

Transcript of the Testimony of  
**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
MEETING 9-19-2024**

September 19, 2024



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STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 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 1, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the 19th day of September, 2024.

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APPEARANCES :  
CHAIRMAN CHRISTOPHER HEBERT  
MS. LANDRY  
MS. HERNANDEZ  
MAJOR ADAM ALBRIGHT  
FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER  
CLAUDE D. JACKSON  
JARED CONIGLIO  
MS. KATHRYN BECNEL  
RONALD J. SHOLES  
ASHLEY ANDERSON TRAYLOR  
MS. LEWIS  
MR. POOLE  
MS. BERRY



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CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Good morning everyone. I would like to call to order the meeting of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board for Thursday, September 19th, 2024.

Ms. Hernandez, would you please call the roll?

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Hebert.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Becnel.

MS. BECNEL:

(No response.)

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 Hodges.

MAJOR ALBRIGHT:

Major Albright for Colonel Hodges.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

And Secretary Nelson.

MR. CONIGLIO:

1                   Jarod Coniglio here for Secretary  
2                   Nelson.

3                   CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

4                   And let the record reflect that Ms.  
5                   Becnel is here, and we do have a quorum.  
6                   Thank you members for being here this  
7                   morning.

8                   First, we would ask that any  
9                   witnesses please state your name for the  
10                  record and speak into the microphone this  
11                  morning. Additionally, we ask that all  
12                  members and those in the audience please  
13                  silence your cell phones; and if you need  
14                  to a receive a phone call, please step out  
15                  of the room.

16                  And, finally, no eating or drinking  
17                  is allowed by audience members in the  
18                  room.

19                  At this time we will move to item 2  
20                  on the agenda, Public Comments. Ladies  
21                  and gentlemen, this is our public comment  
22                  period. If anyone would like to comment  
23                  on any agenda item before the board today,  
24                  now is the time to come forward.

25                  Seeing none, but before moving on to

1           our next agenda item, I would like to take  
2           the opportunity to welcome Ms. Lisha  
3           Landry, our new confidential assistant to  
4           the Louisiana Gaming Control Board. Ms.  
5           Landry replaces Ms. Hood, who has moved on  
6           to a new position within the department of  
7           public safety.

8                       Ms. Landry is a graduate of  
9           Louisiana State University and obtained  
10          her law degree magna cum laude from the  
11          Southern University Law Center. Ms.  
12          Landry began her career in public service  
13          in the consumer protection section of the  
14          Louisiana Attorney General's office in  
15          2005. She later served as a staff  
16          attorney for the House of Representatives  
17          in the legal division.

18                      Ms. Landry came back to the AG's  
19          office in 2017 in the gaming division  
20          where she served as assistant attorney  
21          general specialist who specialized in all  
22          aspects of gaming regulation.

23                      Board members having worked with Ms.  
24          Landry on many complex gaming issues over  
25          the years, I assure you that our board is

1 in good hands. Please join me in  
2 welcoming Ms. Lisha Landry.

3 (All applause.)

4 We will now move on to item 3, the  
5 approval of the minutes. I would ask for  
6 a motion to waive the reading and approve  
7 the minutes of the August 15th, 2024  
8 meeting.

9 MR. JACKSON:

10 So moved.

11 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

12 So moved by Mr. Jackson. Can I get  
13 a second?

14 MS. BERRY:

15 Second.

16 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

17 Seconded by Ms. Berry.

18 Is there any discussion? Any  
19 opposition?

20 Hearing none, that motion carries.

21 Moving on to item 4 on our agenda,  
22 our revenue reports.

23 Good morning, Ms. Jackson.

24 MS. JACKSON:

25 Good morning, Chairman Hebert, board



1 members. My name is Donna Jackson with  
2 Louisiana State Police Gaming Audit  
3 Section.

4 In August, the 14 operating  
5 riverboats generated adjusted gross  
6 receipts of \$147,258,964. The state  
7 collected fees totalling \$31,660,677.  
8 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year  
9 '24-'25 to date are \$285 million, an  
10 increase of \$2.6 million or 1% from fiscal  
11 year '23-'24.

12 As of August 31st, 2024, the state  
13 collected \$61.3 million in fees for fiscal  
14 year '24-'25. Page 2 shows the riverboat  
15 revenue broken down by regional market.  
16 The overall increase from July was \$9  
17 million or 6.6%. Compared to last August,  
18 this month's revenues represent an  
19 increase of \$11 million or 8.2%. As  
20 information, this August had an additional  
21 Friday and Saturday than last August.

22 Next is the summary of the August  
23 2024 gaming activity for Harrah's New  
24 Orleans, found on page 3. Harrah's  
25 generated \$18,886,071 in gross gaming

1 revenue. These revenues represent an  
2 increase from last month of \$1.2 million  
3 or 6.7%, and an increase of approximately  
4 \$1 million or 5.2% in the same month last  
5 year.

6 During August, the state received  
7 \$5,520,548 in minimum daily payments.  
8 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year  
9 '24-'25 to date are approximately \$36.6  
10 million, an increase of \$1 million or 3%  
11 from fiscal year '23-'24. As of August  
12 31st, the state collected \$11 million in  
13 fees for fiscal year '24-'25.

14 Next I'll present the revenues for  
15 slots at the Racetracks. During August,  
16 the four racetrack facilities combined  
17 generated adjusted gross receipts of  
18 \$26,505,790, an increase of \$1.4 million  
19 or 5.8% from the previous month, and an  
20 increase of \$1.5 million or 5.9% when  
21 compared to the same month last year.

22 During August, the state collected  
23 \$4 million in state fees. Adjusted gross  
24 receipts for fiscal year '24-'25 to date  
25 are \$51.6 million, a decrease of \$1

1 million or 2% from fiscal year '23-'24.

2 As of August 31st, 2024, the state  
3 has collected \$7.8 million in fees for  
4 fiscal year '24-'25.

5 I'll now move to the video gaming  
6 information. There are 12,011 video  
7 gaming devices activated at 1,392  
8 locations. Net device revenue for August  
9 2024 was \$62,159,168, an increase of \$1.6  
10 million or 2.7% when compared to July, and  
11 an increase of .9% when compared to last  
12 August. Total franchise fees for August  
13 totaled \$18.8 million.

14 Fiscal year to date, net device  
15 revenue is \$122.7 million, a decrease of  
16 .4% when compared to last fiscal year. As  
17 of August 31st, 2024, the state has  
18 collected \$37.2 million in franchise fees  
19 for fiscal year '24-'25.

20 Next, I'll present the August  
21 revenues for sportsbook. During August,  
22 the retail sportsbooks accepted \$16.3  
23 million in sports wagers, resulting in net  
24 proceeds of \$2.7 million and \$268,000 in  
25 state taxes.

1           The mobile sportsbooks accepted \$218  
2 million in sports wagers, resulting in net  
3 proceeds of \$22.7 million and \$3.4 million  
4 in taxes paid to the state.

5           Finally, for daily fantasy sports,  
6 gross revenues for August were  
7 approximately \$436,000, with net revenue  
8 of \$45,000 and taxes of \$3,600.

9           Any questions?

10          CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

11           Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jackson.

12           Are there any questions from the  
13 board for Ms. Jackson?

14           Thank you.

15           I do have an update related to  
16 sports wagering in the letter which was  
17 sent on behalf of the gaming control  
18 board. If you will recall, I indicated  
19 during the last meeting that I sent a  
20 cease and desist letter to the illegal  
21 online betting site Bovada, which operates  
22 out of Curacao. Well, I'm happy to report  
23 that as of this week Bovada has added  
24 Louisiana to its list of restricted  
25 states. And hopefully, this will -- this

1 will drive our citizens who would like to  
2 wager to responsibly do so on our licensed  
3 platforms. So definitely positive  
4 progress in that area.

5 Okay. Moving on to item 5, Casino  
6 Gaming Issues. First up is the  
7 consideration of a certificate of  
8 compliance for the riverboat gaming land  
9 side facility of Louisiana Casino Cruises,  
10 LLC doing business as The Queen Baton  
11 Rouge.

12 Mr. Lewis, good morning.

13 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

14 Good morning, Chairman Hebert, board  
15 members. I'm Assistant Attorney General  
16 Kanick Lewis, Junior, and I'm here in the  
17 matter of the issuance of the certificate  
18 of compliance for The Queen Casino.

19 On August 9th, the Louisiana State  
20 Fire Marshal began the inspection process  
21 for the approval of The Queen Casino's  
22 annual certificate of compliance. At the  
23 time of that inspection, there were  
24 deficiencies found at the property. The  
25 board was provided a copy of that report

1 at the last board meeting.

2 On September 6th, the fire marshal  
3 completed a follow-up inspection, and the  
4 deficiencies were corrected. A copy of  
5 that report has been provided to the  
6 board. I now present these findings to  
7 the board and request that upon the board  
8 accepting the report submitted by the  
9 state fire marshal, you will move for the  
10 issuance of The Queen Casino a certificate  
11 of compliance, which will expire on August  
12 31st, 2025.

13 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

14 Okay. Are there any questions from  
15 the board for Ms. Lewis?

16 Ms. Berry.

17 MS. BERRY:

18 This is the only deficiency was with  
19 the fire marshal.

20 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

21 Well, it's a landside casino and the  
22 only deficiency was an issue that they  
23 had, yes.

24 MS. BERRY:

25 So it's been corrected?

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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Any further questions? Okay. If not, I'll entertain a motion to issue the certificate of compliance, which expires August 31st of 2025.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Moved.

MR. POOLE:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

It's been moved by Ms. Hamilton-Acker; seconded by Mr. Poole. Okay.

Is there any discussion or any opposition?

Hearing none, that motion carries.

Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Okay. Our next item is consideration of a certificate of compliance for the alternate riverboat



1 inspection of the gaming vessel of  
2 Louisiana Casino Cruises, LLC doing  
3 business as The Queen of Baton Rouge.

4 Mr. Barbin, good morning.

5 MR. BARBIN:

6 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
7 board members.

8 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

9 Gentlemen, please make your  
10 appearances for the record.

11 MR. BARBIN:

12 I'm Jeff Barbin representing Queen  
13 Casino --

14 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

15 I'm sorry, Jeff. Can you please  
16 restate that? I didn't have your mic on.

17 MR. BARBIN:

18 Yes. Good morning, Chairman Hebert  
19 and board members. I'm Jeff Barbin  
20 representing Louisiana Casino Cruises, LLC  
21 doing business as The Queen Baton Rouge.

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

23 I'm Assistant Attorney General  
24 Kanick Lewis, Jr. representing the  
25 division of the attorney general's office.



1 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

2 Okay.

3 MR. BARBIN:

4 And just a little bit of background  
5 about this request. The Queen is  
6 requesting that the -- a determination  
7 from this board that the certificate of  
8 compliance for the vessel no longer be  
9 required. And a little bit of background  
10 on that. You'll recall that The Queen's  
11 landside facility was opened on August  
12 24th of last year, and at that time the  
13 licensee continued to own the riverboat  
14 gaming vessel and was not using the vessel  
15 for casino gaming, but used it for several  
16 months just to store sensitive gaming  
17 equipment.

18 At the time, the division because of  
19 that requested that The Queen maintain the  
20 certificate of compliance. Since that  
21 time, the sensitive gaming equipment has  
22 been moved off of the vessel; and  
23 obviously, no more gaming is happening on  
24 the vessel.

25 You'll recall that Viking is using

1 the dock to land its cruises in Baton  
2 Rouge. Viking is landing approximately  
3 every four to six weeks. Since that time  
4 Viking has been using the existing vessel  
5 to ramp up against that vessel and unload  
6 its passengers from its vessel on to the  
7 Motor Vessel Casino Rouge and then to the  
8 dock.

9 We fully expected that the situation  
10 would exist where that boat would be  
11 removed at some point in time; and in  
12 fact, The Queen sold the vessel to a third  
13 party.

14 However, since that time, Viking has  
15 expressed an interest in keeping that boat  
16 in place because without the boat  
17 additional dredging would need to occur,  
18 and they have -- they would prefer that  
19 the boat stay in place. So Viking  
20 continues to be in discussion with the now  
21 owner of the vessel to try to work out a  
22 deal on that.

23 The Queen is requesting a  
24 determination that we, you know, no longer  
25 need to have a certificate of compliance.

1 In lieu of that, we would be requesting an  
2 extension of a certificate, which expires  
3 at the end of this month and that would  
4 give the AG's office some time to make  
5 sure that -- you know, that determination  
6 can be made.

7 So at this point in time, you know,  
8 we're either asking for a determination  
9 that the COC no longer be needed or some  
10 type of an extension of that COC.

11 I'm happy to answer any questions  
12 you have.

13 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

14 I'd like to hear from the AG's  
15 office on this issue as well.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

17 Chairman Hebert, board members, the  
18 board's jurisdiction specifically covers  
19 vessels owned or leased by the licensees  
20 that are used for gaming operations. Per  
21 Louisiana Gaming Regulations 21 -- I'm  
22 sorry -- 2117, riverboat gaming licensees  
23 must provide proof of safety compliance  
24 for their vessels. Non-certificated  
25 vessels such as The Queen, required

1 compliance certificate based on  
2 third-party annual inspections and  
3 quarterly inspection by the licensee with  
4 documented results being submitted to the  
5 division.

6 The Queen had been conducting gaming  
7 activities on this vessel, which required  
8 to maintain a certificate of compliance or  
9 COC in accordance with state regulations.  
10 However, The Queen transitioned gaming  
11 activities to a landside facility and now  
12 maintains a COC for that facility.

13 With the vessel no longer in use for  
14 gaming, The Queen informed the board of  
15 their desire to sell or dispose of it and  
16 remove it from the licensed premise.

17 In 2022, the board approved this  
18 request largely due to the cost and safety  
19 concerns associated with keeping the  
20 vessel in its current location. As long  
21 as the vessel remained on the property,  
22 The Queen was instructed to remove all  
23 gaming devices and equipment from the  
24 vessel, which it did, maintain security  
25 and fire watch and maintain insurance on

1 the vessel until its removal from the  
2 property.

3 At the time of that approval, The  
4 Queen indicated that Viking Cruise Lines  
5 planned to use the gangway and dock as a  
6 port for river cruises.

7 The information presented to the  
8 board and the understanding was that the  
9 vessel would be relocated allowing Viking  
10 to rebuild a gangway and dock and tie-in  
11 to the new and improved dock.

12 However, instead Viking desired to  
13 use the vessel to dock and tie-in to and  
14 as a point of ingress and egress for  
15 loading and unloading passengers with  
16 passengers exiting the cruise ships,  
17 entering the vessel, then exiting the  
18 vessel on to the gangway and entering the  
19 landside facility.

20 Based on the belief of temporary use  
21 of the vessel for Viking and gaming  
22 patrons, the board, on September 21st of  
23 2023 modified the manual requirements for  
24 the vessel with different manual  
25 requirements based on the presence or

1 absence of passengers.

2 Per the board's resolution, the  
3 licensee must maintain a COC or  
4 certificate while the vessel is not  
5 shuttered and is being used as a  
6 passthrough for Viking's passengers from  
7 the cruise ship to the landside facility.

8 The current riverboat COC from  
9 September of 2023, requires The Queen to  
10 maintain certain staffing on the vessel  
11 when in use for disembarking and boarding  
12 the cruise ship, and it expires on  
13 September 30th.

14 Based on the latest known  
15 information, The Queen owned the vessel  
16 but had the intention to sell it and have  
17 it removed from its berth site; and that  
18 Viking would rebuild or repair the gangway  
19 and dock. However, The Queen recently  
20 submitted a request to the board to be  
21 relieved of the requirement to have a COC  
22 alleging the vessel was sold in December  
23 and posing whether the board still has  
24 jurisdiction over the vessel. The Queen  
25 further eluded that the plans for the

1 vessel to remain to be used as a passenger  
2 throughway.

3 The AG's office has asked for a time  
4 period on how long this setup is intended  
5 to last and has not received a response.  
6 The division has not received any formal  
7 documentation regarding the alleged sale  
8 nor clarion who currently insures the  
9 vessel or maintains liability for its use.

10 If The Queen no longer owns or  
11 leases the vessel and it is not used for  
12 gaming activities, there is a question as  
13 to whether The Queen or owner is required  
14 to maintain a COC and marine staffing.  
15 However, without clear evidence of the  
16 sale and given the vessel remains in its  
17 original location, we cannot provide an  
18 opinion on that at this time.

19 To fully analyze this situation, we  
20 must obtain necessary documentation and  
21 answers to specific questions. For  
22 instance, does The Queen retain ownership  
23 and, if not, when and whom -- when and to  
24 whom was the vessel sold? Why is the  
25 vessel still on the property? And what

1 permissions are needed for docking?

2 Additionally, we need clarity on any  
3 existing lease agreements and financial  
4 arrangements among The Queen, Viking and  
5 any alleged new owner. Moreover, we need  
6 to address who is responsible for insuring  
7 the vessel and whether The Queen is named  
8 on the policy, having identification  
9 agreements being signed to protect the  
10 board and other agencies, if The Queen is  
11 relieved of the COC requirement, who would  
12 be responsible for inspections and safety  
13 staffing on the vessel? Does an  
14 obligation remain since the vessel is  
15 being used for Viking's cruise passengers  
16 to disembark the cruise ship in order to  
17 enter the landside facility and to enter  
18 the landside facility to board the cruise  
19 ship?

20 Additionally, is the proposed  
21 situation of the vessel remaining even  
22 desired or appropriate considering the  
23 intent behind the legislation and board  
24 approval for the landside facility was to  
25 reduce the risk associated therewith; or



1 is that no longer a board consideration if  
2 The Queen has, in fact, sold the vessel;  
3 or does such remain that The Queen has  
4 contractual relationships with the Viking  
5 and vessel owner in order for the vessel  
6 to remain and the Viking ships to connect  
7 to the vessel?

8 It is crucial that we gather the  
9 necessary information and documentation in  
10 order to fully analyze this issue,  
11 understanding the ownership, usage and  
12 regulatory responsibilities surrounding  
13 the vessel is essential not just for  
14 compliance, but also for ensuring the  
15 safety and well-being of passengers and  
16 patrons, and the protection of this board  
17 and the division.

18 With the COC expiring, the licensee  
19 requested to be relieved of any  
20 responsibility to have the vessel  
21 inspected or to maintain a COC and marine  
22 staffing.

23 And the division not possessing  
24 crucial documentation and information at  
25 this time, it is recommended that the

1 board grant a 30-day extension for the  
2 COC, so the division may obtain and you  
3 may review and analyze that documentation  
4 and information.

5 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

6 It sounds like it's in the best  
7 interest of both parties that we do grant  
8 this 30-day extension. The only other  
9 question or concern that I would have if  
10 we do this is regarding life safety issues  
11 currently at the casino.

12 I know we have Mr. Taylor here with  
13 the AVS.

14 Mr. Taylor, would you mind coming  
15 forward? And I have that one question for  
16 you. What would cause any life safety  
17 issues should the board decide to issue a  
18 certificate of compliance that would last  
19 through the end of October of next month?

20 MR. TAYLOR:

21 Well, I've never attended the vessel  
22 myself, but I think 30 days would be a  
23 benefit of the board and the state.

24 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

25 Any questions for Mr. Taylor?

1                   And I'm sorry, Mr. Taylor, would you  
2                   please give your full name for the record.

3                   MR. TAYLOR:

4                   My name is Billy Taylor with the  
5                   American Vessel Services, LLC.

6                   CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

7                   Okay. So it's come to my attention  
8                   that within the packet that we -- the  
9                   board members currently have that AVS did  
10                  represent that there would be no life  
11                  safety issues should we grant this  
12                  certificate of compliance --

13                  ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

14                  Yes.

15                  CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

16                  -- which expires next month.

17                  Any further questions from board  
18                  members?

19                  If none, I would entertain a motion  
20                  to issue a certificate of compliance,  
21                  which expires October 31st, 2024.

22                  MS. BERRY:

23                  Move.

24                  MS. LEWIS:

25                  Second.

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CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

It's been moved by Ms. Berry;  
seconded by Ms. Lewis. Okay.

Is there any discussion? Any  
opposition?

Hearing none, that motion carries.

Thank you, gentlemen.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

Thank you:

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Okay. Moving on to item C under  
Casino Gaming Issues. Next we have the  
consideration of a five-year hull  
extension request for Catfish Queen, LLC  
doing business as The Belle of Baton  
Rouge.

Gentlemen, you may proceed.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
General Kanick Lewis, Junior, and with me  
is Mr. Billy Taylor of AVS.

We're here in the matter of the  
consideration of the five-year hull  
extension request for Catfish Queen, LLC

1           doing business as the Belle of Baton  
2           Rouge.

3                       On July 26th, the Belle of Baton  
4           Rouge requested an extension for the  
5           completion of its five-year hull  
6           inspection. The property requested a  
7           one-year extension, and Mr. Taylor will  
8           now provide AVS's information regarding  
9           that extension request.

10          MR. TAYLOR:

11                     Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
12           board members. I'm Billy Taylor with  
13           American Vessel Services, LLC.

14                     The last five-year hull inspection  
15           was completed in 2019 by American Bureau  
16           of Shipping Group and at that time the  
17           vessel passed the inspection and there  
18           were no life safety issues.

19                     On July 26th, 2024, the Belle of  
20           Baton Rouge requested a one-year extension  
21           for the inspection. AVS has recommended  
22           that the extension be granted for a period  
23           of three months. AVS feels that the  
24           extension would not pose a risk for the  
25           safety of the passengers or employees of

1 the property. This extension request is  
2 included in your packet.

3 It is the recommendation of AVS that  
4 Catfish Queen, LLC doing business as Belle  
5 of Baton Rouge be issued a three-month  
6 extension for the five-year inspection.

7 And I would be happy to answer any  
8 questions that the board may have.

9 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

10 Board members, are there any  
11 questions for the AG's office or AVS or  
12 for the licensee?

13 Mr. Barbin, is there anything you  
14 would like to add?

15 MR. BARBIN:

16 No. Just for the record, Jeff  
17 Barbin appearing for Catfish Queen, LLC.  
18 Just as you'll hear in a few minutes, just  
19 a reminder that -- that Catfish Queen is  
20 trying to move its operations to the  
21 temporary facility and hopefully within a  
22 three-month time period the vessel will no  
23 longer be needed.

24 I'm happy to answer any questions  
25 you have.

1 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

2 Okay. At this time I will entertain  
3 a motion --

4 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

5 Excuse me, Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

7 I'm sorry.

8 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:

9 I now present this information to  
10 the board, and if it is the board's  
11 pleasure to approve the three-month  
12 extension of the five-year hull  
13 inspections for the Catfish Queen, LLC  
14 doing business as Belle of Baton Rouge, a  
15 resolution has been prepared for the  
16 board'S adoption and signature.

17 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

18 Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

19 At this time I will entertain a  
20 motion to adopt the resolution.

21 MS. BECNEL:

22 Move.

23 MR. POOLE:

24 Second.

25 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

1                   Moved by Ms. Becnel; seconded by Mr.  
2                   Poole.

3                   Okay. At this time you're going to  
4                   read the resolution into the record,  
5                   right, Ms. Landry? Keeping me on my toes  
6                   up here.

7                   MS. LANDRY:

8                   On the 19th day of September 2024,  
9                   the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in  
10                  a duly noticed public meeting, consider  
11                  the five-year alternative hull examination  
12                  request filed by Catfish Queen, LLC doing  
13                  business as the Belle of Baton Rouge, and  
14                  upon motion duly made and seconded, the  
15                  board adopted this resolution:

16                  Whereas, the licensee has requested  
17                  approval to extend its September 2024  
18                  deadline to complete its five-year  
19                  alternative hull examination for its  
20                  riverboat gaming vessel, the Argosy III.

21                  Now therefore, be it resolved that,  
22                  based on the recommendation of the board's  
23                  third-party inspector, American Vessel  
24                  Services, the licensee's deadline to  
25                  complete its five-year alternative hull



1 examination is hereby extended to December  
2 2024.

3 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
4 Louisiana this 19th day of September of  
5 2024.

6 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

7 Okay. Ms. Hernandez, would you  
8 please call the roll?

9 MS. HERNANDEZ:

10 Ms. Berry.

11 MS. BERRY:

12 Yes.

13 MS. HERNANDEZ:

14 Ms. Becnel.

15 MS. BECNEL:

16 Yes.

17 MS. HERNANDEZ:

18 Mr. Jackson.

19 MR. JACKSON:

20 Yes.

21 MS. HERNANDEZ:

22 Ms. Lewis.

23 MS. LEWIS:

24 Yes.

25 MS. HERNANDEZ:

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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:  
And Chairman Hebert.  
CHAIRMAN HEBERT:  
Yes.  
The motion carries and the extension  
is granted.  
Thank you.  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS:  
Thank you.  
CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

1                   Next is item D, which is a  
2                   consideration of a petition to approve  
3                   substantial completion of temporary gaming  
4                   operations and for approval to close  
5                   existing operations for Catfish Queen, LLC  
6                   doing business as the Belle of Baton  
7                   Rouge.

8                   Mr. Meek, good morning.

9                   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MEEK:

10                  Good morning, Chairman Hebert, board  
11                  members. I'm Assistant Attorney General  
12                  Matthew Meek here in the matter of Belle  
13                  of Baton Rouge's request to cease gaming  
14                  operations on its riverboat vessel and to  
15                  approve substantial completion of its  
16                  temporary landside casino.

17                  On July 18th, 2024, the board  
18                  approved the licensee's request to  
19                  construct and relocate its gaming  
20                  operations to a temporary facility while  
21                  its permanent facility is under  
22                  construction.

23                  At this time, the licensee is  
24                  requesting board approval to open and  
25                  commence gaming operations at its

1 temporary facility. The licensee intended  
2 to be completed with construction and to  
3 have had its mock opening for the -- or  
4 there to be an official opening on  
5 September 24th. However, there have been  
6 several delays, and there are still  
7 deficiencies with the temporary facility.

8 The licensee can't commence gaming  
9 operations at a landside facility until  
10 the division determines all necessary  
11 staffing, training, security and  
12 surveillance, technical, accounting and  
13 internal controls are acceptable. The  
14 division determines compliance and  
15 confirms substantial completion through a  
16 preoperative inspection, which includes a  
17 mock opening. Due to the delays, the  
18 division has been unable to hold a mock  
19 opening or complete its preoperative  
20 inspection.

21 The preoperative inspection is just  
22 one requirement before substantial  
23 completion and commencement. The other  
24 requirements include riverboat gaming  
25 landside facility certificate of

1 compliance to operate and an inspection  
2 report from the state fire marshal, a  
3 certificate of substantial completion from  
4 the approved architect, a certificate of  
5 occupancy and written information from  
6 Louisiana State Police Gaming Enforcement  
7 Division of substantial completion.

8 The division has received the  
9 necessary permits. However, the fire  
10 marshal has not yet signed a certificate  
11 of compliance, and the division has not  
12 yet determined substantial completion.

13 At a prior resolution, the board  
14 ordered the licensee to continue operating  
15 in its vessel until the commencement of  
16 gaming operations at its temporary  
17 facility. Since that date the licensee  
18 has indicated that it requires certain  
19 gaming equipment from the vessel in order  
20 to operate in the temporary facility,  
21 which means the licensee must cease  
22 operations on the vessel and relocate that  
23 equipment prior to the division being able  
24 to determine substantial completion and  
25 prior to commencement of gaming.

1                   Therefore, the licensee will need to  
2                   be relieved of that requirement as there  
3                   are still deficiencies which have  
4                   prevented the division from being able to  
5                   conduct a mock and conclude its  
6                   preoperative inspection. The board cannot  
7                   at this time determine substantial  
8                   completion or the ability to commence  
9                   gaming.

10                   It is recommended that the board now  
11                   authorize the licensee to cease operations  
12                   on its vessel at this time. As the  
13                   licensee desires to commence gaming prior  
14                   to the next board meeting, the board may  
15                   grant the chairman the authority to cease  
16                   operations, determine substantial  
17                   completion and issue any required approval  
18                   on the board's behalf subject to the  
19                   inspection and division approval.

20                   If the board chooses to grant the  
21                   chairman such authority, the division can  
22                   continue to work with the licensee  
23                   throughout the completion of the  
24                   temporary. The licensee can cease  
25                   operations when the division is ready to

1 mock the facility, the division can  
2 determine substantial completion and at  
3 the appropriate time send a written  
4 notification to the chairman informing him  
5 of the findings and recommendations.  
6 Subsequently, the chairman can authorize  
7 commencement of gaming operations at the  
8 temporary facility.

9 A resolution has been prepared based  
10 on this recommended approach for the  
11 board's consideration granting the  
12 chairman the authority to approve the  
13 cessation of gaming on the vessel,  
14 determine substantial completion, issue  
15 the landside certificate of compliance,  
16 approve the commencement of gaming in the  
17 temporary facility and grant any other  
18 necessary approvals.

19 Representatives from the licensee  
20 are present to provide a presentation to  
21 the board.

22 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

23 Okay. Any questions for the AG's  
24 office or for state police? Okay. At  
25 this time, we'll hear from the licensee.

1 MR. BARBIN:

2 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
3 board members. I'm Jeff Barbin appearing  
4 for Catfish Queen, LLC, To my immediate  
5 left is Bruce Woods. He's the general  
6 manager of the Belle of Baton Rouge, and  
7 to Bruce's left is Stacy Stagg, who is the  
8 V.P. of operations for Queen Casinos.

9 As -- as you heard from the division  
10 and the AG's office, a substantial amount  
11 of work has gone into getting this  
12 temporary casino ready for operation and  
13 there have been hundreds of meetings with  
14 the staff and with the division and things  
15 are coming together very quickly here.  
16 We've been working, I believe, well with  
17 everyone trying to get everyone's concerns  
18 resolved and I think we're very, very  
19 close to doing that.

20 We have a couple of vendors that we  
21 have to arrange between the time that we  
22 close down operations on the boat and  
23 reopen them on the temporary facility. So  
24 we'll be working with the division to get  
25 the timing right. Once they're



1 comfortable with the mock can be done,  
2 we'll do the mock opening with the  
3 division. And then at that point in time,  
4 if the division is satisfied that  
5 everything is ready for operation and  
6 we'll get the approval from the chairman  
7 to close down, we'll move those few pieces  
8 of critical equipment from the boat to the  
9 temporary facility, and then assuming the  
10 division is satisfied, the vessel opening  
11 and the chairman grants us that authority,  
12 we'll proceed to open.

13 So at this point in time, we're  
14 happy to answer any questions you have. I  
15 want to just give a thanks to the division  
16 staff, the AG's office and the board's  
17 staff. Obviously, this is a huge  
18 undertaking and these guys will say that,  
19 you know, we've been given lots of  
20 assistance and help along the way and it  
21 takes an entire team to pull this thing  
22 together and we've been working very well  
23 with the division and the AG's office and  
24 board staff and we appreciate all of the  
25 assistance in getting us this far.

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CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Any questions, board members?

MR. POOLE:

Jeff, do you have an anticipated time frame to cease operations from shutting the boat down to starting another one? Is that --

MR. BARBIN:

Very, very short. Probably 72 hours is probably more than enough time. We literally have to move, you know, a handful of pieces of equipment from the count room and the server that connects to all of the gaming equipment. We have to make sure that once it's moved, all of that stuff is operational.

MR. POOLE:

Sure.

MR. BARBIN:

Those machines have been hooked up to that server a long period of time and you never sort of know what's going to happen when you disconnect, you know, hundreds of machines from the network systems. But it's anticipated that we can

1 get back up and operational in 48 to 72  
2 hours.

3 MS. STAGG:

4 Yeah, for sure.

5 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

6 Any further questions? And, board  
7 members, I want to certainly echo Mr.  
8 Barbin's sentiments as it relates to the  
9 state police and the attorney general's  
10 office. I know firsthand that they are  
11 working feverishly to assist the property  
12 in -- in getting this facility up and  
13 running. I have been to the property  
14 personally both in my former and current  
15 capacity, and I vow to you that I will  
16 continue to do so. I even spoke to Mr.  
17 Poole this morning about accompanying me  
18 on my next visit there just to have  
19 another set of eyes on the facility.

20 So if there are no further questions  
21 from the board and if it's the board  
22 pleasure -- the board's pleasure, I would  
23 entertain a motion to adopt a resolution  
24 which will grant me the authority to give  
25 board approvals related to the temporary

1 landside facility.

2 MS. TRAYLOR:

3 Moved.

4 MR. POOLE:

5 Second.

6 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

7 So it's been moved by Ms. Traylor  
8 and seconded by Mr. Poole.

9 Ms. Landry, would you please read  
10 the resolution into the record.

11 MS. LANDRY:

12 On the 19th day of September 2024,  
13 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in  
14 a duly noticed public meeting, consider  
15 the petition to approve substantial  
16 completion for temporary gaming operations  
17 and for approval to close existing  
18 operations filed by Catfish Queen, LLC  
19 doing business as Belle of Baton Rouge,  
20 and upon motion duly made and seconded,  
21 the board adopted this resolution:

22 Whereas, on July 18, 2024, the board  
23 approved the licensee's request to no  
24 longer operate on its riverboat gaming  
25 vessel, the Argosy III, and to conduct and

1 operate a temporary casino landside  
2 facility during the pendency of the  
3 construction of the full approved project  
4 and permanent landside facility.

5 Whereas, the licensee has indicated  
6 a desire to commence gaming operations in  
7 its temporary facility prior to the  
8 board's monthly meeting on October 17th,  
9 2024.

10 Whereas, the Louisiana State Police,  
11 Gaming Enforcement Division's preoperative  
12 inspection of the temporary facility is  
13 ongoing.

14 Whereas, the board is in receipt of  
15 the following items for the temporary  
16 facility: An inspection report issued by  
17 the Louisiana Office of State Fire  
18 Marshal, a certificate of occupancy issued  
19 by the City of Baton Rouge, the  
20 certificate of substantial completion  
21 submitted by the licensee's approved  
22 architect, and all other required state  
23 and local permits for the temporary  
24 facility.

25 Now, therefore, be it resolved that

1 the Chairman is hereby authorized to issue  
2 a riverboat gaming landside facility  
3 certificate of compliance with the  
4 temporary facility, based on the  
5 recommendation of the Louisiana Office of  
6 State Fire Marshal and written  
7 confirmation of substantial completion  
8 from the division, on behalf of the board.

9 Be it further resolved that, based  
10 on written recommendation from the  
11 division, the Chairman, on behalf of the  
12 board, is hereby authorized to allow the  
13 licensee to cease gaming operations on the  
14 vessel in order to transport gaming  
15 devices, gaming equipment, and all other  
16 necessary equipment to the temporary  
17 facility. Unless otherwise required by  
18 the division, ceasing gaming operations  
19 for longer than 96 hours may result in a  
20 nonperformance penalty, the issuing of a  
21 civil penalty, administrative action, or  
22 forfeiture of all privileges to the  
23 licensee.

24 Be it further resolved that the  
25 Chairman is hereby authorized to determine

1 substantial completion of the temporary  
2 facility, in accordance with the  
3 licensee's statement of conditions to the  
4 riverboat gaming license, and to eliminate  
5 the requirement for weekly  
6 work-in-progress reports on the  
7 construction of the temporary facility, on  
8 behalf of the board.

9 Be it further resolved that the  
10 Chairman is hereby authorized to approve  
11 the licensee's request to commence gaming  
12 operations at its temporary facility,  
13 subject to the successful completion of  
14 the preoperative inspection by the  
15 division and the Chairman's determination  
16 of substantial completion of the temporary  
17 facility, on behalf of the board.

18 Be it further resolved that, upon  
19 recommendation of the division, the  
20 Chairman is hereby authorized to order the  
21 licensee to cease gaming operations in  
22 order to correct any issues or  
23 deficiencies that may arise after the  
24 opening of the temporary facility until  
25 such time as said issues or deficiencies

1 have been corrected and determined  
2 satisfactory by the division, and to issue  
3 an order allowing the recommencement of  
4 gaming operations in accordance with the  
5 division's determination and  
6 recommendation for such.

7 Be it further resolved that the  
8 Chairman is hereby authorized to grant any  
9 other related and/or incidental approvals  
10 necessary for the licensee's commencement  
11 of gaming operations at the temporary  
12 facility and/or the cessation of gaming  
13 operations on the vessel, including but  
14 not limited to, removing the requirement  
15 for a certificate of compliance for the  
16 licensee's shuttered vessel at the  
17 appropriate time.

18 Be it further resolved that the  
19 licensee shall seek full board approval to  
20 sell or otherwise dispose of the riverboat  
21 gaming vessel only after the board  
22 approval is obtained to commence gaming  
23 operations at its temporary facility.

24 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
25 Louisiana, this 19th day of September



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2024.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Thank you, Ms. Landry.

Ms. Hernandez, will you please call the roll?

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Becnel.

MS. BECNEL:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR> JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
2 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.  
3 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:  
4 Yes.  
5 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
6 Mr. Sholes.  
7 MR. SHOLES:  
8 Yes.  
9 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
10 Ms. Traylor.  
11 MS. TRAYLOR:  
12 Yes.  
13 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
14 Chairman Hebert.  
15 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:  
16 Yes.  
17 That motion carries and the  
18 resolution is adopted.  
19 Thank you.  
20 MS. LANDRY:  
21 Thank you.  
22 MR. BARBIN:  
23 Thank you.  
24 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:  
25 Next we'll move to item E, which is

1 the consideration of a petition for  
2 approval to sell and/or dispose of the  
3 vessel for Treasure Chest Casino, LLC  
4 doing business as Treasure Chest Casino.

5 Good morning, Ms. Houston.

6 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

7 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
8 board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
9 General Delancey Houston here today to  
10 present Treasure Chest Casino's request  
11 for approval to dispose of its vessel.

12 On December 16th, 2021, the board  
13 approved the licensee's request to move  
14 its gaming operations to a landside  
15 facility.

16 On June 5th, 2024, the licensee  
17 opened its landside facility.

18 On June 26th, 2024, the board  
19 approved the licensee's request to suspend  
20 all requirements for its vessel including  
21 but not limited to removing all  
22 requirements for manning its shuttered  
23 vessel with marine personnel. The  
24 licensee was still required to maintain a  
25 qualified security person to make hourly

1 rounds of the vessel and property for  
2 fire, flood and safety hazard watch every  
3 hour of the day seven days a week.

4 On September 4th, 2024, the licensee  
5 filed a petition requesting the board's  
6 approval to dispose of its vessel. The  
7 vessel is closed to the public and  
8 nonessential personnel. It's secured and  
9 completely shuttered, has no gaming  
10 devices or equipment on board and is not  
11 being used for any purpose.

12 Currently the licensee has a  
13 qualified security person to make hourly  
14 rounds of the vessel and property for  
15 fire, flood and safety hazard watch every  
16 hour of the day seven days a week.

17 The licensee has contracted with the  
18 Aids Construction to remove and dispose of  
19 the vessel and barge. The licensee is  
20 seeking board approval to remove and  
21 dispose of the vessel and to be relieved  
22 of their requirement to keep a security  
23 officer at the site after the vessel and  
24 barge are removed.

25 If it is the board's pleasure to

1 approve the licensee's request to dispose  
2 of the vessel, a resolution has been  
3 prepared for the board's consideration.

4 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

5 Are there any questions, board  
6 members, for Ms. Houston?

7 If not, I will entertain a motion to  
8 adopt the resolution.

9 MR. SHOLES:

10 Moved.

11 MS. LEWIS:

12 Second.

13 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

14 Judge Sholes has moved, and Ms.  
15 Lewis has seconded.

16 Okay. Ms. Landry, will you please  
17 read the resolution into the record.

18 MS. LANDRY:

19 On the 19th day of September 2024,  
20 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in  
21 a duly noticed public meeting, consider  
22 the petition for approval to sell and/or  
23 dispose of the vessel filed by Treasure  
24 Chest Casino, LLC doing business as  
25 Treasure Chest Casino, and, upon motion

1           duly made and seconded, the board adopted  
2           this resolution:

3                       Whereas, on December 16, 2021, the  
4           board approved the licensee's request to  
5           relocate its gaming operations to a newly  
6           constructed landside facility to be  
7           included as part of the approved project;

8                       Whereas, on June 5th, 2024, the  
9           board previously approved the licensee's  
10          request to commence gaming operations in  
11          its riverboat gaming landside facility and  
12          cease all gaming activity upon its vessel;

13                      And, whereas, on June 16th -- I'm  
14          sorry -- on June 26th, 2024, the board had  
15          previously approved the licensee's request  
16          to suspend all requirements for its  
17          vessel's certificate of compliance issued  
18          on May 20th, 2024, including, but not  
19          limited to, removing all requirements for  
20          manning for its shuttered vessel with  
21          marine personnel.

22                      Now, therefore, be it resolved the  
23          licensee's request for approval to sell  
24          and/or dispose of its vessel be granted.

25                      Be it further resolved that the

1 licensee must continue to provide a  
2 dedicated security guard for purposes of  
3 securing the area surrounding the vessel  
4 or vessel destruction area until the  
5 vessel is removed, after which, the  
6 licensee will be automatically relieved of  
7 the roving vessel security guard  
8 requirement.

9 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
10 Louisiana on this 19th day of September  
11 2024.

12 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

13 Thank you, Ms. Landry.

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

16 MS. HERNANDEZ:

17 Ms. Berry.

18 MS. BERRY:

19 Yes.

20 MS. HERNANDEZ:

21 Ms. Becnel.

22 MS. BECNEL:

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 Hebert.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:



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Yes.

That motion carries, and the resolution is adopted.

Thank you.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Before moving on to the next item, I do see the general manager of the Treasure Chest here, Ms. Kim Etland.

Ms. Etland, on behalf of Judge Sholes and Ms. Becnel, I'd like to personally thank both you and your staff for your hospitality and for answering the questions that we had during our tour a couple of weeks ago. And congratulations on your success since opening the landside facility.

MS. ETLAND:

You're welcome. Thank you. Any time.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Okay. We'll now move on to item 6 on the agenda, which is rule making. And first we have the consideration of the

1 institution of rule making procedures for  
2 amendment of LAC 42:III.2905, weapons in  
3 designated gaming area.

4 Ms. Gits, good morning.

5 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GITS:

6 Good morning.

7 Good morning Chairman Hebert and  
8 board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
9 General Cathryn Gits here in the matter of  
10 the rulemaking procedures for item No. 6  
11 A, which is an amendment to the Louisiana  
12 Administrative Code, Title 42, Part III,  
13 Section 2905, weapons in the designated  
14 gaming area.

15 The proposed rule change is a result  
16 of Act No. 38 of the 2024 regular  
17 legislative session. The rule change  
18 allows for compliance with packet No. 38  
19 and allows for qualified law enforcement  
20 officers and qualified retired law  
21 enforcement officers to possess a firearm  
22 in a designated gaming area of the casino  
23 provided there is valid identification  
24 proving their status.

25 In accordance with Act No. 59 of the

1           2024 regular legislative session, any  
2           statute in conflict with the allowance of  
3           concealed carry in any business  
4           organization is null and void. And any  
5           rule in violation must be amended within  
6           six months after August 1st, 2024.

7           The rule -- the rule in its current  
8           posture allows only full-time commissioned  
9           law enforcement officers who are on duty  
10          and within their respective jurisdiction  
11          or on-duty gaming security personnel  
12          licensed by the Louisiana State Board of  
13          Private Security Examiners to possess  
14          weapons in a designated gaming area, which  
15          is in direct conflict with Act No. 38,  
16          thus necessitating the proposed rule  
17          change.

18          If the board has no questions, a  
19          motion to institute the rulemaking  
20          procedure is needed.

21          CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

22                  Questions, board members? Judge  
23          Sholes.

24          MR. SHOLES:

25                  I don't know if this is a question,

1 but I at least have to voice my concern.  
2 Adding more people carrying guns in a  
3 casino just to me does not seem to make  
4 good sense. I understand why they may  
5 want qualified law enforcement officers  
6 but retired law enforcement officers who  
7 they have no control over, have no idea  
8 where they come from or if they're still  
9 in good mental capacity, that just seems  
10 to me as a bad idea.

11 Although I know we have no right to  
12 do anything about it, I just wanted to  
13 voice my concern.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

16 Thank you, Judge Sholes.

17 Any other questions or comments from  
18 board members?

19 If not, I will entertain a motion  
20 for the adoption of rulemaking procedures  
21 for this amendment.

22 MS. LEWIS:

23 Moved.

24 MS. BERRY:

25 Second.

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CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Moved by Ms. Lewis; seconded by Ms. Berry.

Any further discussion? Any opposition?

Hearing none, that motion carries.

Thank you, Ms. Gits.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GITS:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

I'm sorry. Judge Sholes, you did oppose?

MR. SHOLES:

I did oppose.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Okay.

Can you do a roll call?

MR. SHOLES:

No need for roll call, just let it go.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Okay.

Moving on to item 7 on our agenda, Fantasy Sports issues. Item A is the consideration of fantasy sports contest

1 renewal application for FanDuel, Inc.  
2 Doing business as FanDuel.

3 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

4 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
5 board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
6 General Delancey Houston here in the  
7 matter of the consideration of the Fantasy  
8 Sports contest operator renewal  
9 application of FanDuel, Inc.

10 Here with me today is Ms. Donna  
11 Jackson with Louisiana State Police Gaming  
12 Enforcement -- or Gaming Audit Division,  
13 excuse me, and Investigator Kevin Bidy  
14 with Gaming Enforcement Division.

15 Pursuant to the Louisiana gaming  
16 law, the board is the sole regulator of  
17 paid Fantasy Sports contest in Louisiana  
18 and is in charge of issuing or denying  
19 applications for Fantasy Sports contest  
20 operator licenses.

21 The gaming enforcement division has  
22 reviewed the financial circumstances of  
23 the applicant and completed its  
24 suitability investigation for the  
25 applicant, its parent company and its

1 principals.

2 The division has also reviewed the  
3 applicant's financial statements, platform  
4 specifics and the other criteria required  
5 under gaming law.

6 At this time, the division will  
7 provide their findings to the board.

8 MS. JACKSON:

9 Good morning Chairman Hebert, board  
10 members. My name is Donna Jackson. I'm  
11 with the Louisiana State Police, Gaming  
12 Audit Section.

13 FanDuel, Inc. is wholly owned by its  
14 ultimate parent company, Flutter  
15 Entertainment, plc through FanDuel Group  
16 Parent, LLC and other intermediate  
17 subsidiaries. FanDuel operates in 44 U.S.  
18 jurisdictions and is one of two Fantasy  
19 Sports Contests licensees currently  
20 operating in Louisiana.

21 Fantasy Sports revenue is generated  
22 from contest entry fees from users, net of  
23 prizes, and customer incentives awarded to  
24 users.

25 In addition to Fantasy Sports,

1 FanDuel's U.S. segment provides online  
2 sports betting product offerings in 23  
3 U.S. jurisdictions, including Louisiana.

4 They also operate iGaming or online  
5 casino in five U.S. jurisdictions.

6 For the six-month interim period  
7 ending June 30th, 2024, Sportsbook  
8 accounted for approximately 56% of  
9 Flutter's total revenue, while iGaming  
10 accounted for approximately 39% of total  
11 revenue.

12 The other product category, which  
13 includes Fantasy Sports, pari-mutuel  
14 wagering, and exchange betting, accounted  
15 for approximately 4.9% of Flutter's total  
16 revenue.

17 For fiscal year ended December 31st,  
18 2023, Flutter's U.S. segment reported its  
19 first year of positive adjusted EBITDA of  
20 \$65 million. The company stated that it  
21 expects to achieve a second year of  
22 profitability in 2024 based upon the  
23 second quarter of 2024 results.

24 The audit section feels there's  
25 minimal risk to the state of Louisiana or



1 FanDuel's players if FanDuel does not  
2 achieve or maintain the projected  
3 profitability, since they are not  
4 investing in a brick-and-mortar facility  
5 and the players' cash is maintained  
6 separately from the operating cash  
7 balances.

8 In conclusion, no financial issues  
9 came to our attention to preclude the  
10 board from approving the renewal of  
11 FanDuel's Fantasy Sports Contest license  
12 for a period of three years, effective  
13 October 21, 2024.

14 Licensing will now present its  
15 findings to the board.

16 MASTER TROOPER BIDDY:

17 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
18 members of the board. I am Master Trooper  
19 Kevin Bidy with the Louisiana State  
20 Police Gaming Enforcement Division.

21 On June 27th, 2024, the Louisiana  
22 State Police Gaming Enforcement Division  
23 received the renewal license application  
24 submitted on behalf of FanDuel, Inc. Doing  
25 business as FanDuel and their business

1 affiliates.

2 During the investigation of FanDuel,  
3 Inc. Doing business as FanDuel and  
4 officers, their business affiliates, a  
5 background investigation was conducted on  
6 each of their officers, directors,  
7 managers and persons with a 5% ownership  
8 or economic interest in the company.

9 The background investigation  
10 consisted of inquiries made to federal,  
11 state, and local law enforcement agencies.  
12 Inquiries were also made to civil courts  
13 and gaming to regular -- I'm sorry -- and  
14 gaming regulatory agencies.

15 There was no information found that  
16 would preclude the applicant from  
17 participating in the Louisiana gaming  
18 industry.

19 It is the division's recommendation  
20 that FanDuel, Inc. Doing business as  
21 FanDuel Fantasy Sports Contest permit be  
22 approved.

23 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GITS:

24 If it's the board's pleasure to  
25 approve the renewal application of

1 FanDuel, Inc., a resolution has been  
2 prepared for the board's adoption and the  
3 Chairman's signature.

4 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

5 Okay. Board members, are there any  
6 questions for Ms. Houston, Ms. Jackson or  
7 Master Trooper Bidy?

8 Okay. If there are none, I would  
9 entertain a motion to adopt the  
10 resolution.

11 MS. BERRY:

12 So moved.

13 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

14 Second.

15 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

16 Moved by Ms. Berry; seconded by Ms.  
17 Hamilton-Acker.

18 Ms. Landry, would you please read  
19 the resolution into the record?

20 MS. LANDRY:

21 On the 19th day of September 2024,  
22 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in  
23 a duly noticed public meeting, consider  
24 the license renewal application of  
25 FanDuel, Inc. doing business as FanDuel,

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and upon motion duly made and seconded,  
the board adopted this resolution:

Be it resolved that the license to  
conduct Fantasy Sports Contests issued to  
FanDuel, Inc. doing business as FanDuel be  
renewed for a term of three years  
commencing on October 21st, 2024.

Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
Louisiana this 19th day of September of  
2024.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Thank you, Ms. Landry.

Ms. Hernandez, would you please call  
the roll?

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Becnel.

MS. BECNEL:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:



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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 Hebert.  
CHAIRMAN HEBERT:  
Yes.

1                   That motion carries, and the license  
2                   is renewed.

3                   Thank you.

4                   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GITS:

5                   Thank you.

6                   CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

7                   Okay. Now we have item 8 on the  
8                   agenda, which is video gaming issues of  
9                   which there are two for our agenda today.

10                  First up is a consideration of the  
11                  transfers of interest for Tiger Truck  
12                  Stop, Inc. Doing business as Tiger Truck  
13                  Stop.

14                  Ms. Nathan, Trooper Cannon, good  
15                  morning.

16                  ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN:

17                  Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
18                  board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
19                  General Andrea Nathan appearing before you  
20                  this morning in the matter of the approval  
21                  of the transfer of interest in Tiger Truck  
22                  Stop, Inc. doing business as Tiger Truck  
23                  Stop, which holds a Type 5 video draw  
24                  poker gaming license.

25                  The truck stop is located in

1 Iberville Parish. On July 9th, 2024, John  
2 L. Ewing, Senior donated his 500 shares in  
3 the licensee to his spouse, Danna J.  
4 Glaser. The 500 shares equal a 50%  
5 ownership interest in the licensee.

6 Master Trooper James Cannon  
7 conducted an investigation of the transfer  
8 of ownership interest. And he is present  
9 this morning to present his findings to  
10 the board.

11 MASTER TROOPER CANNON:

12 Good morning, Chairman and members  
13 of the board. I'm Master Trooper James  
14 Cannon with the Louisiana State Police  
15 Gaming Enforcement Division. I  
16 investigated the transfer that occurred in  
17 the licensee. I also conducted an updated  
18 background check on Danna J. Glaser and  
19 John L. Ewing, Senior, who previously  
20 submitted to suitability investigations in  
21 connection with his video poker license  
22 and others.

23 I found no information to preclude  
24 the licensee or its owners from continuing  
25 to participate in the Louisiana Gaming

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Industry.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN:

The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the file prepared by the Louisiana State Police Gaming Enforcement Division and the information contained therein would not preclude the approval of the transfer.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Okay. Board members, are there any questions for Ms. Nathan or Master Trooper Cannon?

If not, I will entertain a motion to approve the transfer of ownership interest in the licensee.

MR. JACKSON:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Approved by Mr. Jackson.

Can I get a second?

MS. BECNEL:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Ms. Becnel seconded.

Okay. Is there any discussion? Any





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opposition?

Hearing none, that motion carries.

Thank y'all.

Okay. Moving on to the next item under video gaming issues, consideration of the transfer of interest of Ewings of Livonia, LLC doing business as LA Express 11 Deli.

Ms. Nathan.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN:

Good morning, Chairman Hebert and board members. I'm Assistant Attorney General Andrea Nathan appearing before you this morning in the matter of the approval of the transfer of membership interest in Ewings of Livonia, LLC doing business as LA Express 11 Deli, which holds a Type 5 video draw poker gaming license.

The truck shop is located in Point Coupee Parish.

On July 9th, 2024, John L. Ewing, Senior donated his 100% interest in the licensee to his spouse, Danna J. Glaser. Master Trooper James Cannon conducted an investigation of the transfer of the



1 membership interest. He is here this  
2 morning to present his findings to the  
3 board.

4 MASTER TROOPER CANNON:

5 Again, I'm Master Trooper James  
6 Cannon with Louisiana State Police. I  
7 investigated the transfer that occurred in  
8 the licensee, and I also conducted an  
9 updated background check on Danna J.  
10 Glaser and John L. Ewing, Senior, both of  
11 whom previously submitted to the  
12 suitability investigations in connection  
13 with this video poker license and others.

14 I found no information to preclude  
15 the licensee or its member from continuing  
16 to participate that in the Louisiana  
17 Gaming Industry.

18 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN:

19 The Office of the Attorney General  
20 has reviewed the file prepared by the  
21 Louisiana State Police Gaming Enforcement  
22 Division and the information contained  
23 therein would not preclude approval of the  
24 transfer.

25 CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

1                   Okay. Any questions from the board?  
2                   If not, I will entertain a motion to  
3                   approve the transfer of ownership interest  
4                   in the licensee.

5                   MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

6                   Moved.

7                   MS. TRAYLOR:

8                   Second.

9                   CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

10                   Ms. Hamilton-Acker moves, and  
11                   seconded by Ms. Traylor.

12                   Is there any discussion? Any  
13                   opposition?

14                   Hearing none, that motion carries.  
15                   Thank you.

16                   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL NATHAN:

17                   Thank you.

18                   CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

19                   Our final agenda item is the  
20                   consideration of the appeal of Terrytown  
21                   Cafe, Inc. doing business as Terrytown  
22                   Cafe. Is anyone here on behalf of the  
23                   licensee?

24                   Mr. Jackson, good morning.

25                   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

1 Good morning, Chairman Hebert and  
2 ladies and gentlemen of the board. I'm  
3 Assistant Attorney General Quintele  
4 Jackson appearing on behalf of the  
5 division. And we're here today in the  
6 appeal filed by Terrytown Cafe, Inc. doing  
7 business as Terrytown Cafe regarding the  
8 hearing officer's decision in revoking the  
9 licensee's gaming permit.

10 Now, the division recommended that  
11 the video draw poker license issued to  
12 Terrytown Cafe be suspended and then  
13 subsequently revoked due to the licensee's  
14 failure to comply with all federal, state  
15 and local law regulations.

16 Specifically, the licensee failed to  
17 maintain a valid ATC permit from the  
18 department of the revenue, office of  
19 alcohol and tobacco control, as well as  
20 failing to have a valid local occupation  
21 permit from the St. -- Jefferson Parish  
22 Sheriff's Office.

23 On March 27th, 2024, the division  
24 conducted an inspection of the licensee's  
25 establishment and discovered that the ATC

1 permit on display expired on February  
2 29th, 2024. The local occupation permit  
3 on display expired on December 31st of  
4 2023.

5 Now, these violations were noted in  
6 the video gaming compliance inspection  
7 form, which was signed by Ms. Songie, the  
8 licensee's 100% owner.

9 On May 8th of 2024, the licensee and  
10 the division came before the hearing  
11 officer regarding the immediate emergency  
12 suspension of the licensee's gaming  
13 license. Ms. Songie was present at the  
14 hearing and testified on behalf of the  
15 licensee. The division showed the  
16 testimony and evidence that Terrytown Cafe  
17 was in violation of gaming law by  
18 operating without a valid ATC permit.

19 Additionally, at the time of this  
20 hearing, the licensee provided evidence  
21 that it had at that time a valid  
22 occupation permit. However, Ms. Songie  
23 testified and admitted that the licensee  
24 was not in possession of a valid ATC  
25 permit. As a result, the hearing officer

1           sustained the immediate emergency  
2           suspension of their gaming license and the  
3           matter was set for revocation.

4           Now, on June 4th of this year, the  
5           parties then appeared before the court  
6           regarding the revocation of the Terrytown  
7           gaming license. The division again  
8           presented testimony and evidence that  
9           showed that Terrytown was in violation of  
10          gaming law. Ms. Songie was present at  
11          this hearing as well and did not provide  
12          any evidence that Terrytown was in  
13          possession of a valid ATC permit at the  
14          time of the revocation hearing. The  
15          hearing officer considered the weight and  
16          testimony of this evidence and correctly  
17          revoked Terrytown's gaming license due to  
18          its failure to have a valid ATC permit in  
19          violation of gaming law.

20          The hearing officer finally revoking  
21          the license is not in contrary to the law  
22          in evidence that was submitted at all  
23          stages of the proceeding.

24          Therefore, for these reasons, the  
25          division respectfully requests that this

1           honorable board affirm the hearing  
2           officer's decision revoking the gaming  
3           license issued to Terrytown Cafe, Inc.  
4           doing business as Terrytown.

5                     Thank you for your time and your  
6           consideration.

7                     I'll be happy to answer any  
8           questions the board may have.

9           CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

10                    Any questions from board members?  
11           Judge Sholes.

12           MR. SHOLES:

13                    Am I correct that now the lady has  
14           the -- I know we're not allowed to  
15           consider any information that the judge  
16           probably didn't get, but clearly from the  
17           packet, it is clear that there were two  
18           things. There was a delay in getting the  
19           ATC permit because of costs and the amount  
20           of time the ATC takes to produce the  
21           information, and the lady now has the  
22           valid permit.

23                    For that reason, I would be willing  
24           to give Judge Ponder the opportunity to  
25           consider that information to determine

1           whether or not she would like to alter her  
2           decision.

3                     I would move that we elect Option 2.  
4           CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

5                     Okay. There's a motion on the floor  
6           from --

7           MR. JACKSON:

8                     Second.

9           CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

10                    -- Judge Sholes to remand for  
11           consideration of new evidence and that has  
12           been seconded by Mr. Jackson.

13                    Any discussion? Any opposition?  
14           Okay. And taking into consideration the  
15           hard work from the AG and the state  
16           police, we have no opposition of that  
17           motion and I think in the interest of  
18           justice a remand is -- is warranted here.

19                    And so that motion carries, and that  
20           matter will be remanded for the hearing  
21           officer to consider that new evidence.

22                    Okay. Moving on to our true final  
23           agenda item, which is adjournment. I  
24           would ask for a motion that we adjourn.

25           MS. BECNEL:



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Moved.

MS. BERRY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HEBERT:

Mr. Jackson, you're slipping.

A motion has been made by Ms. Becnel, and Ms. Berry has seconded it.

Mr. Jackson, I'll come back to you next month.

We are adjourned. Thank you everybody. Y'all have a great rest of your day.

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REPORTER'S PAGE

I, BELINDA K. AMERSON, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434 (B) of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state on the record:

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

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR  
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 hearing 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

