

Transcript of the Testimony of

**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
MEETING 1-18-2024**

January 18, 2024



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STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

JANUARY 18, 2024 BOARD MEETING

This Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting was taken by Belinda K. Amerson, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, at the Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 5, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the 18th day of January, 2024.



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APPEARANCES :

CHAIRMAN RONNIE S. JOHNS

MS. HOOD

MS. HERNANDEZ

JULIE G. BERRY

MAJOR MCNEILL

FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER

LAMAR O. POOLE, JR.

RONALD J. SHOLES

ASHLEY ANDERSON TRAYLOR

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Louisiana Gaming Control Board meeting Thursday, January the 18th of 2024.

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

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

MR. AVANT:

(Heard no response.)

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

(Heard no response.)

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

1 (Heard no response.)  
2 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
3 Mr. Poole.  
4 MR. POOLE:  
5 Here.  
6 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
7 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.  
8 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:  
9 Here.  
10 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
11 Mr. Sholes.  
12 MR. SHOLES:  
13 Here.  
14 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
15 Ms. Traylor.  
16 MS. TRAYLOR:  
17 Here.  
18 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
19 Colonel Hodges.  
20 COLONEL HODGES:  
21 Major McNeill for Colonel Hodges.  
22 It's new to me too, I apologize.  
23 MS. HERNANDEZ:  
24 Secretary Nelson.  
25 SECRETARY NELSON:

1 Here.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

4 We do have a quorum, ladies and  
5 gentlemen. And ladies and gentlemen, now  
6 is the time on our agenda for any public  
7 comments. If there's anyone in the room  
8 today that would like to make a public  
9 comment on any matter that's on our  
10 agenda, please come forward.

11 Okay. Seeing no public comment, we  
12 now move into the approval of minutes.  
13 Members, you have before you the minutes  
14 from the December the 18th, 2023 meeting;  
15 and I would ask for a motion to waive that  
16 reading and approve those minutes.

17 Ms. Berry has made that motion. Mr.  
18 Poole has seconded that motion.

19 Is there any opposition to that  
20 motion?

21 Hearing none, that motion carries.

22 Okay. We will now move into our  
23 revenue reports.

24 Ms. Jackson, good morning.

25 MS. JACKSON:

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

5 In December, the 14 operating  
6 riverboats generated adjusted gross  
7 receipts of \$158,160,084. The state  
8 collected fees totalling \$34,004,418.

9 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal  
10 year '23-'24 to date are \$853.4 million, a  
11 slight decrease of \$3.3 million or .4%  
12 from fiscal year '22-'23.

13 As of December 31st, 2023, the state  
14 collected \$183.5 million in fees for  
15 fiscal year '23-'24.

16 Page 2 shows the riverboat revenue  
17 broken down by regional market. The  
18 overall increase from November was \$17.6  
19 million or 12.5%. Compared to last  
20 December, this month's revenues represent  
21 a decrease of \$4.5 million or 2.8%.

22 Next is the summary of the December  
23 2023 gaming activity for Harrah's New  
24 Orleans found on page 3. Harrah's  
25 generated \$24,722,568 in gross gaming

1 revenue. These revenues represent an  
2 increase from last month of \$4 million or  
3 19%, and an increase of \$1.8 million or  
4 7.8% from the same month last year.

5 During December, the state received  
6 \$5,505,465 in minimum daily payments.

7 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal  
8 year '23-'24 to date are \$121.3 million, a  
9 decrease of \$12 million or 9% from fiscal  
10 year '22-'23.

11 As of December 31st, 2023, the state  
12 collected \$32.7 million in fees for fiscal  
13 year '23-'24.

14 Next I'll present the revenues for  
15 Slots at the Racetracks.

16 During December, the four racetrack  
17 facilities combined generated adjusted  
18 gross receipts of \$27,663,233, an increase  
19 of approximately \$3.9 million or 16.3%  
20 from last month, and an increase of \$1.6  
21 million or 6% when compared to the same  
22 month last year.

23 During December, the state collected  
24 \$4 million in fees.

25 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal



1 year '23-'24 to date are \$151.5 million, a  
2 decrease of almost \$4 million or 3% from  
3 fiscal year '22-'23.

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

7 I will now move to the video gaming  
8 information. There are 11,849 video  
9 gaming devices activated at 1,395  
10 locations. Net device revenue for  
11 December 2023 was \$63,769,565, an increase  
12 of \$3.5 million or 5.9% when compared to  
13 November 2023 with a decrease of \$2.8  
14 million or 4.1% when compared to last  
15 December. Total franchise fees for  
16 December 2023 totaled \$19.3 million.

