read it, just basically technical.

17 Mr. Bunyard, good morning.

18 MR. BUNYARD:

19 Good morning, Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Any comments from Bally's?

22 MR. BUNYARD:

23 Yeah. Along with what Jeff said,
24 just name changes.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Identify yourself for the record.

2 I'm sorry.

3 MR. BUNYARD:

4 Oh, I'm sorry. My name's Chip
5 Bunyard, vice president and general
6 manager for Bally's Casino & Hotel in
7 Shreveport. Like what Jeff said, you
8 know, we made some name changes, change
9 from current operating procedures, worked
10 with the Louisiana Association for Problem
11 Gambling to get some other verbiage
12 change, work with them, so.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 All right. Any questions, Members?
15 Any questions?

16 If not, I would entertain a motion
17 to adopt the resolution that has been
18 prepared.

19 Mr. Avant has made that motion and
20 Mr. Poole has seconded that motion.

21 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
22 the resolution, please.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ:

24 On the 16th day of November 2023,
25 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did in

1 a duly noticed public meeting consider the
2 issue of Premier Entertainment Shreveport,
3 doing business as Bally's Shreveport
4 Casino & Hotel's request for approval
5 updates to its problem gambling program
6 pursuant to LA RS. 27:27.1; and upon
7 motion duly made and seconded the Board
8 adopted the following resolution: Be it
9 resolved that Premier Entertainment
10 Shreveport, LLC, doing business as Bally's
11 Shreveport Casino & Hotel's problem
12 gambling program be and is hereby
13 approved. Thus done and signed in Baton
14 Rouge, Louisiana, this 16th day of
15 November 2023.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. We do have a motion by Mr.
18 Avant, seconded by Mr. Poole to adopt this
19 resolution.

20 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
21 roll, please?

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 Mr. Avant.

24 MR. AVANT:

25 Yes.

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MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

1 Ms. Traylor.

2 MS. TRAYLOR:

3 Yes.

4 MS. HERNANDEZ:

5 And Chairman Johns.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Yes.

8 So by unanimous vote, this
9 resolution is hereby adopted.

10 Thank you very much for your work on
11 compulsive gaming. We appreciate that.
12 And while you're at the table, again,
13 thank you for your commitment on the
14 procurement numbers that you and I
15 communicated with yesterday. We -- we
16 greatly appreciate that.

17 MR. DUNN:

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 Thank you.

21 Mr. Barbin, I don't think you have
22 to go very far, do you. Okay.

23 Next on the agenda is the
24 consideration of construction contracts
25 for Catfish Queen, LLC, doing business as

1 the BELLE OF BATON ROUGE.

2 Ms. Landry, good morning.

3 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

4 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
5 Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney
6 General Lisha Landry.

7 MR. BARBIN:

8 Jeff Barbin representing Belle of
9 Baton Rouge Casino. To my left is Bill
10 Vanderson, and he's the general counsel of
11 Queen Casinos. And behind me is Bruce
12 Woods, who is the general manager at the
13 Belle of Baton Rouge. Also in the
14 audience is Terry Downey, who is the CEO
15 of the Queen Casino.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

17 We are here in the matter of Catfish
18 Queen, LLC, doing business as Belle of
19 Baton Rouge Casino's submission of its
20 construction contracts.

21 On September 15th, 2022, the Board
22 considered and approved the licensee's
23 request to relocate its gaming operations
24 to a landside facility located within 1200
25 feet of its licensed berth.

1 On that date, the Board adopted a
2 resolution that required the licensee to
3 submit its construction contracts within
4 90 days of the Board's acceptance of the
5 licensee's architectural blueprints and
6 detailed plan of design and construction
7 of its landside facility.

8 At the July 20th, 2023 Board
9 meeting, the Board accepted the licensee's
10 plans and specs. The licensee was granted
11 an extension to submit its construction
12 contract for the approved project to
13 November 17, 2023.

14 The licensee has timely submitted
15 the construction contracts, which is up
16 for Board consideration today. Our office
17 has reviewed the contracts and sees no
18 issues that would preclude the Board's
19 acceptance of the construction contract
20 for the future riverboat landside
21 facility.

22 If it's the Board's pleasure to
23 accept the licensee's construction
24 contract today, a resolution has been
25 prepared for your consideration.

1 MR. BARBIN:

2 Just a couple of additional points.
3 Ms. Landry is correct as always with her
4 summary. We have not negotiated the GMP
5 portion of this contract. That's still
6 under way. The contract is effective.
7 It's a cost plus contract as it stands
8 now. We will be coming back to you
9 probably in 30 to 60 days to bring that
10 change order to you, but it is currently
11 effective and we're moving forward with
12 the scope as approved. We, you know, hope
13 to be back on that GMP portion of it, and
14 we're happy to answer any other questions.
15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 So none of this is slowing down
17 construction?

18 MR. BARBIN:

19 No. We're moving ahead.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 That's what I like to hear.

22 Okay. Any questions for the Belle
23 from Members? Okay.

24 I would need a motion to adopt the
25 resolution that will be read. Mr. Poole

1 has made that motion, and Ms. Berry has
2 seconded that motion.

3 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you --
4 would you read the resolution, please?
5 MS. HERNANDEZ:

6 On the 16th day of November 2023,
7 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did in
8 a duly noticed public meeting consider the
9 issue of Catfish Queen, LLC, doing
10 business as Belle of Baton Rouge
11 submission of the construction contracts
12 related to the approved project, and upon
13 motion duly made and seconded, the Board
14 adopted this resolution.

15 Be it resolved that the contracts
16 for construction submitted for the
17 approved project be deemed submitted and
18 accepted and the licensee is hereby
19 authorized to proceed with construction of
20 the approved project. Thus done and
21 signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana this 16th
22 day of November 2023.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.
25 Members, we have a motion by Mr.

1 Poole to adopt this resolution, seconded
2 by Ms. Berry.

3 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you call
4 the roll?

5 MS. HERNANDEZ:

6 Mr. Avant.

7 MR. AVANT:

8 Yes.

9 MS. HERNANDEZ:

10 Ms. Berry.

11 MS. BERRY:

12 Yes.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ:

14 Mr. Jackson.

15 MR. JACKSON:

16 Yes.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ:

18 Ms. Lewis.

19 MS. LEWIS:

20 Yes.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ:

22 Mr. Poole.

23 MR. POOLE:

24 Yes.

25 MS. HERNANDEZ:

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Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

And Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

By unanimous vote, that resolution is hereby adopted.

And thank you very much to the Queen -- to the Belle, excuse me, Queen Entertainment, to the Belle for your work. We look forward to seeing that one under completion. So thank you all.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Landry.

2 Mr. Barbin, you're earning your
3 money today.

4 MR. BARBIN:

5 I'll be brief. I promise.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Okay. Moving along, the
8 consideration of petition for the approval
9 of interim construction for Louisiana
10 Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC, doing
11 business as DiamondJacks Casino and
12 Resort.

13 MR. BARBIN:

14 Jeff Barbin, again, representing
15 Louisiana Riverboat Gaming Company,
16 previously doing business as DiamondJacks.
17 At the last Board meeting, the Board
18 approved the transfer of that licensee to
19 an affiliate of the Cordish Companies, and
20 I'm happy to report that that transaction
21 closed at the end of last month.

22 As you -- as you all know, that --
23 the construction there has been ongoing.
24 The chairman has approved a number of the
25 construction contracts to keep the

1 demolition and the new construction
2 working; and as a result of previous
3 approvals, the Board has given on this
4 project, we are to come before you in the
5 next couple of months to get the plans
6 approved and the final construction
7 contract approved. However, Live would
8 like to continue to -- to build the
9 project in the interim. And so we're
10 asking the Board this change order at this
11 time that would allow them to do a few
12 things. And I'll just run through the
13 list really quickly. Some additional
14 demolition of the casino, a podium, some
15 slab modifications, the start of a new
16 EFIS system, some light-gauge metal
17 framing for the hotel tower projections,
18 some fire protection modifications at the
19 hotel tower, to engage -- initially engage
20 the plumbers and the mechanical
21 contractors and the electrical
22 contractors.

