

Transcript of the Testimony of  
**Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting  
2-15-2024**

February 15, 2024

Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting 2-15-2024



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STATE OF LOUISIANA  
LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
FEBRUARY 15, 2024 BOARD MEETING

This Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting was taken by Anna Coates, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, at the Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 6, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the 15th day of February, 2024.

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APPEARANCES :

CHAIRMAN RONNIE S. JOHNS

MR. CHRISTOPHER HEBERT

MS. FARIDA HERNANDEZ

MR. HARRY AVANT

MS. JULIE BERRY

MR. CLAUDE JACKSON

MS. JULIE LEWIS

MR. LAMAR POOLE, JR.

MAJOR CHUCK McNEAL

MS. FRANCESCA HAMILTON-ACKER

MS. ASHLEY TRAYLOR

MR. JARROD CONIGLIO

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P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
It's called to order the Louisiana Gaming  
Control Board meeting Thursday, February 15th  
of 2024.

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:

1 Ms. Lewis.

2 MS. LEWIS:

3 Here.

4 MS. HERNANDEZ:

5 Mr. Poole.

6 MR. POOLE:

7 Here.

8 MS. HERNANDEZ:

9 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

10 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

11 Here.

12 MS. HERNANDEZ:

13 Mr. Sholes.

14 (Heard no response).

15 Ms. Traylor.

16 MS. TRAYLOR:

17 Here.

18 MS. HERNANDEZ:

19 Colonel Hodges.

20 MAJOR McNEAL:

21 Major McNeal for Colonel Hodges.

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 And Secretary Nelson.

24 MR. CONIGLIO:

25 Jarrod Coniglio here for Secretary

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Nelson.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

We do have a quorum this morning.

Mr. Coniglio, welcome to the Gaming Control Board meeting. Thank Secretary Nelson for participating. So thank you.

Members, we will now ask for public comments. If there's any public comment on any matter that's actually on our board agenda today, now is the time for anyone to make a public comment.

Okay. Seeing no public comments, we will now entertain the approval of our minutes. I would ask for a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting.

Ms. Berry has made that motion.  
Ms. Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.

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

Okay. We now move into the revenue reports.

Ms. Jackson, good morning.

MS. JACKSON:

1 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board  
2 Members. My name is Donna Jackson with the  
3 Louisiana State Police, Gaming Audit Section.

4 In January, the 14 operating riverboats  
5 generated Adjusted Gross Receipts of  
6 \$121,685,461. The State collected fees  
7 totaling \$26,162,374.

8 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year  
9 '23-'24 to date are \$975 million, a decrease  
10 of \$29 million, or 3 percent, from fiscal  
11 year '22-'23.

12 As of January 31st, 2024, the State  
13 collected \$209.6 million in fees for fiscal  
14 year '23-'24.

15 Page 2 shows the riverboat revenue  
16 broken down by regional market. The overall  
17 decrease from December was \$36.5 million, or  
18 23 percent. As information, December had  
19 five full weekends; whereas, January had only  
20 four. Compared to last January, this month's  
21 revenues represent a decrease of \$26 million,  
22 or 17.7 percent. Last January had one  
23 additional Sunday than this month. Also,  
24 several markets were impacted by the winter  
25 weather for a couple of days in mid-January.

1           Next is a summary of the January 2024  
2 gaming activity for Harrah's New Orleans,  
3 found on page 3. Harrah's generated  
4 \$18,702,397 in gross gaming revenue. These  
5 revenues represent a decrease from last month  
6 of \$6 million, or 24.4 percent, and a  
7 decrease of \$1.4 million, or 7.2 percent,  
8 from the same month last year. During  
9 January, the State received \$5,505,465 in  
10 minimum daily payments.

11           Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year  
12 '23-'24 to date are approximately  
13 \$140 million, a decrease of \$13.7 million, or  
14 9 percent, from fiscal year '22-'23. As of  
15 January 31st, 2024, the State collected  
16 \$38 million in fees for fiscal year '23-'24.

17           Next I will present the revenues for  
18 slots at the racetracks. During January, the  
19 four racetrack facilities combined generated  
20 adjusted gross receipts of \$22,713,251, a  
21 decrease of almost \$5 million, or 18 percent,  
22 from the previous month, and a decrease of  
23 \$2.3 million, or 9.3 percent, when compared  
24 to the same last month last year. During  
25 January, the State collected \$3.4 million in



1 fees.

2 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year  
3 '23-'24 to date are \$174 million, a decrease  
4 of \$6.3 million, or 3 percent, from fiscal  
5 year '22-'23. As of January 31st, 2024, the  
6 State has collected approximately  
7 \$26.4 million in fees for fiscal year  
8 '23-'24.