17 Fiscal year to date net device  
18 revenue is \$366.5 million, a decrease of  
19 \$18 million or 4.7% when compared to last  
20 fiscal year.

21 As of December 31st, 2023, the state  
22 has collected \$111 million in franchise  
23 fees for fiscal year '23-'24.

24 Next, I will present the December  
25 revenue for sportsbook. During December,

1 the retail sportsbooks accepted \$32  
2 million in sports wagers, resulting in net  
3 proceeds of \$4.5 million and \$407,672 in  
4 state taxes.

5 The mobile sportsbooks accepted  
6 \$344.9 million in sports wagers, resulting  
7 in net proceeds of \$51.3 million and \$7.2  
8 million in taxes paid to the state.

9 Finally, for daily fantasy sports,  
10 gross revenues for December were \$1.7  
11 million, with net revenue of approximately  
12 \$183,000 and taxes of \$14,600.

13 Questions?

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Jackson.

16 Any questions from the Board for Ms.  
17 Jackson on revenue? Any questions?

18 Just once again, sportsbook  
19 continues to boggle our minds with these  
20 numbers, 377,000,000 total, I think, in --  
21 in the month of December, which is another  
22 -- another record.

23 MS. JACKSON:

24 Right.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1           It looks like every month we set a  
2 whole new record, but it's all driven by  
3 football, I guess, in the fall months.

4           Any questions, ladies and gentlemen?  
5 Okay.

6           If not, Ms. Jackson, thank you very  
7 much for your work and I greatly  
8 appreciate it.

9           Okay. Members, we now move into  
10 item No. 5, which is casino gaming issues.  
11 First on the agenda today is the  
12 consideration of the submission of full  
13 construction contracts for Louisiana  
14 Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC, doing  
15 business as DiamondJacks Casino and  
16 Resort.

17           Mr. Barbin, good morning.

18 MR. BARBIN:

19           Good morning.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21           Ms. Landry.

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

23           Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
24 Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
25 General Lisha Landry.

1 MR. BARBIN:

2 And I'm Jeff Barbin, here  
3 representing Cordish Gaming, and to my  
4 right is Keith Hudolin. Keith is the  
5 general counsel for Cordish Gaming and  
6 came all the way from Baltimore yesterday  
7 to answer your questions today.

8 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

9 We're here in the matter of  
10 Louisiana Riverboat Gaming Company, LLC's  
11 submission of its construction contract  
12 for full construction of the approved  
13 project in future riverboat land-side  
14 facility.

15 On December 15th, 2022, this Board  
16 considered and approved the licensee's  
17 request to relocate its gaming operations  
18 to a land-side facility located within  
19 1200 feet of its licensed berth.

20 On April 4th, 2023, the Board  
21 adopted a resolution, which required the  
22 licensee to submit full architectural  
23 blueprints and a detailed plan of design  
24 and construction of the approved project  
25 to the Board by December 15th, 2023, and

1 all necessary contracts for construction  
2 by March 15th, 2024.

3 At the December 18th, 2023 board  
4 meting, the Board accepted the licensee's  
5 full plans and specs for the base scope,  
6 which included the required minimum  
7 non-gaming amenities contained in the  
8 licensee's current statement of conditions  
9 as well as several potential increase  
10 scope projects that may be added to the  
11 approved project by the licensee  
12 throughout the length of the project.

13 The licensee has timely submitted  
14 all construction contracts necessary for  
15 construction of the approved projects base  
16 scope at this time, which are up for Board  
17 consideration today.

18 Our office has reviewed the contract  
19 and sees no issues that would preclude the  
20 Board's acceptance of the construction  
21 contract today.

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

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you, Ms. Landry.  
Mr. Barbin.

MR. BARBIN:

One other thing I'll add, we had talked last month about the contingent projects. There were four or five items outside of the base scope that the licensee is considering adding to the construction contract.

The GMP amendment that you have before you also describes the cost for each of those contingency items. So if we decide to move forward with those items, which we will be back in front of you to approve, those costs are also laid out in the contract that you have before you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Right.

MR. BARBIN:

So unless you have any other questions for us, that's all we have.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Thank you.  
Anything from -- you would like to

1 add? I mean you've come all the way from  
2 Baltimore:

3 MR. HUDOLIN:

4 We're just very excited to get on  
5 with building this thing.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Is it -- is it colder in Baltimore  
8 than it is down here?

9 MR. HUDOLIN:

10 About the same, actually.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 About the same. Okay. Thank you  
13 very much.

14 Members, any questions for -- for  
15 our guest at the table? Any questions?

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. Ms. Berry.

18 MS. BERRY:

19 When do you think construction will  
20 proceed once this is approved or --

21 MR. HUDOLIN:

22 Yes, and we have -- we had Ancore  
23 working under the interim agreements.

24 MS. BERRY:

25 For the demo.

1 MR. HUDOLIN:

2 Correct. And so we're submitting  
3 this now to get moving as quickly as  
4 possible.

5 MS. BERRY:

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 All right. Any -- any further  
9 questions?

10 Okay. If not, members, we have a  
11 resolution in front of you. I would need  
12 a motion to adopt that resolution.

13 Ms. Berry, would you make that  
14 motion?

15 MS. BERRY:

16 I sure will, yes.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Ms. Berry has made that motion. Mr.  
19 Poole has seconded that motion to adopt  
20 the resolution. And I'm going to ask Ms.  
21 Hernandez to read the resolution into the  
22 record.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ:

24 On the 18th day of January 2024, the  
25 Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in a



1           duly noticed public meeting, consider the  
2           issue of Louisiana Riverboat Gaming  
3           Company, LLC's submission of the contracts  
4           for full construction related to the  
5           approved project, and upon motion duly  
6           made and seconded, the Board adopted this  
7           resolution.

8                        Be it resolved that the contracts  
9           for full construction consisting of the  
10          licensee's contractor's agreement, general  
11          conditions and GMP Amendment Number 2  
12          submitted for the approved project be  
13          deemed and submitted -- be deemed  
14          submitted and accepted and the licensee is  
15          hereby authorized to proceed with full  
16          construction of the approved project.

17                      Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
18          Louisiana this 18th day of January 2024.

19          CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20                      Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

21                      We have a motion by Ms. Berry,  
22          seconded by Mr. Poole to adopt this  
23          resolution.

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

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MS. HERNANDEZ:  
    Ms. Berry.  
MS. BERRY:  
    Yes.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
    Mr. Poole.  
MR. POOLE:  
    Yes.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
    Ms. Hamilton-Acker.  
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:  
    Yes.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
    Mr. Sholes.  
MR. SHOLES:  
    Yes.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
    Ms. Traylor.  
MS. TRAYLOR:  
    Yes.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
    And Chairman Johns.  
CHAIRMAN JOHNS:  
    Yes.  
    By unanimous vote, this resolution

1 is hereby adopted.

2 Okay. Now move into our next item.

3 Please give our regards to the  
4 Cordish family and to Mr. Norton and thank  
5 them for their -- their work and  
6 considerations.

7 MR. HUDOLIN:

8 I will do that.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you very much.

11 Okay. Members, we do now move into  
12 the consideration of a petition to amend  
13 the scope of the facility and to extend  
14 the deadlines for completion of the  
15 project for Catfish Queen doing business  
16 as the Belle of Baton Rouge.

17 Good morning again.

18 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

19 Assistant Attorney General Lisha  
20 Landry here again.

21 MR. BARBIN:

22 And Jeff Barbin appearing for Queen  
23 Casino, and to my right is Terry Downey,  
24 who is the CEO of Queen Casino.

25 MR. DOWNEY:

1 Good morning.

2 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

3 We're here in the matter of Catfish  
4 Queen, LLC, doing business as Belle of  
5 Baton Rouge Casino's petition to amend  
6 scope of facility and extend deadlines for  
7 completion of the project.

8 On September 15th, 2022, the Board  
9 considered and approved the licensee  
10 request to relocate its gaming operations  
11 to a land-side facility which will be  
12 located 1200 feet of its licensed berth.

13 The Board previously accepted the  
14 licensee's architectural blueprints and  
15 detailed plan of design and construction  
16 for the approved project on July 20th,  
17 2023, and construction contracts for the  
18 approved project on November 16th, 2023.

19 On January 5th, 2024, the licensee  
20 filed a petition requesting Board approval  
21 to increase the scope of the approved  
22 project, submitted plans and specs related  
23 to the additional scope and extend  
24 deadlines to complete construction of the  
25 approved project and commence gaming

1 operations in the facility from September  
2 15th, 2024 to July 31st, 2025.

3 As a reminder, the licensee's  
4 statement of conditions requires the  
5 approved project to have a hotel room with  
6 a minimum of 90 rooms, a fitness center  
7 and a business center, a minimum of three  
8 restaurants with a total minimum seating  
9 capacity of 288, a sportsbook viewing area  
10 and bar with a minimum seating capacity of  
11 75, and a 14,000 square foot atrium.

12 The Division and Attorney General's  
13 office have reviewed the new plans and  
14 specs and confirmed that all elements of  
15 the approved project are present in the  
16 new plans and specs submitted to the  
17 Board.

18 And now the licensee will present  
19 the details of their request to the Board.  
20 MR. BARBIN:

21 We have a few slides. I think you  
22 have color copies in front of you. I'm  
23 not sure if we're able to get it on the  
24 big screen.

25 MR. DOWNEY:

1           So just to explain the -- the  
2           expanded scope a little bit, when we were  
3           looking, finish up the plans on the  
4           original submission and we started looking  
5           at what phase 2, phase 3 would look like,  
6           it became kind of obvious that -- that we  
7           should be building out the whole atrium  
8           one time, and it would be not only more  
9           cost effective but we could actually get a  
10          much better layout of it.

11          So if you look up, the blue area --  
12          I'm colorblind so if I say the wrong  
13          color, it looks blue to me, the main  
14          casino. We've expanded slots to the --  
15          all the way to the south end. We -- the  
16          original smoking deck used to be out by  
17          the dock and the trash compacters. We  
18          were able to bring that into the very  
19          south side of the building and make it a  
20          much nicer area including a bar and table  
21          games, which the original smoking patio  
22          didn't have.

23          We took the sportsbook and the  
24          sports lounge from the middle of the  
25          casino down -- is that teal?

1 MR. BARBIN:

2 Yeah.

3 MR. DOWNEY:

4 -- to -- to that light green area at  
5 the far south end. And that sportsbook,  
6 that screen literally almost goes wall to  
7 wall. So from the time you come in, all  
8 the way at the north end through the  
9 lobby, you'd be able to see that sports  
10 book in green the whole casino at the far  
11 end, a much better presentation.

12 We were able to -- in addition to  
13 that bar, the bar in the smoking area and  
14 the big center bar, so we can increase the  
15 capacity that way. And we've upped the  
16 game count. The success we've had at the  
17 Queen so far tells us there is room. You  
18 can see from the revenue numbers we have  
19 grown the market.

20 We've also taken the hotel and  
21 instead of doing the original 90 rooms we  
22 asked for, we will complete the whole  
23 tower and do 250 rooms, which is badly  
24 needed in downtown Baton Rouge.

25 And so we're super excited to bring

1 this to you.

2 If -- Jeff, if you'll go to the next  
3 one.

4 I've got a couple renderings that  
5 y'all haven't seen before. This is what  
6 the port cochere will look like at the  
7 south end entrance where you would enter  
8 into the hotel lobby, that turnaround.

9 This is kind of a nighttime view of  
10 it. It's -- it's actually stunningly  
11 beautiful in how this thing is going to  
12 turn out. Those -- in between those ribs  
13 it's all glassed, so it'll match up to the  
14 kind of industrial feel of the atrium very  
15 nice.

16 And I think we've got a couple more.  
17 This is the slide of the new smoking deck  
18 or patio. Much better ventilation, much  
19 better size. This is going to be a  
20 beautiful room, and you're looking at this  
21 from where the bar would be and it will be  
22 table games and then -- then the slots.

23 And the next slide is what the  
24 sportsbook will look like when you're  
25 standing down probably about the middle of



1 the casino, you'll look to that far south  
2 end and it'll just be a beautiful  
3 presentation at the far end.

4 Was there one more or is that it?

5 MR. BARBIN:

6 That's it.

7 MR. DOWNEY:

8 So like I said, we're really excited  
9 to bring the additional scope. We think  
10 the hotel rooms are every bit as important  
11 as the casino to the city. I don't know  
12 if we've publicly ever talked about the  
13 price of this, but this adds 30 million to  
14 the scope of what we're doing.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Okay. So that was going to be my  
17 first question.

18 MR. DOWNEY:

19 I saw the look in your eye and I  
20 wanted to head it off.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 So, Mr. Downing, what do you think  
23 your total investment is going to be in  
24 this project as presented today?

25 MR. DOWNEY:

1 Including contingency about 132  
2 million.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 132.

5 You can come back next month and  
6 we'll consider --

7 MR. DOWNEY:

8 It cost millions every time I show  
9 up here.

10 MS. BERRY:

11 I have a question.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 All right. Ms. Berry's got a  
14 question.

15 MS. BERRY:

16 Did you take the encompassing the  
17 old catfish town?

18 MR. DOWNEY:

19 Yeah, the whole casino restaurant.

20 MS. BERRY:

21 Okay. All of that part. That's  
22 going to be amazing for downtown Baton  
23 Rouge. That was a beautiful area back in  
24 the day. So if y'all do this work, it's  
25 going to be amazing.

1 MR. DOWNEY:

2 It's happening. If you've driven by  
3 lately, you started to see scaffolding  
4 going up around the hotel and they're  
5 staging in that -- that parking lot next  
6 to the hotel. So we're -- we're moving.

7 MS. BERRY:

8 Good. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Anything else, Ms. Berry?

11 MS. BERRY:

12 No. That's it.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Any other questions? So, members,  
15 as I can share with you, the original  
16 petition, and -- and we've done some --  
17 our staff has done some walkthrough  
18 through the property, about half of the  
19 atrium probably was going to be utilized.  
20 Is that correct?

21 MR. DOWNEY:

22 About 60 percent.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 60 percent. And now you're going to  
25 utilize the entire -- the entire atrium

1 from front to back?

2 MR. DOWNEY:

3 Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 And plus what you're doing with the  
6 hotel which is really, really special.  
7 You know, we greatly appreciate the  
8 commitment that -- that y'all are making  
9 there. This is -- this is a huge  
10 commitment on your part, but just looking  
11 at what the Queen has done with their  
12 numbers since going land based, so is it  
13 safe to ask you that do you wish you had  
14 built the Queen a little bit bigger?

15 MR. DOWNEY:

16 That's safe, and the answer is yes.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Okay. Any further questions,  
19 members? Okay. If not, I would ask for a  
20 motion to adopt the resolution that is  
21 before you.

22 Do I have a motion.

23 MR. POOLE:

24 Mr. Chairman, I'd be happy to make  
25 that motion.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Mr. Poole being the Baton Rouge  
3 member here would make that motion, and  
4 Ms. Hamilton-Acker is going to second that  
5 motion.

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

8 MS. HERNANDEZ:

9 On the 18th day of January 2024, the  
10 Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in a  
11 duly noticed public meeting, consider the  
12 petition to amend the scope of facility  
13 and extend the deadlines for completion of  
14 project filed by issue of the Catfish  
15 Queen doing business as Belle of Baton  
16 Rouge, and upon motion duly made and  
17 seconded, the Board is adopted this  
18 resolution.

19 Whereas, on September 15th, 2022,  
20 the Board adopted a resolution, as amended  
21 on November 17th, 2022, February 16th,  
22 2023 and October 19th, 2023, which imposes  
23 certain standards, requirements and  
24 deadlines upon the licensee regarding  
25 construction of the approved project,

1 including, but not limited to, the  
2 following provision regarding the licensee  
3 riverboat gaming land-side facility.

4 2c, to complete construction of the  
5 approved project and commence gaming  
6 operations for the facility within 24  
7 months of this resolution date. Failure  
8 to meet this deadline or to receive an  
9 extension may result in forfeiture of all  
10 privileges of the license.

11 Whereas, the Board previously  
12 accepted the licensee's architectural  
13 blueprints and detailed plan of design and  
14 construction for the approved project on  
15 July 20th, 2023, and construction  
16 contracts for the approved project on  
17 November 16th, 2023.

18 And, whereas, on January 5th, 2024,  
19 the licensee filed a petition requesting  
20 Board approval to increase the scope of  
21 the approved project, submit plans and  
22 specifications relative to the additional  
23 scope, and extend the 24-month deadline,  
24 to complete construction of the approved  
25 project and commence gaming operations in

1 the facility to July 31st, 2025.

2 Now, therefore, be it resolved that  
3 the licensee's request to increase the  
4 scope of the approved project is hereby  
5 approved.

6 Be it further resolved that the  
7 licensee's plans and specifications for  
8 the additional scope of the approved  
9 project submitted as the date of this  
10 resolution and hereby accepted.

11 Be it further resolved that  
12 Provision 2c of the September 15th, 2022  
13 Board Resolution as amended is hereby  
14 amended to extend the licensee's deadline  
15 to complete construction of the approved  
16 project and commence gaming operations in  
17 the facility from September 15th, 2024 to  
18 July 31st, 2025.

19 Thus done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
20 Louisiana this 18th day of January 2024.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

23 So any questions on the resolution?

24 Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Poole,  
25 seconded by Ms. Hamilton-Acker to adopt

1           this resolution; and, Ms. Hernandez, would  
2           you call the roll, please?  
3           MS. HERNANDEZ:  
4                 Ms. Berry.  
5           MS. BERRY:  
6                 Yes.  
7           MS. HERNANDEZ:  
8                 Mr. Poole.  
9           MR. POOLE:  
10                 Yes.  
11           MS. HERNANDEZ:  
12                 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.  
13           MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:  
14                 Yes.  
15           MS. HERNANDEZ:  
16                 Mr. Sholes.  
17           MR. SHOLES:  
18                 Yes.  
19           MS. HERNANDEZ:  
20                 Ms. Traylor.  
21           MS. TRAYLOR:  
22                 Yes.  
23           MS. HERNANDEZ:  
24                 And, Chairman Johns.  
25           CHAIRMAN JOHNS:



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Yes.

So by unanimous vote, this resolution is hereby adopted.

Thank you very much. Congratulations. And we appreciate the commitment.

Mr. Downey, you're welcome back every month.

But no. Seriously, we -- we appreciate the commitment that y'all are making, and we're glad to work with you.

MR. DOWNEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Bruce, good to see you.

MR. BRUCE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

And, Mr. Barbin, I think we're done today with you.

MR. BARBIN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

All right. Thank y'all very much. I appreciate it.

1 Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to  
2 move into item No. 6, which is rulemaking.  
3 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:  
4 Good morning.  
5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:  
6 Good morning.  
7 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:  
8 I am Assistant Attorney General  
9 Venise Johnson here in the matter of the  
10 rule adoption for Item No. 6-A through C.  
11 At the meeting on September 21st,  
12 2023, the Board voted to institute  
13 promulgation procedures for the rules  
14 listed in Item No. 6-A through C on  
15 today's agenda.  
16 Following these votes, the Attorney  
17 General's Office published in the  
18 Louisiana Registry notice of intent for  
19 the proposed rules directing all  
20 individuals with questions or concerns to  
21 contact the attorney general's office.  
22 No comments were received for A and  
23 B during this time in the manner and  
24 method described in Louisiana Revised  
25 Statute 49:961-A.

1           As part of the promulgation  
2           procedures, reports were submitted to the  
3           board's house and senate oversight  
4           committee. The first reports detailed the  
5           substance of the proposed rules and the  
6           second reports informed the committee of  
7           the questions and/or concerns voiced by  
8           the public.

9           Following the delivery of a second  
10          report to the committee, they were given  
11          30 days in which to call hearings to  
12          satisfy any concerns that they may have  
13          had. As no hearings were called, the  
14          default action of the committee following  
15          the lapse of the 30-day period is to  
16          approve the proposed rules and forms.

17          If the Board has no questions, a  
18          motion to adopt the rules and forms is  
19          needed.

20          CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21                 Okay. Any questions for Ms.  
22          Johnson? Any questions?

23                 Ms. Johnson, I have no questions. I  
24          think this is routine rulemaking.

25                 And we would entertain a motion from

1 the Board to adopt agenda item section 6-A  
2 through C.

3 Judge Sholes has made that motion,  
4 and Ms. Traylor has seconded that motion.  
5 Is there any discussion on that motion?  
6 Any objection to that motion?

7 Hearing none, that motion carries.

8 Thank you, Ms. Johnson. I  
9 appreciate it.

10 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 Okay. Members, we will now move  
14 into video gaming issues. First on the  
15 agenda will be the consideration of  
16 transfers of interest in the following  
17 truck stops. First, No. 1, Dixie Inn  
18 Travel Center, LLC, doing business as  
19 Dixie Inn Casino; and No. 2, Port Au  
20 Prince, LLC, doing business as Gold Rush  
21 Casino.

22 We will take both of these items up  
23 at the same time.

24 Good morning.

25 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL O.P. JUNIOR:

1 Good morning.

2 Chairman Johns, Board Members, I'm  
3 Assistant Attorney General O.P. Junior,  
4 appearing before the Board in the matter  
5 of the transfers of membership interest in  
6 the type 5 video gaming licensees Dixie  
7 Inn Travel Center, LLC, doing business as  
8 Dixie Inn Casino, and Port Au Prince, LLC,  
9 doing business as Gold Rush Casino.

10 On December 29th, 2021, Carolyn H.  
11 Turner sold her 50 percent membership  
12 interest in both licensees to William C.  
13 Windham.

14 As a result of these sales, Mr.  
15 Windham became the sole member of the  
16 licensees. On January 1st, 2023, Mr.  
17 Windham donated a 4 percent membership  
18 interest in both licensees to his wife  
19 Carol C. Windham. Trooper James Cannon  
20 conducted the investigation of the  
21 transfer of membership interest. He also  
22 conducted an investigation on the relevant  
23 persons associated with the licensees. He  
24 will present the office of state police  
25 findings to support it.

1 OFFICER CANNON:

2 Good morning, Chairman, Members of  
3 the Board. I'm Master Trooper James  
4 Cannon with the Louisiana State Police  
5 Gaming Enforcement Division. I conducted  
6 an investigation of the transfers of  
7 membership interest and the updated  
8 suitability checks on William C. Windham  
9 and Carl C. Windham. I found no  
10 information that would preclude the  
11 licensees or their members from continuing  
12 to participate in the Louisiana gaming  
13 industry.

14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL O.P. JUNIOR:

15 The office of the Attorney General  
16 has reviewed the file compiled as a result  
17 of the investigation conducted by the  
18 office of state police.

19 Our review indicates that no  
20 information has found which would preclude  
21 approval of the transfers.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 All right. Members, any questions?  
24 Just a small transfer of interest in the  
25 -- both of these casinos. So we'll take

1           them up together. I would ask for a  
2           motion to approve the transfer of interest  
3           of Dixie Inn Travel Center, doing business  
4           as, Dixie Inn Casino and Port Au Prince,  
5           LLC, doing business as Gold Rush Casino.

6           Ms. Berry has made that motion and  
7           Mr. Poole has seconded that motion.

8           Is there any discussion on that  
9           motion? Any discussion?

10          Hearing none, is there any  
11          opposition?

12          There is no opposition, so that  
13          motion carries.

14          Thank you gentlemen. I appreciate  
15          it. Thank you for your work.

16          Okay. We will now move into  
17          consideration of proposed settlements.  
18          First on the agenda will be a proposed  
19          settlement for Food Junction, LLC, doing  
20          business as Longwood Casino.

21          ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

22                 Good morning, once again, Chairman  
23                 Johns, Members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
24                 General Venise Johnson here in the matter  
25                 of the Food Junction, LLC, doing business

1 as Longwood Casino, which holds a type 5  
2 video draw poker gaming license.

3 This settlement addresses the late  
4 submission of annual forms and fees that  
5 are required to be submitted to the  
6 division no later than July 1st of each  
7 year. The licensee did not submit the  
8 annual forms and fees until October 11th,  
9 2023, which gives rise to a violation of  
10 gaming law.

11 The civil penalty contained in this  
12 settlement is \$1,500, which is an amount  
13 that is well-established for violations of  
14 this type.

15 The settlement has been signed by  
16 the hearing officer and is now before the  
17 Board for final approval.

18 I'll be happy to answer any  
19 questions that you may have.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Any questions for Ms. Johnson? If  
22 not, I would entertain a motion to accept  
23 the proposed settlement for Food Junction,  
24 LLC, doing business as Longwood Casino.

25 Ms. Hamilton-Acker has made that



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motion. Judge Sholes has seconded that motion.

Is there any discussion? Is there any opposition to that motion?

If not, there's no opposition to that motion, that motion carries.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you.

Okay. Item No. 2 will be T & D Ventures, LLC, doing business as Lucky Dollar Casino.

Good morning.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

Good morning.

Chairman Johns, Board Members, I'm Assistant Attorney General Talibah McIntyre here in the matter of the settlement of T & D Ventures, LLC, doing business as Lucky Dollar Casino, which holds a type 5 video draw poker game. This settlement addresses the late submission of annual forms and fees that are required to be submitted to the

1 division no later than July 1st of each  
2 year.

3 The licensee did not submit the  
4 annual forms and fees until October 18th,  
5 2023, which gave rise to a violation of  
6 gaming law.

7 The civil penalty contained in this  
8 settlement is \$1500, which is an amount  
9 that is well-established for violations of  
10 this type. The settlement has been signed  
11 by the hearing officer and is now before  
12 the board for final approval.

13 I would be happy to answer any  
14 questions you may have at this time.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. Any questions for Ms.  
18 McIntyre? If not, I would entertain a  
19 motion to accept the proposed settlement  
20 for T & D ventures, LLC, doing business as  
21 Lucky Dollar Casino.

22 Ms. Traylor has made that motion,  
23 Ms. Berry has seconded that motion. Is  
24 there any discussion? Is there any  
25 opposition to that motion?

1                   Hearing none, that motion carries.

2                   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

3                   Thank you.

4                   CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5                   Thank you very much.

6                   Item No.3 will be The Old Evangeline  
7                   Downs, LLC, doing business as Races and  
8                   Aces.

9                   Good morning.

10                  ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

11                  Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
12                  Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
13                  General Hafiz Folami here in the matter of  
14                  the settlement of The Old Evangeline  
15                  Downs, LLC, doing business as Races and  
16                  Aces, which holds a type 4 video draw  
17                  poker gaming license.

18                  This settlement addresses the late  
19                  submission of annual forms and fees that  
20                  are required to be submitted to the  
21                  division no later than July 1st of each  
22                  year. The licensee did not submit the  
23                  annuals forms and fees until September  
24                  25th, 2023, which gave rise to a violation  
25                  of gaming law.

1           The civil penalty contained in this  
2 settlement is \$1,500, which is an amount  
3 that is well-established for violation of  
4 this type.

5           The settlement has been signed by  
6 the hearing officer and is now before the  
7 Board for final approval.

8           I'll be happy to answer any  
9 questions at this time.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11           Okay. Any questions? Any questions  
12 on this proposed settlement?

13           If not, I would entertain a motion  
14 to accept the proposed settlement for The  
15 Old Evangeline Downs, LLC, doing business  
16 as Races and Aces.

17           Ms. Hamilton-Acker has made that  
18 motion. Ms. Traylor has seconded that  
19 motion.

20           Is there any discussion? Is there  
21 any opposition to that motion?

22           Hearing none, that motion carries.

23           And our last proposed settlement  
24 will be Darius Declouette, doing business  
25 as The Chocolate Factory.

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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

Good morning, once again, Chairman Johns, Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney General Hafiz Folami here in the matter of settlement of Darius Declouette doing business as The Chocolate Factory, which holds a type 1 video draw poker gaming license.

The settlement addresses the late submission of annual forms and fees that are required to be submitted to the division no later than July 1st of each year. The licensee did not submit the annual forms and fees until November 20th, 2023, which gave rise to a violation of gaming law.

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

This settlement has been signed by the hearing officer and is now before the Board for final approval.

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

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Okay. Any questions for Mr. Folami?  
4 If not, I would entertain a motion to  
5 accept the proposed settlement for Darius  
6 Declouette, doing business as The  
7 Chocolate Factory.

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

10 Is there any discussion? Is there  
11 any opposition to that motion?

12 Hearing none, that motion carries.

13 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOLAMI:

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 So ladies and gentlemen, that  
17 concludes our official business. I would  
18 like to recognize Mr. Chris Hebert from  
19 the Attorney General's Office, Gaming  
20 Division.

21 Mr. Hebert.

22 MR. HEBERT:

23 Thank you, Chairman and Board  
24 Members.

25 I wanted to take the opportunity

1 this morning to publicly celebrate the  
2 career of one of our assistant attorneys  
3 general Mr. Earle Pete. Earle started his  
4 career with our office during Attorney  
5 General Richard Ieyoub's administration,  
6 having worked from August of 1996 to  
7 December of 1997 in the risk and  
8 litigation section of our Lake Charles  
9 satellite office. In that year Earle  
10 handled 29 cases wherein summary judgment  
11 was granted in the state's favor.

12 From January 31st of 2000 to the  
13 present day, Earle has worked in the  
14 gaming division and has worked primarily  
15 in the licensee and compliant section, but  
16 has also assumed additional duties and  
17 responsibilities such as handling our  
18 public records request and rulemaking, as  
19 well as various special projects and  
20 assignments for management.

21 After 25 plus years of faithful  
22 service, Earle will be requiring from the  
23 attorney general's office on February 3rd,  
24 and today marks his final gaming control  
25 board meeting.

1           So on behalf of Attorney General Liz  
2 Murrill and as director of the gaming  
3 division, I would ask that you join me in  
4 congratulating Earl on a very successful  
5 career in service to the citizens of the  
6 State of Louisiana.

7           Thank you, Earle.

8           (Whereupon all applauded at this  
9 time.)

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11           And, Mr. Pete, on behalf of the  
12 gaming control board meeting, we -- we  
13 congratulate you. We thank you for your  
14 27 plus years of service to the state.  
15 You've been incredible to work with and we  
16 wish you the very, very best of luck in  
17 your retirement years.

18           So thank you from the gaming control  
19 board.

20 MR. PETE:

21           Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23           Okay. Members, is there any other  
24 business to come before this Board?

25           If not, unfortunately, Mr. Jackson



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is not here today so we cannot adjourn.

MS. BERRY:

Motion to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Ms. Berry has made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Poole has seconded that motion.

Is there any objection?

Hearing none, that motion carries.

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, for being with us today.

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REPORTER'S PAGE

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

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

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR  
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

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

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