23 So all of this work is -- we're
24 hoping to get that started right away
25 pending your final approval of the designs

1 and the final construction contract, which
2 we hope to be back here shortly, but this
3 will allow the work to continue to be done
4 and for the project to meet the time
5 deadlines that we have given you and you
6 have approved for this construction
7 project to be complete.

8 And I'm happy to answer any
9 questions.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 This keeps work ongoing and not
12 slowing things down and --

13 MR. BARBIN:

14 That's correct. It's about another
15 \$25 million that we're essentially
16 starting, you know, with before we even
17 have, you know, the final plans, you know,
18 finished and -- and approved. So we're --
19 we're really trying to meet the deadlines
20 that the -- the deadlines that were, you
21 know, presented to you earlier this year.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Any questions for Mr. Barbin?

24 If not, Mr. Avant would make a
25 motion that we adopt the resolution. Mr.

1 Jackson has seconded that motion.

2 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
3 the resolution?

4 MS. HERNANDEZ:

5 On the 16th day of November 2023,
6 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did in
7 a duly noticed public meeting consider the
8 petition for approval of interim
9 construction filed by Louisiana Riverboat
10 Gaming, LLC, doing business as
11 DiamondJacks Casino and Resort, and upon
12 motion duly made and seconded, the Board
13 adopted this resolution.

14 Be it resolved that change order No.
15 1 for GMP Amendment NO. 1 to the agreement
16 between owner and contractor based upon
17 the cost of work plus a fee with a
18 guaranteed maximum price for interim
19 construction on the approved project is
20 hereby accepted.

21 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,
22 Louisiana, the 16th day of November 2023.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Avant
25 seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt this

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resolution.

And, Ms. Hernandez, would you call the roll?

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

MR. AVANT:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

1 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
2 Yes.
3 MS. HERNANDEZ:
4 Mr. Sholes.
5 MR. SHOLES:
6 Yes.
7 MS. HERNANDEZ:
8 Ms. Traylor.
9 MS. TRAYLOR:
10 Yes.
11 MS. HERNANDEZ:
12 Chairman Johns.
13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
14 Yes.
15 So by unanimous vote, the resolution
16 is hereby adopted.
17 Thank you, Mr. Barbin, and please
18 thank Cordish on our behalf for their
19 continued work.
20 MR. BARBIN:
21 Thank you all.
22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
23 Thank you very much.
24 Okay. Members, we're going to now
25 move into the consideration of petitions

1 to amend the voluntary employment goals
2 filed by the Louisiana Casino Association.

3 Mr. Duty, good morning.

4 MR. DUTY:

5 Good morning, board members and Mr.
6 Chairman. My name is Wade Duty. I'm the
7 executive director of the Louisiana Casino
8 Association. The bad news is I do have a
9 PowerPoint presentation. The good news is
10 it's only about seven slides and not a
11 whole lot of talking on my part is
12 probably necessary, so we'll beg your
13 indulgence on this.

14 So what you have before you is
15 actually ten individual petitions of
16 certain licensees seeking to amend their
17 employment goals. As you endured last
18 time I made a presentation to you, these
19 were set contemporaneously with the
20 procurement goals so they're equally out
21 of date and probably equally irreverent --
22 irrelevant, rather, to their current
23 operation profile.

24 Let me assure anybody that's
25 listening or has concerns later, none of

1 this involves layoffs. This is, in fact,
2 is the other direction. We have openings.
3 So if you have that brother-in-law that's
4 not been able to find employment for about
5 three years, send him to us.

6 I'd like to start with, hopefully
7 now I'm getting this successfully, this
8 you've already actually seen. This is the
9 basis and justification for the relevancy
10 portion of this that these goals were set
11 in most incidents roughly 27 years ago. A
12 lot has changed. Particularly as we
13 emerged from COVID, we saw changes in not
14 only our employment profiles but also what
15 customer preferences were. And as a
16 result, some of our previously
17 labor-intensive amenities have not been
18 brought back online.

19 But prior to that, there's a bigger
20 and frankly a little slightly disturbing
21 story. I've been in this job 23 years now
22 and it didn't really even hit me until I
23 put it on paper, and you'll see this in a
24 slide coming up.

25 But again, the relevancy of this,

1 again, same situation settlement of
2 procurement.

3 Children and sensitive viewers may
4 want to look away at this moment. This is
5 1997 admissions tracking through June
6 2023. And the takeaway from this slide is
7 simply this, our admissions are down 48
8 percent since the inception of gaming. It
9 is a situation where fewer customers
10 really drive the need for fewer team
11 members to service those customers.

12 And that's to simply put whether you
13 own a bakery, an automotive repair shop or
14 anything else, reduced customer volume is
15 something that you have to address; and
16 your primary mechanism is through
17 staffing. So that is a bit of an
18 eye-opener.

19 Again, I can remember the so-called
20 good old days when we had, you know, 24 to
21 27 million people boarding these boats,
22 and that's no longer the case.

23 Contemporaneously with that, there
24 has also been a trend in revenue. The
25 year 2014, frankly, was as good as it got.

1 We fought our way back to -- I'm sorry,
2 2016 was as good as it got. 2014 is where
3 we are now. So in other words, we've
4 almost emerged from COVID and other
5 challenges back to where we were about
6 nine years ago.

7 That revenue trend you're seeing on
8 the screen now is the state's portion of
9 revenue; but, obviously, since it's based
10 on our gross revenue, ours tracks
11 similarly. So 2014, I believe, you
12 finally had all 15 casinos open. So that
13 was -- or 2014, 2015. This is fully
14 operational. This is where we peaked. We
15 declined after that. Where we're headed
16 next is obviously subject to speculation.
17 But again, the takeaway here is that fewer
18 guests and reduced revenues necessitates
19 downsizing.

20 And I say downsizing in a sense only
21 that what you have on paper is where we
22 were, and you're about to see where we're
23 asking to be. These are all on paper
24 adjustments. There are no positions being
25 eliminated. We are accepting applications

1 as quickly as they will come in. So this
2 is not any layoff scenario. This is just
3 an adjustment to recognize current
4 realities or the realities of the last 27
5 years.

6 That's the actual dollars that
7 relates to that chart. So as I had
8 previously mentioned, our admissions are
9 down 48 percent, the revenue is down 29
10 percent from when these goals were
11 originally set.

12 Things such as the evolution TITO
13 and other reductions in labor-intensive
14 functions that must be performed at the
15 casino more trends towards automation less
16 hand-recording of information. More
17 computer data gathering are all things
18 that have driven some reductions.

19 As we emerged again from COVID, you
20 saw some things not reactivated, buffets,
21 seven day a week valet parking, changes in
22 housekeeping operations and some other
23 areas that are smaller, but collectively
24 they do have an impact on our overall
25 employment profile.

1 This, I believe, is where we really
2 need to talk. So it's looking a little
3 busy, but it'll hopefully make sense in
4 just a few minutes.

5 Essentially what you see on the
6 left-hand side is the casinos that are
7 seeking amendments to their goals. The
8 numbers in red in the next two columns are
9 comparisons of where they are today
10 compared to where they were in the last
11 best ten years.

12 So as you see, some of these
13 properties are down in revenue from 25
14 percent, 6 percent, 54 percent.
15 Additionally, you'll see the next column
16 there're individual admission reduction.
17 So you see that some of these properties
18 are off 58, 69 percent.

19 The introduction of Native American
20 gaming in Oklahoma in 2008 took a massive
21 chunk out of the northwest Louisiana
22 riverboat profile. And, frankly, that
23 never recovered. Other factors, smoking
24 bans and shifts in player preferences and
25 also the opening of other jurisdictions

1 beyond Oklahoma have also impacted that
2 market's ability to continue at the levels
3 it was previously.

4 The next column you see the present
5 goal. This is their on paper goal. This
6 was set again in instances where boats
7 were relocated and that goal followed them
8 to their new designation, but was never
9 amended to reflect their current operating
10 profile.

11 The next column is their preferred
12 staffing level. It also reflects in the
13 next column the degree of change from
14 where they were on paper to where they
15 actually need to be today. And you'll see
16 they -- I think almost all instances the
17 degree of requested change is actually
18 less than the reduction in revenue and
19 admissions. So we're trending on paper
20 but again, no positions changing hands.

21 The issue that had previously been
22 mentioned by the Chairman, and I made a
23 couple of comments a couple of months ago,
24 we do use contract staffing.

25 No contract staffing is counted

1 towards the satisfaction of our goals. So
2 in other words, those are additional jobs
3 on top of our direct employees; and for
4 property, for example, Horseshoe Bossier,
5 they employ a significant number of
6 contract labor.

7 Why don't we count the contract
8 labor? It's a policy choice that's
9 actually your policy choice, but we
10 believe the correct method is what you're
11 doing presently, which is to not count it
12 simply because of the fact we contract for
13 functions not numbers of warm bodies. In
14 other words, we contract for a service to
15 be done and then it's up to that
16 contractor to select the appropriate
17 staffing to achieve that function. So we
18 don't have the direct control over 27
19 employees to do the job or maybe it's 32
20 employees or maybe it's 17 employees.

21 So I think it's appropriate to
22 recognize those numbers because it does
23 give you a little bit of add back in fill
24 that these are staffing levels that are
25 appropriate for that facility. But when

1 you see the number, it's like, well, you
2 used to be at a thousand. You're
3 proposing 550 now. Yeah. But add back in
4 another 350 contract employees and you see
5 where we're staffing about where we need
6 to be.

7 The current vacancies that is a
8 snapshot of really where we were. I
9 prepped these lines a couple of weeks ago.
10 Those numbers have remained somewhat
11 static. We still struggle to staff fully,
12 and that is an issue that will continue;
13 and as you heard from the previous
14 presenter relative to behavioral health
15 issues, everybody is hurting for
16 employees. So no real surprise there.

17 A lot of rambling, a lot of babbling
18 by me, to get to the important point is
19 really this. You have proposals from ten
20 of the licensees seeking adjustments to
21 their staffing levels for the reasons
22 cited, primarily the reduction in
23 admission and the reduction in revenue
24 necessary to support that staffing level.

25 So I think that concludes what I

1 have for you. Certainly, I can entertain
2 any questions that anyone has. Let me
3 make sure that -- yes. That's -- that's
4 essentially what I've got, so.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Okay. So, Mr. Duty, as I'm looking
7 at these current vacancies, I mean 562,
8 and that's just in ten properties.

9 MR. DUTY:

10 That's correct.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 You've got four other properties
13 that are not asking for an amendment to
14 their goals today that I'm aware of that
15 have vacancies also.

16 MR: DUTY:

17 That pushes it out to about 1200.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 About 1200 available good paying
20 jobs out there that --

21 MR. DUTY:

22 Correct.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 -- just having a difficult time
25 filling.

1 MR. DUTY:

2 Correct. And for an example of
3 that, let me see, no, I didn't get that
4 one loaded. But anyway, a couple of the
5 properties, you know, when I was asking
6 what are your options, what are your
7 openings looking like; and the
8 expectations were, you know, that we would
9 have a range of openings and we, in fact,
10 do. And -- and I beg your indulgence as I
11 quickly read through the list but
12 bartenders, cage cashiers, cage managers,
13 cooks, dealers, hosts, human traffic --
14 human resources coordinator, revenue
15 auditors, security officers, sportsbook
16 cashiers, stewards, warehouse receiving,
17 captain in charge of the watch, captain in
18 charge; in other words, we have a good
19 blend of non-permitted and permitted
20 gaming jobs available. And it's not just
21 located in one area, so it's -- it's a
22 broad spectrum.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Okay. So questions? Ms. Berry?

25 MS. BERRY:

1 I just have a quick question. The
2 contract staffing numbers, is there a
3 particular area where the contract labor
4 is used more than employees? Is it --
5 MR. DUTY:

6 It depends on the property, but
7 their predominant usage has been in food
8 and beverage service and facilities
9 maintenance.

10 MS. BERRY:

11 Okay. So none of the --

12 MR. DUTY:

13 No. And, obviously, any gaming
14 employee has to be a direct employee or
15 permittee of the licensing.

16 MS. BERRY:

17 Correct. Is it cheaper for them to
18 hire contract or --

19 MR. DUTY:

20 I don't know always know that it's
21 cheaper; and, obviously, behind me is a
22 whole lot of folks that can answer any
23 nuts-and-bolts questions, but I suspect
24 the actual reason is it's easier and it
25 gives you greater flexibility to staff up

1 or staff down as you go into seasonal
2 periods. You can ask for additional
3 services as you track for holidays like
4 Christmas and Thanksgiving. Also, it
5 shifts the burden of recruitment on to
6 another entity.

7 MS. BERRY:

8 Okay. Thank you very much. That
9 answered my question.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 So I think there would be a number
12 of amenities at a lot of these properties
13 that are third-party contracts such as
14 restaurants.

15 MR. DUTY:

16 Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 For example, L'Auberge in Lake
19 Charles and Margaritaville have a Dragos,
20 and that's operated independently of -- of
21 those properties. That's correct?

22 MR. DUTY:

23 That's correct.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 But those are actually jobs on that

1 property. At one time there was probably
2 a buffet there.

3 MR. DUTY:

4 Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 And there's no buffet left.

7 MR. DUTY:

8 That's correct.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 I know that -- I think -- I know one
11 property that has a spa up in the
12 Shreveport Bossier area that's an
13 independent contract with someone else
14 that creates jobs, but it's not counted in
15 these numbers.

16 MR. DUTY:

17 And sometimes those contracts are
18 done for exactly that reason. Someone has
19 a name or a brand name that you want to
20 bring onto your property. Is it a
21 recognizable amenity, and you just simply
22 can't do that. I can't become McDonald's
23 but I locate McDonald's, or I can't become
24 a Ramsay Steakhouse or whatever. So
25 you're forced into those arrangements.

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

All right. Any further questions?

MR. JACKSON:

I've got one.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson. There you go.

MR. JACKSON:

Okay. On your staff track contracting, I've talked to some of the folks and I noticed that a majority of the contractor is under housekeeping, and I hear they have a problem with keeping housekeeping personnel. Is that a salary problem because of that?

MR. DUTY:

Not necessarily. It is an area that has a fair degree of turnover, so depending on whether you're a contractor or a direct licensee employer, the issues are still the same. You run into difficulties in scheduling. Housekeeping is a service that's performed continuously, so the availability of workers who fit our need profile, it's not

1 just a 9:00 to 5:00 kind of arrangement.
2 So that is one factor that affects
3 housekeeping.

4 But as far as individual questions,
5 I'd have to know more to be able to
6 provide a better answer.

7 MR. JACKSON:

8 Okay. We'll talk about that.

9 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

10 I have a question.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

13 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

14 With regards to the reduction in
15 these numbers, do you have an idea of how
16 much is attributable to technology or
17 automation?

18 MR. DUTY:

19 No. I don't have a specific number.
20 You know, a big shift occurred with the
21 introduction of ticket in, ticket out,
22 also known as TITO. If you recall, the
23 old days of casino operations where you
24 had employees pushing thousand-pound carts
25 of quarters through the casino. Those

1 days have obviously gone by the wayside.
2 So that was a change.

3 But as far as assigning a percentage
4 to it, I don't have the information
5 available to do that.

6 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

7 I might be jumping the gun. I might
8 need to wait until we actually move on to
9 the amendment request for voluntary
10 climbing goals, but do you have any
11 information about what exactly went into
12 the percentage for minority in women goals
13 for each of the properties?

14 MR. DUTY:

15 Easy answer. So going back to the
16 1994-1996 licensing cycle, the policy
17 decision was made at that time to default
18 to the most recently available census.
19 And that is, in fact, what you see before
20 you today is also using, instead of the
21 1990 census, the proposal before you today
22 uses the 2020 census, which is the most
23 available.

24 So you see a proposed number of 38
25 percent minority and 51 percent female.

1 Female population in Louisiana has been
2 relatively static for decades. Minority
3 population has increased, I think,
4 probably 5 percentage points from when
5 those goals were originally set.

6 The actual reality employment,
7 however, the minority employment tracks
8 closer to 58 to 60 percent; and obviously,
9 we're going to maintain that. We're not
10 going to hire down to a particular goal;
11 however, that's kind of a floor not a
12 ceiling.

13 So the short answer is it's based on
14 census data.

15 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

16 And I did notice that despite what
17 the employment goal is, that it's a
18 standard 38 percent minority to 51 percent
19 women. Was there any discussion about
20 making a determination based on the actual
21 employment goal number?

22 MR DUTY:

23 I'm not sure I'm following your
24 question.

25 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

1 So the goals for each property
2 varies. It's different for each property.
3 But despite that, the goal is a standard
4 goal as it relates to the minority and/or
5 the women. Was there any discussion for
6 there to be a goal arrived based that the
7 number -- the goal number versus just a
8 standard all across the board 38 percent
9 for each property, 51 percent for each
10 property?

11 MR. DUTY:

12 Really, two things in response.
13 Number 1, no. Our labor force is pretty
14 blended. We have a mixture of any
15 demographic you want in any position that
16 you want from general manager down to, you
17 know, any other entry-level position. So
18 trying to assign based on race and gender
19 a particular task was, A, probably
20 unconstitutional; but also, B, not
21 necessary because you've got a diversified
22 labor force. So you've got people that
23 can be in any position irrespective of
24 whatever their gender or race identity is.

25 That's -- we didn't go down that

1 road because it wasn't really necessary.
2 We could fill any position we wanted with
3 the pool that's available. And the second
4 point would be, again, what I mentioned
5 earlier, the 38% only reflects Louisiana's
6 population. We actually have a
7 disproportionately high employment level
8 for minorities, again we track 58 to 60%
9 compared to the overall population.

10 So if you try and pose any
11 conditions on that, I would actually worry
12 that you would run the risk of lending
13 that rather than expanding it. So you're
14 probably better served sticking with the
15 census data.

16 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 So the 38% of minorities almost
20 across the board is an increase of what
21 the present goals are?

22 MR. DUTY:

23 Oh, absolutely. Yeah, you're
24 absolute -- your present goals are --

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 I know they're all a little bit
2 different, but it looks like they range
3 anywhere from 30 to 35.

4 MR. DUTY:

5 Yeah. So you're -- you're presently
6 achieving 54, 75, 62, 69, 70, 70, 69, 75,
7 those are all just running down your most
8 recent -- well, not the most recent, but
9 the previous compliance report. You're --
10 you're not quite double, but you're almost
11 double what the population would initially
12 indicate.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Members, let me just share with you
15 that our staff has worked for a good while
16 with Mr. Duty on this, and the
17 recommendations that are here by you today
18 are absolutely not rubber stamped. We --
19 there were two or three that the chairman
20 had to adjust a little bit, so. But
21 anyway, I -- I feel comfortable in what is
22 being proposed. I think a goal is -- we
23 absolutely have to have goals. They are
24 voluntary, but they have to be realistic.
25 I mean if you're going to set a goal,

1 there's got to be some possibility of
2 meeting that goal, so.

3 MR. DUTY:

4 Right. And -- I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 So anyway, that's where I think
7 these new numbers are pretty -- pretty
8 well thought out.

9 MR. DUTY:

10 I would like to close with really
11 two points. Number 1, there's no
12 statutory requirement to have an
13 employment goal. Unlike what you saw with
14 procurement where there are statutory
15 listings in Title 27, there isn't one. It
16 was done as a policy decision three
17 decades ago. And it's a relevant concern.

18 The reason that's a policy
19 consideration for most policy-making
20 bodies is there is an exchange. If I'm
21 going to build a petrochemical plant in
22 your state and employ a thousand people,
23 you give me unlimited tax offsets. Gaming
24 never saw that. We have provided
25 substantial revenue base. We have

1 received zero tax credits, offsets,
2 incentives, write-offs, whatever you want
3 to call it. We're specifically excluded
4 from the Equality Jobs Bill.

5 Theoretically somehow casino jobs
6 aren't as worthy as petrochemical jobs.
7 So that kind of policy-making mind-set
8 bled over into this. But again, there's
9 no statutory requirement that you actually
10 have a numerical goal.

11 But the goals are there. They just
12 need a refreshing; and again, at least
13 once every 27 years, but I would submit
14 and request that you strongly consider
15 and, in fact, I think it's part of your
16 resolutions, that when boats do have
17 changes in their market conditions like
18 you add a competitor or a competitor comes
19 on land or that licensee themselves comes
20 on land with a totally new footprint and a
21 totally new list of amenities, that their
22 employment profile be revisited at that time
23 because one size does not fit all forever.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay. Any other further questions?

1 Any comments? Okay.

2 Members, in order for us to adopt
3 these new goals, we have to do each one by
4 separate resolution. I wish we could have
5 done them in globo, but unfortunately we
6 cannot legally.

7 So the very first one would be the
8 Premier Entertainment Shreveport, LLC,
9 doing business as Bally's Shreveport
10 Casino & Hotel. I would need a motion to
11 adopt that resolution.

12 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

13 So moved.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Ms. Hamilton-Acker has moved. Mr.
16 Jackson has seconded it.

17 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
18 that resolution?

19 MS. HERNANDEZ:

20 On the 16th day of November 2023,
21 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
22 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
23 the petition to amend voluntary employment
24 goals filed by Premier Entertainment
25 Shreveport, LLC doing business as Bally's

1 Shreveport Casino & Hotel and, upon motion
2 duly made and seconded, the Board adopted
3 the following resolution.

4 Be it resolved that Bally's
5 Shreveport's request to amend its
6 voluntary employment goals to reflect a
7 total employment goal of 625, a minority
8 employment goal of 38%, and a women
9 employment goal of 51%, commencing on
10 January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

11 Be it further resolved that Bally's
12 Shreveport's request to petition to amend
13 its voluntary employment goals at a later
14 date based on future U.S. Census data
15 and/or significant changes in its
16 operating market that affect its ability
17 to meet said goals is hereby approved.

18 Be it further resolved that the
19 approvals granted in this resolution are
20 subject to and conditioned upon the
21 execution of the acknowledgment and
22 acceptance of the statement of conditions
23 to Riverboat Gaming License of Premier
24 Entertainment Shreveport, doing business
25 as Bally's Shreveport Casino & Hotel,

1 which have been updated to reflect the
2 amendments contained herein.

3 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,
4 Louisiana, this 16th day of November 2023.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
7 Hamilton-Acker; seconded by Mr. Jackson to
8 adopt this resolution.

9 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you call
10 the roll?

11 MS. HERNANDEZ:

12 Mr. Avant.

13 MR. AVANT:

14 Yes.

15 MS. HERNANDEZ:

16 Ms. Berry.

17 MS. BERRY:

18 Yes.

19 MS. HERNANDEZ:

20 Mr. Jackson.

21 MR. JACKSON:

22 Yes.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ:

24 Ms. Lewis.

25 MS. LEWIS:

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Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

By unanimous vote, that resolution is hereby adopted.

Second resolution will be Red River Entertainment of Shreveport, LLC, doing

1 business as Sam's Town Hotel and Casino.
2 I would need a motion to adopt that
3 resolution.

4 Ms. Berry has made that motion. Mr.
5 Jackson has seconded that motion.

6 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
7 the resolution?

8 MS. HERNANDEZ:

9 On the 16th day of November 2023,
10 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
11 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
12 the petition to amend voluntary employment
13 goals filed by Red River Entertainment of
14 Shreveport, doing business as Sam's Town
15 Hotel and Casino and, upon motion duly
16 made and seconded, the Board adopted the
17 following resolution.

18 Be it resolved that Sam's Town
19 request to amend its voluntary employment
20 goal to reflect a total employment goal of
21 385, a minority employment goal 38%, and a
22 women employment goal of 51%, commencing
23 on January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

24 Be it further resolved that Sam's
25 Town's request to petition to amend its

1 voluntary employment goal at a later date
2 based on future U.S. Census data and/or
3 significant changes in its operating
4 market that affect its ability to meet set
5 goals is hereby approved.

6 Be it further resolved that the
7 approvals granted in this resolution are
8 subject to and conditioned upon the
9 execution of the acknowledgment and
10 acceptance of the statement of conditions
11 to Riverboat Gaming License of Red River
12 Entertainment Shreveport, doing business
13 as Sam's Town Hotel and Casino, which have
14 been updated to reflect the amendments
15 contained herein.

16 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,
17 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
20 Berry; seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt
21 this resolution.

22 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
23 roll?

24 MS. HERNANDEZ:

25 Mr. Avant.

1 MR. AVANT:
2 Yes.
3 MS. HERNANDEZ:
4 Ms. Berry.
5 MS. BERRY:
6 Yes.
7 MS. HERNANDEZ:
8 Mr. Jackson.
9 MR. JACKSON:
10 Yes.
11 MS. HERNANDEZ:
12 Ms. Lewis.
13 MS. LEWIS:
14 Yes.
15 MS. HERNANDEZ:
16 Mr. Poole.
17 MR. POOLE:
18 Yes.
19 MS. HERNANDEZ:
20 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
21 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
22 Yes.
23 MS. HERNANDEZ:
24 Mr. Sholes.
25 MR. SHOLES:

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Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:
Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
Yes.

By unanimous vote, that resolution is adopted.

Moving along, the Horseshoe Entertainment, L.P., doing business as Horseshoe Bossier City, I would need a motion to adopt that resolution.

Mr. Avant has made that motion. Mr. Jackson has seconded that motion.

Would you read the resolution, Ms. Hernandez?

MS. HERNANDEZ:
On the 16th day of November 2023, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in a duly noticed public meeting, consider the petition to amend voluntary employment goals filed by Horseshoe Entertainment,

1 doing business as Horseshoe Bossier City
2 and, upon motion duly made and seconded,
3 the Board adopted the following
4 resolution.

5 Be it resolved that Horseshoe
6 Bossier City's request to amend its
7 voluntary employment goals to reflect a
8 total employment goal of 550, a minority
9 employment goal of 38%, and a women
10 employment goal of 51% commencing on
11 January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

12 Be it further resolved Horseshoe
13 Bossier City's requested petition to amend
14 its voluntary employment goals at a later
15 date based on future U.S. Census data
16 and/or significant changes in its
17 operating market that affect its ability
18 to meet said goals is hereby approved.

19 Be it further resolved that the
20 approvals granted in this resolution are
21 subject to and conditioned upon the
22 execution of the acknowledgement and
23 acceptance of the statement of conditions
24 to Riverboat Gaming License of Horseshoe
25 Entertainment, doing business as Horseshoe

1 Bossier City, which have been updated to
2 reflect the amendment contained herein.

3 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
4 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Okay. We have a motion by Mr.
7 Avant; seconded by Mr. Jackson to adopt
8 this resolution.

9 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
10 roll?

11 MS. HERNANDEZ:

12 Mr. Avant.

13 MR. AVANT:

14 Yes.

15 MS. HERNANDEZ:

16 Ms. Berry.

17 MS. BERRY:

18 Yes.

19 MS. HERNANDEZ:

20 Mr. Jackson.

21 MR. JACKSON:

22 Yes.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ:

24 Ms. Lewis.

25 MS. LEWIS:

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Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:
Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:
Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:
Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:
Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
Yes.

By unanimous vote, that resolution
is hereby adopted.

Next, PNK Bossier City, doing
business as Boomtown Bossier City, I would

1 need a motion to adopt a resolution.

2 Ms. Hamilton-Acker has made that
3 motion, and Ms. Traylor has seconded the
4 motion.

5 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
6 the resolution?

7 MS. HERNANDEZ:

8 On the 16th day of November 2023,
9 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
10 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
11 the petition to amend voluntary employment
12 goals filed by PNK, LLC, doing business as
13 Boomtown Casino Bossier City and, upon
14 motion duly made and seconded, the Board
15 adopted the following resolution.

16 Be it resolved that Boomtown Casino
17 Bossier's request to amend its voluntary
18 employment goals to reflect a total
19 employment of 225, a Louisiana employment
20 goal of 85%, a minority employment of 38%,
21 a women employment goal of 51% commencing
22 on January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

23 Be it further resolved that Boomtown
24 Casino Bossier request to petition to
25 amend its voluntary employment goals at a

1 later date based on future U.S. Census
2 data and/or significant changes in its
3 operating market that affect its ability
4 to meet said goals is hereby approved.

5 Be it further resolved that the
6 approvals granted in this resolution are
7 subject to and conditioned upon the
8 execution of the acknowledgement and
9 acceptance of this statement of conditions
10 to Riverboat Gaming License of PNK, doing
11 business as Boomtown Casino Bossier City,
12 which have been updated to reflect the
13 amendments contained herein.

14 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
15 Louisiana, this 16th day of November 2023.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. We have a motion by Ms.
18 Hamilton-Acker; seconded by Ms. Traylor to
19 adopt this resolution.

20 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
21 roll?

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 Mr. Avant.

24 MR. AVANT:

25 Yes.

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MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

1 Ms. Traylor.

2 MS. TRAYLOR:

3 Yes.

4 MS. HERNANDEZ:

5 Chairman Johns.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Yes.

8 By unanimous vote, that resolution
9 is hereby adopted.

10 You okay, Ms. Hernandez?

11 MS. HERNANDEZ:

12 Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Okay. Louisiana Casino Cruises,
15 doing business as The Queen Baton Rouge, I
16 would need a motion to adopt that
17 resolution.

18 Mr. Poole has made that motion. Ms.
19 Lewis has seconded that motion.

20 And would you read the resolution,
21 Ms. Hernandez?

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 On the 16th day of November 2023,
24 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
25 a duly noticed public meeting, consider

1 the petition to amend voluntary employment
2 goals filed by Louisiana by Louisiana
3 Casino Cruises, doing business as The
4 Queen Baton Rouge and, upon motion duly
5 made and seconded, the Board adopted the
6 following resolution.

7 Be it resolved that The Queen Baton
8 Rouge request to amend its voluntary
9 employment goals to reflect a total
10 employment goal of 375, a minority
11 employment goal of 38%, and a women
12 employment goal of 51% commencing on
13 January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

14 Be it further resolved that The
15 Queen Baton Rouge request to petition to
16 amend its voluntary employment goals at a
17 later date based on future U.S. Census
18 data and/or significant changes in its
19 operating market that affect its ability
20 to meet said goals is hereby approved.

21 Be it resolved that the approvals
22 granted in this resolution are subject to
23 and conditioned upon the execution of the
24 acknowledgment and acceptance of the
25 statement of conditions to

1 Riverboat Gaming License of Louisiana
2 Casino Cruises, doing business as the
3 Queen Baton Rouge, which have been updated
4 to reflect the amendment contained herein.

5 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,
6 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Okay. We have a motion by Mr.
9 Poole; seconded by Mrs. Lewis to adopt
10 this resolution.

11 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
12 roll?

13 MS. HERNANDEZ:

14 Mr. Avant.

15 MR. AVANT:

16 Yes.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ:

18 Ms. Berry.

19 MS. BERRY:

20 Yes.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ:

22 Mr. Jackson.

23 MR. JACKSON:

24 Yes.

25 MS. HERNANDEZ:

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Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

By unanimous vote, that resolution
is hereby adopted.

1 PNK Baton Rouge Partnership, doing
2 business as L'Auberge Casino, I would need
3 a motion to adopt that resolution.

4 MR. POOLE:

5 I'll move.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Mr. Poole has made that motion. Ms.
8 Berry has seconded that motion.

9 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
10 the resolution?

11 MS. HERNANDEZ:

12 On the 16th day of November 2023,
13 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
14 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
15 the petition to amend voluntary employment
16 goals file by PNK Partnership, doing
17 business as L'Auberge Baton Rouge and,
18 upon motion duly made and seconded, the
19 Board adopted the following resolution.

20 Be it resolved that L'Auberge Baton
21 Rouge request to amend its voluntary
22 employment goals to reflect a total
23 employment goal of 750, a minority
24 employment goal of 38%, and a women
25 employment goal of 51% commencing on

1 January 1st, 2024, is hereby approved.

2 Be it further resolved that
3 L'Auberge Baton Rouge request to petition
4 to amend its voluntary employment goals at
5 a later date based on future U.S. Census
6 data and/or significant changes in its
7 operating market that affect its ability
8 to meet said goals is hereby approved.

9 Be it further resolved that the
10 approvals granted in this resolution are
11 subject to and conditioned upon the
12 execution of the acknowledgment and
13 acceptance of the statement of conditions
14 to Riverboat Gaming License of PNK doing
15 business as L'Auberge Baton Rouge, which
16 have been updated to reflect the amendment
17 contained herein.

18 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
19 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Okay. I have a motion by Mr. Poole;
22 seconded by Mrs. Berry to adopt this
23 resolution.

24 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
25 roll?

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MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

MR. AVANT:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

1 Mr. Sholes.

2 MR. SHOLES:

3 Yes.

4 MS. HERNANDEZ:

5 Ms. Traylor.

6 MS. TRAYLOR:

7 Yes.

8 MS. HERNANDEZ:

9 Chairman Johns.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Yes.

12 By unanimous vote, that resolution
13 is hereby adopted.

14 Next Louisiana-I Gaming, a Louisiana
15 Partnership in Commendam, doing business
16 as Boomtown New Orleans.

17 MR. JACKSON:

18 I move to approve.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 Mr. Jackson has moved that we adopt
21 the resolution. Mrs. Hamilton-Acker has
22 seconded that resolution.

23 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
24 roll? I mean, excuse me, would you read
25 the resolution?

1 MS. HERNANDEZ:

2 On the 16th day of November 2023,
3 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
4 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
5 the petition to amend voluntary employment
6 goals filed by Louisiana-I Gaming, doing
7 business as Boomtown New Orleans and, upon
8 motion duly made and seconded, the Board
9 adopted the following resolution.

10 Be it resolved that the Boomtown New
11 Orleans request to amend its voluntary
12 employment goals to reflect a total
13 employment goal of 425, a minority
14 employment goal of 38%, and a women
15 employment goal of 51% commencing on
16 January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

17 Be it further resolved that Boomtown
18 New Orleans request to petition to amend
19 its voluntary employment goals at a later
20 date based on future U.S. Census data
21 and/or significant changes in its
22 operating market that affect its ability
23 to meet said goals is hereby approved.

24 Be it further resolved that the
25 approvals granted in this resolution are

1 subject to and conditioned upon execution
2 of the acknowledgment and acceptance of
3 the statement of conditions to Riverboat
4 Gaming License of Louisiana-I Gaming,
5 doing business as Boomtown New Orleans,
6 which have been updated to reflect the
7 amendment contained herein.

8 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
9 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Okay. We have a motion by Mr.
12 Jackson; seconded by Mrs. Hamilton-Acker
13 to adopt this resolution.

14 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
15 roll, please?

16 MS. HERNANDEZ:

17 Mr. Avant.

18 MR. AVANT:

19 Yes.

20 MS. HERNANDEZ:

21 Ms. Berry.

22 MS. BERRY:

23 Yes.

24 MS. HERNANDEZ:

25 Mr. Jackson.

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MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Yes.

2 By unanimous vote, this resolution
3 is hereby adopted.

4 Three more, ladies and gentlemen.

5 The Belle of Orleans, LLC, doing
6 business as Amelia Belle Casino. I would
7 need a motion to adopt the resolution.

8 MR. JACKSON:

9 So moved.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Mr. Jackson has made that motion,
12 and Ms. Lewis has seconded that motion.
13 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read the
14 resolution?

15 MS. HERNANDEZ:

16 On the 16th day of November 2023,
17 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
18 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
19 the petition to amend voluntary employment
20 goals filed by Belle of Baton Rouge, doing
21 business as Amelia Belle Casino and, upon
22 motion duly made and seconded, the Board
23 adopted the following resolution.

24 Be it resolved that Amelia Belle's
25 request to amend its voluntary employment

1 goals to reflect a total employment goal
2 of 165, a minority employment goal of 38%,
3 and a women employment goal of 51%
4 commencing January 1st, 2024, and is
5 hereby approved.

6 Be it further resolved that Amelia
7 Belle's request to petition to amend
8 voluntary employment goals at a later date
9 based on future U.S. Census data and/or
10 significant changes in its operating
11 market that affect its said goals is
12 hereby approved.

13 Be it further resolved that the
14 approvals granted in this resolution are
15 subject to and conditioned upon the
16 execution of the acknowledgment and
17 acceptance of the statement of conditions
18 to Riverboat Gaming License of Belle of
19 Orleans, doing business as Amelia Belle
20 Casino, which have been updated to reflect
21 the amendments contained herein.

22 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
23 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay. By a motion by Mr. Jackson;

1 seconded by Mrs. Lewis to adopt this
2 resolution.

3 And, Mrs. Hernandez, would you call
4 the roll?

5 MS. HERNANDEZ:

6 Mr. Avant.

7 MR. AVANT:

8 Yes.

9 MS. HERNANDEZ:

10 Ms. Berry.

11 MS. BERRY:

12 Yes.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ:

14 Mr. Jackson.

15 MR. JACKSON:

16 Yes.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ:

18 Ms. Lewis.

19 MS. LEWIS:

20 Yes.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ:

22 Mr. Poole.

23 MR. POOLE:

24 Yes.

25 MS. HERNANDEZ:

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Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Sholes.
MR. SHOLES:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Traylor.
MS. TRAYLOR:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Chairman Johns.
CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
Yes.
By a unanimous vote, this resolution
is hereby adopted.
Number 9, Treasure Chest Casino,
LLC, doing business as the Treasure Chest
Casino. I would entertain a motion to
adopt the resolution. Mr. Avant has made
that motion. Mr. Poole has seconded that
motion.
And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read
the resolution?

1 MS. HERNANDEZ:

2 On the 16th day of November 2023,
3 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
4 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
5 the petition to amend voluntary employment
6 goals filed by Treasure Chest Casino,
7 doing business as Treasure Chest Casino
8 and, upon motion duly made and seconded,
9 the Board adopted the following
10 resolution.

11 Be it resolved that the Treasure
12 Chest Casino request to amend its
13 voluntary employment goals reflect a total
14 employment goal of 350, a minority
15 employment goal of 38%, and a women
16 employment goal of 51% commencing on
17 January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

18 Be it further resolved that Treasure
19 Chest's request to petition to amend its
20 voluntary employment goals at a later date
21 based on future U.S. Census data and/or
22 significant changes in its operating
23 market that affect its ability to meet
24 said goals is hereby approved.

25 Be it further resolved that the

1 approvals granted in this resolution are
2 subject to and conditioned upon the
3 execution of the acknowledgment and
4 acceptance of the statement of conditions
5 to Riverboat Gaming License of Treasure
6 Chest Casino, doing business as Treasure
7 Chest Casino, which have been updated to
8 reflect the amendments contained herein.

9 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
10 Louisiana this 16th day of November 2023.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Okay. We have a motion by Mr.
13 Avant; seconded by Mr. Poole that we adopt
14 this resolution.

15 Mr. Hernandez, would you call the
16 roll?

17 MS. HERNANDEZ:

18 Mr. Avant.

19 MR. AVANT:

20 Yes.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ:

22 Ms. Berry.

23 MS. BERRY:

24 Yes.

25 MS. HERNANDEZ:

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Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Lewis.
MS. LEWIS:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Poole.
MR. POOLE:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Sholes.
MR. SHOLES:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Traylor.
MS. TRAYLOR:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Chairman Johns.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Yes.

3 By unanimous vote, that resolution
4 is hereby adopted.

5 Number 10, the St. Charles Gaming
6 Company, LLC, doing business as Horseshoe
7 Casino Lake Charles.

8 Mrs. Berry has made a motion that we
9 adopt that resolution and Ms. Traylor has
10 seconded that motion.

11 Would you read the resolution, Ms.
12 Hernandez?

13 MS. HERNANDEZ:

14 On the 16th day of November 2023,
15 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
16 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
17 the petition to amend voluntary employment
18 goals filed by St. Charles Gaming Company,
19 doing business as Horseshoe Casino Lake
20 Charles and, upon motion duly made and
21 seconded, the Board adopted the following
22 resolution.

23 Be it resolved that the Horseshoe
24 Casino Lake Charles request to amend its
25 voluntary employment goals to reflect a

1 total employment goal of 550, a minority
2 employment goal of 38%, and a women
3 employment goal of 51% commencing on
4 January 1st, 2024 is hereby approved.

5 Be it further resolved that
6 Horseshoe Casino Lake Charles request to
7 petition to amend its voluntary employment
8 goals at a later date based on future U.S.
9 Census us and/or significant changes in
10 its operating market that affect its
11 ability to meet said goals is hereby
12 approved.

13 Be it further resolved that the
14 approvals granted in this resolution
15 subject to and conditioned upon the
16 execution of the acknowledgment and
17 acceptance of the statement of conditions
18 to Riverboat Gaming License of St. Charles
19 Gaming Company, doing business as
20 Horseshoe Casino Lake Charles, which have
21 been updated to reflect the amendments
22 contained herein.

23 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,
24 Louisiana the 16th day of November 2023.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Okay. By a motion by Mrs. Berry;
2 seconded by Mrs. Traylor that we adopt
3 this resolution.
4 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
5 roll?
6 MS. HERNANDEZ:
7 Mr. Avant.
8 MR. AVANT:
9 Yes.
10 MS. HERNANDEZ:
11 Ms. Berry.
12 MS. BERRY:
13 Yes.
14 MS. HERNANDEZ:
15 Mr. Jackson.
16 MR. JACKSON:
17 Yes.
18 MS. HERNANDEZ:
19 Ms. Lewis.
20 MS. LEWIS:
21 Yes.
22 MS. HERNANDEZ:
23 Mr. Poole.
24 MR. POOLE:
25 Yes.

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MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

By unanimous vote, this resolution is hereby adopted.

And the Chairman may have to approve hazard pay for Mrs. Hernandez.

MR. SHOLES:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

MR. SHOLES:

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Yes, Mr. Sholes.

4 MR. SHOLES:

5 I do would hope -- would actually
6 hope that the industry would look at the
7 salaries that they're offering for some of
8 these positions. Maybe if they raise the
9 salaries, they might find it easier to
10 find employees, just my opinion.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Good point.

13 MR. DUTY:

14 Well, I mean that is certainly a
15 fair observation. We've addressed that
16 through a variety of mechanisms, one of
17 which is obviously the amount of
18 compensation, but also something that I
19 was a little surprised to learn working up
20 this presentation was that most of these
21 casino actually consider a full workweek
22 starting at 30 or 32 hours a week instead
23 of the traditional 40. So there are
24 mechanisms, and we'll certainly continue
25 to explore those to -- to address the

1 shortfalls, but those are not unique to
2 the gaming industry. So we'll continue to
3 work to try and do better.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 And I will say, in my discussions
6 with the industries, I've been traveling
7 the state, it's not just your -- your
8 minimum wage employee or your lower --
9 your lower-level employee. I mean there's
10 a need for dealers. There's slot
11 technicians. I do know that the gaming
12 and hospitality school at SOWELA in Lake
13 Charles is appearing to work very well
14 where they're actually training people for
15 these -- and those are training people for
16 high-paying jobs.

17 MR. DUTY:

18 Right. So I did run those numbers
19 just in the event that this was a line of
20 inquiry. Contemplating a 35-hour workweek
21 spread across all jobs, our extra
22 spectrum, our hourly average is 21.33 an
23 hour. And by the time you add in
24 benefits, that takes it to 26.65.

25 So obviously, that's not starting,

1 but then I asked the question informally,
2 this is not a hard number as the one I
3 just gave you was, but these casinos are
4 starting people at 12 and 14 an hour for
5 non-tip positions. When you start a
6 dealer at \$4 an hour, but it's a tip
7 position averaging \$27 an hour in tips,
8 that takes you to \$31 an hour. So these
9 are -- these are good paying jobs. These
10 are jobs that you can have the flexibility
11 as well based on your other outside needs
12 of family or other issues. So I would
13 encourage people to consider employment in
14 the casino industry.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Well, Judge Sholes's comments are
17 well taken and we would encourage the
18 industry to -- to look at their salary
19 schedule, to -- to keep it updated and to
20 hopefully fill those gaps.

21 MR. DUTY:

22 Understood.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Mr. Duty, thank you for your work on
25 this. I know a lot -- a lot of work went

1 into it.

2 Thank you to our staff. Also the
3 AG's office and state police and everyone
4 involved in this. This was a long time
5 coming, and we encouraged the industry now
6 to meet those goals.

7 MR. DUTY:

8 Understood.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you, Mr. Duty.

11 Okay. We're moving to video gaming
12 issues, the consideration of the following
13 truck stop applications.

14 Number 1, Mardi Gras Travel Plaza,
15 LLC, doing business as Carnival Club.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

17 Hello, Chairman Johns, Board
18 Members. I'm Delancey Houston, Assistant
19 Attorney General, present before the Board
20 in the matter of the original application
21 of Mardi Gras Travel Plaza, LLC, doing
22 business as Carnival Club, which is
23 applying for a Type 5 video draw poker
24 gaming license. The truck stop facility
25 is located in Orleans Parish. Malone

1 Sincy Limited Company, doing business as
2 the Carnival Club previously operated the
3 truck stop facility at this location. On
4 June 14th, 2022 the following events took
5 place.

6 First, the applicant acquired the
7 business and business assets of Malone
8 Sincy Limited Company, doing business as
9 the Carnival Club, and the applicant
10 entered into a video draw poker device
11 placement agreement with Border Town
12 Gaming, LLC.

13 The applicant leases the land that
14 the truck stop facility is currently
15 located on from Chestaney and Patel
16 Investments, LLC.

17 Investigator William Landry
18 inspected the truck stop facility and
19 conducted the suitability investigations
20 of all associated persons, and he is
21 present here this morning to report his
22 findings to the board.

23 MR. LANDRY:

24 Good afternoon, Chairman Johns. I'm
25 investigator William Landry, State Police

1 Gaming Enforcement Division. I conducted
2 an updated suitability check on Aziz
3 Tejani, Sneehal Patel, Ahmit Patel, Sneeu
4 Patel, Ancour Patel, Akhil Tejani, and
5 Alnoor Tejani as well as their spouses who
6 previously submitted to a suitability
7 investigation in connection with this
8 video poker license.

9 An on-site inspection was conducted
10 and it was determined that the
11 establishment meets all criteria set forth
12 in the video gaming laws as a qualified
13 truck stop facility. All required license
14 and permits were posted at the time of
15 inspection.

16 The establishment consists of at
17 least five continuous acres, specifically
18 5.007 acres. The applicant is operating
19 the truck stop facility at the location
20 that was licensed within the past 36
21 months, not subject to the rule that it
22 must be one mile from a school, church,
23 playground, synagogue, public library,
24 resident, and buildings on the national
25 historic registry.

1 I found no information that would
2 preclude the issuance of Type 5 video draw
3 poker license to Mardi Gras Travel Plaza,
4 doing business as the Carnival Club or to
5 preclude any of the current members and
6 their spouses from continued participating
7 in the gaming industry.

8 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

9 The office of the Attorney General
10 has reviewed the file prepared by the
11 Office of State Police and the information
12 contained therein and would not conclude
13 -- excuse me, preclude the issuance of a
14 Type 5 license to Mardi Gras Travel Plaza,
15 LLC, doing business as Carnival Club.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. Any questions from the Board?
18 Any questions?

19 Hearing none, I would entertain a
20 motion to approve the transfer of Mardi
21 Gras Travel Plaza, doing business as
22 Carnival Club.

23 MR. SHOLES:

24 So moved.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Judge Sholes has moved and Mrs.
2 Berry has seconded that motion.

3 Is there any discussion on that
4 motion? Is there any opposition to that
5 motion?

6 Hearing none, that motion passes.
7 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you.

11 Lucky Diamond Travel Plaza, LLC,
12 doing business as the Lucky Diamond
13 Casino.

14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SIZEMORE:

15 Good morning. I'm AAG, Shanna
16 Sizemore appearing before the Board in the
17 matter of the original application of
18 Lucky Diamond Travel Plaza, LLC, doing
19 business as Lucky Diamond Casino applying
20 for approval of a Type 5 video draw poker
21 gaming license.

22 On March 15th of 2023, the following
23 transactions occurred. S&I Investment,
24 LLC, doing business as Diamond Jubilee,
25 who previously held a video gaming license

1 for the truck stop, sold the business and
2 business assets to the applicant. And
3 Rich Diamond, LLC sold all of its rights,
4 title and interests in the immovable
5 property and improvements of the truck
6 stop facility to Tejani Holdings
7 Louisiana, LLC.

8 Also on March 15th, 2023, the
9 applicant and Tejani Holdings Louisiana,
10 LLC, entered into a lease for the
11 immovable property and improvements of the
12 truck stop facility.

13 The members of the applicant are as
14 follows: Aziz Tejani holds a 25%
15 interest; Alnoor Tejani with 25%, Akhil
16 Tejani 25%, and Aman Tejani at 25%.

17 Investigator William Landry
18 conducted suitability investigations of
19 the relevant persons associated with the
20 application and conducted an on-site
21 inspection of the truck stop facility.
22 He's here this morning to report the
23 Louisiana State Police's findings to the
24 board.

25 MR. LANDRY:

1 Good afternoon, Chairman Johns and
2 Board Members. Investigator William
3 Landry, Louisiana State Police Gaming
4 Enforcement. I conducted the suitability
5 investigation on Amam Tejani. I found no
6 information that would preclude him from
7 participating in the gaming industry.

8 I also conducted suitability checks
9 on Aziz Tejani, Mina Tejani, Alnoor
10 Tejani, Kiran Tejani and Akhil Tejani; and
11 I found no information that would preclude
12 them from participating in the gaming
13 industry.

14 An on-site inspection was conducted
15 and it was determined that the
16 establishment met all criteria set forth
17 in the video gaming laws as a qualified
18 video poker truck stop. All required
19 licenses and permits were posted at the
20 time and valid at the time of inspection.
21 The establishment consisted of 5.00
22 continuous acres.

23 Lucky Diamond Travel Plaza, LLC
24 purchased the facility that was originally
25 licensed on July 18th of the year 2000;

1 therefore, they are not subject to the
2 rules that it must be one mile from a
3 school, church, playground, synagogue,
4 public library and residence, and
5 buildings on a national historic registry.

6 I found no information that would
7 preclude the issuance of a Type 5 license
8 to the Lucky Diamond Travel Plaza, doing
9 business as the Lucky Diamond Casino.

10 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SIZEMORE:

11 The Office of the Attorney General
12 reviewed the files compiled as a result of
13 the investigation conducted by Louisiana
14 State Police. Our review indicates that
15 no information has been found which would
16 preclude its approval.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Okay. Members, any questions?
19 Hearing none, I would entertain a motion
20 to approve the original application for
21 Lucky Diamond Travel Plaza, doing business
22 as Lucky Diamond Casino.

23 Judge Sholes has moved, and Ms.
24 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.
25 Is there any discussion? Any opposition?

1 Hearing none, that motion to approve the
2 original application is approved.

3 Thank y'all very much.

4 Also, let the record reflect on the
5 Mardi Gras Travel Plaza that the motion
6 should have been to approved, the original
7 application.

8 Any objection to that?

9 Hearing none, that will -- let the
10 record reflect that being an original
11 application.

12 Thank you very much. I appreciate
13 your work.

14 Last on the agenda the consideration
15 of a proposed settlement of Jolene Shaw.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

17 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board
18 Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General
19 Hafiz Folami here in the matter of the
20 settlement of permittee Jolene Shaw, who
21 holds a non-key employee gaming permit.
22 The settlement addresses the permittee's
23 failure to notify the division of her
24 arrest within 15 days.

25 On August 16th, 2023, the division

1 discovered that the permittee was arrested
2 on August 8th, 2023 for operating a
3 vehicle while intoxicated and passing on
4 the left in a curve.

5 The civil penalty contained in this
6 settlement is \$250, which is an amount
7 that is well established for a violation
8 of this kind. The settlement has been
9 signed by the hearing officer and is now
10 before the Board for final approval.

11 I'll be happy to answer any
12 questions you may have at this time.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Any questions?

16 Hearing none, I would entertain a
17 motion to approve the settlement of Jolene
18 Shaw.

19 Ms. Berry has made the motion. Mr.
20 Poole has seconded that motion.

21 Any questions? Any objection to
22 that motion?

23 Hearing none, that motion is hereby
24 approved.

25 Thank you very much.

1 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 A couple of housekeeping measures.
5 First, let me say congratulations to the
6 Horseshoe in Lake Charles on the opening
7 of the Gordon Ramsay Restaurant this past
8 weekend. I had the opportunity to be
9 there for a few minutes for the ribbon
10 cutting; and I tell you, ladies and
11 gentlemen, it was absolutely outstanding.

12 So, Horseshoe, thank you very much
13 for y'all's commitment. I know it was in
14 the original petition. It took a little
15 longer to get there than we had hoped, but
16 the final product is a great asset to the
17 Lake Charles market. So thank y'all and
18 thank Caesar's for that commitment. And
19 tell Mr. Gordon Ramsay he needs to come to
20 Lake Charles, so we can meet him.

21 UNKNOWN SPEAKER:

22 He's coming.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 He's coming. Okay.

25 Members, our December board meeting

1 will be moved from the 21st, which is the
2 normal day, to the 18th. It will be a
3 Monday. And I'm trying to accommodate
4 everyone with Christmas week. So unless
5 there's any objection to you coming to
6 Baton Rouge four days before Christmas,
7 I'll -- I'll just announce that the
8 meeting will be December the 18th here in
9 the capitol.

10 Any other business to come before
11 the board?

12 Hearing none, I know Mr. Jackson
13 wants to make a motion to adjourn.
14 Members, thank you for your diligence
15 today, your time. I know this was a long
16 meeting, but it was just necessary. So
17 thank you very much.

18 Thanks to all of the staff, AG,
19 state police, everybody, appreciate your
20 hard work.

21 And, Ms. Hernandez, thank you for
22 all of the readings.

23 I need a second. Ms. Berry has made
24 a motion to second.

25 MS. BERRY:

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I'm always your second.
CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
Any objection?
Hearing none, we're hereby
adjourned.

1 REPORTER'S PAGE
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4 I, BELINDA K. AMERSON, Certified Court
5 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the
6 officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal
7 Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B)
8 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before
9 whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby
10 state on the record:

11 That due to the interaction in the
12 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes
13 (--) have been used to indicate pauses, changes
14 in thought, and/or talkovers; that same is the
15 proper method for a Court Reporter's
16 transcription of a proceeding, and that dashes
17 (--) do not indicate that words or phrases have
18 been left out of this transcript; also, that any
19 words and/or names which could not be verified
20 through reference material have been denoted with
21 the phrase "(phonetically spelled)."
22
23

24 BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR
25 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This certificate is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original required seal on this page.

I, BELINDA K. AMERSON, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that this board meeting was reported by me in the stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board;

That I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board;

That I am not related to counsel or the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER