

Transcript of the Testimony of

**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
MEETING 6-20-2024**

June 20, 2024



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STATE OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

JUNE 20, 2024 BOARD MEETING

This Louisiana Gaming Control Board Meeting was taken by Belinda K. Amerson, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, at the Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 1, 900 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on the 20th day of June, 2024.



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APPEARANCES :

CHAIRMAN RONNIE S. JOHNS

MS. HOOD

MS. HERNANDEZ

JULIE G. BERRY

MR. AVANT

MAJOR MCNEILL

FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER

CLAUDE D. JACKSON

JARED CONIGLIO

RONALD J. SHOLES

ASHLEY ANDERSON TRAYLOR

MS. LEWIS

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

I would like to call to order the meeting of the Louisiana Gaming Control Board for Thursday, June the 20th of 2024. And, Ms. Hernandez, would you call the roll, please?

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Go ahead.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

MR. AVANT:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry. I'm sorry.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

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Mr. Jackson.  
MR. JACKSON:  
Here.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
Ms. Lewis.  
MS. LEWIS:  
Here.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
Mr. Poole.  
MR. POOLE:  
(No response.)  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
Ms. Hamilton-Acker.  
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:  
Here.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
Mr. Sholes.  
MR. SHOLES:  
Here.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
Ms. Traylor.  
MS. TRAYLOR:  
Here.  
MS. HERNANDEZ:  
Colonel Hodges.

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MAJOR MCNEILL:

Major McNeill for Colonel Hodges.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Secretary Nelson.

MR. CONIGLIO:

Jared Coniglio here for Secretary Nelson.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. We have a quorum. Ladies and gentlemen, this is the time of our meeting, our agenda for public comments. If there's anyone in the audience that would like to make a public comment on any matter that's actually on our agenda today, this is the time for you to come forward.

Okay. I see none.

We now move into the approval of the minutes. I would ask for a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the May 20th, 2024 meeting.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Ms. Berry has made that motion.

MR. JACKSON:

Second.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Mr. Jackson has seconded that  
3 motion. Is there any discussion?

4 Any opposition to that motion?

5 Hearing none, that motion carries.  
6 Moving into our revenue reports. Ms.  
7 Jackson, good morning.

8 MS. JACKSON:

9 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and board  
10 members. My name is Donna Jackson with  
11 Louisiana State Police Gaming Audit  
12 Section.

13 In May, the 14 operating riverboats  
14 generated adjusted gross receipts of  
15 \$154,713,174. The state collected fees  
16 totalling \$33,263,332. Adjusted gross  
17 receipts for fiscal year '23-'24 to date  
18 are \$1 billion, 577 million (3), a  
19 decrease of \$42 million or 3% from fiscal  
20 year '22-'23.

21 As of May 31st, 2024, the state  
22 collected \$339 million in fees for fiscal  
23 year '23-'24.

24 Page 2 shows the riverboat revenue  
25 broken down by regional market. The

1 overall increase from April was \$16.4  
2 million or 11.8%. Compared to last May,  
3 this month's revenues represent a slight  
4 increase of \$1.3 million or .8%.

5 Next is a summary of the May 2024  
6 gaming activity for Harrah's of New  
7 Orleans found on page 3. Harrah's  
8 generated \$19,979,397 in gross gaming  
9 revenue. These revenues represent a  
10 minimal increase from last month of 3.4%,  
11 but a decrease of \$1.7 million or 8% from  
12 the same month last year.

13 During May, the state received  
14 \$5,520,548 in minimum daily payments.  
15 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal  
16 '23-'24 to date are approximately \$225  
17 million, a decrease of \$15 million or 6%  
18 from fiscal year '22-'23.

19 As of May 31st, 2024 the state  
20 collected \$59.7 million in fees for fiscal  
21 year '23-'24.

22 Next I'll present the revenues for  
23 slots at the Racetrack. During May, the  
24 four racetrack facilities combined  
25 generated adjusted receipts of



1           \$29,051,519, an increase of \$2.4 million  
2           or 9% from the previous month, and an  
3           increase of \$1.3 million or 5% when  
4           compared to the same month last year.

5           During May, the state collected \$4.4  
6           million in fees.

7           Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal  
8           year '23-'24 to date are almost \$290  
9           million, a decrease of \$3.9 million or 1%  
10          for fiscal year '22-'23.

11          As of May 31st, the state has  
12          collected almost \$44 million in fees for  
13          fiscal year '23-'24.

14          I will now move to the video gaming  
15          information. There are 11,959 video  
16          gaming devices activated at 1,392  
17          locations. Net device revenue for May  
18          2024 was \$64,875,732, an increase of \$1.2  
19          million or 2% compared to April 2024, and  
20          a minimal decrease of .4% when compared to  
21          last May. Total franchise fees for May  
22          totaled \$19.6 million.

23          Fiscal year to date Net Device  
24          Revenue was \$689.5 million, a decrease of  
25          \$29 million or 4% when compared to last

1 fiscal year.

2 As of May 31st, 2024, the state has  
3 collected \$290 million in franchise fees  
4 for fiscal year '23-'24.

5 Next I'll present the May revenue  
6 for sportsbook. During May, the retail  
7 sportsbooks accepted \$18.4 million in  
8 sports wagers, resulting in net proceeds  
9 of \$2.3 million and \$245,000 in state  
10 taxes.

11 The mobile sportsbooks accepted \$238  
12 million in sports wagers, resulting in net  
13 proceeds of \$31 million and \$5.5 million  
14 in taxes paid to the state.

15 Finally, for Daily Fantasy Sports,  
16 gross revenues for May were approximately  
17 \$687,000 with net revenue of \$74,000 and  
18 taxes of \$6,000.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 Thank you, Ms. Jackson.

21 Any questions from the board? Any  
22 questions?

23 One item I found interesting on  
24 mobile sports betting in May compared to  
25 April, actually did about \$25 million less

1 than last -- the previous month, I should  
2 say, but the actual taxable revenue was  
3 about the same. So taxes -- the taxes  
4 paid to the state were significant  
5 compared to the amount of actual betting  
6 that transpired during that month. So I  
7 always find those numbers interesting.

8 So, Ms. Jackson, thank you very much  
9 for your work, and I appreciate it.

10 MS. JACKSON:

11 You're welcome.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 We will now move into casino gaming  
14 issues. First is the consideration of a  
15 temporary certificate of compliance for  
16 the alternate riverboat inspection of the  
17 gaming vessel Catfish Queen, LLC doing  
18 business as the Belle of Baton Rouge.

19 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR.:

20 Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
21 board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
22 General Kanick Lewis, Junior; here with me  
23 today is Ms. Moriah Reed.

24 Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

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You're on now.  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR.:  
Thank you, sir.  
Chairman Johns and board members,  
I'm Assistant Attorney General Kanick  
Lewis, Junior; here with me today is Ms.  
Moriah Reed of AVS.

We're here in the matter of the  
issuance of a temporary certificate of  
compliance for the Belle of Baton Rouge  
Casino.

On June 4th, AVS began the  
inspection process for the approval of  
Belle of Baton Rouge Casino's certificate  
of compliance, and Ms. Reed will now  
provide details on AVS's inspection.  
MS. REED:

Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
board members. I'm Moriah Reed, a naval  
architect with American Vessel Services,  
and I'm here to report the annual  
certification for the Belle of Baton Rouge  
Casino.

The AVS inspectors people did on  
March 6th, 2024 attend the riverboat

1 Argacy 3 to conduct the annual inspection  
2 in accordance with the Louisiana Alternate  
3 Inspection Program. In this original  
4 inspection there were deficiencies as  
5 noted on pages 6 through 10 of the annual  
6 inspection report.

7 On May 3rd, a follow-up inspection  
8 was completed and four deficiencies  
9 remained and were outstanding.

10 As a result of these remaining  
11 deficiencies without being completely  
12 satisfied, the property requested an  
13 extension of their COC at the May 20th  
14 meeting, which the board unanimously  
15 approved.

16 Since then, another follow-up  
17 inspection has been completed and three  
18 deficiencies remain and are outstanding.  
19 These are noted on pages 2 and 3 of the  
20 report dated June 4th in your package.

21 As a result of these deficiencies  
22 not being completely satisfied, the  
23 property has requested an extension to  
24 allow sufficient time to complete the  
25 deficiencies. The delay appears to be

1 contractor and material availability as  
2 well as adverse river conditions.

3 AVS has worked with the property to  
4 understand the remaining deficiencies and  
5 we feel that they do not pose a risk to  
6 the safety of the passengers and crew of  
7 the casino vessel.

8 We also feel that the property is  
9 working diligently to correct these  
10 deficiencies, and they have provided an  
11 extra level of safety by implementing a  
12 24/7 fire watch.

13 The 2024 annual survey as required  
14 by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board is  
15 not complete. As such, the property has  
16 requested an extension and this request  
17 letter from the property is included in  
18 your package.

19 It is the recommendation of AVS that  
20 the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino be issued  
21 a temporary certificate of compliance for  
22 July of 2024 to allow additional time to  
23 satisfy the remaining deficiencies.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay.

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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LEWIS, JR.:

We now present these findings to the board and request upon the board accepting the report as submitted by AVS, you will move for the issuance of the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino's temporary certificate of compliance, which will expire on July 31st of 2024.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Ms. Reed, I think the level of the river is that some issues with that also; is that correct?

MS. REED:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

The river is pretty high right now?

MS. REED:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

And the ability to get divers or the conditions of the river to get divers down there is -- is holding some of this up?

MS. REED:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

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Okay.

MS. REED:

It's got to be safe for them to actually get in the water.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Right. I -- just reading the report, I -- I caught that. Someone who used to scuba dive, I can understand what their concerns are.

MS. REED:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Any questions from the board? Any questions from the board for AVS? Okay.

If not, I would entertain a motion to issue a certificate of compliance which will expire on July 31st of 2024.

Ms. Hamilton-Acker has made that motion, and Ms. Lewis has seconded that motion.

Is there any discussion?  
Any opposition to that motion?  
Hearing none, that motion carries.  
Ms. Reed, of course, you know this



1 is my last meeting and so please thank AVS  
2 for the professional work that y'all have  
3 done during my tenure. It's been a  
4 pleasure for me to work with y'all, and  
5 very best of luck to y'all in the future.  
6 MS. REED:

7 Yes, sir, I will. It's been a  
8 pleasure to work with you guys and thank  
9 you for having us.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Okay. Thank you.

12 Okay. We now move into video gaming  
13 issues. First on the agenda will be the  
14 consideration of truck stops applications.

15 First will be Superior Gaming, LLC  
16 doing business as Pelican Cove Casino.

17 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

18 Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
19 board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
20 General Venise Johnson appearing before  
21 you this morning in the matter of the  
22 original application for a type 5 video  
23 draw poker gaming license by Superior  
24 Gaming, LLC doing business as Pelican Cove  
25 Casino.

1           The truck stop facility is located  
2           in Calcasieu Parish. On April 1st, 2024,  
3           the following events took place. The  
4           applicant acquired the business and  
5           business assets of Pilot Corporation,  
6           doing business as Pilot Travel Center, No.  
7           1051 Casino, who previously operated a  
8           video gaming truck stop at this location;  
9           and the applicant leased the immovable  
10          property for the truck stop facility is  
11          located on Pilot Travel Center, LLC.

12           The applicant was previously  
13          approved for a type 6 device owner who is  
14          licensed and owns the video draw poker  
15          gaming devices operated at this truck stop  
16          facility.

17           Investigator Glenn Verrett inspected  
18          the truck stop facility and conducted  
19          suitability investigations of the  
20          associated persons. He is present this  
21          morning to report his findings to the  
22          board.

23          MR. VERRETT:

24           Good morning, Mr. Chairman and board  
25          members. I'm Investigator Glenn Verrett

1 with the gaming enforcement division. I  
2 conducted an updated suitability check on  
3 Hunter Hozan, Gary Brewer and his wife  
4 Donna Brewer, who were all previously  
5 submitted to suitability investigations in  
6 connection with other video poker  
7 licenses.

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

15 The establishment consists of at  
16 least five contiguous acres, specifically  
17 8.635 acres. The applicant is operating  
18 the truck stop facility at a location that  
19 was licensed within the past 36 months and  
20 is not subject to the rule that they must  
21 be one mile from a school, church,  
22 playground, synagogue, public library,  
23 residences and buildings on the National  
24 Historic Registry.

25 I found no information to preclude

1 the issuance of a type 5 video draw poker  
2 gaming license to Superior Gaming, LLC  
3 doing business as Pelican Cove Casino or  
4 to preclude any of the current members or  
5 their spouses from continuing to  
6 participate in the gaming industry.

7 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

8 The office of the attorney general  
9 has reviewed the file prepared by  
10 Louisiana State Police Gaming Enforcement  
11 Division, and the information contained  
12 therein would not preclude the issuance of  
13 a type 5 video draw poker gaming license  
14 to Superior Gaming, LLC doing business as  
15 Pelican Cove Casino.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Okay. I'm familiar with this  
18 location. It's in Calcasieu Parish, if  
19 I'm not mistaken. And I believe at one  
20 time there was a video poker operation  
21 there, correct?

22 MR. VERRETT:

23 Yes, sir. Pilot Travel Centers.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay. I'm familiar with it. Okay.

1 Any questions from the board members on  
2 this application?

3 Okay. If not, I would entertain a  
4 motion to issue a certificate of  
5 compliance -- no, excuse me -- to approve  
6 the truck stop application of Superior  
7 Gaming, LLC doing business as Pelican Cove  
8 Casino.

9 And Ms. Traylor has made that  
10 motion, and Ms. Lewis has seconded that  
11 motion.

12 And is there any discussion?

13 Is there any opposition to that  
14 motion?

15 Hearing none, that motion carries.  
16 The application is hereby approved.

17 MR. VERRETT:

18 Thank you.

19 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Next on the agenda will be Pilot  
23 Corporation Tennessee doing business as  
24 Pilot Travel Center No. 1105.

25 Good morning.

1 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SIZEMORE:

2 Good morning.

3 Good morning, Chairman Johns,  
4 members of the board. I'm Shanna  
5 Sizemore, Assistant Attorney General  
6 present before the board in the matter of  
7 the original application of Pilot  
8 Corporation Tennessee doing business as  
9 Pilot Travel Center No. 1105 applying for  
10 approval of a type 5 video draw poker  
11 gaming license.

12 The truck stop is located in  
13 St. Landry Parish. Pilot Travel Centers,  
14 LLC purchased the immovable property where  
15 Morel G. Lemoine Distributors, Inc. Doing  
16 business as Video Joker II Casino  
17 previously operated a video gaming truck  
18 stop.

19 The applicant leased the immovable  
20 property where the truck stop facility is  
21 located from Pilot Travel Centers, LLC.  
22 The applicant submitted its application  
23 for a type 5 truck stop video draw poker  
24 gaming license to Louisiana State Police,  
25 Gaming Enforcement Division. The Video

1 Draw Poker Device Placement Agreement is  
2 with Superior Gaming, LLC.

3 Investigator Glenn Verrett with the  
4 Louisiana State Police has inspected the  
5 truck stop facility and conducted  
6 suitability investigations of the  
7 associated persons, and he's present this  
8 morning to report his findings to the  
9 board.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Good morning.

12 MR. VERRETT:

13 Good morning, again, Mr. Chairman  
14 and board members. I'm Investigator Glenn  
15 Verrett with the gaming enforcement  
16 division. I conducted suitability  
17 investigations and updated background  
18 checks on all relevant persons associated  
19 with the application.

20 An all-site investigation was  
21 conducted, and it was determined that the  
22 establishment meets all criteria set forth  
23 in the video gaming laws as a qualified  
24 truck stop facility.

25 All required licenses and permits

1 were posted and valid at the time of  
2 inspection.

3 The establishment consists of seven  
4 contiguous acres.

5 The location is not subject to the  
6 rule that it must be one mile from a  
7 school, church, playground, synagogue,  
8 public library, residences and buildings  
9 on the National Historic Registry because  
10 Morel G. Lemoine Distributors, Inc.  
11 Operated a truck stop facility at this  
12 location within 36 months of the applicant  
13 submitting this application.

14 I found no information to preclude  
15 the issuance of a type 5 video draw poker  
16 gaming license to Pilot Corporation  
17 Tennessee doing business as Pilot Travel  
18 Center No. 1105 or to preclude the  
19 associated persons from participating in  
20 the gaming industry.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Okay. Total compliance then. Okay.  
23 Thank you.

24 Any questions, members? Any  
25 questions?



1           Okay. If not, I would entertain a  
2 motion to approve the truck stop  
3 application for Pilot Corporation  
4 Tennessee doing business as Pilot Travel  
5 Center No. 1105.

6           And Ms. Berry has made that motion,  
7 Mr. Avant has seconded that motion.

8           Is there any discussion on the  
9 motion?

10          Is there any opposition to the  
11 motion?

12          Hearing none, that motion carries.

13          Okay. And one more. We have the  
14 consideration of the transfer of  
15 partnership interest for Plantation Truck  
16 Plaza & Casino doing business as  
17 Plantation Truck Stop Plaza & Casino.

18          Okay.

19          ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

20                Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
21 board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
22 General Quintele Jackson here on behalf of  
23 the division in the matter pertaining to  
24 the transfer of the partnership interest  
25 in Plantation Truck Stop -- I'm sorry,

1           Plantation Truck Plaza & Casino, LLC doing  
2           business as Plantation Truck Plaza &  
3           Casino.

4                     It's a type 5 video gaming license  
5           and with me is Investigator Glenn Verrett  
6           with the Louisiana State Police.

7                     Now on March 22nd, 2024, Ms. Janice  
8           M. Penn transferred her 25 percent  
9           interest in the licensee to Plantation,  
10          LLC. Penn Plantation, LLC has two  
11          members, Mr. Claude M. Penn, Jr. and Ms.  
12          Janice M. Penn with each having a 50  
13          percent membership interest.

14                    Investigator Verrett conducted an  
15          investigation into the transfer of this  
16          interest, and he would now provide his  
17          report to the board.

18          MR. VERRETT:

19                    Good morning, again, Mr. Chairman  
20          and board members. I'm Investigator Glenn  
21          Verrett with the gaming enforcement  
22          division.

23                    I investigated the transfer of  
24          partnership interest in the licensee,  
25          conducted updated suitability checks and

1 found no information that would preclude  
2 the licensee or his partners from  
3 continuing to participate in the Louisiana  
4 Gaming Industry.

5 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

6 The office of the attorney general  
7 has reviewed the file compiled by state  
8 police and the gaming enforcement  
9 division, and our review indicated that no  
10 information was discovered which would  
11 preclude this transfer.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 And this is located in Houma, I  
14 think; am I correct?

15 MR. VERRETT:

16 Yes, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Okay. I thought so. Okay. I have  
19 no questions.

20 Any questions from the board  
21 members? Any questions?

22 If not, I would entertain a motion  
23 to approve the truck stop application for  
24 Plantation Truck Plaza Casino, LLC doing  
25 business as Plantation Truck Plaza &

1 Casino. Do I have a motion?

2 Judge Sholes has made motion. Ms.  
3 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.  
4 Is there any discussion on the motion?

5 Is there any opposition?

6 Hearing none, that motion carries;  
7 hereby approved.

8 Okay. Next on the agenda will be  
9 the fantasy sports issues.

10 First, we'll have the consideration  
11 of the renewal application of DK Crown  
12 Holdings, Incorporated doing business as  
13 DraftKings Sports Contest Operator  
14 License.

15 Good morning.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

17 Good morning, once again, Chairman  
18 Johns and board members. I'm Assistant  
19 Attorney General Quintele Jackson here on  
20 behalf of the division in this matter  
21 pertaining to DK Crown Holdings, Inc.  
22 doing business as DraftKings. With me is  
23 Ms. Donna Jackson with Louisiana State  
24 Police, Gaming Audit Division and  
25 Investigator Kevin Bidy with the Gaming

1 Enforcement Division.

2 And we are here in the matter of the  
3 consideration for the Fantasy Sports  
4 Contest Operator Renewal Application of DK  
5 Crown Holdings, Inc. doing business as  
6 DraftKings.

7 Now pursuant to Louisiana Revised  
8 Statute 27:301, the board is the sole  
9 regulator of paid Fantasy Sports Contest  
10 in Louisiana and is charged with issuing  
11 or denying applications.

12 Fantasy sports contest operator  
13 licenses are issued for a three-year term,  
14 and this license is set to expire on July  
15 15th of this year.

16 At this time the state police will  
17 now provide his report to the board.

18 MS. JACKSON:

19 Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
20 board members. My name is Donna Jackson  
21 with Louisiana State Police, Gaming Audit  
22 Section.

23 DK Crown Holdings, Incorporated  
24 doing business as DraftKings is wholly  
25 owned by its ultimate parent company

1 DraftKings, Incorporated. DraftKings is  
2 one of two fantasy sports contests  
3 licensees currently operating in  
4 Louisiana. Fantasy Sports revenue  
5 generated from contest entry fees from  
6 users, net of prizes, and customer  
7 incentives awarded to users.

8 In addition to Fantasy Sports,  
9 DraftKings, Inc. is licensed to provide  
10 online sports betting product offerings in  
11 Louisiana and 24 other states. They also  
12 operate iGaming or online casino in seven  
13 jurisdictions.

14 DraftKings, Inc. has experienced  
15 operating losses and negative operating  
16 cash flows for the past three years --  
17 calendar years. While certain areas of  
18 their operation may experience improved  
19 cash flow, DraftKings, Inc. expects to  
20 continue to incur operating losses and  
21 negative operating cash flows for the next  
22 12 months.

23 The Audit Section feels there is  
24 minimal risk to the State of Louisiana or  
25 DraftKings' players if DraftKings does not

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

6                   In conclusion, no financial issues  
7           came to our attention to preclude the  
8           board from approving the renewal of  
9           DraftKings Fantasy Sports Contest license  
10          for a period of three years, effective  
11          July 15, 2024. Licensing will now present  
12          their findings to the board.

13          MR. BIDDY:

14                   Good morning, Chairman Johns,  
15          members of the board.

16          CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17                   Pull your microphone for the record.

18          MR. BIDDY:

19                   I am Master Trooper Kevin Biddy with  
20          the Louisiana State Police Gaming  
21          Enforcement Division.

22                   On April 1st, 2024, DK Crown  
23          Holdings, Inc. doing business as  
24          DraftKings, formally known as DraftKings,  
25          Inc., a Delaware Corporation submitted a

1 Fantasy Sports Contest Operator Renewal  
2 Application.

3 Additionally, the applicant and its  
4 shareholders submitted a level 1  
5 suitability application. The applicant is  
6 owned by DraftKings, Inc., a Nevada  
7 corporation, a publicly traded company.

8 In accordance with Louisiana rules  
9 and regulations, a background  
10 investigation was conducted on DraftKings,  
11 Inc., Nevada. The applicant, its  
12 shareholders, officers, directors, and  
13 persons with 5 percent or more of  
14 ownership or economic interest in the  
15 applicant.

16 The background investigation  
17 consisted of inquiries to federal, state  
18 and local law enforcement agencies, civil  
19 jurisdiction, gaming regulatory agencies  
20 and the Louisiana Department of Revenue.  
21 Inquiries were also made into the  
22 computerized criminal history system.

23 I found no information that would  
24 preclude them from participating in the  
25 Louisiana gaming industry.



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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

If it is the board's pleasure to approve the renewal application of DK Crown Holdings doing business as DraftKings, a resolution has been prepared for the board's adoption and signature.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you.

Any questions? Any questions? Hearing none, is there representation from DraftKings today with us?

ATTORNEY ASSISTANT GENERAL JACKSON:

Yes, Mr. Barbin is present in the audience.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Mr. Barbin, I've got a quick question. Not a bad question, Mr. Barbin.

MR. BARBIN:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and board members. I'm Jeff Barbin representing DraftKings this morning.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Thank you, Mr. Barbin. You know, I'm looking at the numbers that fantasy sports is doing, and it continues to

1 decrease here in Louisiana.

2 Would you happen to know, is that a  
3 national trend or --

4 MR. BARBIN:

5 I think so. I think with the  
6 proliferation of sports betting, legalized  
7 sports betting in Louisiana, it's a  
8 product that is, you know, not quite as  
9 exciting, I suppose, as sports wagers. So  
10 when sports wagers becomes legalized, then  
11 the daily fantasy seems to sort of fall  
12 off.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Right.

15 MR. BARBIN:

16 In locations where sports wagers is  
17 not authorized, obviously, daily fantasy  
18 sports is more popular.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 I was just curious if -- if their,  
21 you know, model is sustainable -- you know  
22 if their business model is sustainable in  
23 all of the, what, 38, 39 states now that  
24 have sports wagers. I was just curious  
25 more than anything.

1 MR. BARBIN:

2 I've asked the same question and --  
3 and in daily fantasy is where this company  
4 started and it's sort of their baby, if  
5 you will.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Right.

8 MR. BARBIN:

9 And, you know, they want to keep it  
10 as long as they can keep it, and for the  
11 players that did enjoy playing it, they  
12 want to -- they want to have that product  
13 available.

14 So it's a lot of work for the  
15 regulators, and I appreciate all of the  
16 support that Mr. Jackson and the  
17 regulatory team put into it. They've got  
18 to do just as much work for this operator  
19 than they do for the -- the highest  
20 operating, you know, casino in the state.  
21 So it's a lot of work for the regulators,  
22 but the -- you know, DraftKings would like  
23 to continue to hold that license here.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 That's what we're here for.

1                   So any questions for Mr. Barbin?

2                   Any questions for Mr. Barbin?

3                   You got off light today, Mr. Barbin.

4                   MR. BARBIN:

5                   Thank you very much.

6                   CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7                   Okay. Members, this will take a  
8                   resolution to approve. I would need a  
9                   motion to adopt the resolution that will  
10                  be read for the consideration of renewal  
11                  application of DK crown Holdings,  
12                  Incorporated doing business as DraftKings  
13                  Sports Contest Operator License.

14                  MR. SHOLES:

15                  So moved.

16                  CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17                  Judge Sholes has moved in that we  
18                  will adopt the resolution.

19                  MS. BERRY:

20                  Second.

21                  CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22                  Ms. Berry has seconded that motion.

23                  And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read  
24                  the resolution, please?

25                  MS. HERNANDEZ:

1           On the 20th day of June 2024, the  
2           Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in a  
3           duly noticed public meeting, consider the  
4           license renewal application of DK Crown  
5           Holdings, Inc., and upon motion duly made  
6           and seconded, the Board adopted this  
7           resolution.

8           Be it resolved that the license to  
9           conduct fantasy sports contests issued to  
10          DK Crown Holdings, Inc. be renewed for a  
11          term of three years commencing July 15th,  
12          2024.

13          This done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
14          Louisiana, the 20th day of June 2024.

15          CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16          Okay. So we have a motion by Mr.  
17          Sholes; seconded by Ms. Berry that we  
18          adopt this resolution.

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

21          MS. HERNANDEZ:

22                  Mr. Avant.

23          MR. AVANT:

24                  Yes.

25          MS. HERNANDEZ:

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

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

By unanimous vote, this resolution is hereby adopted.

Ms. Hernandez, this may be the shortest resolution you'll ever have. Some of them are long.

Okay. Next on the agenda sports wagering issues. Consideration of Sports Wagering Platform Provider Permit application of Hillside Louisiana, LLC doing business as Bet 365.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

Good morning, Chairman Johns and board members. Assistant Attorney General Talibah McIntyre appearing with Ms. Tammy Haupt with the Louisiana State Police Gaming Audit Section and Trooper Michael Daniel of the Gaming Enforcement Division. Representatives of the applicant are also present.

We're here in the matter of the consideration of the sports wagering platform provider permit application of Hillside Louisiana, LLC doing business as

1 Bet 365. Pursuant to the Louisiana Sports  
2 Wagering Act, the board is charged with  
3 issuing or denying applications for sports  
4 wagering platform provider permits.

5 The board issued a temporary  
6 certificate of authority to the applicant  
7 to conduct business as a sports wagering  
8 platform provider with an effective date  
9 of October 25th, 2023. The TCLA was set  
10 to expire on April 25th, 2024; however,  
11 after a request was made by the applicant  
12 for an extension of time, the expiration  
13 of the TCLA was extended for 90 days  
14 beginning April 25th, 2024. The TCLA  
15 expires on July 24th, 2024.

16 Louisiana State Police Gaming  
17 Division has reviewed and investigated the  
18 application and will now report its  
19 findings to the board.

20 MS. HAUPT:

21 Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
22 board members. My name is Tammy Haupt  
23 with Louisiana State Police's Gaming Audit  
24 Section.

25 The audit section has reviewed the



1 financial information submitted by Bet 365  
2 as well as its direct and indirect parent  
3 companies. Hillside (US New Media), LLC  
4 referred to as Bet 365 US, is a direct  
5 parent of Bet 365. In January of 2022,  
6 Bet 365 US gained access to the Louisiana  
7 market when it entered into an Online  
8 Market Access Agreement with Amelia Belle  
9 Casino.

10 Bet 365 launched its mobile sports  
11 bet -- sportsbook in Louisiana on November  
12 21st, 2023. Since entering the US sports  
13 wagering market in 2019, Bet 365 US has  
14 expanded its North American mobile sports  
15 wagering operations.

16 The Bet 365 mobile sports wagering  
17 platform is currently live in ten US  
18 states and Ontario, Canada. The company  
19 has several other market access agreements  
20 in place for further expansion in the US.

21 Hillside (New Media Holdings US),  
22 Incorporated, referred to as Hillside  
23 Holdings US, is the indirect parent of Bet  
24 365. As of March 26th, 2023, Hillside  
25 Holdings US reported an accumulated

1 deficit of \$156.7 million and reported a  
2 loss -- net loss of \$96.6 million for the  
3 fiscal year end.

4 Hillside Holdings US has sustained  
5 continued losses and has utilized cash in  
6 operations since inception, and expects to  
7 incur further -- future additional losses.

8 Although Hillside Holdings US is a  
9 holding company and would not expect to  
10 achieve profitability, a representative  
11 stated it expects that Bet 365 to achieve  
12 or be near profitability at the end of its  
13 current financial year, which is March of  
14 2025.

15 Bet 365 Group, the ultimate parent,  
16 stated that they are committed to  
17 long-term operations, not just in  
18 Louisiana, but in all other US  
19 jurisdictions. Bet 365 Group maintains a  
20 strong cash position with positive cash  
21 flow and working capital. As of March  
22 26th, 2023, Bet 365 Group had no debt  
23 issued or executed. The company reported  
24 cash and current asset investments held  
25 for future trading purposes, totalling

1 approximately \$3.6 billion, with over \$4.5  
2 billion in total assets.

3 In the nine-month period following  
4 the March 26th, 2023 fiscal year end, Bet  
5 365 Group provided approximately \$30  
6 million to Hillside Holdings US according  
7 to the 2023 consolidated financial  
8 statement notes.

9 The audit section feels there is  
10 minimal risk to the State of Louisiana or  
11 Bet 365's players if Bet 365 does not  
12 achieve the projected profitability, since  
13 they are not investing in a  
14 brick-and-mortar facility and the players  
15 cash is maintained separately from its  
16 operating cash balances.

17 In conclusion, based on the  
18 information reviewed by the audit section,  
19 Bet 365 possesses the financial backing of  
20 Bet 365 Group and its affiliated entities  
21 to support its Louisiana sports wagering  
22 operations until adequate cash flow is  
23 achieved to support the operations.

24 No financial issues, other than its  
25 negative operating profits previously

1 mentioned, came to the audit section's  
2 attention that would preclude the board  
3 from approving the issuance of a sports  
4 wagering platform provider permit to Bet  
5 365 for a period of five years.

6 Licensing will now present their  
7 findings.

8 MASTER TROOPER DANIEL:

9 Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
10 members of the board. I'm Master Trooper  
11 Michael Daniel with the Louisiana State  
12 Police. On September 7th, 2022, Hillside  
13 Louisiana, LLC doing business as Bet 365  
14 submitted a sports wagering platform  
15 provider application. Bet 365 applied for  
16 a permit to provide online market access  
17 sports wagering operation on behalf of  
18 Belle of Orleans, LLC doing business as  
19 the Amelia Belle Casino.

20 Under the rules and regulations of  
21 the Gaming Enforcement Division, a  
22 background investigation was conducted on  
23 Bet 365, its shareholders, subsidiaries,  
24 officers, directors and persons with 5  
25 percent or more ownership or economic

1 interest in the permit to determine if any  
2 information would deem Bet 365 unsuitable.

3 The background investigation  
4 consisted of inquires to federal, state  
5 and local law enforcement agencies, civil  
6 jurisdictions, gaming regulatory agencies  
7 and the Louisiana Department of Revenue.  
8 Inquires were also made through a  
9 computerized criminal history database.

10 Based on the investigation, no  
11 information was found that would preclude  
12 the board from approving Bet 365's sports  
13 wagering platform provider permit.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Okay. So all criteria has been met.  
16 I'm sorry. Did I interrupt you?

17 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

18 Go ahead.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 All criteria has been met and no  
21 major concerns.

22 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

23 If it's the board's pleasure to  
24 approve the sports wagering platform  
25 provider permit application of Hillside

1 Louisiana, LLC doing business as Bet 365,  
2 a resolution has been prepared for the  
3 board's adoption and signature.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry to  
6 interrupt you. I'll know better.

7 No major concerns then. Okay.

8 So again, this will take a  
9 resolution to approve. I would need a  
10 motion to adopt the resolution that will  
11 be read.

12 Mr. Avant has made that motion. Ms.  
13 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.  
14 And, Ms. Hernandez, would you read the  
15 resolution, please?

16 MS. HERNANDEZ:

17 On the 20th day of June 2024, the  
18 Louisiana Gaming Control Board did, in a  
19 duly noticed public meeting, consider the  
20 sports wagering platform provider permit  
21 application and the comprehensive  
22 compulsive and problem gambling program of  
23 Hillside, LLC doing business as Bet 365,  
24 and upon motion duly made and seconded,  
25 the board adopted this resolution.

1 Be it resolved that Hillside, LLC  
2 doing business as Bet 365 be approved for  
3 a sports wagering platform provider permit  
4 for a term of five years commencing  
5 October 25th, 2023.

6 Be it resolved that the  
7 comprehensive compulsive and problem  
8 gambling program submitted by Hillside,  
9 LLC doing business as Bet 365 is hereby  
10 approved.

11 Done and signed in Baton Rouge,  
12 Louisiana this 20th day of June of 2024.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Okay. We have a motion by Mr.  
15 Avant; seconded by Ms. Hamilton-Acker that  
16 this resolution be approved.

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

19 MS. HERNANDEZ:

20 Mr. Avant.

21 MR. AVANT:

22 Yes.

23 MS. HERNANDEZ:

24 Ms. Berry.

25 MS. BERRY:

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



1           So by unanimous vote, the permit  
2           application for Hillside Louisiana, LLC  
3           doing business as Bet 365 is hereby  
4           approved.

5           Thank you very much, Ms. Hernandez.  
6           MS. HERNANDEZ:

7           Thank you.

8           CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9           Okay. Ladies and gentlemen and  
10          thank you, Trooper.

11          Okay. Members, we have four  
12          settlements that -- proposed settlements  
13          that are before us today. The first one  
14          will be Abbey Bar, Incorporated doing  
15          business as Abbey.

16          ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

17          Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
18          board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
19          General Venise Johnson here in the matter  
20          of Abbey Bar, Inc. doing business as  
21          Abbey, which holds a type 1 video draw  
22          poker gaming license. This settlement  
23          addresses the last submission of annual  
24          forms and fees that are required to be  
25          submitted to the division no later than

1 July 31st of each year.

2 The licensee did not submit the  
3 annual forms and fees until April 8th of  
4 2024, which gave rise to a violation of  
5 gaming law. The civil penalty contained  
6 in the settlement is \$750, which is an  
7 amount that is well established for  
8 violations of this type.

9 The settlement has been signed by  
10 the hearing officer and is now before the  
11 board for final approval.

12 I would be happy to answer any  
13 questions that you all may have.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Any questions for Ms. Johnson? Any  
17 questions?

18 Okay. Members, this is a failure to  
19 timely submit annual fees and documents,  
20 \$750 fine. I would ask for a motion to  
21 approve this settlement.

22 MR. SHOLES:

23 So moved.

24 MS. LEWIS:

25 Second.

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Judge Sholes has moved that we approve this settlement. Ms. Lewis has seconded that motion.

Is there any discussion?

Is there any opposition to the motion?

Hearing no opposition, this settlement is hereby approved.

Thank you very much.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. 1239 Loop Properties, LLC doing business as Eagles Truck Stop.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

I promise this is the last time you're going to hear from me this morning.

Good morning, once again, Chairman Johns and board members. I'm Assistant Attorney General Quintele Jackson.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Mr. Jackson, pull that microphone down just a little bit. Thank you.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

1 I'm here on behalf of the division  
2 in this matter involving 1239 Loop  
3 Properties, LLC doing business as Eagles  
4 Truck Stop. This licensee holds a type 5  
5 video poker gaming license, and currently  
6 before the board is the proposed  
7 settlement between the licensee and the  
8 division.

9 This settlement addresses the  
10 licensee's violation of the gaming law.  
11 Now, on October 25th, 2022, the division  
12 conducted a video gaming compliance  
13 inspection of the licensee and discovered  
14 several deficiencies at the licensee's  
15 truck stop facility and its parking lot.

16 The deficiencies included several  
17 large potholes throughout the parking lot  
18 and the travel lanes, and additionally,  
19 the licensee's parking lot could not  
20 accommodate the required minimum 50  
21 parking spaces for 18-wheeler  
22 tractor-trailer motor vehicles, as well as  
23 the signage issues relating to the ingress  
24 and egress into the truck stop areas.

25 The licensee was given 60 days to

1 remedy these deficiencies and failed to do  
2 so. The division then conducted multiple  
3 follow-up inspections of the licensee's  
4 establishment, and these inspections  
5 revealed that several deficiencies  
6 remained outstanding.

7 Due to the violations and the  
8 licensee's failure to remedy these  
9 deficiencies, a revocation hearing was set  
10 in this matter. On April 7th of 2024, the  
11 division conducted a follow-up inspection  
12 of the licensee. This inspection revealed  
13 that all of the remaining deficiencies  
14 regarding the parking lot as well as the  
15 travel lanes had been remedied, and that  
16 the licensee was in compliance with  
17 Louisiana gaming law.

18 Therefore, the division converted  
19 this action from revocation to an  
20 administrative action. In lieu of an  
21 administrative hearing, the licensee and  
22 the division agreed to settle this matter  
23 for \$20,000.

24 Given the length of time the  
25 licensee was out of compliance, the number

1 of violations regarding the licensee  
2 parking lot and travel lanes, the amount  
3 was agreed to by -- excuse me, this amount  
4 was agreed to by both parties.

5 The hearing officer has signed the  
6 settlement, and it's now before the board  
7 for final approval. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9 Any questions for Mr. Jackson?

10 MS. BERRY:

11 So am I understanding it took them  
12 two years to --

13 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

14 Essentially two years, yes, ma'am.

15 MS. BERRY:

16 Wow. Okay. So that's where the  
17 \$20,000 came from?

18 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

19 Correct.

20 MS. BERRY:

21 But now all of the potholes and all  
22 of that have been filled?

23 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

24 Yes, ma'am.

25 MS. BERRY:

1                   And did they increase the number of  
2                   parking spaces to 50 also?

3                   ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

4                   Yes, they have increased the parking  
5                   lot to the number of minimal spaces. The  
6                   potholes have been filled as well as the  
7                   travel lanes and directional arrows have  
8                   been paved on the parking lot and the  
9                   directional arrows for indicating coming  
10                  into and exiting the truck stop facility  
11                  have been placed.

12                  MS. BERRY:

13                  Okay. So how often do y'all go in  
14                  to check on like the potholes and things  
15                  like that at the truck stops?

16                  ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

17                  That would be --

18                  MS. BERRY:

19                  The state police?

20                  ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JACKSON:

21                  The state police question.

22                  CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23                  Trooper Verrett.

24                  MR. VERRETT:

25                  Good morning, Mr. Chairman and board

1 member, Investigator Glenn Verrett with  
2 the gaming enforcement division.

3 We check each place at least once a  
4 year. If we see other -- if we violations  
5 that require follow up, we'll conduct them  
6 as needed.

7 This particular place since it was  
8 up north, we checked it; and then we had  
9 to go up -- every time we go up and work  
10 in that area, we'll swing in and check  
11 that place and inspect it again to see if  
12 there was progress and everything else.

13 Approximately two weeks ago we were  
14 going to Shreveport and we went in again  
15 and they're still in compliance.

16 MS. BERRY:

17 Okay. Good. Thank you for the  
18 information.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 Thank you, Trooper Verrett.

21 MASTER TROOPER VERRETT:

22 Okay.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Members, ever since I've been  
25 chairman this is the largest fine of



1 settlement for a video poker truck stop,  
2 but this has been going on a long time.  
3 Actually, I signed off on a revocation of  
4 a hearing for their license. So they came  
5 very close to losing their license. But I  
6 -- I think that that maybe got their  
7 attention. Everything is in compliance  
8 now, and -- and I feel bad about the  
9 \$20,000 fine, but it is what it is.

10 So any questions? Any questions?

11 MR. JACKSON:

12 Move to approve.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Mr. Jackson has moved that we  
15 approve the settlement of 1239 Loop  
16 Properties, LLC doing business as Eagles  
17 Truck Stop. Can I get a second on the  
18 motion?

19 MS. TRAYLOR:

20 Second.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Ms. Traylor has seconded that  
23 motion.

24 And is there any discussion on the  
25 motion?

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Any opposition to that motion?  
Hearing none, that settlement is hereby  
approved.

Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. VERRETT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Okay. Moving on to Connie Maries,  
Incorporated doing business as Mama's  
Fried Chicken.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Good morning, Chairman Johns and  
board members. I'm Assistant Attorney  
General Venise Johnson here in the matter  
of the settlement of Connie Maries, Inc.  
doing business as Mama's Fried Chicken,  
which holds a type 2 video poker gaming  
license. This settlement addresses  
several violations of Louisiana Gaming  
Control laws by the licensee.

First, the licensee failed to notify  
the Louisiana State Police Gaming  
Enforcement Division within ten calendar  
days of the death of the licensee's owner,  
which resulted in a transfer of ownership

1 interest to his four children.

2 Additionally, the licensee operated  
3 its establishment from August 1st, 2021  
4 through July 6th, 2023 without a valid ATC  
5 permit.

6 Finally, the licensee failed to  
7 notify the division within ten calendar  
8 days of an additional transfer of  
9 ownership.

10 In lieu of an administrative action,  
11 both the division and the licensee agreed  
12 to enter into a settlement. The civil  
13 penalty contained in the settlement is  
14 \$14,000.

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 at this time.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Any questions? Any questions?

22 Multiple violations, in my eyes, the  
23 biggest one is not having a valid --

24 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

25 ATC --

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CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

-- ATC license for a two-year period. So ladies and gentlemen, I live in Lafayette now, and this is -- this operation is in Opelousas, I think. I hear that their fried chicken is really, really, really, good.

Have you heard that, Ms. Hamilton-Acker?

Yeah, I've heard it. Anyway, I'm glad they agreed to the settlement.

I would entertain a motion that we approve the settlement of \$14,000 for Connie Maries, Incorporated doing business as Mama's Fried Chicken.

So do I have a motion?

Ms. Traylor has made that motion. Do I have a second?

MS. BERRY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Ms. Berry has seconded that motion. Is there any discussion on that motion? Any opposition?

That settlement is hereby approved.

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ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

So a lot of fried chicken to make up for that, huh.

Okay. Last on the agenda is the Internet Mel, Incorporated doing business as Melba Internet Cafe.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MCINTYRE:

Good morning, Chairman Johns and board members. Assistant Attorney General Talibah McIntyre here in the matter of the settlement of the Internet Mel, LLC doing business as Melbas Internet Cafe, which holds a type 2 video draw poker gaming license. This 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 fee until November 30th, 2023, which gave rise to a violation of gaming law. The civil penalty contained in this settlement is \$750, which is an

1 amount that is well settled and  
2 established for a violation of this type.

3 The settlement has been signed by  
4 the hearing office and is now before the  
5 board for final approval.

6 I'd be happy to answer any questions  
7 you may have at this time.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9 Okay. Any questions?

10 So we have a \$750 fine, failure to  
11 timely submit annual forms and fees. I  
12 would entertain a motion that we accept  
13 this settlement -- approve this  
14 settlement.

15 Judge Sholes has made that motion.

16 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

17 Second.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Ms. Hamilton-Acker has seconded that  
20 motion.

21 Is there any discussion?

22 Is there any opposition to that  
23 motion?

24 Hearing none, that motion is -- that  
25 settlement is hereby approved.

1           So ladies and gentlemen, that brings  
2           us to the end of our agenda, but we're  
3           going to be here just a little bit longer,  
4           if you'll bear with the chairman.

5           First of all, I want to recognize  
6           three of our board members whose terms are  
7           expiring July the 1st. Ms. Berry, Vice  
8           Chairman Julie Berry has served two terms  
9           on the board and by state law is not  
10          eligible for reappointment; but, Ms.  
11          Berry, I -- I was actually involved in  
12          your appointment, if you remember, many  
13          years ago when I was in the state senate  
14          and from the Calcasieu southwest Louisiana  
15          delegation, we -- we asked the governor to  
16          appoint Ms. Berry to this position and I  
17          will tell you it's probably one of the  
18          best decisions that I ever made. I can't  
19          thank you enough for your service. You've  
20          been an incredible board member, here all  
21          of the time, very active. And so I just  
22          want to thank you publicly --

23          MS. BERRY:

24                   Thank you, Chairman.

25          CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1                   -- for all of your work, your  
2                   dedication, your sacrifices that you've  
3                   made and want to wish you luck in the  
4                   future.

5                   Any comments you want to make.

6                   MS. BERRY:

7                   I'd just like to thank everybody  
8                   that I've ever worked with on the board  
9                   that -- the attorney general's office, the  
10                  state police, the department of revenue  
11                  and all of the board members present,  
12                  past, the ones -- the chairmen in the  
13                  past that I've worked with, I think you're  
14                  my third chairman that I've worked with  
15                  over the years. And I feel like I'm  
16                  leaving a little early because I had three  
17                  years left, but I understand what the law  
18                  says, so our job is to follow the law.

19                  And thank you to all of the casinos.  
20                  I've really enjoyed everything I've  
21                  learned and seen about the board and  
22                  everybody I've met throughout this  
23                  process, and I feel like I'm losing family  
24                  members. But who knows, maybe we'll see  
25                  you in the future. Thank you very much



1 for everything.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Thank you very much.

4 So three years ago I met Harry Avant  
5 and Julie Lewis, who I'd never met before  
6 in my life, and their terms come up on  
7 July the 1st. However, they could  
8 possibly be reappointed. That will be up  
9 to Governor Landry whether he does that or  
10 not. But I just want to let you know how  
11 much I've enjoyed working with the two of  
12 you, and I appreciate the hard work and  
13 your involvement being here all of the  
14 time making a lot of efforts.

15 I know especially, Mr. Avant, you  
16 had some medical issues and you just -- it  
17 amazed me that you showed up so many times  
18 when I didn't think you'd actually be  
19 here, so --

20 And, Ms. Lewis, thank you for your  
21 service as state police and then on this  
22 board. I'm hoping that the governor will  
23 reappoint you because the board could  
24 surely use your knowledge and your  
25 expertise.

1                   So thank you both.

2                   Any comments from either one of you  
3                   at this time? Ms. Lewis?

4                   MS. LEWIS:

5                   Yeah, I would like to thank you, Mr.  
6                   Chairman, for everything you've done for  
7                   the board, for the state. We just can't  
8                   thank you enough. And happy for your  
9                   retirement. It's well overdue. You enjoy  
10                  it.

11                  CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12                  Thank you very much. I appreciate  
13                  it.

14                  Mr. Avant.

15                  MR. AVANT:

16                  Chairman, happy trails to you.  
17                  Happy trails to you in everything you do.

18                  CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19                  Thank you.

20                  MR. AVANT:

21                  Stay safe and enjoy.

22                  But I tell you, the -- you and the  
23                  staff are amazing. The attorney general  
24                  and state police, you make this job -- you  
25                  make it so simple and you do your work and

1 I appreciate that.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Thank you, Mr. Avant, I appreciate  
4 that.

5 So, ladies and gentlemen, with this  
6 being my last minute -- my last meeting,  
7 excuse me, I'm going to ask that you bear  
8 with me for a few minutes because I've got  
9 a lot of people to thank and a lot -- a  
10 lot to say.

11 On July the 20th of 2021, I was a  
12 Louisiana state senator. I was serving in  
13 my 10th year or my third term, the 22nd  
14 year of my legislative career. The very  
15 next day, July the 21st, I was chairman of  
16 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board.

17 There's a billboard on the road  
18 today that you'll see and it basically  
19 says, if you know, you know. Well, the  
20 fact is I didn't know what I thought I  
21 knew. Going from being a policy maker to  
22 a regulator is much more difficult than I  
23 ever thought. I realized then that the  
24 legislature tells government agencies what  
25 they want done. They just don't tell them

1           how to do it, and that's where the  
2           difficult -- the difficulty of this job  
3           comes in.

4           It was a challenging time. The  
5           legislature had just approved the final  
6           version of sports betting. The 2018  
7           legislation that allowed the old legacy  
8           riverboats to become land based was just  
9           taking its stride, and there was a lot of  
10          talks and petitions for some properties to  
11          take advantage of that legislation.

12          And then in a very short period of  
13          time, due to some very well deserved  
14          retirements and then major health issues  
15          in the gaming control board office, we  
16          completely had to replace our entire  
17          staff.

18          We went from people who had been  
19          there 23, 24, 25 years to brand-new staff.  
20          And it was -- it was a challenge, but it  
21          was a good challenge.

22          Getting sports betting off and  
23          running was much more complicated than I  
24          ever dreamed. At that time the  
25          legislature and the public wanted it

1 tomorrow morning. As I tell people, you  
2 just don't flip a switch and make  
3 something like that happen that quickly.  
4 I cannot thank my staff, the state police  
5 gaming division, the attorney general's  
6 office gaming division enough for their  
7 work, their advice, their guidance in  
8 doing it the right way. We did it the  
9 right way. And that I'm very proud of.

10 A lot of other states have come in  
11 and actually sought our advice on how  
12 we've done it so successfully.

13 Major McNeill, I'm very sorry for  
14 all of those phone calls I made to you. I  
15 had to push you a little bit, but thank  
16 you. I owe that to you.

17 I'm so proud of where we are on the  
18 new land-based properties with three now  
19 being completed. We just opened the  
20 Treasure Chest two weeks ago down in  
21 Kenner. It's a beautiful property. Boyd  
22 Gaming, thank you very much for that  
23 investment and that commitment. A  
24 beautiful property that I know is going to  
25 do real well.

1           We have two more under construction  
2 right now, and I will tell you that we're  
3 in talks with other licensees on the  
4 possibility of them doing the same thing.

5           With the three completed properties,  
6 the two that are underway now, some major  
7 upgrades at a lot of other properties and  
8 the major project at Caesar's in New  
9 Orleans, we can now -- this board can be  
10 very proud of \$1.3 billion of capital  
11 investment from the gaming division just  
12 in the last three years.

13           So when you begin to thank people  
14 publicly, it's very difficult. When I was  
15 in the legislature, I got myself in  
16 trouble many times because I would always  
17 leave somebody out. But if I leave  
18 somebody out today, I apologize, but I do  
19 thank you.

20           First, I want to thank former  
21 Governor John Bell Edwards for having the  
22 faith in me to lead this board. Governor  
23 Edwards, you just told me to do the right  
24 thing. That's the only thing you ever  
25 told me, just do the right thing. You

1 never once interfered with my work or my  
2 decisions, and I'll always be grateful for  
3 that.

4 And to Governor Jeff Landry, the  
5 same. Thank you for allowing me to  
6 continue to serve in your administration,  
7 and again, for the commitment that you  
8 made for me to regulate the way that I saw  
9 fit. And I'll always appreciate that  
10 cooperation.

11 A huge thank you to this board.  
12 You're an incredible group of people who  
13 have done a magnificent job helping to  
14 regulate such a large industry. Three  
15 years ago the only person that I knew on  
16 this board was Ms. Berry. The rest of you  
17 are like family to me now. I'll always be  
18 grateful for you putting your trust into  
19 someone that you had just never met  
20 before.

21 You supported the entire regulatory  
22 team during my tenure, and I thank you for  
23 that. Be proud that you have done things  
24 the right way. I think that's so  
25 important for this board as we moved

1 through some very major changes over the  
2 past three years. I will always treasure  
3 your friendship.

4 To the state police gaming division,  
5 Major McNeill, a huge thank you for all of  
6 you guiding me, keeping me on the right  
7 track, finding a way to make things happen  
8 when I felt strongly that it was the right  
9 thing to do, and for telling me no when  
10 you felt it was not in the best interest  
11 of this state. And you were always right.

12 Major McNeill, you've been a great  
13 leader of that division and I thank you  
14 for your integrity, your vast knowledge of  
15 the industry, and especially for your  
16 friendship these past three years.

17 The major will also be retiring  
18 soon, coming months, and I want to wish  
19 you the very best in wherever life's  
20 journey takes you, Major.

21 MAJOR MCNEAL:

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Please express my sincere thanks to  
25 your entire staff of over 200 at the state



1 police for their hard work.

2 To the attorney general's gaming  
3 division, a lot of you in the room today,  
4 I can't thank you enough for your legal  
5 work, your advice on how to do things the  
6 right way, and also for saying no when you  
7 needed to. And, again, I thank you for  
8 your friendship.

9 Division head Chris Hebert could not  
10 be with us today. He's out of the state  
11 on a speaking engagement, but I want to  
12 publicly thank not only him but his entire  
13 staff for their work at the attorney  
14 general's office. Without them, this  
15 board and this gaming industry absolutely  
16 could not function. So to Chris Hebert  
17 and Don Himel, Matthew Weekly, Salandry  
18 and everyone, every one of you from the  
19 attorney general's office, thank you for  
20 sharing your legal minds, your integrity,  
21 which is so important; and I will tell you  
22 that our state is better off today because  
23 of you.

24 To our staff here at the capital,  
25 thank you for your help and your

1 cooperation each month preparing the  
2 committee room for us and for your  
3 expertise to video stream my meetings for  
4 the public to have access.

5 And also thank you to a lot of the  
6 legislative staff. A lot of the staff has  
7 been very, very helpful to us in guiding  
8 us with legislation and helping us draft  
9 good, solid legislation. So I thank you  
10 staff upstairs. I hope you're watching.  
11 We greatly appreciate all of the help that  
12 you've given me the past three years.

13 I know in the room today we've got a  
14 number of members from the gaming  
15 industry, some good friends. I want to  
16 thank you for your cooperation, your  
17 willingness to work with this board and  
18 all involved in the regulatory process.  
19 Your understanding when I as chairman had  
20 to say no to something that you wanted.  
21 Your commitment to this state with your  
22 investment dollars, and especially,  
23 especially for your ethical approach to  
24 doing business in this state.

25 Your industry many times gets a bad

1 rap by the media or certain special  
2 interest groups. I will say this  
3 publicly, that each of you that I have  
4 worked with are highly ethical people who  
5 have great integrity and are committed to  
6 doing the right thing in Louisiana. So  
7 thank you very, very much for that. That  
8 doesn't happen in every state.

9 I appreciate the relationship we've  
10 had, and I hope that I will be remembered  
11 as being a fair but a compliant chairman  
12 for your industry.

13 And to Wade Duty with the gaming  
14 association and to Alton Ashy, who  
15 represents the video poker, thank you for  
16 representing your industry so well and  
17 your willingness to not only work with me  
18 but to share your knowledge and solutions  
19 to problems.

20 My man, former board Chairman Ronnie  
21 Jones, now living in Virginia, Chairman  
22 Jones, I hope you're watching, but I can  
23 tell you I cannot thank you enough for  
24 being my mentor, for sharing your  
25 knowledge with me, for always taking my

1 calls no matter what time it was -- you  
2 know, he's on eastern time. I'm on  
3 central time. A lot of times I'm calling  
4 him during his lunch hour or your cocktail  
5 hour maybe, but thank you for advising me,  
6 thank you for letting me rant and rave  
7 when I needed an ear, and just for being  
8 such a great friend to me.

9 I can honestly say, Mr. Chairman,  
10 that I never obtained my goal of filling  
11 your shoes, and I'm very sorry that you  
12 never had the opportunity to make a speech  
13 like this when you left the board.

14 To a whole bunch of outside  
15 attorneys and lobbyists who represent the  
16 industry, thank you for your  
17 professionalism, your willingness to work  
18 with me and not letting my personal  
19 relationship with you interfere with our  
20 work. Thank you for that consideration.

21 This one is difficult for me. To my  
22 extended family at the board office,  
23 ladies and gentlemen, I have four  
24 incredible ladies who three years ago  
25 didn't work at the board, and here we are

1           today three years with spending three  
2           years with them, they are like an extended  
3           family to me. Each of them came to our  
4           office during difficult times and each of  
5           them embraced the ideals and the  
6           philosophy that I tried to implement at  
7           the board office of having a strong work  
8           ethic.

9           And I would like to introduce each  
10          one of them today. I'm going to ask them  
11          to stand for a few minutes so that we can  
12          recognize and thank them. I've got Frieda  
13          Hernandez, Lydia Browning and Jasmine  
14          Dunklin, three special ladies who work  
15          very hard who keep our board operation  
16          running so well each day. I appreciate  
17          you very much. Keep standing, please.

18          And then I have the lady to my  
19          right, your left, Ms. Heather Hood, our  
20          in-house attorney, my confidential  
21          assistant, an incredible lady who has  
22          guided me, advised me, fussed at me,  
23          beared with me with my bad moods, which  
24          weren't very often but occasionally, and  
25          worked some long and crazy hours when it

1 was necessary. It wasn't unusual for me  
2 to get a call from Heather on a Saturday  
3 night on something very, very important.

4 But I want to thank each of you for  
5 your work ethic, your integrity but  
6 especially for your friendship. You're  
7 truly my extended family and I will never,  
8 ever forget you. Each one of you are very  
9 special. Thank you very much.

10 Okay. I'm getting close to wrapping  
11 up, but I -- I've kept the most important  
12 thank you for last. My wife Michelle is  
13 here today. She's sitting right in the  
14 back of the room in the corner, hiding  
15 back there. She'd go with me to  
16 legislative functions and if I looked out  
17 in the audience for her, I'd always find  
18 her way in the back of the room. But this  
19 is her first meeting since I've been  
20 chairman, but I appreciate her being here  
21 today.

22 This August we will have been  
23 married 41 years. 33 of those -- of my 37  
24 years of public service have been during  
25 our marriage. The sacrifices that this

1 lady and my family have made for me over  
2 the years have been nothing short of mind  
3 boggling. Until you walk in their shoes,  
4 you have no idea of the challenges and the  
5 difficult times that a spouse or a child  
6 of an elected official or a public servant  
7 go through.

8 The ugliness of social media, the  
9 brutality of the press media, not being  
10 able to go out to eat or go shopping or  
11 even to go to church without having  
12 someone walk up to you, sometimes asking  
13 you for help, but most of the time to  
14 complain about something. Hundreds, if  
15 not thousands of nights that I wasn't at  
16 home and they were alone when I was doing  
17 state's business, not many families  
18 experience this, but my family did. And  
19 I'll always be thankful and grateful for  
20 their understanding too where my life has  
21 taken me. God blessed me with an  
22 incredible wife, a beautiful daughter, and  
23 a first class son-in-law and five special  
24 grandchildren.

25 So thank you Michelle for supporting

1 me this 41 wonderful years. Thank you  
2 daughter Clare for understanding why your  
3 dad was gone so much and for not being --  
4 but especially for being a special lady  
5 and mother that you have become.

6 And thank you, Marcus, my  
7 son-in-law, for what you have meant to my  
8 family. And thanks to my grandchildren  
9 for each of you being the special  
10 individuals that you are. I just want to  
11 let you know Poppa loves you.

12 Michelle, my career is definitely  
13 over on June the 30th. Now we can figure  
14 out how to spend our daughter's  
15 inheritance.

16 I'm going to close with this, my  
17 favorite saying for a lot of years has  
18 been that the triumph of evil is for all  
19 good men to do nothing. I hope that I  
20 leave my 37 years of public service being  
21 able to say that I did something that  
22 brought some good to this state.

23 It's been an honor and a privilege  
24 to serve, and I thank you for -- all of  
25 you in this room for being a part of it.



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Now that I've thanked the world, I'm done. So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Anymore business to come before the board?

Any more business to come before the board?

Okay. If none, for the very last time I have the privilege of saying Mr. Jackson has moved that we adjourn, and the Chairman will second that motion.

Is there any opposition to that motion?

If not, for the last time during my tenure, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you very much.

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REPORTER'S PAGE

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

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

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR  
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

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

*Belinda Amerson*

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR  
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