9 I will now move to the video gaming  
10 information. There are 11,955 video gaming  
11 devices activated at 1,395 locations. Net  
12 device revenue for January 2024 was  
13 \$57,418,909, a decrease of \$6.4 million, or  
14 10 percent, when compared to December 2023,  
15 and a decrease of \$4.7 million, or  
16 7.6 percent, when compared to last January.

17 Total franchise fees for January 2024  
18 totaled \$17.4 million. Fiscal year to date  
19 net device revenue is \$424 million, a  
20 decrease of \$23 million, or 5 percent, when  
21 compared to last fiscal year. As of  
22 January 31st, 2024, the State has collected  
23 \$128 million in franchise fees for fiscal  
24 year '23-'24.

25 Next I will present the January revenue

1 for sportsbook. During January, the retail  
2 sportsbooks accepted \$28.5 million in sports  
3 wager, resulting in net proceeds of \$3.2  
4 million and \$340,000 in state taxes. The  
5 mobile sportsbooks accepted \$317.8 million in  
6 sports wagers, resulting in net proceeds of  
7 \$35.7 million, and \$5.3 million in taxes paid  
8 to the State.

9 Finally, for Daily Fantasy Sports, gross  
10 revenues for January were approximately  
11 \$1.5 million, with net revenue of \$152,000  
12 and taxes of \$12,134.

13 Anybody have questions?

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Thank you, Ms. Jackson. Any questions  
16 for Ms. Jackson from the Board? Any  
17 questions?

18 Just in talking to a couple of the GMs  
19 around the state, I do know that both  
20 Shreveport/Bossier market and the Lake  
21 Charles market were affected for a number of  
22 days by the ice storm, by the winter  
23 conditions that happened. I know in Lake  
24 Charles, the I-210 bridge was actually closed  
25 for a couple of days, which is the main route

1 to the two big properties there. So it  
2 definitely had, I think, an impact on their  
3 numbers. But I thank you for that.

4 Also, we have no numbers yet on the  
5 Superbowl, but that will be coming. Early  
6 estimates that I've seen in the last couple  
7 of days from around the country, they're  
8 estimating maybe as much as 23 billion  
9 actually wagered on this one-day event. So  
10 it will be interesting to see what our  
11 numbers are in Louisiana.

12 Any comments, any questions from the  
13 Board?

14 Hearing none, Ms. Jackson, thank you.  
15 Appreciate your work.

16 Okay, Members, we will now move into our  
17 compliance reports for the fourth quarter of  
18 2023.

19 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

20 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board  
21 Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General  
22 Jeremy Gathe. Today I'll present the staff  
23 reports on riverboat and racetrack casino  
24 licensees' compliance with employment and  
25 procurement conditions for the fourth quarter

1 of 2023. I'll begin with the riverboats.

2 The fourth quarter reports are taken  
3 from figures reported by the 15 operating  
4 riverboats to the Louisiana Gaming Control  
5 Board. In the fourth quarter of 2023,  
6 approximately 8,863 people were employed by  
7 the riverboat industry. Of that number,  
8 8,714 were Louisiana residents, 5,466 were  
9 minorities, and 4,912 were women. Two  
10 licensees achieved total compliance this  
11 quarter. And those licensees are:  
12 Margaritaville Resort Casino and L'Auberge  
13 Lake Charles.

14 Next I'll address employment. 12  
15 licensees did not meet their total employment  
16 goals. And they are: Diamond Jacks Casino &  
17 Resort, which achieved 13 out of a goal of  
18 650; Sam's Town Hotel & Casino, which  
19 achieved 380 out of a goal of 700; L'Auberge  
20 Hotel Baton Rouge, which achieved 783 out of  
21 a goal of 800; Horseshoe Bossier City, which  
22 achieved 556 out of a goal of 1,000; Boomtown  
23 New Orleans, which achieved 451 out of a goal  
24 of 555; Belle of Baton Rouge Casino, which  
25 achieved 137 out of a goal of 450; Treasure

1 Chest Casino, which achieved 364 out of a  
2 goal of 500; The Queen Baton Rouge, which  
3 achieved 413 out of a goal of 450; Amelia  
4 Belle Casino, which achieved 167 out of a  
5 goal of 325; Horseshoe Lake Charles, which  
6 achieved 543 out of a goal of 650; Boomtown  
7 Casino Bossier, which achieved 293 out of a  
8 goal of 650; and Bally's Shreveport, which  
9 achieved 627 out of a goal of 950.

10 All licensees either met or exceeded  
11 their goals in all of the subcategories under  
12 the main category of employment, with the  
13 exception of the Belle of Baton Rouge, which  
14 achieved 47.4 percent out of a goal of  
15 51.8 percent under the subcategory of female  
16 employment, and Treasure Chest Casino, which  
17 achieved 47.3 percent out of a goal of  
18 51.86 percent under female employment.

19 Next I'll address procurement. The  
20 licensees are grouped according to three  
21 subcategories which appear in your report.  
22 Those subcategories are Louisiana, minority,  
23 and female procurement.

24 Under Louisiana procurement, two  
25 licensees did not meet their goals. And

1 those licensees are: Golden Nugget Lake  
2 Charles, which achieved 61.8 percent out of a  
3 goal of 65 percent, and Amelia Belle Casino,  
4 which achieved 49.7 percent out of a goal of  
5 60 percent.

6 Under the subcategory of minority  
7 procurement, one licensee did not achieve  
8 compliance with its voluntary condition. And  
9 that licensee is Diamond Jacks Casino, which  
10 achieved 3.9 percent out of a goal of  
11 10 percent.

12 For female procurement, one licensee did  
13 not achieve compliance with its voluntary  
14 conditions, and that licensee is Diamond  
15 Jacks Casino, which achieved 9.3 percent out  
16 of a goal of 10 percent.

17 Are there any questions regarding the  
18 riverboats?

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 Any questions, Members?

21 No questions, Mr. Gathe.

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

23 I'll now move on to the racetracks. In  
24 the fourth quarter of 2023, approximately  
25 1,297 people were employed by the racetrack

1 casino industry. Of that number, 1,086 were  
2 Louisiana residents, 699 were minorities, and  
3 726 were women.

4 Two racetrack casinos achieved total  
5 compliance this quarter. And they are:  
6 Evangeline Downs and Fairgrounds. Delta  
7 Downs did not achieve its Louisiana  
8 employment condition. It achieved  
9 61.5 percent out of a goal of 80 percent  
10 condition. And Louisiana Downs did not  
11 achieve its female employment condition. It  
12 achieved 56 percent out of a goal of  
13 60 percent.

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

17 Are there any questions regarding the  
18 racetracks?

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 Any questions, Members?

21 Hearing none.

22 Anything else, Mr. Gathe?

23 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

24 That's it. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1           Okay. Thank you for your work on this.  
2           While, you know, all of our goals are  
3           voluntary goals, we do take them serious. We  
4           continue to have conversations with all the  
5           properties in attempting to meet these goals,  
6           and I know they have their challenges, but we  
7           will continue to have those conversations.

8           Okay. We're going to move on to the  
9           presentation by the Louisiana Association of  
10          Problem Gaming.

11          Is there anyone here from -- there you  
12          are, Mr. Below. I was looking for you.

13          MR. BELOW:

14                 Good morning.

15          CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16          Before we get started, just if you would  
17          identify yourself for the record, Gregory,  
18          and let everyone know what you do.

19          MR. BELOW:

20                 Good morning, Chairman Johns and Members  
21          of the Board. I am Gregory Below, and I am  
22          the Director of Helpline Services with the  
23          Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling.  
24          We answer the problem gambling helpline for  
25          the State of Louisiana.



1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 So, Members, Ms. Janet Miller was  
3 supposed to be with us today, Executive  
4 Director at the association. But due to some  
5 family health issues, she could not be here  
6 with us today. But she's also shared with us  
7 the fact that she will be leaving the  
8 Association of Compulsive Gambling at the end  
9 of this month. She will continue her work on  
10 addictive orders with CADA, I think it is, up  
11 in northwest Louisiana, which I think deals  
12 primarily with alcohol and drug abuse issues,  
13 as their executive director.

14 But I would like just to publicly say,  
15 before we get into our report, our  
16 appreciation to Ms. Miller for over 25 years  
17 of working with compulsive gambling. She has  
18 taken this program to an incredible position  
19 nationwide. I don't know if there's anybody  
20 else in this country that has done what this  
21 lady has done to combat this issue of  
22 compulsive gambling. She's been an  
23 absolutely national leader in this.

24 And so, Ms. Miller, I hope you're  
25 listening this morning. We want to thank you

1 on behalf of the people of Louisiana, on  
2 behalf of the Gaming Control Board for the  
3 incredible job that you have done over so, so  
4 many years. You truly made a difference.  
5 And we want to wish you the best of luck  
6 wherever life's journey takes you. So thank  
7 you very much.

8 Mr. Hebert, I think you may want to add  
9 a few words.

10 MR. HEBERT:

11 Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Board  
12 Members. I, too, on behalf of Attorney  
13 General Liz Murrill of the Gaming Division,  
14 and most specifically our problem gambling  
15 resource services program that we started out  
16 of the Gaming Division in 2018, would like to  
17 say a big thank you to Janet Miller.

18 Our program was born out of a challenge  
19 from then Attorney General Jeff Landry to the  
20 directors to kind of think out of the box,  
21 you know, in addition to our normal  
22 regulatory roles. Knowing that we had some  
23 new forms of gaming such as sports wagering  
24 coming to our state, one of the things that  
25 we wanted to do was to help educate the

1 citizens in Louisiana. My very first call  
2 was to Janet Miller. And I really  
3 appreciated her wise counsel in helping us to  
4 get our program off of the ground. And we  
5 still have a healthy, thriving program in  
6 partnership with the Louisiana Department of  
7 Health. All of our attorneys participated in  
8 helping to educate our citizens, and Janet  
9 was just instrumental in that.

10 Over the years, in addition to providing  
11 counsel each and every time I called her,  
12 Janet and I have gone together to meet with  
13 Judge Cheryl Moss. Janet's long-term goal  
14 was and probably still is to bring a gambling  
15 diversion court to Louisiana -- back to  
16 Louisiana. There was once a court under, I  
17 think, DA Schuyler Marvin in the  
18 Shreveport/Bossier area. And that's  
19 something that Janet still is looking forward  
20 to having. And I hope that we can accomplish  
21 that goal.

22 But she and I, along with Suzanne  
23 Bourgeois, our program manager, went up to  
24 Las Vegas to observe their first gambling  
25 court, which you think would have been in

1 existence for decades, but was just recently  
2 started a few years ago. Judge Moss was very  
3 gracious, allowed us to sit in and observe  
4 her court and took us around and introduced  
5 us to some folks and talked to us a little  
6 bit about how she got it started.

7 Janet is a, to echo the Chairman's  
8 sentiments, she is a giant in this industry.  
9 I am just leaving my post as chairman of the  
10 advisory board for the National Council of  
11 Problem Gambling. And I have no doubt that I  
12 was tasked to do that because of my  
13 relationship with Janet. In addition to  
14 that, she was just honored by that National  
15 body this past summer, and we were there to  
16 see that.

17 Like I said, she was a Godsend for me.  
18 And again, on behalf of our office certainly,  
19 we wish her the best. And I know that CADA  
20 is getting someone that's really going to be  
21 passionate. I wish her nothing but the best  
22 going forward.

23 Thank you, Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Thank you, Mr. Hebert. I appreciate

1 those great words.

2 Again, Ms. Miller, thank you for your  
3 incredible work. I know I'm going to miss  
4 you, this Board is going to miss you, but the  
5 citizens of the state are going to truly miss  
6 you. So thank you very, very much.

7 So, Mr. Below, thank you for being here  
8 with us again today. A few months ago,  
9 Ms. Hood and I had the opportunity to meet  
10 Greg in his office and get a firsthand view  
11 of what they actually do. And I came away  
12 absolutely amazed as to how big your  
13 operation is. Share with the Board exactly  
14 how many states y'all actually service and  
15 foreign entities.

16 MR. BELOW:

17 We answer for 13 states, and then we  
18 have around 20 states that are under the  
19 National umbrella that we answer as their  
20 default center for the National Council on  
21 Problem Gambling. That includes Canada, the  
22 U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico. We'll get  
23 calls from everywhere. We've gotten calls as  
24 far as Guam.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1           So all of that happens right here in  
2           Bossier City?

3           MR. BELOW:

4           Yes, sir.

5           CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6           Well, thank y'all for your work there.  
7           So, Mr. Below, I know we're now two years  
8           into -- a little over two years into sports  
9           betting, right at two years on mobile sports  
10          betting as of a few days ago. And we realize  
11          that there's some challenges that come along  
12          with the success of the program. So if you  
13          would today maybe share some of your thoughts  
14          with us on what it has done in y'all's  
15          operation.

16          MR. BELOW:

17          Yes, sir. Today I am here to report on  
18          the uptick in problem gambling contacts  
19          through our Problem Gambling Helpline that  
20          are associated with sports betting. The  
21          following information is from contacts, which  
22          are people who call, text, or chat on the  
23          Louisiana Problem Gambling Helpline. They  
24          are able to do this through 1-877-770-STOP or  
25          1-800-GAMBLER in Louisiana.

1           In 2021, there was a 62 percent increase  
2 in contacts to our Problem Gambling Helpline  
3 from contacts who stated sports betting as a  
4 gambling choice. Text communications  
5 increased by 71 percent in 2022, and  
6 continued to increase in 2023 to 111 percent.

7           From 2021 to 2022, there was a  
8 300 percent increase in contacts from Caddo,  
9 Bossier, East Baton Rouge, Orleans,  
10 Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parishes, who  
11 expressed sports betting as one of their  
12 gambling choices.

13           The highest increase in sports betting  
14 traffic received through our Problem Gambling  
15 Helpline was in 2022. There was an increase  
16 of 1,223 percent in contacts that were  
17 seeking sports betting outlets.

18           The parishes with the highest uptick in  
19 contacts were from the Orleans, Jefferson,  
20 and St. Bernard Parish areas, with a  
21 667 percent increase from 2021 to 2022.

22           Our state-funded residential facility  
23 CORE, the Center of Recovery, from 2019 to  
24 2020, saw a 300 percent increase in admits  
25 who identified online sports as one of their

1 gambling choices. In 2021 and 2022, the  
2 increased percentages remained high at  
3 271 percent. By the year 2023, in comparison  
4 to 2019, admits who identified online sports  
5 as one of their gambling choices had  
6 increased by 350 percent.

7 Thank you for your time and attention  
8 today, Members of the Board, Chairman Johns.  
9 I hope the information I presented today was  
10 informative, useful, and insightful.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Okay. So, Mr. Below, I guess I should  
13 have maybe had this conversation before you  
14 came today, but do you have any actual  
15 numbers with you instead of percentages by  
16 any chance?

17 MR. BELOW:

18 I don't have those, but I can get those  
19 to you, Chairman Johns.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Yes, we would be curious to know. I  
22 know -- and thank you for your report. This  
23 is exactly what we're looking for to see what  
24 kind of pattern that we're having. You know,  
25 when you reference 2019 to 2020, and there



1 was a huge increase, that is before we  
2 actually had legalized sports betting in  
3 Louisiana. So that was illegal operations, I  
4 guess, online illegal sites, that's what I  
5 would presume, or possibly local bookies.

6 MR. BELOW:

7 Yes, sir. We wanted to show the  
8 increase from before sports wagering started  
9 to when it started the jump in the amount of  
10 contacts that we received.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 So, Members, any questions for  
13 Mr. Below? Does anyone have a question?

14 MR. POOLE:

15 Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Mr. Poole.

18 MR. POOLE:

19 So other than sports betting, are all  
20 the other gambling choices remaining about  
21 the same year over year and just the major  
22 increases on sports betting, or are they all  
23 kicking up because of sports betting?

24 MR. BELOW:

25 The internet and online choices have

1 increased. Like in slots online, online  
2 gaming in and of itself has increased due to  
3 the sports wagering and having the easy  
4 access to like apps and things like that.

5 MR. POOLE:

6 Okay. Appreciate that.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Thank you, Mr. Poole.

9 Any other questions for Mr. Below?

10 So, Greg, do you have any  
11 recommendations for this Board in terms of  
12 regulation or anything off the top of your  
13 head? And I know you deal with the call  
14 center.

15 MR. BELOW:

16 Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 You're not so much dealing with CORE.

19 MR. BELOW:

20 I would say regulating how the  
21 information is promoted and ensuring that  
22 education is out there on access to the help  
23 that's available and distinguishing between  
24 customer service outlets and our  
25 organization.

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MR. POOLE:

Mr. Chairman, I have another question.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay, Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

When they call in, are y'all able to acquire demographics as far as age group, male, female?

MR. BELOW:

Yes. We log an extensive intake form that we have. It's about six pages long. And if the person is willing to disclose that information, we will collect demographic information.

MR. POOLE:

When you supply the numbers to the Chairman, could you also include some demographics with those numbers, as well? Would that be possible?

MR. BELOW:

Sure. Yes.

MR. POOLE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

And I will say, I know you referenced

1 like the online slots and those programs,  
2 which is an illegal market. It's a totally  
3 illegal market, and it's a huge problem all  
4 over the country. I mean, we've actually  
5 implored on Congress to be involved in this,  
6 to help us. We're actually working with the  
7 Federal Department of Justice right now on  
8 that issue, because it's a multibillion  
9 dollar a year business that's going on all  
10 over the world, and it's totally illegal.  
11 And when you can't regulate it, that's where  
12 the problems become. There's no age  
13 verification. You may have a 13-year-old  
14 playing online slots, you know. It's a huge  
15 problem. And I know that that causes more  
16 work on your part and causes more problems  
17 with compulsive gambling.

18 So, Mr. Duty, I see you walking up to  
19 the front. You probably want to add a little  
20 bit to the conversation?

21 MR. DUTY:

22 If I'm permitted to, yes, sir.

23 Good morning, Board Members. My name is  
24 Wade Duty. I'm the Executive Director of the  
25 Louisiana Casino Association. And I want to

1 provide a bit of context, but also I have a  
2 supplemental answer to Mr. Poole's question.

3 The numbers you're presented, when you  
4 hear numbers of increases of 300 to 1,000  
5 percent, that can immediately cause an alarm  
6 reaction. But if you listen to the context  
7 in which these are being presented, they're  
8 identifying sports wagering as a choice.  
9 This is not a diagnostic call. They're not  
10 able to render a diagnosis of a compulsive  
11 gambling problem over the telephone based on  
12 a single contact. So what you're seeing is  
13 people calling in for information, and they  
14 are reporting that yes, this newly legalized  
15 form of gaming is in their catalog, if you  
16 will, of gambling outlets. Does not  
17 necessarily translate directly into that  
18 being the basis for the call. But again,  
19 we're not children here either. If you  
20 authorize a new form of gaming, as the  
21 Chairman opened with, you will see some  
22 attendant increase in other areas that will  
23 be of concern.

24 To address a supplemental answer to  
25 Mr. Poole's question, from the casino side,

1 we have not seen an uptick of significance in  
2 our enrollment for compulsive gambling issues  
3 in the brick and mortar side of it. So I  
4 think as Mr. Below said, the availability of  
5 apps, and as the Chairman already noticed,  
6 the fact that slots online, poker online,  
7 anything that says "online," other than  
8 sports wagering, is illegal, and it's  
9 essentially not us. So I just want to give  
10 you a little context for some of the figures  
11 you may have been concerned about.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 And I think you're accurate in what  
14 you're saying, Mr. Duty, that we know 85 to  
15 86 percent of all sports betting is done by  
16 mobile. It's not in your bricks and mortar  
17 operations. We understand that. But I do  
18 think it's fair to say that legalized sports  
19 betting has had some impact on compulsive  
20 gambling. We have no doubt. I mean, it's  
21 just such a huge program on a national basis.  
22 I think 38 states now are legal, along with  
23 the District of Columbia, and I read three or  
24 four other states are entertaining it right  
25 now as we speak.

1 But any questions for Mr. Duty?

2 Mr. Duty, thank you so much. You're  
3 always very helpful and insightful. We  
4 appreciate that very much.

5 MR. DUTY:

6 Thank you, Board Members.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Mr. Below, we thank you for your work.  
9 Y'all do an incredible job there.

10 Members, if you're ever in the  
11 Bossier/Shreveport area, I would highly  
12 encourage you to visit their center to see  
13 how they operate, what they do, the  
14 incredible work that they do.

15 Y'all also take the suicide calls, don't  
16 you?

17 MR. BELOW:

18 Yes. We answer the 988 Lifeline for the  
19 upper portion of the state, the 318 and 337  
20 area codes.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Yes, the Lifeline. So y'all just do  
23 incredible work there, and we greatly  
24 appreciate everything you do. We will  
25 attempt on our part to do our part to try to

1 contain this, to keep it in check and keep  
2 our finger on it. So thank you very much,  
3 and good luck to the association with new  
4 director coming in.

5 Anything else?

6 MR. BELOW:

7 No, sir. That's it. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you very much. Appreciate you  
11 being here.

12 MR. POOLE:

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Okay, Members, we will move into video  
16 gaming issues. First we have the  
17 consideration of a truck stop application,  
18 St. Romaine Oil Company, LLC, doing business  
19 as the Lucky Rose Casino.

20 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL McINTYRE:

21 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board  
22 Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General  
23 Talibah McIntyre here in the matter of the  
24 original application of St. Romain Oil  
25 Company, LLC, doing business as Lucky Rose



1 Casino, applying for approval of a Type 5  
2 video draw poker gaming license. The truck  
3 stop facility is located in Avoyelles Parish.

4 On May 8th, 2023, the following  
5 transactions occurred: One Stop Liquor,  
6 Incorporated, doing business as Lucky Rose  
7 Casino, who previously held a video gaming  
8 license for the truck stop, sold the business  
9 and business assets to the applicant. And  
10 the applicant purchased the immovable  
11 property where the truck stop facility is  
12 located. The Louisiana State Police Gaming  
13 Enforcement Division conducted a suitability  
14 investigation of the relevant persons  
15 associated with the applicant. Investigator  
16 Glen Barrett is here this morning to present  
17 those findings of the Division to the Board.

18 MR. BARRETT:

19 Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Board  
20 Members.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Good morning.

23 MR. BARRETT:

24 I'm Investigator Glen Barrett, Gaming  
25 Enforcement Division. I conducted

1           suitability investigations on all relevant  
2           persons associated with the application.  
3           Zachary St. Romain, Annie Gautier, Nicholas  
4           St. Romain, Sunny St. Romain, Adam Gautier,  
5           and Amanda St. Romain submitted to  
6           suitability investigation in connection with  
7           this application.

8           I did not find any information that  
9           would preclude them from participating in the  
10          video gaming industry. An on-site inspection  
11          was conducted. It was determined that the  
12          establishment meets all criteria set forth in  
13          video gaming law as a qualified truck stop  
14          facility. All required licenses and permits  
15          were posted and valid at the time of  
16          inspection. The establishment consists of  
17          10.45 contiguous acres.

18          St. Romain Oil Company, LLC, doing  
19          business as Lucky Rose Casino submitted a  
20          video draw poker license application within  
21          36 months of a change in ownership of the  
22          previous licensed truck stop, was held by One  
23          Stop Liquor, Incorporated. Therefore, it is  
24          not subject to the rule that it must be at  
25          least 1 mile from a school, church,

1 playground, synagogue, public library,  
2 residents, and buildings on the National  
3 Historic Registry.

4 I found no information that would  
5 preclude the issuance of a Type 5 video draw  
6 poker gaming license to St. Romain Oil  
7 Company, LLC, doing business as Lucky Rose  
8 Casino.

9 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL McINTYRE:

10 The Office of the Attorney General has  
11 reviewed the file prepared by Louisiana State  
12 Police Gaming Enforcement Division. Our  
13 review indicates that no information has been  
14 found that would preclude approval.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Any questions from the Board?

17 Okay, Members, I would entertain a  
18 motion that we approve the new truck stop  
19 application for St. Romain Oil Company, LLC,  
20 doing business as Lucky Rose Casino. And do  
21 I have a motion?

22 Ms. Hamilton-Acker has made that motion.  
23 Mr. Avant has seconded that motion.

24 Is there any discussion?

25 Is there any opposition to that motion?

1           Hearing none, that motion carries.

2           Thank you very much.

3           ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL McINTYRE:

4           Thank you.

5           CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6           Okay. Members, we will now move into  
7           our proposed settlements. First on the  
8           agenda today will be the Rice Palace,  
9           Incorporated, doing business as Exit 80  
10          Travel Plaza.

11          Good morning.

12          ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

13          Good morning, Chairman Johns and Board  
14          Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General  
15          Quintele Jackson.

16          This matter involves the Type 5 video  
17          draw poker licensee Rice Palace, Inc., doing  
18          business as Exit 80 Travel Plaza. The  
19          settlement addresses the licensee's failure  
20          to timely submit his annual licensee form,  
21          fee, and accompanying documents to the  
22          Division.

23          On or about March 15th of 2023, the  
24          Division electronically mailed the licensee a  
25          gaming enforcement advisory notice. This

1 notice informed the licensee that he should  
2 submit the completed annual licensee form  
3 with the appropriate fee and required  
4 documents by July 1st. The Division received  
5 the licensee's annual completed forms and  
6 fees on November 17th of 2023. The licensee  
7 failed to timely submit to the Division.

8 The parties agree to settle this matter  
9 for the amount of \$1,500. This amount  
10 reflects the civil penalty that is well  
11 established for violations of this magnitude.  
12 The Hearing Officer signed off on the  
13 settlement and is now before the Board for  
14 final approval.

15 I'll be happy to answer any questions  
16 the Board may have.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Okay. Mr. Jackson, just strictly late  
19 on their application, right?

20 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

21 Correct, Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Members, I would entertain a motion to  
24 approve the settlement for Rice Palace,  
25 Incorporated, doing business as Exit 80

1 Travel Plaza.

2 Ms. Berry has made that motion.

3 Mr. Poole has seconded that motion.

4 Is there any discussion?

5 Is there any opposition to that motion?

6 Hearing none, that motion carries.

7 Thank you, Mr. Jackson. Do the next one  
8 too?

9 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

10 Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Okay. Item Number 2 will be La Branch  
13 Too Incorporated of Lake Charles, doing  
14 business as La Branch Café & Frosty.

15 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

16 Good morning again, Chairman Johns and  
17 Board Members. I am Assistant Attorney  
18 General Quintele Jackson here on behalf of  
19 the Division in this matter involving La  
20 Branch Too Inc. of Lake Charles, doing  
21 business as La Branch Café & Frosty.

22 The licensee currently holds a Type 1  
23 video draw poker license. This settlement  
24 addresses the licensee's failure to timely  
25 submit its annual licensee forms and fees to

1 the Division by the required date of July 1st  
2 of 2023.

3 On or about March 15th, 2023, the  
4 Division electronically mailed the licensee a  
5 gaming enforcement advisory notice. And this  
6 notice informed the licensee to submit his  
7 completed annual licensee forms by the date  
8 of July 1st, 2023. The Division received the  
9 licensee's annual licensee form, fees, and  
10 requirement documents on November 8th of  
11 2023. As such, the licensee failed to timely  
12 submit his documents.

13 The parties agreed to settle this matter  
14 for the amount of \$750. This amount reflects  
15 the civil penalty that is well established  
16 for violation of this magnitude. The Hearing  
17 Officer signed off on the settlement, and is  
18 now before the Board for final approval.

19 I'll be happy to answer any questions.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Okay. Late fees again?

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

23 Correct.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay. Members, I would entertain a

1 motion to approve the settlement of La Branch  
2 Too Incorporated of Lake Charles, doing  
3 business as La Branch Café & Frosty.

4 Ms. Traylor has made that motion.

5 Ms. Lewis has seconded that motion.

6 Is there any discussion?

7 Is there any opposition to the motion?

8 Hearing none, that motion carries.

9 Our last settlement today will be Sun  
10 Coast Resources, LLC.

11 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

12 For the final time, good morning,  
13 Chairman Johns and Board Members. I'm  
14 Assistant Attorney General Quintele Jackson  
15 here on behalf of the Division pertaining to  
16 the settlement involving Sun Coast Resources,  
17 LLC, who currently holds a non-gaming  
18 supplier permit.

19 On September 12th of 2023, the Division  
20 discovered that Sun Coast Resources converted  
21 from a corporation to a limited liability  
22 company during an e-mail exchange with the  
23 non-gaming supplier. The Division requested  
24 documentation from Sun Coast about this  
25 conversion. The Division received this



1 requested documentation and determined that  
2 the permittee converted from an Inc. to an  
3 LLC on March 10th of 2023.

4 Now, in lieu of adjudicating this  
5 matter, the vice president and general  
6 counsel of the permittee reached out to the  
7 Division seeking a settlement. The permittee  
8 was required to notify the Division of this  
9 conversion within 15 days of the conversion.  
10 The settlement addresses the permittee's  
11 failure to timely notify the Division of its  
12 conversion from a corporation to a limited  
13 liability company.

14 The parties agreed to settle this matter  
15 for \$500. This amount reflects the civil  
16 penalty that is well established for  
17 violations of this magnitude. The Hearing  
18 Officer signed off on the settlement and is  
19 now before the Board for final approval.

20 I'll be happy to answer any questions  
21 the Board may have.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Any questions for Mr. Jackson?

24 If not, I would entertain a motion to  
25 approve the settlement of Sun Coast

1 Resources, LLC.

2 Ms. Lewis has made that motion.

3 Mr. Jackson has seconded that motion.

4 Is there any discussion?

5 Is there any opposition to that motion?

6 Hearing none, that motion carries.

7 Okay, Members, that is all of our  
8 business. Mr. Jackson, thank you.

9 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 That is all of our business. A couple  
13 of announcements. First of all, Major  
14 McNeal, anything from state police that you  
15 need to share?

16 MAJOR McNEAL:

17 No, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 No, sir, okay. Thank you very much.

20 Somebody told me we have a little  
21 birthday boy in the room today. He looks  
22 younger. Why are you hiding from me over  
23 there? But today is Chris Hebert's birthday.  
24 So, Chris, I'm not going to sing for you, I  
25 promise you. You wouldn't want to hear that.

1 But happy birthday to you.

2 MR. HEBERT:

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 Hope you have a great day and many,  
6 many, many, many more years. So happy  
7 birthday.

8 MR. HEBERT:

9 Thank you. I appreciate it.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Thank you for your work. Appreciate it.

12 Okay. Members, just a reminder, and to  
13 the public, that our March, April, and May  
14 meeting will be held at the LaSalle building  
15 right down the road from the Capitol here.  
16 The legislature will be in session, and they  
17 need the committee room. So March, April,  
18 and May in the LaSalle building.

19 Any other business to come before the  
20 Board today?

21 MS. BERRY:

22 On Mondays.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 On Mondays, excuse me. Thank you,  
25 Ms. Berry. I appreciate that. It will be on

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the third Monday of each of those three months, March, April, and May, on Monday. Okay. Thank you very much.

So I think Mr. Jackson will move that we adjourn, and Mr. Avant will second that motion.

Mr. Jackson moves that we adjourn. Mr. Avant has seconded that motion.

Is there any objection?

Hearing none, we are hereby adjourned.

Members, thank you very much for being here today.

(HEARING CONCLUDED)

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## REPORTER'S PAGE

I, ANNA COATES, 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 the 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 "(spelled phonetically)."

ANNA COATES, CCR, RPR

LOUISIANA CCR NO. 97018

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

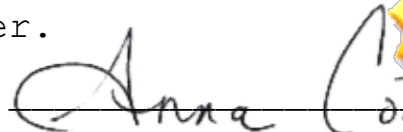

This certification is valid only for a transcript accompanied by my original signature and original seal on this page.

I, ANNA C. COATES, CCR, RPR, 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, 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 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 hereto, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

ANNA C. COATES, RPR, CCR  
LOUISIANA CCR NO. 97018