

Transcript of the Testimony of

**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
MEETING 10-19-2023**

October 19, 2023



P.O. Box 1554 • Hammond • Louisiana 70404
(Toll Free) 866.870.7233 • 985.542.8685 • (Fax) 985.419.0799
office@amersonwhite.com • www.amersonwhite.com

STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

OCTOBER 19, 2023 BOARD MEETING

This Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting was taken by Belinda K. Amerson, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, at the Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 5, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the 19th day of October, 2023.



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEARANCES :

CHAIRMAN RONNIE S. JOHNS

MS. HOOD

MS. HERNANDEZ

JULIE G. BERRY

COLONEL LAMAR DAVIS

FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER

CLAUDE D. JACKSON

JULIE A. LEWIS

LAMAR O. POOLE, JR.

KEVIN RICHARD

RONALD J. SHOLES

ASH ELY ANDERSON TRAYLOR

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good morning, Gentlemen. It sure got quite in this room. I think we're about ready. It's about 10:00 o'clock. It is 10:00 o'clock. So we will call the Louisiana Gaming Control Board to order Thursday, October the 19th of 2023.

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

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

(No response.)

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. Berry:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Ms. Lewis.
MS. LEWIS:
Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Poole.
MR. POOLE:
Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Sholes.
MR. SHOLES:
Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Traylor.
MS. TRAYLOR:
Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Colonel Davis.
MAJOR MCNEILL:
Major McNeill for Colonel Davis.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Secretary Richard.

1 SECRETARY RICHARD:

2 Here.

3 MS. HERNANDEZ:

4 We have a quorum.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 We have a quorum.

7 Members, before we get into the
8 agenda. I'm going to ask the Board for a
9 motion to amend our agenda. This was a
10 last minute petition that came before us.
11 It concerns the Belle of Baton Rouge.
12 Today was there petition deadline for the
13 construction contract.

14 It's come to my attention that they
15 are still a few days away from finalizing
16 that contract, and we're going to -- they
17 have filed a petition asking to amend
18 their petition until November -- the
19 November board meeting.

20 So at this time I would entertain a
21 motion to add this to the -- to the
22 agenda.

23 MR. POOLE:

24 Mr. Chairman, I'll make that motion.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 And Mr. Poole has moved to amend the
2 agenda. Ms. Berry has seconded that
3 motion. It will require a unanimous vote,
4 ladies and gentlemen, to do this so we
5 will have a roll call vote.

6 Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
7 roll for us.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9 Oh, one -- one second. My attorney
10 has notified me we -- we do have to ask
11 for any public comment on this motion.

12 Is there anyone in the audience that
13 would like to have a public comment on
14 this motion?

15 Okay.

16 Seeing none, Ms. Hernandez, would
17 you call the roll?

18 MS. HERNANDEZ:

19 Ms. Berry.

20 MS. BERRY:

21 Yes.

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 Mr. Jackson.

24 MR. JACKSON:

25 Yes.

1 MS. HERNANDEZ:
2 Ms. Lewis.
3 MS. LEWIS:
4 Yes.
5 MS. HERNANDEZ:
6 Mr. Poole.
7 MR. POOLE:
8 Yes.
9 MS. HERNANDEZ:
10 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
11 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
12 Yes.
13 MS. HERNANDEZ:
14 Mr. Sholes.
15 MR. SHOLES:
16 Yes.
17 MS. HERNANDEZ:
18 Ms. Traylor.
19 MS. TRAYLOR:
20 Yes.
21 MS. HERNANDEZ:
22 Chairman Johns.
23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
24 Yes. Okay. So by unanimous vote
25 that motion carries and that will be added

1 to the agenda at a later point in the --
2 in the meeting today.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, this is a time
4 that our Board entertains any public
5 comments on our full agenda for today.
6 Anyone in the audience wants to make a
7 comment on our agenda?

8 Okay.

9 Seeing none, we will move on.

10 Before you we have the minutes from
11 the September 21st, 2023 meeting, and I
12 would ask for a motion to waive the
13 reading and approve the minutes.

14 MR. JACKSON:

15 So moved.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Mr. Jackson has moved. Ms. Lewis
18 has seconded.

19 Is there any opposition to that
20 motion.

21 Hearing none, those minutes are
22 hereby approved.

23 Okay. Moving along, our revenue
24 reports. Ms. Jackson, our favorite -- our
25 favorite part of the meeting every week --

1 every month.

2 So good morning.

3 MS. JACKSON:

4 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board
5 Members.

6 My name is Donna Jackson with the
7 Louisiana State Police Gaming Audit
8 Section. In September, the 14 operating
9 riverboats generated adjusted gross
10 receipts of \$139,473,543. The state
11 collected fees totaling \$29,986,812.
12 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year
13 '23-'24 to date are over \$422 million, a
14 decrease of \$5.4 million or 1% from fiscal
15 year '22-'23.

16 As of September 30th, 2023, the
17 state collected \$90.8 million in fees for
18 fiscal year '23-'24. Page 2 shows the
19 riverboat revenue broken down by regional
20 market. The overall increase from August
21 was \$3.4 million or 2.5%. Compared to
22 last September, this month's revenues
23 represent a decrease of \$1.2 million or
24 1%.

25 Next is a summary of the September

1 2023 gaming activity for Harrah's New
2 Orleans found on page 3. Harrah's
3 generated \$20,689,879 in gross gaming
4 revenues. These revenues represent an
5 increase from last month of \$2.7 million
6 or 15.2%, but a decrease of approximately
7 \$2.2 million or 9.8% from the same month
8 last year.

9 During September, the state received
10 \$5,327,869 in minimum daily payments.
11 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year
12 '23-'24 to date are \$56 million, a
13 decrease of \$8.8 million or 14% from
14 fiscal '22-'23.

15 As of September 30th, 2023, the
16 state collected \$16.3 million in fees for
17 fiscal year '23-'24.

18 Next I will present the revenues for
19 slots at the racetracks. During
20 September, the four racetrack facilities
21 combined generated adjusted gross receipts
22 of \$25,078,528, a minimal increase of .2%
23 from August, but a slight decrease of 1.8%
24 when compared the same month last year.

25 During September, the state

1 collected \$3.8 million in fees. Adjusted
2 gross receipts for fiscal year '23-'24 to
3 date are \$77.7 million, a decrease of \$2.6
4 million or 3% from fiscal year '22-'23.

5 As of September 30th, 2023, the
6 state has collected approximately \$11.8
7 million in fees for fiscal year '23-'24.

8 I will now move to the video gaming
9 information. There are 11,811 video
10 gaming devices activated at 1,384
11 locations. Gaming device revenue for
12 September 2023 was \$60,084,551, a decrease
13 of \$1.5 million or 2.5% when compared to
14 August and a decrease of \$2.3 million or
15 3.7% when compared to last September.

16 Total franchise fees for September
17 totaled \$18.2 million. Fiscal year to
18 date gaming device revenue was \$183
19 million, a decrease of \$10 million or 5.2%
20 when compared to last fiscal year.

21 As of September 30th, 2023, the
22 state has collected \$55.5 million in
23 franchise fees for fiscal year '23-'24.

24 Next, I'll present the September
25 revenues for sportsbook. During

1 September, the 18 retail sportsbook
2 accepted over \$31 million in sports
3 wagers, resulting in net proceeds of
4 approximately \$5.7 million and \$572,554 in
5 state taxes. The nine mobile sportsbook
6 operators accepted \$248.8 million in
7 sports wagers, resulting in net proceeds
8 of \$36 million and \$4.7 million in taxes
9 paid to the state.

10 This is the highest monthly total
11 generated by mobile sports wagering since
12 inception.

13 And I've added retail and mobile
14 sports wagering by month charts to your
15 chart folders for comparison purposes.

16 Finally, for daily fantasy sports,
17 gross revenues for September are \$1.5
18 million with net revenue of approximately
19 \$161,000 and taxes of just under \$13,000.

20 Are there any questions?

21 (No response.)

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jackson.
24 Great work. Any questions from the Board
25 for Ms. Jackson? Any questions?

1 (No response.)

2 Just a couple of observations I'd
3 like to make, first, I want to
4 congratulate the QUEEN here in Baton Rouge
5 on their first full month, exceptional
6 month for them compared to the same month
7 last year, almost an 85% income increase
8 in their revenue, and compared to the
9 previous month, over 90 percent.

10 So I think it just shows you what
11 land-based properties are capable of
12 doing, and I think that the most
13 interesting fact is -- number is that they
14 actually grew the Baton Rouge market by
15 almost 3 million, so -- from the prior
16 year.

17 So it wasn't a matter of
18 cannibalizing anybody else. It was a net
19 increase of the -- of the entire market.
20 So to the QUEEN, congratulations to you.

21 On sports betting, just again some
22 incredible numbers. I think it shows you
23 what football, college and -- and the NFL
24 mean to sports betting. But as Ms.
25 Jackson indicated, the very largest month

1 since our inception in February of 2022
2 mobile. So we're going to continue to
3 watch those numbers.

4 And I think -- any other questions?
5 Anybody have any questions?

6 (No response.)

7 Ms. Jackson, thank you.

8 MS. JACKSON:

9 You're welcome.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 We appreciate your work.

12 Okay. Let's move on into our casino
13 gaming issues.

14 First on the agenda today is the
15 consideration of a temporary certificate
16 of compliance for the alternate riverboat
17 inspection of Louisiana 1 Gaming, and that
18 is doing business as Boomtown New Orleans.

19 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MS. HOUSTON:

20 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
21 Board Members. I'm Delancey Houston, with
22 me today is Moriah Reed with AVS, and we
23 are here today in regards to issuance of a
24 temporary certificate of compliance to
25 Boomtown Casino, which is located in

1 Harvey, Louisiana.

2 On August 16th, 2023, AVS began the
3 inspection process for the approval of
4 Boomtown Casino's annual certificate of
5 compliance. However, Boomtown is
6 requesting an extension of time to resolve
7 discrepancies that remain outstanding.

8 Ms. Moriah Reed will now provide the
9 details of AVS's inspection.

10 MS. REED:

11 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
12 Board Members. I'm Moriah Reed with
13 American Vessel Services, and I'm here to
14 report on the annual certification for the
15 CT Boomtown Belle 2 at Boomtown Casino's
16 New Orleans property in Harvey, Louisiana.

17 The inspector's people and I that on
18 August 16th of 2023 attend the Riverboat
19 Boomtown Belle 2 to conduct the annual
20 inspection in accordance with the
21 Louisiana Alternative Inspection Program.

22 We reviewed fire protection
23 measures, egress ops, observed emergency
24 lighting, tested the emergency generator,
25 inspected the mooring system and conducted

1 a fire drill as well as other required
2 life safety items.

3 The deficiencies are noted on pages
4 6 through 9 of your annual report. A
5 follow-up inspection was done and seven
6 deficiencies remained in our observation.
7 These deficiencies are noted on pages 2, 3
8 and 4 of the supplemental survey dated
9 October 3rd in your package.

10 As a result of these remaining
11 deficiencies not being completely
12 satisfied, the property has requested an
13 extension of their COC to allow sufficient
14 time to complete their deficiencies. The
15 delay appears to be material and
16 contractor availability.

17 AVS has worked with the property to
18 understand the remaining deficiencies, and
19 we feel that they do not pose a risk to
20 the safety of the passengers or crew of
21 the casino vessel.

22 AVS also feels confident that the
23 property is working diligently on
24 transferring these outstanding items and
25 we are hopeful that the remaining items

1 should be completed by the next Board
2 meeting.

3 The 2023 annual survey as required
4 by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board is
5 not complete. As such, the property has
6 requested an extension. This extension
7 request letter from the property is
8 included in your package.

9 It is the recommendation of AVS that
10 the Boomtown Belle 2 be issued a temporary
11 certificate of compliance for November of
12 2023 to allow additional time to satisfy
13 the remaining deficiencies.

14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MS. HOUSTON:

15 We now present these findings to the
16 Board and request that upon the Board
17 accepting the report submitted by AVS
18 today, you will move forward on the
19 issuance of the temporary certificate of
20 compliance to Boomtown Casino, which will
21 expire on November 19th, 2023.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Okay. Is anyone from Boomtown here?

24 MS. REED:

25 Yes, sir.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Come on up.

Get on the end down here, sir.

Thank you.

Could you identify yourself for the record?

MR. MURRAY:

Yes, sir. My name is Kevin Murray, facilities manager at Boomtown Casino.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Murray, for being here today.

These deficiencies are -- are -- is this primarily supply chain issues, contract issues?

MR. MURRAY:

Yes, sir, it's supply chain.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Supply chain. And you feel comfortable in telling this Board that all of this can be remedied by the end of -- by the next board meeting?

MR. MURRAY:

Yes, sir. We have PO's been issued. Right now the vendors are scheduled for

1 Monday, so we should be good to go.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Should be good to go. Okay.

4 Any questions for Mr. Murray?

5 Judge Sholes.

6 MR. SHOLES:

7 I couldn't help but notice that one
8 of things is water in the bilge pump.

9 MR. MURRAY:

10 That has been corrected.

11 MR. SHOLES:

12 Clean water out of a bilge pump.

13 MR. MURRAY:

14 Sir, we had an AC backup -- an AC
15 unit backup the day before the inspection
16 and the engineers did not catch it, so
17 they had to pump that out.

18 MR. SHOLES:

19 And that lasted more than one
20 inspection period; is that correct?

21 MR. MURRAY:

22 We were not satisfied to declare it
23 fixed until we had our HVAC contractor
24 verify that it was not going to happen
25 again.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. SHOLES:

And that has been solved since?

MS. REED:

Yes, sir. I have seen the pictures. He's submitted them. They just haven't been able to be processed into the report.

MR. SHOLES:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you, Judge.

You have a question, Ms. Berry?

MS. BERRY:

No other of these issues related to major safety problems?

MR. MURRAY:

No, ma'am.

MS. BERRY:

It's just small things like trash cans and parts?

MR. MURRAY:

Yes, ma'am.

MS. BERRY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Thank you, Ms. Berry.

1 Mr. Murray, thank you for being here
2 today with us.

3 And so, Members, I have no further
4 questions. I would entertain a motion
5 that we issue a temporary certificate of
6 compliance, which will expire November the
7 19th of 2023.

8 Do I have a motion?

9 MR. SHOLES:

10 So moved.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Judge Sholes has moved that we --
13 has moved on that motion and Ms.
14 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.

15 Is there any discussion?

16 Is there any opposition to that
17 motion?

18 Hearing none, that motion carries.

19 Thank you very much, ladies, for
20 being here.

21 Mr. Murray, thank you again for
22 being here today.

23 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, we will
24 move on to a consideration of a joint
25 petition of approval of the transfer of

1 membership interest of Louisiana Riverboat
2 Gaming Partnership doing business as
3 DiamondJacks Casino & Resort.

4 And good morning.

5 MS. LANDRY:

6 Good morning, Chairman Johns.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 I've been waiting for this to be on
9 the agenda for awhile.

10 MS. LANDRY:

11 Well, today's the day.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 Thank you.

14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

15 Good morning, Chairman Johns. Good
16 morning, Members. I'm Assistant Attorney
17 General Lisha Landry, here with auditor
18 Tammy Haupt with the Louisiana State
19 Police Audit Section, and Investigator
20 Rodney Perkins of the Louisiana State
21 Police Gaming Enforcement Division.

22 We're here today for the approval of
23 the transfer of membership interest in
24 Louisiana Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC
25 doing business as DiamondJacks Casino and

1 Resort, which holds a riverboat gaming
2 license and is located in Bossier Parish.

3 The Licensee is currently owned by
4 Foundation Gaming & Entertainment, LLC,
5 which became the Licensee's sole parent
6 company in December of 2022. The Board
7 has previously approved the Licensee's
8 request to relocate its gaming operations
9 to a landside facility as part of the
10 Approved Project in accordance with the
11 relocation plan and supporting documents
12 submitted by Foundation Gaming and the
13 Licensee.

14 On March 24th, 2023, the Licensee,
15 Foundation Gaming, and LRGC Gaming
16 Investors, LLC, filed a Joint Petition
17 with the Board seeking approval for the
18 proposed sale of the membership interest
19 in the Licensee to LRGC Gaming Investors.

20 Due to the pending sale, the Board
21 approved the Licensee's request to extend
22 the deadlines for submission of its
23 architectural blueprints and detailed plan
24 of design and construction, construction
25 contracts, completion of the Approved

1 Project and commencement of gaming
2 operations at the landside facility.

3 The Board considered this request
4 based solely on LRGC Gaming Investor's
5 plans to re-brand the Approved Project as
6 a future 'Live!' brand casino facility,
7 supply chain issues, and the length of
8 time required for full suitability and
9 financial investigations related to the
10 transfer of interest in the Licensee.

11 Those investigations are now
12 complete and the request for Board
13 approval for the transfer of the
14 membership interest in the Licensee to
15 LRGC Gaming Investors and related
16 transactions are now up for Board
17 consideration.

18 On March 14th, 2023, Foundation
19 Gaming entered into a Purchase and Sale
20 Agreement with LRGC Gaming Investors for
21 the sale of 100% of the membership
22 interest in the Licensee for a total
23 purchase price of approximately \$33.1
24 million.

25 The total purchase price includes a

1 base purchase price of \$3 million and
2 reimbursements for approved costs and
3 expenses incurred by Foundation Gaming
4 from the time it acquired the Licensee
5 until the closing of the sale of the
6 Licensee to the LRGC Gaming Investors.

7 LRGC Gaming Investors is affiliated
8 with Cordish Gaming Group, which is a
9 division of The Cordish Companies, Inc.,
10 and operates casino and hotel properties
11 and other gaming businesses. Jonathan
12 Cordish, Blake Cordish and Reed Cordish
13 are the only individuals with 5% or more
14 ownership in LRGC Gaming Investors and its
15 parent companies.

16 Upon closing of the transaction,
17 LRGC Gaming Investors will own 100% of the
18 membership interest in the Licensee. The
19 parties intend to close on the Purchase
20 and Sale Agreement and related agreements
21 by October 31st, 2023.

22 After LRGC Gaming Investors acquires
23 the membership interest in the Licensee,
24 Foundation Gaming will no longer manage
25 the Licensee. But in consideration of the

1 purchase of the membership interest in the
2 Licensee and for Foundation Gaming's work
3 on the Approved Project thus far,
4 Foundation Gaming will enter into a
5 Participation Agreement with the Licensee
6 and will continue to have an economic
7 interest in the Licensee, but serving only
8 in an advisory role.

9 The Foundation Gaming will have no
10 decision-making authority, voting rights
11 or control with respect to the Licensee's
12 business.

13 As far as the Licensee's landside
14 facility, LRGC Gaming Investors intends to
15 -- intends to commit to a capital
16 investment of over 250 million for the
17 Approved Project. LRGC Gaming Investors
18 will be making adjustments and
19 enhancements to the Licensee's landside
20 relocation plan to ensure the quality of
21 the development and finishes associated
22 with the future Live! brand casino resort
23 facility.

24 To coincide with the change in
25 ownership and future re-brand, the

1 Licensee is requesting that the non-gaming
2 amenities contained in Condition No. 6 of
3 its Statement of Conditions be slightly
4 modified to now require: A hotel with a
5 minimum of 405 rooms, a sports wagering
6 lounge, a ballroom or event center
7 totaling a minimum of 25,000 square feet
8 capable of hosting live entertainment and
9 with meeting space, a minimum of three
10 food and beverage outlets with a total
11 minimum seating capacity of 450, a minimum
12 of one retail outlet selling sundries and
13 other retail items, a fitness facility and
14 an outdoor pool complex.

15 The Licensee will have until
16 December 15th, 2023, to submit its full
17 architectural blueprints and a detailed
18 plan of design and construction for its
19 Live! brand landside facility for Board
20 acceptance.

21 Upon review and acceptance of the
22 full plans and specs by the Board, the
23 Licensee will have until March 15th, 2024
24 to submit its full construction contract
25 for Board acceptance. The Licensee will

1 also need to seek Board approval to change
2 its d/b/a trade name and brand name from
3 DiamondJacks Casino & Resort to 'Live!
4 Casino & Hotel Louisiana' and to enter
5 into any future trademark, management. Or
6 shared services agreements at the
7 appropriate time.

8 If the Board approves the proposed
9 transfer of the Licensee to LRGC Gaming
10 Investors, amendments to its non-gaming
11 amenities for the Approved Project, and
12 related requests, a Resolution, and an
13 amended Statement of Conditions and an
14 Indemnification and Hold Harmless
15 Agreement have been prepared for the
16 Board's consideration.

17 The deadline for the Licensee to
18 complete construction and commence gaming
19 operations in its riverboat future
20 landside facility will be December 15th,
21 2025.

22 After the State Police reports its
23 financial and suitability findings, a
24 representative from the Licensee and LRGC
25 Gaming Investors, LLC are here today to

1 provide a presentation on its acquisition
2 of the Licensee to the Board and answer
3 any questions that the Board Members may
4 have.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Thank you, Ms. Landry.

7 MS. HAUPT:

8 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
9 board members. My name is Tammy Haupt,
10 auditor supervisor with the Louisiana
11 State Police Gaming Enforcement Audit
12 Section.

13 As detailed by Ms. Landry, local
14 counsels for the Louisiana Riverboat
15 Gaming Company, LLC, doing business as
16 DiamondJacks, the Licensee, Foundation
17 Gaming & Entertainment, LLC, seller and
18 sole owner of the Licensee; and LRGC
19 Gaming Investors, LLC, the buyer, have
20 submitted a Joint Petition requesting
21 Board approval of the proposed transfer of
22 100% membership interest in the Licensee
23 from Foundation to LRGC Investors and
24 other related transactions through the
25 consummation of the Purchase and Sale

1 Agreement that was executed in March of
2 2023.

3 In addition to the Board's approval
4 -- in addition, the Board's approval is
5 being requested for the following:
6 Execution of the Participation Agreement
7 between the Licensee and Foundation
8 following the transfer of membership
9 interest for which Foundation will
10 continue to receive an ongoing economic
11 interest in the Licensee as part of the
12 consideration for the acquisition by LRGC
13 Investors; Execution of all necessary
14 documents to carry out the transactions
15 contemplated by the Purchase and Sale
16 Agreement and related agreements; and
17 Enhancements to the Licensee's landside
18 facility relocation plan related to the
19 transfer of interest in the Licensee and
20 the development of the property into a
21 landside "Live! branded casino resort and
22 entertainment destination", requiring LRGC
23 Investors to make a \$270.7 million
24 investment (as currently estimated) in the
25 approved project.

1 Foundation and LRGC Investors
2 entered into the Purchase and Sale
3 Agreement on March 14, 2023, whereby, LRGC
4 Investors agreed to acquire all membership
5 interests of the Licensee from Foundation
6 for a total estimated purchase price of
7 \$31.1 million. The purchase price
8 includes a fixed sum and reimbursement for
9 certain approved costs.

10 The Purchase and Sale Agreement and
11 the Participation Agreement fully address
12 the consideration to be provided for the
13 proposed transaction.

14 The Participation Agreement outlines
15 a monthly fee to be paid to Foundation in
16 consideration of the Foundation work. As
17 explained in the agreement, the Foundation
18 work was comprised of significant time,
19 effort and resources that Foundation
20 dedicated and supplied to the acquisition
21 and management of the Licensee, as well as
22 to the planned redevelopment of the
23 property.

24 According to all parties,
25 Foundation's post-closing role will be

1 that of a passive investor, one who does
2 not have any decision-making authority or
3 voting or consent rights with respect to
4 the business. However, from time to time
5 Foundation may be consulted during the
6 construction and operation of the
7 facility.

8 The parties expect to close on the
9 Purchase and Sale Agreement and related
10 agreements by October 31st, 2023,
11 transferring 100% membership interest in
12 the Licensee to LRGC Investors.

13 LRGC Investors will be using cash
14 and marketable securities of its parent
15 company, Pratt Street Management, LLC,
16 which value -- which values exceed the
17 amount needed to fund the acquisition of
18 the membership interests in the Licensee
19 and the projected costs for the first year
20 of the Approved Project.

21 According to Cordish's management,
22 three of its Principals (Jonathan, Reed
23 and Blake Cordish) are committed to
24 extending lines of credit to LRGC
25 Investors, if necessary, secured by their

1 personal cash and marketable securities,
2 to finance the remaining estimated costs.
3 The value of the Principals' liquid assets
4 combined exceed the remaining costs
5 anticipated to complete the project.

6 According to a Cordish
7 representative, Pratt Street Management
8 receives distributions from its ownership
9 stake in Live! Casino and Hotel Maryland
10 that are enough to cover the construction
11 costs of the project. These funds are
12 fully unencumbered and can be used
13 exclusively to finance the equity needs of
14 LRGC Investors.

15 Therefore, LRGC Investors do not
16 believe the line of credits from the
17 Principals will ultimately be necessary
18 since LRGC Investors has access to funds
19 in excess of the contemplated project
20 costs strictly and solely from internal
21 sources. However, LRGC Investors will
22 petition the Board for approval if they
23 decide to enter into a Credit Agreement
24 with a financial institution at a later
25 date.

1 During our review, no financial
2 issues came to our attention that would
3 preclude the Board's approval of these
4 transactions.

5 I will now turn the presentation
6 over to Criminal Investigator Rodney
7 Perkins in Gaming Enforcement Licensing to
8 present their findings.

9 MR. PERKINS:

10 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
11 Members of the Board. I'm Criminal
12 Investigator Rodney Perkins with Louisiana
13 State Police Gaming Enforcement Division.

14 On April 14, 2023, LRGC Gaming
15 Investors, LLC and its parent companies
16 submitted Level 1, Part A, New Business
17 Suitability Gaming Applications. The key
18 individuals associated with the applicant
19 submitted Multi-Jurisdictional Personal
20 History Disclosure Forms and Louisiana
21 Supplemental Forms in conjunction with the
22 transfer of membership interest in
23 Louisiana Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC,
24 doing business as DiamondJacks Casino &
25 Resort.

1 In accordance with the rules and
2 regulations of the Gaming Enforcement
3 Division, a background investigation was
4 conducted on LRGC Gaming Investors, LLC,
5 parent companies, officers, directors, key
6 individuals and persons with 5% or more
7 ownership or economic interest in the
8 license.

9 The background investigation
10 consisted of inquiries to federal, state
11 and local law enforcement agencies, civil
12 jurisdictions, gaming regulatory agencies,
13 the Louisiana Department of Revenue and a
14 computerized criminal history database.

15 Based on its investigation, no
16 information was found that would preclude
17 the Board from approving the Joint
18 Petition for Approval of Transfer of
19 Membership Interest in the Licensee from
20 Foundation Gaming & Entertainment, LLC to
21 LRGC Gaming Investors, LLC.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Okay. Thank y'all very much for --
24 for your reports. Before we get into any
25 questions or we get further, I just want

1 to say thank you to the attorney general's
2 office gaming division, state police
3 gaming division. I don't think very few
4 people realize the thousands of hours that
5 goes into a suitability investigation like
6 this. So thank you for your diligence.
7 Thank you for your hard work and we
8 greatly, greatly appreciate your -- your
9 very, very good work. So thank y'all very
10 much.

11 Any questions from the Board or our
12 staff at the table at this point?

13 Okay. I have no questions.

14 I would like to call up
15 representation from Cordish now, and I
16 think we have a presentation scheduled.
17 MR. BARBIN:

18 Chairman Johns and Members, my name
19 is Jeff Barbin. I'm here representing
20 LRGC Investors. And we're very excited,
21 as you mentioned, to be back to talk about
22 the transfer of interest.

23 To my far right is Rob Norton, he's
24 the president of Cordish Gaming. And in
25 the middle is Joe Billhimer, who is the

1 COO and chief development officer, and to
2 my immediate right is Mark Stewart, who is
3 the general counsel of Cordish.

4 And I'm going to turn it over to
5 Mark for a presentation.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 So Mr. Norton, Mr. Billhimer, Mr.
8 Stewart, welcome to Louisiana, welcome to
9 the Gaming Control Board Meeting. We're
10 very excited to have you here today.

11 And if you would like to move
12 forward, who's going to go first?
13 Anybody?

14 MR. STEWART:

15 That would be me, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Good, Mark.

18 If y'all, as you start speaking
19 identify yourself for the record, if you
20 don't mind. Okay?

21 MR. STEWART:

22 Absolutely.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Okay.

25 MR. STEWART:

1 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and
2 Members of the Board. Thank you for
3 having us.

4 My name is Mark Stewart.

5 And thank you, Jeff, for the
6 introduction.

7 As you know, we're here today on the
8 petition for the approval of the transfer
9 of the interests in LRGC and also to
10 provide an update on our progress and our
11 plans.

12 At the outset, let me just echo the
13 Chairman and we want to offer our sincere
14 thanks and appreciation to the Attorney
15 General's Office, the Louisiana State
16 Police and the Board staff. They were
17 tremendous to work with throughout the
18 process and their professionalism was
19 beyond compare. So we greatly appreciated
20 that process and their efforts.

21 As you know, Cordish Gaming Group,
22 you can see our leadership on the slide.
23 Before I get into that and we -- we move
24 on, let me just pause for a moment to
25 remind the Board that the Cordish

1 companies and Live! is more than a gaming
2 company. We're a multifaceted company.
3 We have entertainment districts, sports
4 stadium anchor districts, residential,
5 retail, co-working space, so we -- we're
6 active and a leader in multiple verticals.
7 And just recently indicative of this, just
8 last month we opened our new three light
9 residential building in Kansas City, which
10 is quite something; and I welcome and
11 encourage the Board to check that out.

12 We opened Nashville Live, which is
13 adjacent to the Tennessee Titan Stadium
14 and one of our newest entertainment
15 complexes, and we are hopeful -- apologies
16 to any Houston Astros fans, and any
17 Diamond Back fans that might be in the
18 room, but we're hopeful that there'll be
19 an all-live World Series with the Phillies
20 in our Xfinity Live next to their stadium
21 battling the Rangers in Texas live.

22 With that, allow me to turn it over
23 to Joe Billhimer who will talk about two
24 pillars of our company.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 All right. Mr. Stewart, I don't
2 know if Mattress Mack would agree with you
3 on that. I think he's got a lot riding on
4 the Astros.

5 MR. BILLHIMER:

6 Good morning. I'm just going to
7 take a couple of minutes and -- and go
8 into the next light.

9 Judge Sholes, you had asked us about
10 to comment on our employment and, you
11 know, compensation levels. I -- I wanted
12 to -- I wanted to start off with our
13 commitments and -- and give you a little
14 bit about our culture.

15 We're going to create over 400 new
16 jobs in this -- in this facility. We
17 anticipate that our average income will be
18 well over \$55,000 per team member when you
19 include tips. And we also have a very
20 very, very strong commitment for diversity
21 in hiring. And I think if I show you the
22 next slide, I think it depicts it a little
23 bit better. You know, we had a change in
24 slide. Sorry.

25 I'm a little bit at a loss as to

1 that -- that flow, but let me go into the
2 benefits that we provide. I mean we -- we
3 feel it's very important to treat our team
4 members. They are the ones that are
5 really going to make or break our
6 fantastic project that you're going to see
7 in a few minutes, and we offer tremendous
8 benefits. Things in here that I like to
9 highlight is our -- is our tuition
10 reimbursement. We encourage our team
11 members to continue their education. We
12 -- we do all kinds of things. I think the
13 slide kind of speaks for itself.

14 Our -- initiatives as we get going
15 in the Bossier market, we will be working
16 tremendously hard in -- in workforce
17 development efforts and we'll be one of
18 the key pillars here, and something we've
19 actually done in Bossier City before is
20 our gaming school. We're going to take
21 people with great personalities, with --
22 that fit our cultural DNA, and we're going
23 to give them great careers and teach them,
24 you know, how to deal as well as all of
25 the other aspects that we're going to

1 endeavor to employ a very diverse
2 workforce.

3 A few minutes on our culture as far
4 as Live! in the community, we actually
5 brand that. It's Live! in the community.
6 It's actually a -- it's a process that we
7 go through at all of the properties. It's
8 something that we all participate in.

9 In every market that we operate in,
10 we -- we are leaders in philanthropy.
11 There's not a market that we're in where I
12 don't think you could call any other local
13 representatives or local politicians or
14 local charities and not here that we're --
15 we're kind of first to the table. And
16 it's part of our commitment. It's part of
17 our culture. It's what we do. It's not
18 something that we -- you know, we -- we
19 just try to advertise, it's just part of
20 our DNA.

21 We give back as a company because
22 it's the right thing to do. We -- we --
23 Rob participates in charity events. Our
24 owners participate in charity events. We
25 do it because it's really -- it's part of

1 our commitment to the communities in which
2 -- in which we work and live to give back.

3 MR. STEWART:

4 Okay. And now turning to the
5 presentation on the updated plans. As you
6 can see here, there's the key elements of
7 our project. Approximately 270 million
8 plus development, over 1,000 slot machines
9 and more than 40 table games are
10 envisioned, and we have substantial
11 non-gaming amenities planned which you'll
12 get to see here in a minute.

13 As was mentioned by the Attorney
14 General's Office, we have requested a
15 realignment of our conditions to match
16 these development plans. We certainly
17 would be appreciative of your
18 consideration of that request. We will
19 meet and exceed those goals or conditions.

20 And with that, let me turn it over
21 to Rob Norton, who will give the
22 presentation here.

23 MR. NORTON:

24 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
25 Board Members. I appreciate the time this

1 morning to address you and -- and speak to
2 you a little bit about where we're going
3 and kind of our vision for the property.

4 I will start with reminding you of
5 what -- what the original transaction
6 facility looked like as when we took over
7 -- as we take over the project, this is
8 the starting conditions of the
9 DiamondJacks property. This is kind of
10 what it looks like today. As -- as our --
11 our friends and colleagues and Foundation
12 have continued to -- to move through the
13 demolition process so that once we are
14 hopefully licensed, that we will be able
15 to move quickly into completing the design
16 and moving forward in construction to --
17 to develop what we're about to show you.

18 Now, before I -- I move on to the
19 last slide, which is a fly-through of the
20 facility, I would like to just put a
21 little disclaimer out there that we are
22 still in the final stages of design; and
23 so although I think this is very
24 representative of what we will build, we
25 have -- our final designs are due to you,

1 I think, on December 15th. That would
2 lock all of this in. And so we are very
3 pleased with where we are, and I'll tell
4 you my personal opinion is we probably are
5 pretty close to what we're showing you,
6 but I want to keep that -- that opening
7 out there that if there are some small
8 changes that happen, we will finalize
9 those in the next month or so.

10 With that, I would appreciate -- I
11 would appreciate your thoughts at the end
12 of -- of this -- it's about a six-minute
13 long video, but it will go much faster
14 than that.

15 Sorry. I forgot. Just a reminder
16 of our current sight plan, from the top of
17 the screen down, that will be the entrance
18 off of -- as you come off of Highway 20.
19 We re-oriented the road as you come in
20 around the pool, and you can see in the
21 green area that that's roughly a
22 50,000-square foot, you know, landbased
23 casino facility that is actually wrapped
24 with food and beverage and entertainment
25 experience.

1 And again, I think the -- the video
2 will do much more justice to what we're
3 doing than my words. So enjoy, please.
4 (Whereupon the video is played at this
5 time.)

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Impressive.

8 MR. STEWART:

9 All right. Our final slide. Back
10 to the proposed timeline there, with
11 approval today, we hope to be closing
12 imminently; and then, obviously, we're on
13 track to submit those final construction
14 plans in December. We're excited for 2024
15 to be a year of construction, and we look
16 forward to the end of first quarter 2025
17 opening.

18 So with that, we would welcome any
19 questions from the Board.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Okay. Gentleman, thank you very
22 much. Impressive presentation. Thank
23 you. Longly anticipated. The press up in
24 Bossier Shreveport is calling like crazy
25 right now wanting to know, you know, what

1 we're going to approve today. So I'm sure
2 you'll see some press this week.

3 Tell me about the existing
4 riverboat. As I understand, it's being
5 dismantled as we speak; is that correct?

6 MR. NORTON:

7 That is correct. The -- from one of
8 the photos earlier in that presentation,
9 you would notice that we're -- it's been
10 dismantled down to about the hull at this
11 point, and probably over the next 20 to 30
12 days to be complete dismantling of it.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 All right. I saw your slides on the
15 way the site looks today and I can tell
16 you -- and, Board Members, it looks a
17 whole lot better than the first time that
18 I walked in there in the fall of 2021.
19 Believe it or not, it looks a lot better
20 today than it did. So thanks to the work
21 the Foundation has done.

22 So let's open it up for questions.
23 Any Board Member has questions, comments,
24 anybody for our guests? Anybody?

25 You're getting off light today.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MR. JACKSON:

I have a comment.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

You know, I saw that PBR Cowboys. We have PBR Saints too. So some people take it the wrong way. They say, oh, they finding all of the Cowboys over out in Texas. So as I told them, no, they're just a brand. Don't worry about it.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you, Mr. Jackson, I appreciate that.

Any other Board Members?

(No response.)

Okay. I want to take a moment to publicly thank Foundation Gaming. Foundation Gaming came to Louisiana when nobody else really wanted to even look at that property. We were worried about it just sitting there forever, and Foundation came and made a real commitment to the state to get it moving, to -- to do something positive for it.

1 So, Gentleman, I know they're
2 sitting out in the audience, raise your
3 hands if you would for me, I think Les and
4 Greg are back there and Janet Boles
5 represents them.

6 But thank you, Gentlemen. Thank
7 your company for the commitment that you
8 made to get this thing moving and your
9 continued commitment working with Cordish
10 to make this thing a reality. So we will
11 always be indebted to Foundation. So
12 thank y'all very, very much.

13 I forgot -- you know, I thanked
14 State Police. I thanked the AG's office,
15 I forgot to thank our own Board Staff for
16 the hard work. I hope they forgive me,
17 but they put a lot of work into making all
18 this happen also. So thank you, Staff.

19 And I also want to say, while this
20 is exciting for the Bossier Shreveport
21 market, I want to also commend the other
22 five properties in that area right now
23 that are making -- all of them are making
24 some serious investments in their
25 properties. I think y'all are going to

1 help drive a lot of investment dollars,
2 gentlemen, in there. So thank you to the
3 five existing licensees that are in
4 operation right now for your investment
5 dollars and your commitment to try to get
6 that Bossier Shreveport market growing
7 back to where it was at one time. So
8 thank all of you.

9 Gentlemen, we -- I have no further
10 questions.

11 Any further comments? Mr. Norton.
12 MR. NORTON:

13 No. Thank you again for your time
14 and consideration. And -- and we as a
15 company look forward to bringing you our
16 family culture and Live! Entertainment
17 experience to the Louisiana market.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Well, your reputation around the
20 country is impeccable. And I talked to a
21 lot of people out at GTUIE (sic) last week
22 about your company and everybody says
23 you're lucky to have them come to
24 Louisiana. So thank y'all for that, and
25 we look forward to working with you very

1 much.

2 Very much interested in what you do
3 for your employees and bringing that high
4 level of benefits and wages, but also
5 diversity to the -- to the market there.
6 So thank you for that.

7 Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the
8 Board, we have before you a resolution.

9 Anything else, Gentlemen.

10 MR. STEWART:

11 No. I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 We have a resolution for your
14 consideration. I would need a motion to
15 adopt that resolution.

16 Mr. Jackson?

17 MR. JACKSON:

18 I make a motion to adopt the
19 resolution.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Okay. Mr. Jackson would like to
22 make a motion to adopt that resolution,
23 and I think Ms. Lewis raised her hand and
24 she would like to second that motion.

25 And so Ms. Hernandez, would you read

1 the resolution, please?

2 MS. HERNANDEZ:

3 In the Matter of Louisiana Riverboat
4 Gaming Company, LLC doing business as
5 DiamondJacks Casino and Resort Joint
6 Petition for Approval of Transfer of
7 Membership Interest.

8 On the 19th day of October 2023, the
9 Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in a
10 duly noticed public meeting, consider the
11 Joint Petition for Approval of Transfer of
12 Membership Interest filed by the Louisiana
13 Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC and
14 Foundation Gaming & Entertainment, LLC and
15 LRGC Gaming Investors, LLC, and upon
16 motion duly made and seconded, the Board
17 adopted this Resolution.

18 Whereas, on March 14th, 2023,
19 Foundation Gaming and LRGC Gaming entered
20 into a Purchase and Sale Agreement
21 providing for the sale of 100% of its
22 membership interest in the Licensee to
23 LRGC Gaming.

24 Whereas, the Board has previously
25 approved the Licensee's request to

1 relocate its gaming operations to a
2 landside facility as a part of the
3 Approved Project in accordance with the
4 relocation plan and supporting documents
5 submitted by the Licensee.

6 Whereas, on April 4th, 2023, the
7 Board approved the Licensee's request to
8 extend the deadlines for submission of its
9 architectural blueprints and detailed plan
10 of design and construction, construction
11 contracts, completion of construction of
12 the Approved Project, and commencement of
13 gaming operations for its riverboat gaming
14 landside facility conditioned upon closing
15 of the sale of the Licensee to LRGC
16 Gaming.

17 Whereas, Foundation Gaming and LRGC
18 Gaming have agreed to certain commitments
19 between the parties for funding the
20 acquisition of the Licensee and the
21 construction of the landside facility
22 during the pendency of the transfer of
23 membership interest in the Licensee to
24 LRGC Gaming.

25 Whereas, Foundation Gaming will

1 continue to receive ongoing economic
2 interest in the Licensee as a part of the
3 consideration for the purchase of the
4 Licensee by LRGC Gaming.

5 Whereas, LRGC Gaming is using cash
6 or cash equivalent to fund its acquisition
7 of the Licensee and Approved Project; and
8 whereas, the transactions provided for in
9 the Petition, Purchase and Sale Agreement,
10 and related agreements require prior Board
11 approval.

12 Now, therefore, be it resolved that
13 the sale and transfer of 100% of the
14 membership interest in the Licensee to
15 LRGC Gaming pursuant to the Purchase and
16 Sale Agreement is hereby approved.

17 Be it further resolved that the
18 execution of the Participation Agreement
19 between the Licensee and Foundation Gaming
20 is hereby approved.

21 Be it further resolved that the
22 execution of all documents necessary to
23 effectuate the transaction contemplated by
24 the Purchase and Sale Agreement and
25 related agreements, all as more

1 particularly described and provided for
2 therein is hereby approved.

3 Be it further resolved that the
4 enhancements to the Licensee's landside
5 facility relocation plan related to the
6 transfer of the interest in the Licensee
7 is hereby approved.

8 Be it further resolved that
9 Condition No. 6 of the Statement of
10 Conditions to the Riverboat Gaming License
11 be modified and replaced with the
12 following: A hotel of minimum of 405
13 rooms, a sports wagering lounge, a
14 ballroom or event center totalling a
15 minimum of 25,000-square feet capable of
16 hosting live entertainment and with a
17 meeting space, a minimum of three food and
18 beverage outlets with a total minimum
19 seating capacity of 450, a minimum of one
20 retail outlet selling sundries and other
21 retail items, and a fitness facility and
22 outdoor pool complex.

23 Be it further resolved that the
24 approval is granted in this Resolution are
25 subject to and conditioned upon: the

1 effectuation and closing of the transfer
2 of interest in the Licensee from
3 Foundation Gaming to LRGC Gaming, and the
4 execution of the Acknowledgement and
5 Acceptance of the Statement of Conditions
6 to Riverboat Gaming License of Louisiana
7 Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC doing
8 business as DiamondJacks Casino and
9 Resort, and the Indemnity and Hold
10 Harmless Agreement required by said
11 Statement of Conditions by the Licensee
12 and LRGC Gaming, both to become effective
13 on the date of LRGC Gaming's acquisition
14 of the Licensee.

15 This done and signed in Baton Rouge,
16 Louisiana, this 19th of October 2023.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

19 Members, we have a motion by Mr.
20 Jackson, seconded by Ms. Lewis that we
21 adopt this Resolution.

22 And, Mr. Hernandez, would you call
23 the roll, please?

24 MS. HERNANDEZ:

25 Ms. Berry.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

MS. BERRY:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. Hernandez:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

And Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

By unanimous vote that Resolution is hereby adopted.

Gentlemen, congratulations and welcome to the State of Louisiana. We look forward to working with you.

(Whereupon all said thank you very much.)

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Members, we're going to now move on to the consideration of the Petition for the Extension of time to file the contract on Catfish Queen, LLC doing business as the Belle of Baton Rouge.

Mr. Barbin.

MR. BARBIN:

Good morning, Chairman Johns and Board Members. I'm Jeff Barbin representing Catfish Queen, LLC, who is the owner of the Belle of Baton Rouge. And to my right is Terry Downey. He is

1 the CEO of Queen Entertainment and
2 Casinos, who's a parent company of Catfish
3 Queen.

4 Just a quick reminder and update,
5 the Board approved the landside move for
6 the Belle of Baton Rouge and subsequently
7 approved in July of 2023 the detailed
8 plans and specifications. And as the
9 Chairman mentioned, the construction
10 contract was due to be submitted to the
11 Board on today's meeting.

12 And despite best efforts to the
13 contrary, the construction contract has
14 not been completed. It's still being
15 negotiated with the -- with the
16 construction company, who was initially
17 chosen to do the work. So we would like
18 to spend the next couple of weeks trying
19 to get that contract completed, and we
20 very much believe that we can do that. So
21 what we're asking for is a 30-day
22 extension to get us to the next board
23 meeting in order to present that contract
24 to you.

25 If for some reason we are not

1 successful in the next couple of weeks, we
2 will fill another petition. We hope that
3 does not happen. We may have to put the
4 job out to bid on a wider basis if we
5 can't get that contract completed.

6 So we're requesting at this point a
7 30-day extension until -- that will get us
8 until the November board meeting.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you, Mr. Barbin.

11 And good morning, Mr. Downey.

12 MR. DOWNEY:

13 Good morning.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Congratulations on the Queen's first
16 month.

17 MR. DOWNEY:

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 I greatly appreciate that.

21 Would you like to comment on what
22 our agenda item is today?

23 MR. DOWNEY:

24 Yes. Obviously, in -- in this type
25 of renovation and construction and moving

1 into old buildings, expanding them,
2 renovating them, mitigating the existing
3 circumstances there, it's a little more
4 nuanced than just a brand-new build.

5 I met with all of the parties last
6 night. I have great confidence that --
7 that we'll be before -- before you guys in
8 November with a contract.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 And this is the same construction
11 company that did the Queen; is that
12 correct?

13 MR. DOWNEY:

14 Yes. It's W. E. O'Neal and them,
15 yes, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 I will tell you, I don't know how
18 y'all feel, but I was personally very
19 impressed with their work, their time
20 schedule, the fact that when y'all were
21 ready to open, everything was completed.
22 And so hopefully that will come to
23 fruition in the next 30 days.

24 MR. DOWNEY:

25 Thank you. We -- we like them a lot

1 too.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Yeah. Obviously.

4 MR. DOWNEY:

5 That's why I'm pretty confident
6 we'll --

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Obviously.

9 MR. DOWNEY:

10 -- get to where we need to go.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Okay. Any questions for Mr. Downey
13 or Mr. Barbin from the Board?

14 Any questions.

15 (No response.)

16 Personally as Chairman, I have no
17 problem with this extension. I would --
18 I'd feel very confident with you using the
19 same construction company if you can come
20 to that agreement, and I -- I can see the
21 difference between building that -- that
22 brand-new stand-alone facility at the
23 Queen versus the renovation of an older
24 property that's been vacate for years. So
25 quite a challenge.

1 So okay. Any questions, Board
2 Members? If not, we do have a Resolution
3 before you. I would ask for a motion to
4 adopt that Resolution.

5 MS. BERRY:

6 I'll make a motion.

7 MR. POOLE:

8 I'll second that.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Ms. Berry has made the motion to
11 adopt the Resolution and Mr. Poole has
12 seconded that motion.

13 And Ms. Hernandez, would you read
14 the Resolution, please?

15 MS. HERNANDEZ:

16 In the matter of Catfish Queen, LLC
17 doing business as Belle of Baton Rouge
18 Petition for Extension of Deadline to File
19 Construction Contract.

20 On the 19th day of October, 2023,
21 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in
22 a duly noticed public meeting, consider
23 the Petition for Extension of the Deadline
24 to File Construction Contract filed by
25 Catfish Queen, LLC doing business as Belle

1 of Baton Rouge, and upon motion duly made
2 and seconded, the Board adopted this
3 Resolution.

4 Whereas, on September 15, 2022, the
5 Board adopted a resolution, as amended on
6 November 17, 2022 and February 16th, 2023,
7 which contained the following provision
8 regarding its riverboat gaming landside
9 facility: 2.b. To enter into all
10 necessary contracts for construction of
11 Approved Project and to submit copies of
12 the contract to the Board for acceptance
13 no later than 90 days after the passage of
14 a Board resolution accepting the plans and
15 specifications. All contracts related to
16 the Approved Project shall be let only by
17 Catfish Queen or its parent company.

18 Whereas, on July 20th, 2023, the
19 Board adopted a resolution accepting the
20 plans and specifications submitted by
21 Catfish Queen and for the Approved
22 Project.

23 Whereas, on October 18th, 2023,
24 Catfish Queen filed for a petition
25 requesting Board approval to extend the

1 90-day deadline for submission of its
2 construction contracts through November
3 16th, 2023.

4 Now therefore, be it resolved that
5 Provision 2.b. of the September 15th, 2022
6 Board Resolution, as amended, is hereby
7 amended to extend Catfish Queen's deadline
8 to submit copies of all necessary
9 contracts for construction of the Approved
10 Project to November 17th, 2023.

11 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,
12 Louisiana, this 19th day of October of
13 2023.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

16 Members, we have a motion by Ms.
17 Berry, seconded by Mr. Poole that we adopt
18 this Resolution.

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

21 MS. HERNANDEZ:

22 Ms. Berry.

23 MS. BERRY:

24 Yes.

25 MS. HERNANDEZ:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Ms. Jackson.
MS. JACKSON:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. Poole.
MR. POOLE:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Hamilton-ACker.
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Mr. SHOLES:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
Ms. Traylor.
MS. TRAYLOR:
Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
And Chairman Johns.
CHAIRMAN JOHNS:
Yes.
So by unanimous vote this Resolution
is hereby adopted.
Good luck, Mr. Downey; and

1 hopefully, we'll have a contract next
2 month.

3 MR. DOWNEY:

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BARBIN:

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Thank you, Gentlemen, for your
9 commitment.

10 Okay. Moving along, we're going to
11 move into some settlements. First on the
12 agenda today will be GFM, Incorporated
13 doing business as LaGrande Cafe.

14 Wait. Wait. I'm sorry. I -- I'm
15 getting ahead of myself.

16 First on the agenda will be Betfair
17 Interactive US, LLC doing business as
18 FanDuel Sportsbook.

19 My apologies. Ladies?

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 settlement of Betfair Interactive US, LLC
25 doing business as FanDuel Sportsbook,

1 which holds a sports wagering provider
2 permit. This settlement addresses the
3 failure of the permittee to comply with
4 the advertising requirements from
5 Louisiana Gaming regulations applicable to
6 sports wagering print advertisements.

7 From January 7th through January
8 12th of 2023, FanDuel mailed a sports
9 wagering advertisement to residents in
10 Louisiana promoting its mobile sportsbook.

11 The problem gambling message and
12 toll-free number in the print
13 advertisement did not comprise an area
14 equal to 1/20th of the entire advertising
15 type and did not extend the entire width
16 of the advertising as required.

17 The civil penalty contained in the
18 settlement is \$10,000, and the settlement
19 has been signed by the hearing officer and
20 is now before the Board for final
21 approval.

22 I'd be happy to answer any questions
23 you have.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay. Any questions from the Board?

1 Any questions?

2 Let me just say that we -- we take
3 these regulations very seriously. It's a
4 substantial fine, but these issues are
5 popping up all over the country. We
6 continue to watch what other states are
7 doing, and we're no different here in
8 Louisiana. And we -- we just want the
9 industry to know while we welcome you to
10 our state, we do take these regulations
11 extremely serious.

12 So I would entertain a motion to
13 approve the settlement of FanDuel
14 Sportsbook in the amount of \$10,000.

15 Do I have a motion?

16 MR. SHOLES:

17 I'll make a motion.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Judge Sholes has made that motion.
20 Ms. Hamilton-Acker has seconded that
21 motion. Is there any discussion on that
22 motion? Is there any opposition to that
23 motion?

24 Hearing none, that motion is hereby
25 approved.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Now we're going to move into GFM, Incorporated doing business as LeGrande Cafe.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good morning again.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHNSON:

Good morning, Chairman Johns and Board Members. I am Assistant District Attorney Venise Johnson here in the matter of the settlement of GFM, Inc. doing business as LaGrande Cafe, which holds a Type 2 video draw poker gaming license. This settlement addresses the Licensee's failure to timely notify the division of the stock transfer and timely provide documentation to complete the suitability and investigation.

The transfer of ownership occurred on April 1st, 2020, and the Licensee did not submit the notice of stock transfer and personal history questionnaire for the

1 new owner or his wife until April 21st of
2 2021, which gave rise to a violation of
3 gaming law.

4 The civil penalty contained in this
5 settlement is \$2,000. The settlement has
6 been signed by the hearing officer and is
7 now before the Board for final approval.

8 I'll be happy to answer any
9 questions that you all may have. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Any questions from the Board? Okay.
13 If not, I would entertain a motion to
14 approve the \$2,000 settlement for GFM,
15 Incorporated doing business as LaGrande
16 Cafe.

17 Ms. Traylor has made that motion to
18 adopt this settlement, and Ms. Berry has
19 seconded that motion.

20 Is there any discussion on the
21 motion? Is there any opposition to the
22 motion?

23 Hearing none, that motion carries.

24 Next Trillions Ventures, LLC doing
25 business as Ivory Nola Lounge.

1 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

2 Chairman Johns, Board Members, I'm
3 Assistant Attorney General Talibah
4 McIntyre again, here in the matter of the
5 settlement of Trillions Ventures, LLC
6 doing business as Ivory Nola Lounge, which
7 holds a Type 1 video draw poker gaming
8 license.

9 This settlement addresses the
10 failure of the Licensee to timely renew
11 it's ATC permit while operating video draw
12 poker devices in its establishment.
13 Between March 1st and April 2nd, 2023, the
14 Licensee operated video draw poker
15 machines and earned a profit from said
16 devices in the amount of \$4,963.90 without
17 a valid ATC permit, which gave rise to a
18 violation of gaming law.

19 The civil penalty contained in this
20 settlement is \$2,000, which is an amount
21 that's well settled for a violation of
22 this type.

23 The settlement has been signed by
24 the hearing officer center and is now
25 before the Board for final approval.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

And their -- their ATC license is now valid?

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

It is.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Thank you.

Any questions from the Board?

Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to approve the settlement in the amount of \$2,000 for Trillions Ventures, LLC doing business as Ivory Nola Lounge.

MR. POOLE:

I make that motion.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Mr. Poole has made that motion. Judge Sholes has seconded that motion to approve. Is there any discussion? Is there any opposition?

Hearing none, that motion carries.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 And next we have Ray Griffin, Inc.
2 Doing business as Griffin's Bar.

3 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

4 Good morning, Chairman Johns, Board
5 Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General
6 Hafiz Folami here in the matter of the
7 settlement of Ray Griffin, Inc. doing
8 business as Griffin's Bar, which holds a
9 type 1 video draw poker gaming license.

10 This settlement addresses the legal
11 information of annual forms and fees that
12 are required to be submitted to the
13 division no later than July 1st of each
14 year. The Licensee did not submit the
15 annual forms and fees until June 23rd,
16 2023, which gave rise to a violation of
17 gaming law.

18 The civil penalty contained in this
19 settlement is \$750, which is an amount
20 that is well established for a violation
21 of this type.

22 The settlement has been signed by
23 the hearing officer and is now before the
24 Board for final approval.

25 I would be happy to answer any

1 questions at this time. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Okay. Any questions from the Board
4 Members? If not, I would entertain a
5 motion to approve the settlement of Ray
6 Griffin, Incorporated doing business as
7 Griffin's Bar.

8 MR. JACKSON:

9 So moved.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Mr. Jackson has moved that we
12 approve this settlement. Mr.
13 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.
14 Any discussion on the motion?

15 Hearing none, is there any
16 opposition to the motion? No opposition.
17 That motion carries.

18 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Thank you very much, sir.

22 Members, last month we had an agenda
23 item, it was an appeal for a Mr. Nhan M.
24 Le, and they had asked for a continuance
25 of that appeal, which we granted at last

1 month's meeting which was to be on our
2 agenda today.

3 Their attorney filed yesterday a
4 Motion of Dismissal of the Appeal. I, as
5 chairman, have the authority to sign that
6 petition and I have signed it. So there
7 is actually no Board action that needs to
8 be handled today, and there will be no
9 further appeal on that.

10 Okay. Last on the agenda we do have
11 an appeal of Jayante S. Haywood.

12 Is Ms. Haywood here today.

13 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

14 Not that I have seen.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Okay. It's our understanding she
17 would not be here, but just wanted to make
18 sure.

19 Good morning.

20 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

21 Good morning.

22 Chairman Johns and Board Members,
23 I'm Assistant Attorney General Delancey
24 Houston representing the division in this
25 matter.

1 On September 26th, 2022, Ms. Haywood
2 submitted an original application for a
3 non-key gaming employee permit to which
4 she attested to the fact that she had
5 never been arrested for any criminal
6 violation or entered a plea of guilty to
7 any offense or violation.

8 The Division conducted a background
9 investigation and discovered Ms. Haywood
10 was arrested on October 5th, 2018 for a
11 violation of Louisiana Revised Statute
12 14:67(b)4, theft. Further, Ms. Haywood
13 pled guilty to that charge on April 3rd,
14 2019.

15 On July 11, 2023, the Division
16 issued a notice of denial of original
17 application to the permittee based on
18 permittee's failure to disclose her arrest
19 on the permit application; and due to her
20 conviction of theft, she is statutorily
21 disqualified from hold a gaming permit in
22 Louisiana.

23 Ms. Haywood requested a hearing on
24 the denial of her original application,
25 and that matter was heard before the

1 hearing officer on August 9th, 2023.

2 On August 30th, 2023, the hearing
3 officer issued a decision and order that
4 Ms. Haywood's non-key gaming employee
5 permit application be denied due to the
6 permittee's failure to disclose her
7 conviction of theft on the application as
8 well as her being statutorily disqualified
9 from holding a gaming permit in accordance
10 with the Louisiana Revised Statute 27:28
11 (b)1(b) and 4.

12 The Division and this Honorable
13 Board have a duty to protect the gaming
14 industry and to uphold the gaming laws of
15 this state. Gaming law explicitly states
16 that the Board or Division shall not grant
17 a license or permit to any person who is
18 disqualified on the basis of a conviction
19 or guilty plea by the applicant or any
20 person acquired to be suitable under the
21 provisions of this title for theft; and
22 further states that no permit shall be
23 granted to any person for failure to
24 provide information and documentation to
25 reveal any fact material to suitability

1 determination or the supplying of
2 information which is untrue or misleading
3 has to a material fact pertaining to
4 suitability criteria.

5 Ms. Haywood indicated on her non-key
6 gaming employee permit application that
7 she had never been arrested for any
8 criminal offense or violation.

9 Ms. Haywood also indicated that she
10 had never been convicted of or entered a
11 plea of guilty to any criminal charge or
12 offense.

13 Further, Ms. Haywood signed an
14 affidavit attesting that she was providing
15 true and correct information on the
16 application and understood that her
17 failure to do so could result in the
18 denial of her application.

19 It was not until the Division
20 performed their background investigation
21 which discovered that Ms. Haywood had, in
22 fact, been arrested and entered a guilty
23 plea to Louisiana Revised Statute 14:67.

24 As you all are aware, gaming law
25 requires permittees to be found suitable,

1 and the burden of proof in the gaming
2 industry is by clear and convincing
3 evidence.

4 Louisiana Revised Statute 27:28A
5 establishes that the burden lies with the
6 permittee to prove he or she is suitable
7 to possess a gaming permit. Thus, the
8 burden is on Ms. Haywood to approve she is
9 suitable to holding a gaming permit
10 through clear and convincing evidence.

11 At the administrative hearing that
12 was held, Ms. Haywood did not present any
13 evidence to show that she is suitable to
14 hold a non-key gaming employee permit.
15 Further, Ms. Haywood admitted on to the
16 record that she did, in fact, not disclose
17 her arrest or guilty plea on her
18 application.

19 However, even if Ms. Haywood had
20 answered truthfully on the original
21 application that she submitted, she would
22 still be ineligible to hold a gaming -- a
23 non-key gaming employee permit in this
24 state due to her being statutorily
25 disqualified on the basis of her arrest

1 and guilty plea of theft.

2 Because participation in the gaming
3 industry is a privilege and not a right,
4 the industry is strictly regulated. The
5 Board and the Division have a great
6 responsibility to ensuring the integrity
7 and safety thereof.

8 Ms. Haywood's actions and unsuitable
9 conduct demonstrate that she is a threat
10 to the public interest of this state and
11 to the effective regulation and control of
12 gaming. The State's responsibility is to
13 protect the gaming industry; therefore,
14 the Division is respectfully requesting
15 that this Honorable Board affirm this
16 hearing officer's decision to deny the
17 non-key gaming employee permit of Ms.
18 Jayante Haywood and its finding that Ms.
19 Haywood is unsuitable to participate in
20 the Louisiana gaming industry.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 Thank you. Great report. So she is
24 statutorily disqualified?

25 ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY HOUSTON:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Ms. Haywood or any representation for Ms. Haywood in the room?

Okay. I see none.

Any questions from the Board? Any questions?

Members, if not, I would entertain a motion on this appeal.

MS. BERRY:

I move to affirm.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Ms. Berry has moved that we uphold or affirm the hearing officer's decision. Mr. Poole has seconded that motion. Is there any discussion on that motion?

Hearing none. Is there any opposition? Any opposition? Hearing no opposition, that motion carries, and we have upheld the hearing officer's decision.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOUSTON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Thank you very much.

2 Okay. Members, a couple of little
3 housekeeping measures. I want to
4 recognize a very good friend that's in the
5 room today. Last month at the gaming
6 control board meeting we recognized Ms.
7 Janet Miller. Janet is the executive
8 director of the Louisiana Association of
9 Compulsive Gambling, and she was not at
10 our meeting last month but she was
11 recently recognized in Washington D.C.
12 with a very, very prestigious national
13 award for her work on responsible gaming,
14 compulsive gambling.

15 And so, Janet, we thank you for your
16 work. Congratulations to you and we're
17 just so proud that you're here in
18 Louisiana.

19 She is recognized all over the
20 country for her work.

21 So thank you for being here today.
22 We look forward to a lot more work with
23 you in the future.

24 Members, we will meet November the
25 16th of our next board meeting. It will

1 be right here in this room, I am
2 presuming, being that the room upstairs is
3 still under construction.

4 So once again, congratulations to
5 Cordish, we welcome you and we are proud
6 of what you bring to the table for us.

7 Any other items? Judge?

8 MR. SHOLES:

9 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would
10 like to know if we could sometime get a
11 discussion with Ms. Miller regarding the
12 project in New Orleans. I am somewhat
13 concerned that we cannot get a landbased
14 facility there.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 I believe you're talking about the
17 existing project that's going on at
18 Caesar's?

19 MR. SHOLES:

20 The -- it was my understanding we
21 were going to invest -- the State had
22 invested some money or would invest some
23 money with providing additional services
24 in metro New Orleans.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Oh, you're talking about the
2 compulsive gambling?

3 MR. SHOLES:

4 Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 So, Judge, our staff along --

7 MS. MILLER:

8 You want me to speak to that?

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Yeah. Would you come up, Janet?

11 We did meet with the office of
12 behavioral health from LDH after our last
13 meeting. We discussed that. We did not
14 come away with any clear answers. It was
15 a very frustrating meeting, to be honest
16 with you.

17 But, Ms. Miller, would you -- would
18 you like to talk about that?

19 MS. MILLER:

20 Certainly. And Janet Miller, the
21 executive director for the Louisiana
22 Association on Compulsive Gambling.

23 Thank you for that great question,
24 and I know we have discussed this. That's
25 actually a program that is managed from a

1 different district executive director. It
2 is not under our own management or one of
3 our programs through LACG, even though it
4 can be confusing I think is when we had a
5 facility there called CORE South, years
6 ago, pre-Katrina.

7 So that facility, my understanding,
8 is from the metropolitan district that is
9 -- has its own contract through the
10 behavioral health, which is some of the
11 dedicated money that was put in there for
12 that program.

13 So probably best for them to speak
14 to that directly or I know Ms. Karen
15 Stubbs is here as well. But my
16 understanding is that they have six beds
17 that they have allocated within a facility
18 that treats substance use. And those six
19 beds are to be portioned for the treatment
20 of problem gambling or gambling disorder.

21 I don't think that they've had as
22 many people there. I don't think the six
23 beds have been full. I've actually talked
24 to and worked with the executive director
25 from that district on some training,

1 planning, different ways that we could
2 assist them so that they could go forward
3 with that.

4 So I'm not really sure exactly why
5 because I know in their contract they had
6 some budget allocations for advertising it
7 as well. I don't know that you've heard
8 that much about it, and so I'm not really
9 sure and clear to tell you what their next
10 step will be with this because it has been
11 opened now for over a year.

12 And so it did come out -- you're
13 correct, it came out of that behavioral
14 fund from gaming taxes. So there is still
15 money in there to look at for us to -- to
16 do some things with, not only in New
17 Orleans obviously, but around the state
18 which is what I've been advocating is that
19 one is if you don't know about gambling
20 treatment in Louisiana and that it's free,
21 then we need to do something about that;
22 and that's all of us.

23 And that takes, you know, possibly a
24 marketing firm or a good agency. Behind
25 me are some of the best people to

1 advertise, and so I've actually been
2 working with some of the industry to say
3 who do you use. Certainly, you know what,
4 maybe I can't afford or we can't afford in
5 Louisiana as nonprofit to pay for that
6 kind of advertisement, but we need to get
7 the word out.

8 So the program is there, but I don't
9 know that it's been as attended by
10 citizens in that area. So I have a
11 concern too, Judge, about that and would
12 like to, you know, help in whatever ways
13 we can. But it's certainly -- just so
14 this Board knows, it's not under my
15 purview to supervise it, to manage it, or
16 to direct how it goes, because it's not --
17 it is not our contract for LACG, but we
18 are in relationships with all of the
19 districts in the state because I still get
20 calls from people who don't know that
21 there's free outpatient counselling or
22 like that, that new program in New Orleans
23 or CORE in Shreveport that is for everyone
24 in Louisiana to have free treatment.

25 And I find that very sad at this

1 time because our -- the Chairman and other
2 people have asked for statistics on sports
3 wagering and how that's affected people in
4 gambling, and it's showing up
5 exponentially in the calls and the people
6 coming to treatment in the last two years.

7 And so that information will be sent
8 to the Chairman soon. But I think it's
9 important to ask those questions, but I
10 would say that it is under the direction
11 of the Metropolitan New Orleans branch of
12 the district, and Dr. Dunham is extremely
13 helpful and gives great information on
14 what's going on. I'm sure she would be
15 available to talk to you or anybody on
16 this Board. But it is not under our
17 umbrella of management per se for that
18 facility, so I can only speak some to it
19 in the sense that we have worked with them
20 on in the last two years.

21 So my hope was it would be more
22 robust by now, sir, and a lot more people
23 showing up for treatment. But we do know
24 that there is -- there is still that
25 barrier for people with gambling disorder

1 through stigma and prejudice and shame and
2 fear of losing their positions or things
3 in their communities or their jobs. So
4 there's a lot to push through with that,
5 even in New Orleans when you have a
6 program that's like that.

7 The difference is the CORE program
8 does not have its housing with any
9 substance use, although we do have a large
10 portion of people that have a problem with
11 substance use disorders or mental health.
12 And so we have to address all that.

13 So I don't -- I don't know if that's
14 part of it is that they're in a facility
15 that isn't separate for them. I just
16 don't know. I don't have that program
17 under my purview to supervise and let you
18 know more about that.

19 But Dr. Rochelle Head-Dunham is the
20 executive director for the metro area and
21 would probably gladly love to hear your
22 input. And I -- and I too, again, have
23 been very willing to sit at the table and
24 conference and virtually meet and been
25 training different staff there as well.

1 So I think there is absolutely a need, but
2 I also think there's a need for other
3 parts of the state as well and that's what
4 I'm advocating too to bring more
5 outpatient services if people are not able
6 to come in to a facility like CORE in
7 Shreveport or New Orleans, then we need to
8 have more comprehensive help for people;
9 but the biggest thing I keep hearing, sir,
10 is that no one knows that it's free and
11 it's there.

12 So that's part of my job. And if
13 you could help me with that and those
14 people will help me in other states. So
15 I've been reaching out to other states to
16 get help with how to tell the residents of
17 your state about all of these services,
18 how can we all do that. And so part of
19 that happens when you see that
20 advertisement with the, hey, if you have a
21 gambling problem or you know someone that
22 does, and they run the 877-770-STOP or now
23 1-800-gambler. That's helpful, but it's
24 not enough. So it's not reaching
25 everybody.

1 So that's my goal in 2024 is to
2 invest more energy and be down here even
3 more to see how can we go into letting
4 everyone know that there is help for
5 gambling even if you're a family member or
6 friend of and you don't have to pay for
7 it, and it's confidential just like any
8 other medical help. And it's paid through
9 the gaming taxes. Not all of them, but if
10 you want to send them to that fund, not
11 all of them. But it's enough to take care
12 of the people.

13 So certainly with the sports
14 wagering increase and that will come with
15 some of that tax money and I think that
16 Louisiana will be in better hands even
17 financially to do more, but I think that
18 we have ten pockets of the state that have
19 outpatient counselling and two that have
20 residential or inpatient, but we need
21 more. We need more help, but we need more
22 people to come and show up for treatment
23 too.

24 So a long way to answer, I know and
25 I don't know.

1 Thank you for asking, though.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Thank you, Judge. It may be it may
4 -- thank you very much. Very timely.
5 Very timely. Perhaps we can get the
6 metropolitan human service district to our
7 next meeting. Would you like that, Judge?

8 MR. SHOLES:

9 I'd like to hear it.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 I think we will --

12 MS. MILLER:

13 I will reach out to her --

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 -- we will extend that invitation.

16 MS. MILLER:

17 -- absolutely. And Ms. Dunham is
18 here as well and so I'm sure between us
19 and she has been here before. You will
20 recognize her. She's worked very, very
21 long in the Baton Rouge area before she
22 took over in New Orleans. And so I think
23 she's a good friend of mine. I thought
24 highly of her, and I thought so highly of
25 her years ago when we were in CORE south

1 that we hired her as the medical director
2 for CORE south, so --

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 Ms. Miller, how many states actually
5 have an inpatient facility like you have
6 with CORE?

7 MS. MILLER:

8 Just us. We are the only state that
9 offers through the gaming taxes free
10 residential treatment. That's why we've
11 also treated people from 38 other states
12 and four other countries. One is because
13 when they do call us, we don't charge them
14 much, \$6,000 for 28 days of treatment.
15 And they can stay as long as they need to
16 for Louisiana, but we charge them very
17 nominal fees so I think that they can come
18 too.

19 But we need to let people know and
20 -- and this helps them know.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Thank you very much.

23 MS. MILLER:

24 You're welcome.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 We will extend that invitation.

2 Judge Sholes. And --

3 MR. SHOLES:

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 -- let me remind the Board and the
7 public that we advocated for and were
8 successful in the last legislative session
9 to capture more of the sports betting
10 revenue for compulsive gambling, an
11 additional 3%, so it's going to go from 2%
12 to now 5% of all sports betting revenue
13 will go towards compulsive gambling
14 programs. So we thank the legislature.

15 MS. MILLER:

16 It's important to have that because
17 there is such a different way to treat
18 people with sports wagering and online
19 wagering now. As even Wayne Doodie talked
20 a year or so before about that. So it's a
21 very different type of wagering, and you
22 very much want to accept that and train
23 your staff and clinicians how to work with
24 that differently.

25 So thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Thank you for coming to the table,
3 Ms. Miller. We appreciate it.

4 MS. MILLER:

5 Thank you, sir.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 It was our estimate that that is to
8 bring in an additional million dollars a
9 year to compulsive gambling based on the
10 recent sports betting revenue numbers. So
11 it's going to be significant.

12 So thanks to the Legislature and to
13 Governor Edwards for supporting that.

14 Any further business for this Board?
15 If not, I know Mr. Jackson would make a
16 motion that we adjourn; is that correct,
17 Mr. Jackson?

18 MR. JACKSON:

19 Yes, sir, on one condition.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 What's that, Mr. Jackson?

22 MR. JACKSON:

23 Not to put you on the spot,
24 Chairman, I was going to say you have to
25 second it. But I will make a motion.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

All right. I'll second that motion for you, Mr. Jackson.

Is there any objection to the motion to adjourn?

Hearing none, we hereby adjourn.

Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen, for being here.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

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

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER