

Transcript of the Testimony of

**LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD
MEETING OF 9-21-2023**

September 21, 2023



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

STATE OF LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023
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 21st day of September, 2023.

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

APPEARANCES :

CHAIRMAN RONNIE S. JOHNS

MS. HERNANDEZ

HARRY L. AVANT

JULIE G. BERRY

COLONEL LAMAR DAVIS

FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER

CLAUDE D. JACKSON

JULIE A. LEWIS

LAMAR O. POOLE, JR.

KEVIN RICHARD

RONALD J. SHOLES

ASHLEY ANDERSON TRAYLOR

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

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
Thank you for being here this morning.
Chairman would like to call to order the
Louisiana Gaming Control Board meeting for
August -- I mean, excuse me, September --
September the 23rd of -- 21st of 2023.

Ms. Hernandez, would you call the
role, please.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Avant.

MR. AVANT:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Berry.

MS. BERRY:

Here.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Here.

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

MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Ms. Lewis.
MS. LEWIS:
 Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Mr. Poole.
MR. POOLE:
 Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Ms. Hamilton-Acker.
MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
 Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Mr. Sholes.
MR. SHOLES:
 Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Ms. Traylor.
MS. TRAYLOR:
 Here.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Colonel Davis.
COLONEL DAVIS:
 Colonel Davis.
MS. HERNANDEZ:

1 And Secretary Richard.

2 MR. RICHARD:

3 Here.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 Thank you, Ms. Hernandez. We do
6 have -- we do have a -- excuse me. We
7 have a new system here, ladies and
8 gentlemen, so bear with me. We do have a
9 quorum. Members -- or ladies and
10 gentlemen, I should say, now is the time
11 of our meeting.

12 If there are any public comments
13 from anyone in the audience that would
14 like to come forward, this is your
15 opportunity.

16 Okay. Seeing none, we'll move into
17 the approval of the minutes. Members,
18 before you, you have the minutes of the
19 August 21st, 2023 board meeting. I would
20 ask for a motion to waive the reading and
21 approve those minutes.

22 MR. JACKSON:

23 I motion.

24 MS. BERRY:

25 Second.

1 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

2 Mr. Jackson has moved that we
3 approve the minutes of August 21st, 2023,
4 second by Ms. Berry.

5 Is there any opposition to that
6 motion?

7 Hearing none, that motion carries.
8 Hearing none, the motion carries.

9 At this time we would call for our
10 revenue reports.

11 Ms. Jackson, good morning.

12 MS. JACKSON:

13 Good morning, Chairman Johns, board
14 members. Good morning.

15 Chairman Johns and Board Members, my
16 name is Donna Jackson with Louisiana State
17 Police, gaming audit section. In August
18 the 14 operating riverboats generated
19 adjusted gross receipts of \$136,071,837.
20 The state collected fees totalling
21 \$29,255,445. Adjusted gross receipts for
22 fiscal year 2024 to date are 282.7 million
23 dollars, a decrease of 4.2 million dollars
24 or 1% from fiscal year 2025 -- 2023.
25 Sorry. As of August 31st, 2023, the state

1 collected \$60.8 million in fees for fiscal
2 year 2024.

3 Page 2 shows the riverboat revenue
4 broken down by regional market. The
5 overall decrease from July was
6 approximately \$10.6 million or 7.2%.
7 Compared to last August, this month's
8 revenues represent a slight increase of
9 \$1.4 million dollars or 1%.

10 Next is the summary of August 2023
11 gaming activity for Harrah's New Orleans,
12 found on page 3. Harrah's generated
13 \$17,958,566 in gross gaming revenue.

14 These revenues represent a slight
15 increase from last month of 2.8%, but a
16 decrease of approximately \$1.4 million or
17 7.2% from the same month last year.
18 During August, the state received
19 \$5,505,465 in minimum daily payments.

20 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal
21 year 2024 to date are approximately \$35.4
22 million, a decrease of \$6.5 million or 16%
23 from fiscal year 2023.

24 As of August 31st, 2023, the state
25 collected \$11 million in fees for fiscal

1 year 2024.

2 Next I'll read out the revenues for
3 slots at the Racetracks. During August
4 the four racetrack facilities combined
5 generated adjusted gross receipts of
6 \$25,036,305, a decrease of \$2.5 million or
7 9% from July of 2023, and a decrease of
8 1.4% when compared to the same month last
9 year. During August, the state collected
10 \$3.8 million in fees.

11 Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal
12 year 2024 to date \$52.6 million, a
13 decrease of \$2 million or 4% from fiscal
14 year 2023. As of August 31st, 2023, the
15 state collected approximately \$8 million
16 in fees for fiscal year 2024.

17 I will now move to the video gaming
18 information. There are 11,883 video
19 gaming devices activated at 1,398
20 locations. Net device revenue for August
21 2023 was \$61,600,667 million, a slight
22 increase of .1% when compared to July
23 2023, but a decrease of \$2.6 million or 4%
24 when compared to last August. Total
25 franchise fees for August 2023 totaled

1 \$18.7 million. Fiscal year to date net
2 device revenue is \$123 million, a decrease
3 of \$7.8 million or 6% when compared to
4 last fiscal year. As of August 31st, the
5 state has collected \$37.3 million in
6 franchise fees for fiscal year 2024 (sic).

7 Next, I'll present the August
8 revenue for sportsbook. During August the
9 18 retail sportsbook accepted \$15 million
10 in sports wagers, resulting in net
11 proceeds of approximately \$2 million and
12 \$190,000 in state taxes. One additional
13 mobile provider, Betway, went live in
14 August. The nine mobile sportsbook
15 operators accepted almost \$139 million in
16 sports wagers, resulting in net proceeds
17 of \$15 million and \$1.9 million in taxes
18 paid to the state.

19 Finally, for daily fantasy sports,
20 gross revenues for August were \$532,000
21 with net revenue of approximately \$53
22 thousand and taxes of \$4,300.

23 Any questions?

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Thank you, Ms. Jackson.

1 Any questions for Ms. Jackson on
2 revenue?

3 The only thing that kind of stood
4 out to me, Members, was on mobile sports
5 bet if you compare August of '23 to August
6 of '22, a substantial increase about
7 almost 24%, I think, from the previous --
8 from the previous year. So kind of an
9 interesting statistic. And now I know
10 we're moving into football season and we
11 should see some substantial numbers there,
12 I would think.

13 Any questions for Ms. Jackson?

14 Hearing none, Ms. Jackson, thank you
15 so much. I appreciate your hard work as
16 usual.

17 Members, we will move into casino
18 gaming issues. First on the agenda this
19 morning will be the consideration of a
20 request for manning the variance and
21 certificate of compliance for the
22 riverboat inspection of Louisiana Casino
23 Cruises, LLC, doing business as the Queen
24 of Baton Rouge.

25 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY LANDRY:

1 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
2 Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney
3 General Lisha Landry here in the matter of
4 the approval of the manning variance
5 request and the issuance of a certificate
6 of compliance for Louisiana Casino
7 Cruises, LLC, doing business as the Queen
8 Casino Baton Rouge's vessel, the CASINO
9 ROUGE. The vessel's current certificate
10 of compliance expires on September 30th,
11 2023. And I'm also joined by Jeff Barbin,
12 who is legal counsel for the licensee.

13 MR. BARBIN:

14 Good morning, Chairman Johns.

15 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

16 Good morning.

17 MR. BARBIN:

18 Good morning Chairman Johns and
19 Board Members, I'm Jeff Barbin from Phelps
20 Dunbar representing Queen Baton Rouge, and
21 to my right is Matt Shehadi, who is the
22 general manager of the Queen.

23 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

24 So the Queen's landside facility
25 opened to the public on August 24, 2023

1 and was issued a riverboat gaming landside
2 facility certificate of compliance to
3 conduct gaming operations in the facility
4 in accordance with Louisiana law and
5 regulations.

6 Although the licensee is no longer
7 conducting gaming operations upon its
8 vessel, as of today the licensee's vessel
9 still remains docked on the property with
10 approximately 330 registered gaming
11 devices still remaining onboard. Those
12 gaming devices stored on the vessel are
13 nonoperational at this time.

14 Also, until the vessel is removed
15 from the property, Viking Cruise Lines
16 will also continue to nest or tie up
17 alongside the licensee's vessel in order
18 to use the vessel to embark and disembark
19 cruise line passengers and supplies to and
20 from the landside facility.

21 Normally, a certificate of
22 compliance for the vessel would not be
23 necessary if the vessel was closed to the
24 public and shuttered, no gaming devices
25 were stored on the vessel, and the vessel

1 was not being used for any purpose
2 whatsoever.

3 However, to ensure the safety of
4 passengers, patrons and the public while
5 on the vessel and the security of the
6 gaming devices onboard, the licensee
7 should maintain a certificate of
8 compliance for the vessel to ensure that
9 safety standards are not compromised.

10 Safety standards for vessels for
11 riverboat gaming licensees come from
12 American Vessel Services, also known as
13 AVS, which is the board's third-party
14 inspector for vessels.

15 So as far as the inspection for the
16 vessel, on July 26th, 2023 AVS inspector
17 Pete Bullard did conduct an inspection of
18 the licensee's vessel in accordance with
19 the Louisiana alternative inspection
20 program. The inspection -- the inspector
21 reviewed fire protection measures, egress
22 routes, observed emergency lighting as
23 well as other required life safety issues.

24 This annual report was provided to
25 the board and the deficiencies of the

1 initial inspection are noted on page 5 of
2 the report.

3 A follow-up inspection was done on
4 August 21st and according to AVS, the
5 inspector confirmed that all outstanding
6 items are now considered satisfactory, as
7 outlined in the supplemental inspection
8 report.

9 AVS considers the vessel fit and
10 recommends issuance of a certificate of
11 compliance by the Board.

12 The current manning staff that's
13 required to be on the licensee's vessel
14 while patrons are on onboard for riverboat
15 gaming operations consists of one captain
16 in charge, one engineer in charge, and one
17 captain of the watch, which all may not be
18 onboard but are on call 24/7, one engineer
19 as a watch, one assistant captain of the
20 watch, three riverboat technicians, and
21 four security officers.

22 Given that the licensee is not
23 conducting gaming operations on its
24 vessel, on September 18, 2023, the
25 licensee requested approval for two

1 different manning variances for its vessel
2 from AVS. One manning staff requirement
3 for when the vessel has no passengers
4 onboard, and a second manning staff
5 requirement for when the vessel has Viking
6 Cruise Line passengers using the vessel to
7 embark and disembark to and from the
8 landside facility.

9 AVS has completed its review and
10 inspection for the two alternate manning
11 variances for the vessel. According to
12 the manning variance report in your
13 folders, AVS has approved the manning
14 variance requests provided that: One,
15 when the vessel is in idle status with no
16 patrons onboard, the licensee must have
17 one captain in charge who may be onboard
18 or on call 24/7, one marine crew member
19 when the captain in charge is not on the
20 property, and one security officer.

21 When the Viking Cruise Line ship is
22 nested or tied alongside the licensee's
23 vessel transferring passengers through the
24 vessel in accordance with its proposed
25 passenger route, then the vessel must have

1 one captain in charge who may be onboard
2 or on call 24/7, two marine crew members
3 and three security officers.

4 According to the report, AVS has
5 concerns as to the safety and stability of
6 the docking and nesting of the Viking
7 Cruise Line ship to the licensee's vessel.
8 Therefore, AVS has requested that the
9 licensee provide a signed affidavit from a
10 third-party naval architect, engineering
11 company or Viking Cruises that certifies
12 that the proposed docking/nesting
13 arrangement is stable and safe for both
14 vessels and the mooring apparatus to the
15 shore.

16 The licensee has been notified of
17 this requirement and will provide the
18 signed affidavit to AVS, the Board, the
19 AG's office and the Gaming Enforcement
20 Division. But please note that no
21 passengers will be allowed on the vessel
22 until a copy of the signed affidavit is
23 received by the Board, the AG's office and
24 the Gaming Enforcement Division.

25 If approved, a certificate of

1 compliance for the Casino Rouge based on
2 AVS's recommendations along with alternate
3 manning requirements for cruise line
4 passengers while onboard has been prepared
5 for the Board's consideration.

6 And we have representatives from the
7 licensee available who can answer any
8 questions that the Board may have.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Thank you, Ms. Landry.

11 Thank you Ms. Landry. I do not like
12 this new system, for the record, okay, for
13 the record.

14 Thank you very much for your report.
15 You've answered some of my questions that
16 I was concerned about the marine crew and
17 how that was going to work. You
18 definitely answered my questions.

19 Any questions from the board members
20 for Ms. Landry at this point? Any -- any
21 questions?

22 Okay. Ms. Berry.

23 MS. BERRY:

24 I want to make sure I understand.
25 They're just using the vessel to transport

1 passengers from the Viking to the
2 landside? There's nothing going on other
3 than walking across; is that correct?

4 MR. SHEHADI:

5 Yes, that's correct.

6 MS. BERRY:

7 And there's no other way to get the
8 passengers from Viking to -- other than
9 the pass through?

10 MR. SHEHADI:

11 Correct.

12 MS. BERRY:

13 Okay. And when do you see removing
14 the gaming devices from the vessel? Are
15 they going to be moved to the landside or
16 they're just going to be disposed of?

17 MR. SHEHADI:

18 Yeah, the current machines on the
19 vessel will not be coming to land, so it's
20 just going through the liquidation process
21 and selling the boat as well.

22 MS. BERRY:

23 Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 All right. Thank you. Thank you,

1 Ms. Berry.

2 So basically, the same question. I
3 know the boat's up for sale; is that
4 correct, Mr. Shehadi? And the quicker you
5 get it -- get it sold and get it out of
6 there, the quicker you can -- I think
7 there's going to be a complete renovation
8 of that docking facility, if I'm not -- if
9 I'm not mistaken?

10 MR. SHEHADI:

11 Correct. Correct. We're diligently
12 in the process of offloading the vessel.
13 Currently, I'm in active negotiations with
14 a couple interested parties. So when that
15 boat gets sold, then Viking Cruise is
16 coming in and renovating that docking --
17 the docking facility in totality.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Okay. Mr. Barbin, anything you want
20 to add on that?

21 MR. BARBIN:

22 I just want to say thanks to the
23 AG's office. This is kind of a, you know,
24 weird scenario we've had to work through
25 this week. It was very last minute, but

1 we -- we will be working with Viking to
2 get the necessary affidavit. We expect to
3 be able to get it before the boarding next
4 week. And we'll continue to keep you all
5 updated on the progress.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Okay. Thank you.

8 While you're at the table, let me
9 just say this publicly. Your grand
10 opening in August was just beyond our
11 expectations, Mr. Shehadi. Everything was
12 complete. There were no deficiencies. A
13 couple little minor glitches a few hours
14 out, you know, from opening, but we just
15 appreciate your hard work. And I
16 encourage the board members to go by there
17 and look at the facility, the property.
18 It is just absolutely first class and it's
19 just a great addition to the gaming market
20 in Louisiana and a great addition to
21 downtown Baton Rouge.

22 MR. SHEHADI:

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Okay. Any questions?

1 So, Members, before you we have a
2 certificate of compliance, so I would ask
3 for a motion that we issue a certificate
4 of compliance which will expire September
5 the 30th of 2024.

6 Do I have a motion?

7 MR. POOLE:

8 Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Mr. Poole has made that motion.

11 MR. AVANT:

12 I second.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Mr. Avant has seconded that motion.
15 Is there any discussion on that motion?
16 Any opposition to that motion?

17 Hearing none, that motion carries.

18 So, Gentlemen, thank you very much.
19 Ms. Landry, thank you very much for a
20 great report.

21 MR. SHEHADI:

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Thank you. Okay. Ladies and
25 gentlemen, we will move now into item

1 number B, the consideration of petition to
2 amend license conditions filed by St.
3 Charles Gaming Company, LLC, doing
4 business as Horseshoe Casino Lake Charles.

5 And good morning, sir.

6 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GATHE:

7 Good morning, Chairman Johns and
8 Board Members. I'm Assistant Attorney
9 General Jeremy Gathe here in the matter of
10 St. Charles Gaming Company, LLC doing
11 business as Horseshoe Casino Lake Charles.
12 It's a petition to amend license
13 conditions and stipulation.

14 Present with me today is Mr. Robert
15 Urland, who is the senior vice president
16 of regional operations with Caesars
17 Entertainment, and Jeffrey Barbin, local
18 counsel for the licensee.

19 In December of 2022, Horseshoe
20 Casino Lake Charles filed a petition to
21 commence gaming operations at its landside
22 facility. Because several of its
23 non-gaming amenities were not fully
24 completed by its anticipated opening
25 dates, the licensee requested that the

1 Board amend its conditions subject to a
2 timeline of completion for the then
3 outstanding non-gaming amenities.

4 Several of those non-gaming
5 amenities were not completed by the
6 deadlines imposed, and the licensee failed
7 to request an extension of those
8 deadlines. As a result, the licensee did
9 not maintain compliance with its licensed
10 conditions.

11 As of today, there are still
12 non-gaming amenities that have not been
13 completed. They are the fourth
14 restaurant, a Gordon Ramsay Steakhouse,
15 which will be completed on November 11,
16 2023, and the second multipurpose event
17 space, which will be completed on November
18 30th, 2023.

19 Because these non-gaming amenities
20 are part of the approved project, but will
21 not be completed until later dates, the
22 licensee's conditions have to be amended
23 in order for the licensee to be in
24 compliance with its licensed conditions.

25 As such, on September 8, 2023, the

1 licensee filed a petition to amend the
2 license conditions seeking approval to
3 extend the deadlines for all outstanding
4 non-gaming amenities not completed, and to
5 update its conditions to reflect the
6 current status of the approved project.

7 Due to the licensee's nonperformance
8 and noncompliance with its conditions, the
9 licensee and division have entered into a
10 stipulation requiring licensee to complete
11 all outstanding non-gaming amenities by
12 the new deadlines and to pay a
13 nonperformance payment.

14 These items are now before the Board
15 for its consideration. And if it is the
16 Board's pleasure to approve the amendment
17 of the licensee's conditions and
18 stipulation, a resolution has been
19 prepared for the Board's adoption and the
20 Chairman's signature.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gathe. I
23 appreciate the report.

24 Mr. Barbin or Mr. Urland --

25 MR. BARBIN:

1 Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 -- who would like to go first?

4 MR. BARBIN:

5 I'll go first.

6 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

7 Okay. Let me get the mic.

8 MR. BARBIN:

9 Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Jeff
10 Barbin appearing before you for Caesars.
11 To my right is Robert Urland, who is the
12 regional president for operations for
13 Caesars, and to his right is Russell
14 Deaver, who is the senior VP and general
15 manager at the Horseshoe Lake Charles.

16 Robert has a presentation for us.
17 I'll turn it over to him.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Thank you very much, Mr. Barbin.

20 Mr. Urland, good morning.

21 MR. URLAND:

22 Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

23 Mr. Chairman, Board, AG's office,
24 Louisiana State Police, I am Robert
25 Urland, and I am the regional president

1 for Caesars Entertainment in the Gulf
2 Coast region. And I am here today to
3 apologize on behalf of Caesars for us not
4 meeting the conditions that we agreed to
5 in Lake Charles.

6 We have put us in this situation and
7 for that I sincerely apologize.

8 But I do want to assure the Board,
9 the Chairman, the AG's office, as well as
10 the State Police that we have addressed
11 those issues. We have made the
12 appropriate changes in Lake Charles and we
13 have addressed the issues that have put us
14 in that situation.

15 We have -- as of today, we have
16 completed -- of the seven that were out of
17 compliance, we have completed the pool,
18 the gym, the two meeting rooms, the
19 convention space, three of the four
20 restaurants. And where we are still out
21 of compliance and what we're asking to
22 change the conditions here today is Gordon
23 Ramsay's Steakhouse. Gordon Ramsay's
24 Steakhouse is -- has been turned over, but
25 pending the health department inspection.

1 We will then start a rigorous eight-week
2 training with Gordon Ramsay. We intend to
3 have the staff and the culinary front and
4 back of the house hired. After that
5 training is complete, we are going to do a
6 grand rib cutting on Veterans Day, which
7 is Saturday, November 11th.

8 For the event space that is
9 outstanding, we are looking to have that
10 completed by November 30th. And when that
11 happens, we will be current with those
12 conditions.

13 But I've just got to tell you, I
14 truly appreciate Mr. Chairman and the
15 Board and especially the AG's office, the
16 local LSP, that we've been working with
17 for the patience with me and the team as
18 we have navigated through some of those
19 changes, especially most recently, and
20 we're now making those changes that we
21 won't be in this position again.

22 And since 2005, since I've been with
23 -- started off with the Eldorado and 20
24 years later that we're now the New Empire
25 Caesars Entertainment, we have not had

1 issues like this. And we know that with
2 these changes, we won't have issues like
3 this as we move forward to continue to
4 extend capital and expand our footprint at
5 our properties.

6 And, again, I'm just here to
7 apologize and answer any questions that
8 you may have.

9 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

10 Well, Mr. Urland, thank you very
11 much for your -- for your transparency,
12 for being here today with us. It's an
13 unfortunate situation, and -- and we
14 surely take -- the Board takes no pleasure
15 of entering in this kind of -- of -- of an
16 agreement, but we do appreciate the
17 proactive approach that you have taken.
18 And that's -- that's just in my eyes the
19 best way to handle it. We'll put it
20 behind us. We'll get on. And you'll grow
21 your property and grow your market there
22 in Lake Charles and move on from this.

23 MR. URLAND:

24 Yes, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 I think there's another food outlet,
2 maybe a Dunkin' Donuts or something that
3 may be coming. That's not in the
4 petition. That was not required, but
5 what's the status on that?

6 MR. URLAND:

7 Yes, Mr. Chairman. Dunkin' Donuts
8 and a Baskin and Robbins, a multi-outlet
9 which is going to be next to Gordon
10 Ramsay, we are anticipating very end of
11 year turn over to us. And that has really
12 been -- that has been a perfect storm of
13 really delays on Dunkin' manufacturing
14 specific equipment's required. We've been
15 doing the same up in Bossier through a lot
16 of remodel and, you know, the general
17 manager Whitney up there has done changes
18 that is one area that continue to kind of
19 been a slow roll for us; and it's really
20 just the circumstance of -- of equipment
21 and manufacturing and -- and try to get
22 the FF&E for that.

23 But by no means is that part of the
24 situation that we're here today with
25 communication issues and kind of

1 commitment issues, that's unique in
2 itself, but we're hoping the end of the
3 year we'll get turned over and opening in
4 the first quarter. And we feel it's a
5 very important outlet and amenity for us
6 at that property as well.

7 And I just want to say, Mr.
8 Chairman, I know that -- that this has
9 been very unfortunate but for Lake Charles
10 and for going land-based, the property has
11 performed despite not having a lot of
12 these amenities extremely well. You know,
13 bottom line, we're up significantly over
14 2019, and going land-based has been
15 extremely important and extremely
16 successful for us.

17 As we know, when we get these
18 amenities, especially the Gordon Ramsay
19 caliber steakhouse that's unique to the
20 Lake Charles market, we know it's going to
21 continue to attract and drive additional
22 business to the market; and we just look
23 forward to having that as well as Dunkin'
24 investments as well.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Well, there's no doubt that you have
2 grown the Lake Charles market. We
3 recognize that, and we appreciate that. I
4 do want to tell you this, Mr. Urland, a
5 special thank you to Caesars. Y'all are
6 making some incredible investments in
7 Louisiana.

8 MR. URLAND:

9 Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 You've made the huge investment
12 there in Lake Charles, slash, here. I
13 know you've done a lot of work up at
14 Horseshoe in Bossier. I was up there a
15 few weeks ago. And you're getting ready
16 to make another significant investment, I
17 think, in your hotel rooms, if I'm not
18 mistaken.

19 MR. URLAND:

20 Yes, sir.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 And then, of course, the huge
23 project in New Orleans over, what, 400 --
24 \$450 million project going on in New
25 Orleans.

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

MR. URLAND:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

So we recognize the investment that Caesar is making; and we appreciate that very, very much. This one was just an unfortunate situation in Lake Charles. And we -- we appreciate your transparency on it.

MR. URLAND:

Yes, sir.

I'd also like to introduce to my right is Russel Deaver. Russell Deaver is the new senior vice president and general manager in Lake Charles. Russell has worked for Caesars Entertainment for over 20 years. He has come from great pedigree in Samer and the executive team does just a phenomenal job down in the New Orleans market. The last ten years, Russell has been the vice president of finance for Caesars New Orleans, and most recently his role has been a corporate regional vice president of operations. So we feel that his experience and expertise is the right

1 leader at the right time that will
2 continue to grow and make Lake Charles a
3 continued success, so.

4 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

5 Mr. Deaver, welcome, and
6 congratulations to you, and we look
7 forward to working very closely with you
8 once again.

9 MR. DEAVER:

10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
11 Board. Like you said looking forward,
12 we've got a great property, we've got a
13 great team and we've got a great
14 opportunity in front of us and we're
15 excited.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 Any questions from the Board?
18 Members, I failed to mention this, but on
19 your microphone on the button on the right
20 side, if you want to speak or ask
21 questions, just punch that and I will know
22 that you would like to speak.

23 So I do have Judge Sholes. Okay.

24 MR. SHOLES:

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't

1 help but notice and I was somewhat
2 troubled that in the report it said that
3 the licensee had operated a restaurant
4 without a valid license or a permit for
5 over two months. I found that extremely
6 troubling. And I am -- I must admit --
7 concerned. I sincerely hope that that's
8 not going to be something that we're going
9 to repeat; and, of course, I think that a
10 de minimis slap on the wrist like this
11 would not happen again if such things
12 should happen, especially not in New
13 Orleans. We're not going to allow that to
14 happen there, I'm sure; right?

15 MR. DEEVER:

16 Yes, sir. That -- that was an
17 unfortunate incident, and it has been
18 addressed and it's been addressed with the
19 intention that -- that you would expect.
20 And as you mentioned New Orleans, New
21 Orleans has, again, different leadership,
22 great leadership, and a lot of follow-up,
23 follow-through and just great
24 communication as we continue. Emeril's is
25 close to opening and we have not had those

1 types of issues and we don't anticipate
2 that, sir.

3 MR. SHOLES:

4 Thank you.

5 MR. DEEVER:

6 Yes, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

8 Judge, I can assure you we looked at
9 that very closely and we were disturbed as
10 well about it. The amount of stipulation
11 that will be paid by Caesars, that -- that
12 item played a big part in what that dollar
13 amount is. So we don't anticipate that
14 happening again. I don't think.

15 Okay. Thank you very much.

16 Any further questions from -- from
17 -- Ms. Berry.

18 MS. BERRY:

19 I just have a quick question for Mr.
20 Deever, I believe. I represent your
21 district. That's why I was going to ask
22 you. It's nice to meet you and welcome to
23 Lake Charles.

24 You feel sure that you'll be able to
25 meet the November 11th deadline --

1 deadlines for the restaurant?

2 MR. DEEVER:

3 Yes, ma'am. We've been walking
4 through the space on a daily basis.
5 Everything's in place. There's a few
6 minor inspection things that we're
7 waiting, one small supply chain issue, but
8 with the robust training kind of scheduled
9 in place, we feel very, very confident
10 that November 11th is going to be the
11 date. And we're very excited about that.

12 MS. BERRY:

13 Just to prevent this from happening
14 again.

15 MR. DEEVER:

16 Absolutely.

17 MS. BERRY:

18 Make sure you let us know if there
19 are any problems.

20 MR. DEEVER:

21 For sure, yeah. Communication, all
22 of that stuff we know is extremely
23 important; and, you know, one of the
24 reasons we're here today, and it will not
25 be a problem going forward, I assure you.

1 MS. BERRY:

2 And then, the event venue, I think
3 you said on the 30th.

4 MR. DEEVER:

5 Correct. That's on pace as well,
6 and that's something we look forward to
7 getting that space open and operational as
8 well.

9 MS. BERRY:

10 That's it. Thank you.

11 MR. DEEVER:

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 I think I do have one other
15 question. I was on the property about
16 three weeks ago doing a walkthrough and
17 the old escalator system that was part of
18 the old, original Isle of Capri, it's been
19 there forever, is -- is that going to be
20 replaced, repaired or --

21 MR. DEEVER:

22 Mr. Chairman, I have gotten
23 physically fit over these last seven
24 months going up and down those stairs.
25 That is a national supply chain that is

1 going to be about an 11-month project as
2 they completely rebuild that. And that
3 obviously is something that is -- it
4 inhibits the property to have its
5 excellence of what we built, but that is
6 truly a manufacturing supply issue; and we
7 have -- we've done everything and pushed
8 everything and 11 months is as quick as
9 that will happen.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Right. And it's not really a
12 necessary part of your operation, but it
13 is somewhat of an eyesore, I guess you'd
14 call it.

15 MR. DEEVER:

16 It's an inconvenience.

17 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

18 Inconvenience. And that's fine, and
19 I know you want that fixed.

20 MR. DEEVER:

21 Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

23 And I'm glad y'all are moving
24 forward with that.

25 MR. DEEVER:

1 Yes, sir. And it's going to be a
2 brand-new one. It's expensive, but we
3 just figured again tying in the parking
4 garage, the future opportunities of
5 footprint expansion there, going down to
6 our casino and restaurants, it was an
7 investment that was well worth it.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9 Okay. Any further questions from
10 the Board?

11 Any further questions? Okay.

12 Members, before you there is a
13 resolution that we need to adopt today to
14 put this matter to bed.

15 And Ms. Berry has made the motion to
16 adopt that resolution, and I would ask for
17 a second.

18 MS. LEWIS:

19 Second.

20 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

21 Ms. Lewis has made the second on
22 that motion, and I would ask Ms. Hernandez
23 now to read the resolution, please.

24 MS. HERNANDEZ:

25 On the 21st day of September, 2023,

1 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board dated
2 and duly noticed public meeting considered
3 the issue of the petition to amend
4 licensed conditions by St. Charles Gaming
5 Company, LLC, doing business as Horseshoe
6 Casino Lake Charles. And upon motion duly
7 made and seconded, the Board adopted this
8 resolution.

9 Be it resolved that the stipulation
10 entered into by and among St. Charles
11 Gaming Company, LLC, Caesars
12 Entertainment, and the Gaming Enforcement
13 Division of Louisiana State Police
14 providing for a \$70,000 payment as a
15 condition of licensing and a timeline for
16 the completion of the certain non-gaming
17 amenity, a copy of which is attached
18 hereto and made a part of the -- and is
19 hereby approved.

20 Be it further resolved that subject
21 to all licensed conditions currently in
22 effect on St. Charles Gaming Company, LLC
23 doing business as Horseshoe Casino Lake
24 Charles the following modifications to the
25 statement of conditions be and is hereby

1 approved. Condition 6 of the statement of
2 conditions is hereby modified and replaced
3 with the following: To offer the kind,
4 amount and scope of non-gaming activities
5 on the riverboat and all other amenities
6 as approved by the Louisiana Gaming
7 Control Board which shall include a tower
8 hotel with a minimum of 253 rooms, at
9 least two multipurpose event spaces with
10 one of the event spaces being completed by
11 November 30th, 2023, at least two meeting
12 rooms with audiovisual equipment
13 available, at least four restaurants of
14 which two will be full service and the
15 other two may include a coffee shop, a
16 quick service outlet with the Gordan
17 Ramsay restaurant to be completed by
18 November 11th, 2023, an outdoor pool, a
19 fitness room, Sundries gift shop, referred
20 to herein as the approved project.

21 Failure to meet the above deadlines
22 or to receive an extension will result in
23 forfeiture of all privileges of the
24 license.

25 Be it further resolved that the

1 licensee shall continue to submit work in
2 progress reports to the Board by the 20th
3 of every month until all non-gaming
4 amenities are complete, open and
5 operational, and such as confirmed by the
6 Division and the licensee is relieved of
7 such obligation by the Chairman.

8 This done and signed in Baton Rouge,
9 Louisiana, the 21st day of September of
10 2023.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 All right. Thank you, Ms.
13 Hernandez.

14 Members, you have a motion and a
15 second to adopt this resolution.

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

18 MS. HERNANDEZ:

19 Mr. Avant.

20 MR. AVANT:

21 Yes.

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 Ms. Berry.

24 MS. BERRY:

25 Yes.

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

MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Mr. Jackson.
MR. JACKSON:
 Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Ms. Lewis.
MS. LEWIS:
 Yes.
MS. HERNANDEZ:
 Mr. Poole.
MS. 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:

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

And, Chairman Johns.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Yes.

So by unanimous vote, this resolution is hereby adopted.

Gentlemen, thank you for being here this morning.

Attorney General's office, thank y'all very much, State Police, everybody has been involved in this for a number of months. This is something that didn't come up last week, so we appreciate a lot of hard work in putting this issue to bed, and we move on now.

And we thank you again for your transparency today. Thank y'all very much.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Members, we now move into the consideration of a petition for amendment to the lease of Catfish Queen, LLC doing business as the Belle of Baton Rouge and Louisiana Casino Cruises, LLC doing business as the Queen Baton Rouge.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

1 Assistant Attorney General Lisha
2 Landry, here again with Assistant Attorney
3 General Jeff Barbin, local counsel for the
4 Queen Casino & Entertainment, Inc., and
5 now with Ryan O'Beirne, who is counsel for
6 Gaming and Leisure Properties, Inc.

7 We are here to present Catfish
8 Queen, LLC doing business as Belle of
9 Baton Rouge and Louisiana Casino Cruises,
10 LLC doing business as the Queen Baton
11 Rouge's petition for amendment to lease.

12 The licensees are requesting Board
13 approval to amend the Second Amended and
14 Restated Master Lease Agreement.

15 Catfish Queen and Louisiana Casino
16 Cruises are owned by the Queen Casino &
17 Entertainment, Inc., formally known as CQ
18 Holding Company, Inc.

19 The real property assets and
20 leasehold interests of Catfish Queen and
21 Louisiana Casino Cruises are owned by GLPI
22 in a real estate investment trust,
23 otherwise known as a REIT.

24 The property is then leased by GLPI
25 to the licensees through triple net master

1 lease agreements.

2 When the board approved the Queen
3 Casino & Entertainment's acquisition of
4 Catfish Queen and Louisiana Casino Cruises
5 back in December of 2021, the Board also
6 approved the execution of a Second Amended
7 and Restated Master Lease between GLPI's
8 subsidiary, GLPI Capital as lessor and
9 Catfish Queen and Louisiana Casino Cruises
10 as lessees or tenants.

11 However, due to litigation
12 concerning a leasing dispute in connection
13 with Catfish Queen's Beauregard and Shucks
14 buildings, Catfish Queen's real estate
15 assets and leasehold interests remained
16 under an existing master lease and
17 sublease with GLPI and Tropicana
18 Entertainment, Inc., which is Catfish
19 Queen's former parent company.

20 Because of the litigation, Catfish
21 Queen's property is also subject to a side
22 letter agreement between the parties,
23 which allowed the Queen Casino &
24 Entertainment to close on the acquisition
25 of Catfish Queen in May of 2022.

1 In July of 2023, the litigation was
2 settled and GLPI now owns the Beauregard
3 and Shucks buildings. As a result, GLPI
4 is now requesting approval to remove
5 Catfish Queen's real property from the
6 existing Master Lease with Tropicana and
7 to remove it and place it into the Second
8 Amended and Restated Master Lease with
9 Louisiana Casino Cruises.

10 So the Second Amended and Restated
11 Master Lease is now being amended and
12 restated to include Catfish Queen's
13 property and the lease will be renamed the
14 Third Amended and Restated Master Lease.

15 The Third Amended and Restated
16 Master Lease Agreement will include
17 Catfish Queen, Louisiana Casino Cruises,
18 Draftkings at Casino Queen located in
19 Illinois, and the Casino Queen Marquette
20 located in Iowa as Lessees for an initial
21 annual rental payment of \$30.6 million for
22 a 15-year term with four 5-year renewal
23 extensions.

24 The Queen Casino & Entertainment
25 will guaranty payment under the lease

1 agreement. Rent payments under the lease
2 will eventually increase based on GLPI's
3 costs for funding construction of landside
4 facilities.

5 GLPI and the Queen Casino &
6 Entertainment will have to execute an
7 updated Acknowledgment and Acceptance of
8 REIT conditions for Catfish Queen and
9 Louisiana Casino Cruises as required by
10 the Board for all REIT transactions.

11 Under the REIT conditions, Board
12 approval is required for any transfer of a
13 master lease agreement or the rights or
14 obligations of the parties under the
15 lease.

16 The Attorney General's Office has
17 reviewed the Third Amended and Restated
18 Master Lease and related agreements and
19 find no issues that would preclude the
20 Board's approval of this request.

21 If the Board decides to the grant
22 approval today, a resolution has been
23 prepared for the Board's consideration.

24 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

25 Thank you, Ms. Landry. So I know a

1 bunch of you attorneys there at the AG's
2 office has looked at all of this.

3 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

4 Yes.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 It's complicated, but everything
7 seems to be in order?

8 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

9 Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 And y'all are recommending this?

12 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL LANDRY:

13 Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

15 Mr. Barbin or O'Beirne, y'all have
16 any comments anybody would like to make?

17 MR. BARBIN:

18 We're happy to answer any questions
19 you have. And I want to thank the AG's
20 office again. As you said, a very
21 complicated transaction. And we've been
22 changing things on them as we go along and
23 it's been quite difficult to keep up with;
24 so we really appreciate getting to this
25 point today, and hope we can get it closed

1 shortly.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Thank you.

4 Okay. Board members, any questions?
5 Any questions? If not, we have a
6 resolution that's been prepared. I would
7 need a motion to adopt this resolution.

8 MR. POOLE:

9 I will.

10 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

11 I second.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 Mr. Poole has made the motion to
14 adopt the resolution, and Ms.
15 Hamilton-Acker has seconded that motion.

16 And, Ms. Hernandez, I would ask that
17 you read the resolution, please.

18 MS. HERNANDEZ:

19 On the 21st day of September, 2023,
20 the Louisiana Gaming Control Board did in
21 a duly public meeting consider the issue
22 of Louisiana Casino Cruises, LLC doing
23 business as the Queen Baton Rouge and
24 Catfish Queen, LLC doing business as Belle
25 of Baton Rouge. Petition for the

1 amendment to lease and upon motion duly
2 made and seconded, the Board adopted this
3 resolution. Whereas, the Catfish Queen's
4 real -- real estate assets are owned by
5 Gaming and Leisure Properties, Inc., and
6 are leased to the licensee pursuant to an
7 existing master lease and sublease as
8 amended in a side letter agreement dated
9 May 5th, 2022, and whereas Louisiana
10 Casino Cruise's real estate assets are
11 owned by GLPI and are leased to the
12 Catfish Queen pursuant to the Second
13 Amended and Restated Master Lease as
14 amended. Whereas GLPI's subsidiary, GLP
15 Capital will lease the real property
16 assets to Louisiana Casino Cruises and
17 Catfish Queen pursuant to a new Third
18 Amended and Restated Master Lease.

19 Now therefore be it resolved that
20 the execution of the Third Amended and
21 Restated Master Lease Agreement by and
22 between GLP Capital as lessor and Catfish
23 Queen and Louisiana Casino Cruises as
24 lessees and related agreements is hereby
25 approved.

1 Be it further resolved that the
2 execution of all documents necessary to
3 effectuate the transactions contemplated
4 by and provided for in the Third Amended
5 and Restated Lease and related agreements,
6 all as are more particularly described
7 therein is hereby approved.

8 This done and signed in Baton Rouge,
9 Louisiana, this 21st day September of
10 2023.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHN:

12 Thank you, Ms. Hernandez.

13 We have a motion by Mr. Poole,
14 seconded by Ms. Hamilton-Acker to adopt
15 this resolution.

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

18 MS. HERNANDEZ:

19 Mr. Avant.

20 MR. AVANT:

21 Yes.

22 MS. HERNANDEZ:

23 Ms. Berry.

24 MS. BERRY:

25 Yes.

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

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Lewis.

MS. LEWIS:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Poole.

MR. POOLE:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Hamilton-Acker.

MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Mr. Sholes.

MR. SHOLES:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

Ms. Traylor.

MS. TRAYLOR:

Yes.

MS. HERNANDEZ:

1 And Chairman Johns.

2 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

3 Yes.

4 And so by unanimous vote this
5 resolution is hereby adopted.

6 And I thank you very much the AG's
7 office for all of your work on this, and
8 Mr. Barbin and Mr. O'Beirne, thank y'all
9 very much.

10 Okay. Members, we will now move
11 then to rulemaking. On the agenda today
12 we have the consideration of institution
13 of rulemaking procedures for amendment of
14 application and reporting forms.

15 Good morning, Ms. Johnson.

16 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

17 Good morning. I'm Assistant
18 Attorney General Venise Johnson here for
19 the rulemaking procedures for item number
20 IV.

21 May I handle A, B and C in globo?
22 Item A is the consideration of
23 promulgation procedures for the amendment
24 to Louisiana Administrative Code Title 42,
25 part 3, section 120 A7, which will allow

1 for the withdraw of applicant -- I'm
2 sorry -- the withdrawal of applications
3 and surrender of licenses and permits by
4 Fantasy Sports applicants, licensees and
5 permittees.

6 Item B is the consideration of
7 promulgation procedures for the amendment
8 to LAC Title 42, part 3, section 120 A8
9 which would allow for the withdraw of
10 applications and surrender of licenses and
11 permits by Sports wagering applicants,
12 licensees and permittees.

13 Also before you is item C is the
14 approval of the forms to be utilized for
15 the withdrawal and surrender by the sports
16 wagering and Fantasy sport applicants,
17 licensees and permittees.

18 If the board has no questions, a
19 motion to institute the rulemaking
20 procedures is needed and a separate vote
21 on the approval of the form is also
22 needed.

23 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

24 Okay. And so we will need a
25 separate vote on each one. So these are

1 basically changes in the forms?

2 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

3 Yes, a procedural change in the
4 forms.

5 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

6 Just a procedural change in the
7 forms.

8 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

9 Yes, sir.

10 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

11 Okay. Any questions from the board
12 members? Any questions?

13 Okay. First, I would ask for a
14 motion to adopt the rulemaking procedures
15 in Section 6A, that be in order; is that
16 correct.

17 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

18 Yes. Wait. 6A is -- it's 6 A7.

19 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

20 6 A7. Okay. And so --

21 MS. BERRY:

22 I will.

23 MR. JOHNSON:

24 Second.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 Pardon me. Ms. Berry has made the
2 motion to adopt that rulemaking procedure
3 and Ms. -- and Judge Sholes has seconded
4 that motion.

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

7 Hearing none, that motion carries.

8 And the second would be the adoption
9 of the rulemaking procedures for section?

10 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

11 120 A8.

12 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

13 120 A --

14 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

15 -- 8.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 -- 8.

18 Is there a motion --

19 MR. SHOLES:

20 I will.

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 Judge Sholes has made that motion to
23 adopt that rulemaking procedure --

24 MR. JACKSON:

25 Second.

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

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

-- and seconded by Mr. Jackson. Is there any discussion?

Any opposition to that?

Hearing none, that motion carries also.

Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

And there also needs to be one for the approval of the forms.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Oh, okay. Excuse me.

Okay. So we would need a separate motion on the forms; is that correct?

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

So I would entertain a motion to adopt the rulemaking procedure forms.

MR. JACKSON:

So moved.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

So moved by Mr. Jackson.

MR. SHOLES:

Second.

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

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Seconded by Mr. Sholes.
Is there any discussion?
Any opposition?
Hearing none, that motion carries.
Okay. Thank you very much, Ms.
Johnson.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHNSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Next on the agenda, ladies and gentlemen, we do have -- we had a consideration of an appeal for Mr. Nhan M. Le. A motion to continue that appeal was filed by his attorney. It was granted by the chairman based on the documentation that the attorney had a court date in a different jurisdiction today. So we will -- we will continue that at the October meeting.

And for the record, once again, I will say that no new evidence on that appeal can be entered at that time. So we will move on.

Next on the agenda is number EXC

1 2317. Ladies and gentlemen, this is an
2 appeal that we would need to hear in
3 executive session, and I would need a
4 motion that we enter into executive
5 session.

6 MR. JACKSON:

7 So moved.

8 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

9 Mr. Jackson has made the motion to
10 go into executive session.

11 MS. BERRY:

12 Second.

13 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

14 Ms. Berry has seconded that motion.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, I would ask
16 that you clear the room right now and we
17 will notify you when we come back into
18 regular session.

19 (Whereupon the Board went into
20 executive session at this time.)

21 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

22 My apologies. You're welcome to
23 come up to the table. We will not be
24 identifying you by name in the rest of the
25 proceedings. Okay.

1 MS. GIPSON:

2 Yes, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

4 We are now back in regular session.
5 We -- do we need a motion first before--

6 So we have debated this issue very
7 closely. This is always a hard decision.
8 It's a very hard decision to make.

9 MS. GIPSON:

10 Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 However, we -- we have taken into
13 the fact that your client has, first of
14 all, it's been -- she has been on the
15 program for seven years, I think.

16 MS. GIPSON:

17 Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

19 Which is far beyond the five-year
20 period. We understand also the language
21 barrier that she experienced at the onset
22 of the -- her going on to the program.
23 And we commend her for going on to the
24 program. That is what the program is
25 there for, for people who do need help.

1 We also have taken into
2 consideration that she has seeked (sic)
3 continuous counselling, I think for over a
4 year, if I'm not mistaken. So those are
5 the considerations or some of the
6 considerations that we have taken into
7 effect here.

8 So I -- at this time I would
9 entertain a motion from the Board in
10 disposing of this issue.

11 MR. POOLE:

12 I make a motion that we allow her to
13 come off of the self-exclusion list.

14 MR. JACKSON:

15 Second.

16 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

17 So that motion would be -- and we
18 have a second from Mr. Jackson.

19 The motion would be that the order
20 of the hearing officer be reversed; is
21 that correct? It would be reversed and
22 that this individual shall be removed from
23 the self-exclusion list at this time.

24 Is there any further discussion?

25 Before we vote, thank you for being

1 here, you know, today. We greatly
2 appreciate it. And we wish you the very
3 best of luck and hope that this experience
4 over the past seven years has been an
5 eye-opening experience.

6 Is there any discussion on the
7 motion?

8 Is there any objection to the
9 motion?

10 Hearing none, that motion carries.

11 Any further discussions from the
12 Board?

13 MR. POOLE:

14 Chairman, I'd like to add, though,
15 that --

16 As you -- as you go back to the
17 casino, if at any time you feel like that
18 this thing is getting away from you, then
19 make some adjustments. Okay?

20 CONFIDENTIAL SPEAKER:

21 Yes, sir. I can make some, yes.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. POOLE:

24 Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

1 And I would echo that, we -- we
2 absolutely don't want to see you have a
3 problem or your children to have a problem
4 again, your husband. I know you've got a
5 beautiful family now, which you didn't
6 have prior when you had your problems, but
7 I know that is your priority now, and we
8 appreciate that.

9 CONFIDENTIAL SPEAKER:

10 Uh-huh (affirmative response).

11 CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

12 Mr. Poole, thank you for your
13 comments.

14 Any further comments, Members?

15 The next board meeting will be
16 October 19th here at the State Capitol.
17 Before we adjourn, I do want to thank the
18 Attorney General's Office and the State
19 Police for their incredible work to get
20 the QUEEN open last month. It took a lot
21 of work, a lot of hours, and I know the
22 state police was there most of the night
23 as we did the soft opening night, and we
24 greatly appreciate that. It was just a
25 seamless opening, and I couldn't be more

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

proud of how it went. So we learned a lot from it. So thank you very much for y'all to that.

Mr. Jackson, you have a motion?

MR. JACKSON:

Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. I make a motion to adjourn.

CHAIRMAN JOHNS:

Mr. Jackson has made a motion that we adjourn.

MS. BERRY:

Second.

CHIARMAN JOHNS:

Ms. Berry seconded that.

Any objection?

Hearing none, we are hereby adjourned.

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

REPORTER'S PAGE

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

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

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

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

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

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

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

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

BELINDA K. AMERSON, CCR
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER