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FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

3

PUBLIC MEETING

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Date of Meeting: January 11, 2024

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Stenographically Transcribed Audio Recording by

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Carmel M. Street

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Job No: 345240

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 COMMISSION MEMBERS:

3 Vice Chair Julie I. Brown  
4 Commissioner Charles Drago  
5 Commissioner John D'Aquila  
6 Commissioner Tina Repp  
7 Executive Director, Louis Trombetta

8

9 SPEAKERS:

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11 SPEAKERS:

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13 Joe Dillmore, Director of Pari-Mutuel Wagering

14

15 Susan Whitmire, Chief Information Officer

16

17 Elina Valentine, Deputy General Counsel

18

19 Emily Alvarado, Deputy Chief Attorney

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21

22 OTHERS PRESENTING:

23

24 Marc Dunbar

25

TJ Morton

26

27 Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148  
28 Betty Easley Conference Center  
29 4075 Esplanade Way  
30 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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33 Various Members of the Public

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35 The Florida Channel

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1           The following proceeding was transcribed  
2           from a video-recorded file as follows:

3           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning, everyone.  
4           We're going to begin in about two minutes. Good  
5           morning. Today is Thursday, January 11th, 2024.  
6           We are here at the Florida Gaming Control  
7           Commission.

8           Before we get started with our meeting,  
9           please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance which  
10          will be given by Commissioner Chuck Drago.

11          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: (Inaudible).

12          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
13          Commissioner Drago. I want to wish you all a Happy  
14          New Year, but especially to my incredible  
15          colleagues here who are sitting on the bench.

16          I mean, they've continue to lead with  
17          integrity professionalism and heart. I also want  
18          to wish everyone here, our stellar staff an  
19          incredible New Year led by Director Trombetta who  
20          continues to juggle multiple tasks every day and in  
21          various directions and just does a great job.

22          And of course, the stakeholders who are  
23          here and around and listening in who stay engaged,  
24          continue to challenge us, and also continue to  
25          provide us with essential information so that we

1 can make the best decisions for the State of  
2 Florida.

3 Before we get into the meeting, I just  
4 wanted to recap briefly our 2023 which was very,  
5 very busy and particularly in the areas of law  
6 enforcement, regulatory and administration.

7 I'll tell you what our law enforcement  
8 which has been led by Director Carl Harold has been  
9 tremendous in 2023.

10 They've been so successful not just in  
11 building out the Division, but also in  
12 collaborating with so many different stakeholders  
13 around this State, successful operations, shutting  
14 down bad actors, bad operations, seizing property,  
15 seizing money, working with the State Office of  
16 Prosecution. And continuing to pursue these bad  
17 actors so that the citizens of Florida are  
18 protected. So, the great work you've been doing  
19 over this past year 2024 is going to continue to be  
20 busy.

21 On the regulatory side our director --  
22 sorry (inaudible) Joe Dillmore, he continues to be  
23 very busy with his staff integrating the new agency  
24 Commission structure, the new HISA and HIWU  
25 regulations.

1           And this year, there's going to be, I  
2 believe several rules that you will be integrating  
3 throughout your operations, so you're doing a  
4 tremendous job.

5           And then on the admin side, Director Lisa  
6 Mustain and IT Director Suzie Whitmire, they have  
7 done so much to get us to where we are today, not  
8 just physically, but also on an agency staffing  
9 side too, integrating new technology, securing  
10 proper warehouse space and facilities and just  
11 making sure everything is smooth.

12           It's just been a tremendous 2023, and I  
13 know that now that we're here in 2024 with session  
14 beginning our Legislative Affairs Director Henry  
15 Mahler has been keeping us all informed during  
16 committee week in session with a variety of bills  
17 that affects the industry and really keeping us  
18 up-to-date as well as our External Affairs director  
19 Eric Carr.

20           So, I really want to appreciate that. I  
21 know we're going to be a very -- we're going to be  
22 even busier than we were.

23           And I also want to extend gratitude to our  
24 legal staff who is definitely juggling as well  
25 many, many different things in various arenas.

1           And you guys worked tirelessly over the  
2     holidays and keeping us -- and keeping the machine  
3     moving here. So, thank you so much.

4           And colleagues, before we begin the  
5     meeting if would you like to say anything? I'd  
6     like to open the floor.

7           COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Sure, thank you.  
8     You covered it very well last year for sure. I  
9     think we shared the appreciation, we all have for  
10    what's been done in the last year.

11          I was thinking back and reflecting to the  
12    beginning two years ago when we looked at what we  
13    had ahead of us and some things seemed  
14    unsurmountable.

15          And even in spite of all that we've hired  
16    new people and during the course of it and managed  
17    to get it all done and keep on moving forward not  
18    that we're finished. But we certainly have  
19    accomplished so much over the last two years and  
20    definitely over the last year.

21          And you know, I think about starting a  
22    whole new agency and starting a whole new law  
23    enforcement agency which is just so many hurdles  
24    when you -- in policing today. It's not just Carl  
25    who's done so much but all the other aspects of it,

1 IT, Administration and everything goes along with  
2 it, Legal.

3 So, there's so many moving parts that we  
4 all don't see every day. But it's a really  
5 incredible job. I think you all really need to be  
6 very proud of yourselves. I don't know if  
7 everybody realizes what you've accomplished over  
8 the last two years.

9 I know you know you've worked hard, but I  
10 don't know if everybody realizes how difficult this  
11 is and how rare it is for a new agency to get  
12 started and get up and running so quickly where,  
13 you know, it looks almost like it's effortless.

14 So, thank you very much again for another  
15 great year. I really do personally appreciate it.  
16 And I know I'm looking forward to another year that  
17 I think is going to be -- now that we've got the  
18 foundation set in so many areas, there's no  
19 stopping this agency in terms of where we go from  
20 here. So, I just want to say thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner  
22 Drago, very well said.

23 Commissioners, any other comment before we  
24 begin?

25 Commissioner D'Aquila.

1           COMMISSIONER D'Aquila: Sure. Not to  
2 repeat but I'll just add, I'm really proud of the  
3 work our team has done. I also want to thank -- a  
4 special thanks to Lou Trombetta for encouraging  
5 this Commission to be very active on the national  
6 level.

7           We just returned from the National Council  
8 of Legislators and Regulators last week. And I'm  
9 delighted to see how much this Commission is  
10 working with regard to the issues that most other  
11 states are facing.

12           In particular, a national challenge is  
13 being faced in sports betting, fantasy sports, the  
14 beginning of iGames, historical horse racing and  
15 the consumer protection, taxation and health  
16 impacts, both in how people are spending their  
17 money and how it's affecting homes.

18           And how taxation is being reinvented as it  
19 pertains to this incredibly huge industry. It's  
20 becoming increasingly important in the past few  
21 years in the age of electronics.

22           So, there's been a lot going on behind the  
23 scenes that people don't see. And I'm just  
24 delighted to be a part of it. And I think we're  
25 going to have an incredible year this year in

1 tackling those issues.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And I'm  
3 happy you brought up the national component because  
4 folks definitely returning from the conference are  
5 looking at Florida and the work that we're doing.  
6 So, we'd like to continue being a leader in a lot  
7 of those areas. Thank you.

8 Commissioner Repp.

9 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'd just like to say  
10 Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to all the  
11 new employees that have come in. Almost weekly I  
12 think we have new people coming in. And I look  
13 forward to a very exciting new year. As everyone  
14 says, we've done a lot of exciting things.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you so much. All  
16 right, with that, the meeting is commenced.

17 And we are now into approving minutes for  
18 November 2nd, 2023 which was a regular agenda  
19 meeting and November 16th, 2023 which was a public  
20 meeting workshop Hearing on HISA assessment  
21 discussion.

22 If Commissioners have read the minutes and  
23 are prepared to make a motion on those two we are  
24 ripe for that.

25 Commissioner Repp.

1                   COMMISSIONER REPP: I'd like to make a  
2 motion to approve the minutes.

3                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a  
4 second?

5                   COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

6                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
7 aye.

8                   BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

9                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We are  
10 moving on to discussions of default orders 2.1  
11 through 2.6. We do have a speaker on Item 2.5 so I  
12 will take that one last. So, we will start with  
13 2.1, please.

14                  MS. ALVARADO: Good morning, this is  
15 Emily Alvarado.

16                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Hello.

17                  MS. ALVARADO: Item 2.1 is Case Number  
18 2023018935, Carlos Borgdon. In this case, you were  
19 provided a filed administrative complaint seeking  
20 Respondent to be excluded from -- I'm sorry,  
21 alleging that Respondent was excluded from Calder  
22 Casino due to his involvement in using stolen  
23 credit cards for cash advances at the facility. He  
24 is subject to exclusion pursuant to Sections  
25 550.02516 and 551.1124 Florida Statutes.

1                   We attempted to serve Respondent twice via  
2   USPS mail and also by hand service. We were  
3   unsuccessful in that. And we then published it in  
4   his local newspaper.

5                   Respondent failed to respond to the  
6   publication notice. Therefore, the Division would  
7   ask that the Commission enter an order finding that  
8   Respondent was given notice via publication, failed  
9   to respond to the stated deadline, that the facts  
10   in the administrative complaints are accepted as  
11   the facts in this case. And concluding that the  
12   Respondent will be added to the permanent exclusion  
13   list for all slot machine and Pari-Mutuel  
14   facilities.

15                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms.  
16   Alvarado.

17                  Commissioners, are there any questions on  
18   Item 2.1?

19                  If not, can we get a motion to approve the  
20   default final order?

21                  COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

22                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

23                  COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

24                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
25   aye.

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The motion  
3 passes.

4 On to 2.2.

5 MS. ALVARADO: 2.2 is case number  
6 2023031855, Heather Days. In this case, you were  
7 provided a three count administrative complaint  
8 alleging that Respondent was arrested and convicted  
9 of one felony and two misdemeanor offenses.

10 She failed to notify the Commission of her  
11 arrest or her convictions. She's subject to  
12 revocation of her card room employee occupational  
13 license pursuant to 5501055B.

14 We attempted to serve her twice via USPS  
15 mail as well as hand service, and we failed to  
16 serve her that way so we published in our local  
17 newspaper.

18 Respondent has failed to respond to the  
19 publication notice.

20 Therefore, the Division would ask that the  
21 Commission enter an order finding that Respondent  
22 was given notice via publication and failed to  
23 respond, that the facts in the administrative  
24 complaint are accepted as the facts in this case  
25 and concluding that her card room employee

1 occupational license will be revoked.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.

3 I have a question.

4 Does the employer the card room get  
5 notified of our notices on its employees?

6 MS. ALVARADO: If their licenses are  
7 revoked I believe so, yes.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Thank you.  
9 Commissioners any questions.

10 If not, can we get a motion to approve the  
11 default final order?

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: (Inaudible).

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a  
14 second.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
17 aye.

18 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

20 We are moving on to 2.3.

21 MS. ALVARADO: 2.3 is case number  
22 2023047752, Henry Collazo. In this case there was  
23 a one count administrative complaint seeking  
24 suspension of Respondent's Pari-Mutuel wagering  
25 professional individual occupational license due to

1 an outstanding debt related to horse racing  
2 pursuant to section 5501057.

3 You were provided the USPS tracking as well  
4 in this case. Respondent failed to respond.

5 Therefore, the Division would ask the  
6 Commission to enter an order finding that the  
7 Respondent was properly served, that they failed to  
8 respond within 21 days, that the facts in this case  
9 -- the facts in the administrative complaint are  
10 accepted as the facts in this case.

11 And concluding that his Pari-Mutuel  
12 wagering professional individual occupational  
13 license will be suspended until we receive  
14 confirmation of the payment.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.  
16 And again, just another clarification.

17 Once we issue this default final order, do  
18 we notify HISA, HIWU of this licensee?

19 MS. ALVARADO: That I don't -- I'm not sure  
20 about. I would have to ask the licensing that.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. (Inaudible)  
22 Dillmore.

23 MR. DILLMORE: I'm not sure that this would  
24 be a violation of the HISA rules as much as it is  
25 our State licensing rules.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Just to let them know  
2 though that this individual's license is suspended  
3 in case there's a national database that they've  
4 established.

5 MR. DILLMORE: Yes, I don't know if it  
6 would affect his HISA registration or not but we  
7 can certainly notify them.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Right.

9 Commissioners, any questions on this? Can  
10 we get a motion to approve the default final order?

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
13 aye.

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Item 2.3  
16 passes.

17 We are moving on to 2.4.

18 MS. ALVARADO: 2.4 is 2023048277 for  
19 Clemonte Scott. In this case, you were provided  
20 with a filed administrative complaint alleging that  
21 Respondent was issued a lifetime trespass from Big  
22 Easy Casino due to stealing chips from other  
23 players during a live poker game.

24 He is subject to exclusion from all  
25 Pari-Mutuels pursuant to 550.02516 and all slot

1 machine facilities pursuant to 551.112.

2 You were also provided with the  
3 confirmation of service. The Respondent failed to  
4 respond within 21 days.

5 Therefore, the Division would ask that the  
6 Commission enter an order finding that the  
7 Respondent was properly served with the  
8 administrative complaint, failed to respond within  
9 the 21 days, that the facts in the administrative  
10 complaint are accepted as the facts in this case.

11 And concluding that they will be added to  
12 the permanent exclusion list for all Pari-Mutuel  
13 and slot machine facilities.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for the  
15 overview.

16 Commissioners, can I get a motion to  
17 approve the default final order on this item?

18 Okay. Thank you so much. Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
21 aye.

22 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes.

24 We are moving -- skipping 2.5 and going to  
25 2.6.

1 MS. ALVARADO: Item 2.6 is 2023053869,  
2 Michael Zarnoch. In this case, you're provided a  
3 two count administrative complaint alleging that  
4 Respondent was convicted of one felony and failed  
5 to notify the Commission of this conviction. He is  
6 subject to revocation of his PMW general individual  
7 occupational license pursuant to 550.1055B.

8 You were also provided with the  
9 confirmation of service and he failed to respond  
10 within 21 days.

11 Therefore, the Division would ask that the  
12 Commission enter an order finding that he was  
13 properly served with the administrative complaint.

14 He failed to respond within 21 days, that  
15 the facts in the administrative complaint are  
16 accepted as the facts in this case.

17 And concluding that his Pari-Mutuel  
18 wagering professional individual occupational  
19 license will be revoked.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, are  
21 there any questions on this item? No.

22 All right, and Ms. Alvarado, what would be  
23 the individual's recourse once we enter the default  
24 final order revoking his license? Does he have an  
25 appellate kind of process?

1 MS. ALVARADO: Yes. So, he has 30 days to  
2 appeal that order as well.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.  
4 Commissioners, can we get a motion to approve the  
5 recommended order?

6 COMMISSIONER REPP: I make a motion to  
7 approve the recommended order.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
11 aye.

12 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

14 Now, we're circling back to 2.5. And the  
15 way Commissioners, that we're going to do this is  
16 just have Ms. Alvarado present the overview.

17 If we have any questions for her we'll be  
18 allowed to ask them at that time and then we'll  
19 have the speaker come up.

20 MS. ALVARADO: Item 2.5 is 2023050851  
21 which is Gretna Racing. In this case, you were  
22 provided with a two count administrative complaint  
23 alleging that Respondent's staff was seen using a  
24 poker podium as a cashier's cage in a transaction  
25 of chips and cash with patrons. And they were seen

1 opening and closing an unlocked drawer which  
2 contained chips not in play, in violations of rules  
3 7511.0312 and 7511.0151.

4 You were also provided with the hand  
5 service affidavit showing that they were served at  
6 the facility. They failed to respond within 21  
7 days.

8 The counsel for the Respondent reached out  
9 to me on Monday letting me know that they're now  
10 representing them. They asked that we pushed this  
11 from this meeting so that we can do settlement  
12 negotiations.

13 Originally, I was seeking a 500 fine -- a  
14 \$500.00 fine today as a default final order. It's  
15 something that me and him have discussed as well.  
16 And he is here as well to answer any questions.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any  
18 questions of Ms. Alvarado? Okay.

19 I just wanted to make a point that there  
20 was in the investigative report by Rhonda Simpson,  
21 there was a mention of an additional rule violation  
22 that wasn't in the recommendation.

23 So, if we are to pursue negotiations, I  
24 would like that to be in consideration as well.  
25 And that would be the floor supervisor failing to

1 replace the damaged deck. I think that is just  
2 something to be noted.

3 MS. ALVARADO: I didn't allege it in the  
4 administrative complaint only because there wasn't  
5 any images.

6 Typically, when they put that in the  
7 investigative report, we do have images of the  
8 damaged cards. I didn't have any in this one so I  
9 didn't actually allege that. But I'm happy to  
10 amend the complaint if you would like me to find  
11 more information on that with the investigators.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I think it would be  
13 noteworthy just because there are two prior  
14 violations in 2022 for that same rule violation of  
15 which the Commission did assess a fine of 500 --  
16 250, pardon me. So, just to continue to have  
17 negotiations.

18 But let's have the speaker come up,  
19 please, Mr. TJ Morton from the Lockwood law firm.  
20 Welcome.

21 MR. MORTON: Morning. Is that better?  
22 There we go. Good morning. Okay. Good morning  
23 members, of the Commission, TJ Morton with the  
24 Lockwood law firm on behalf of Gretna Racing.

25 As Ms. Alvarado mentioned, we're asking

1 for your consideration to allow us to enter into a  
2 consent order in lieu of the default final order.

3 Essentially, what happened was the  
4 administrative complaint was mailed to Gretna's  
5 address of record that which I confirmed this  
6 morning. I was told by Gretna that that PO box has  
7 not been used for over 10 years.

8 So, there's a little confusion as to how  
9 that was still the address of record but we're  
10 getting that taken care of. And after the mail  
11 service was unsuccessful, the administrative  
12 complaint was hand delivered on the card room  
13 manager.

14 It's my understanding that it's the first  
15 time that the card room manager had ever been  
16 personally served with an administrative complaint  
17 so they were a little confused about the situation.

18 In the past, all administrative complaints  
19 had been received and handled by their in-house  
20 attorney. Obviously, that didn't happen this time.  
21 It was just hand delivered on the card room  
22 manager. So, there was an assumption that it was  
23 being handled by the attorney, it was not and  
24 that's how we ended up here.

25 I learned of this on Monday when I was

1 looking at the agenda for today's meeting and I  
2 reached out to Ms. Alvarado at that point and asked  
3 if there would be a way that we could enter into a  
4 consent order.

5 We're willing to enter into a consent  
6 order for the same amount was proposed in the  
7 default final order. But we would just prefer if  
8 possible, for it to be a consent order as opposed  
9 to a default final order for various purposes.

10 Moving forward, I have asked Ms. Alvarado  
11 to include our firm on the service list and to  
12 e-mail any administrative complaints to us so this  
13 won't happen in the future.

14 And Gretna is also submitting a formal  
15 request to change their address so that they update  
16 their address to a current mailing address. So,  
17 with that, we just ask for your consideration.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Morton.  
19 That was a great explanation too and provides a lot  
20 of oversight of -- you know, response, so,  
21 appreciate that.

22 Commissioners, do you have any questions?  
23 I think this would be the type of case that would  
24 be ripe for the consent order given the various  
25 facts.

1                   COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm assuming there's  
2 no deadline that that we're concerned about with  
3 this or anything like that, that we can wait for  
4 this to be a consent item?

5                   MS. ALVARADO: Yes. You can make that  
6 decision to not default them and we can set -- do  
7 settlement negotiations.

8                   COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

9                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. So, is  
10 there a proper -- would it be just a table of the  
11 item?

12                   MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

13                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: We would not need a  
14 motion, necessarily?

15                   MS. ALVARADO: No.

16                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. So,  
17 Commissioners if you all are in agreement, we're  
18 just going to table this item and have every -- I  
19 see nods. Everyone is shaking their head for the  
20 record.

21                   So, we will go ahead and give Ms. Alvarado  
22 authority to pursue negotiations with Gretna.

23                   MR. MORTON: Thank you very much. We  
24 appreciate it.

25                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,                   Mr.

1 Morton.

2 We are going to move on to Items 3.1  
3 through 3.5 which is the Discussion of Consent  
4 Orders.

5 MS. ALVARADO: Item 3.1 is 2023008898,  
6 Nestor Cascallares. In this case, you were  
7 provided with a one count administrative complaint  
8 alleging the Respondent violated 550.241518 Florida  
9 Statutes and Rule 6. -- I'm sorry, 756.0082Q by  
10 racing a horse with an impermissible amount of  
11 methocarbamol.

12 You were also provided with the settlement  
13 and consent order that was notarized and signed by  
14 Respondent with \$1,000.00 fine.

15 This is Respondent's first violation. The  
16 penalty for this is a Class C substance which is  
17 \$1,000.00.

18 The Division would ask that the Commission  
19 enter an order adopting the consent order in this  
20 case.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is it up to a \$1,000.00  
22 or is it set at \$1,000.00.

23 MS. ALVARADO: For first violation ARCI  
24 has it at \$1000 unless there is aggravating  
25 circumstances.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay.

2 Commissioners, any thoughts or comments on  
3 this item? If not, can we get a motion to approve  
4 please?

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: (Inaudible).

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Oh, thank you. Is  
7 there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
10 aye.

11 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. It passes.  
13 3.2, please.

14 MS. ALVARADO: 3.2 is 2023040396. This is  
15 Hamilton Downs Horse Track. In this is case you  
16 were provided with a 12 count administrative  
17 complaint alleging that Respondent violated Rules  
18 7511.01261, 7511.0126A1, 7511.02514A, 7511.0194E2,  
19 7511.02513B, 7511.0121A and 7511.0128 by failing to  
20 record the number of chips in the card room vault at  
21 the end of the day, by failing to properly maintain  
22 and improve floor plan showing placement of each  
23 table and its corresponding numbers.

24 Failing to maintain 14 days of the  
25 surveillance, two counts of that. Failing to record

1 the surveillance malfunctions on the malfunction  
2 log. Failing to include job titles of the employees  
3 on the weekly roster, failing to include the  
4 position titles of employees permitted to enter the  
5 cashier's cage, the count room, the vaults and the  
6 surveillance room. And failing to ensure the chip  
7 vault inventory form reflected that at least -- that  
8 at least one person had performed the daily  
9 inventory in the vault that day.

10 They have no prior violations of any of  
11 these rules. The Respondent has sent back a signed  
12 -- a consent order with a \$3,250.00 fine.

13 Therefore, the Division would ask that the  
14 Commission adopt the consent order in this case.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms.  
16 Alvarado. And I know this must have taken a lot of  
17 time to come to a consent -- consensus with  
18 Hamilton Downs. So, I appreciate the work you've  
19 done on this item.

20 Commissioner D'Aquila.

21 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: My question is,  
22 what is the history of this license holder and what  
23 are the rules pertaining to suspending the license  
24 in this case with so many violations?

25 MS. ALVARADO: I --

1                   COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: We can look into  
2 that in the investigations, maybe that should be  
3 directed to someone else.

4                   MS. ALVARADO: I was going to say maybe  
5 Mr. Dillmore can give more history on that as  
6 well.

7                   MR. DILLMORE: So, as far as the card room  
8 itself, it's a relatively new operation. I think  
9 it was just approved in the last year and a half  
10 or two.

11                   They did pass a pre-inspection of all the  
12 rules and the oversight and surveillance and all  
13 that. So, for some time they did operate. And  
14 then obviously, our investigators go in and do  
15 inspections as they go through their operations  
16 and they did find numerous violations in this --  
17 in this case.

18                   We haven't been able to verify that the  
19 corrections have been made since the card room has  
20 been shut down, I believe since September or early  
21 October due to some damage from the storm. So, as  
22 of right now the card room is not operating.

23                   I think the list of violations, potential  
24 things for violation are suspension, revocation or  
25 a fine. But again, in this instance, even though

1 the violations are numerous, this is their first  
2 go at going through the violations.

3 So, I think, for your consideration, I  
4 mean, those things are all -- are possible but,  
5 you know, suspension on the first set of  
6 violations, I'm not aware if this has happened  
7 before in the card room.

8 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: So, if I hear  
9 correctly this is the first set of violations that  
10 they have had even though they are numerous.  
11 There is not a historical pattern then and some of  
12 this was attributable to the recent storm that  
13 occurred --

14 MR. DILLMORE: Well no, it didn't occur  
15 because of the storm, but we haven't been able to  
16 go back and verify that they have been corrected  
17 because they haven't been operational.

18 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Understood. Thank  
19 you.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Just a clarification  
22 I guess. These charges are against the operator.  
23 Do we look at the individual employees as well.

24 Do we also find violations with the  
25 individual employees that are committing these

1 violations, or do we identify those or do we --  
2 since there are so many and it seems systemic do we  
3 go after the operator? I just want to get clear on  
4 who is responsible in terms of how we look at this?

5 MS. ALVARADO: So, it really depends on  
6 how the rules within -- there are certain rules  
7 that would apply towards the operator and even if  
8 one of their employees do it, they would be  
9 responsible for training their employee to make  
10 sure they don't violate those rules. And all of  
11 these were applicable to the operator.

12 There are specific rules that would go  
13 towards an occupational licensee, and you've seen a  
14 few of those come before you. So, those would be  
15 specific towards the violations that they make.  
16 It's just the way the rule is written here. These  
17 were against the card room operators.

18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you very much.  
19 I appreciate that.

20 MR. DILLMORE: If I could add one thing to  
21 that. I think there's a very small operation. I  
22 think they only have one licensed table so there's  
23 not a significant number of employees in the  
24 facility.

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

1                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: I imagine the fine is  
2 very hefty for a very small operation of this  
3 magnitude.

4                   MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

5                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any  
6 other questions?

7                   If not, can we get a motion to approve  
8 the consent order?

9                   COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to  
10 approve the consent order.

11                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

12                  COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

13                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. All those  
14 in favor say aye.

15                  BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

16                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes. All  
17 right.

18                  Moving on to the Discussion of Recommended  
19 Orders 4.1 through 4.3.

20                  MS. ALVARADO: I think we may have skipped  
21 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.

22                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: I did skip that, didn't  
23 I? That was a big one though. It was a big one.

24                  MS. ALVARADO: It was.

25                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Sorry, thank you. Do

1           you want to combine 3.3 -- no. You can just go  
2           ahead and go individually with each one.

3                       MS. ALVARADO: Okay. Item 3.3 is  
4           2023005700 which is Tampa Bay Downs. In this case,  
5           there was a filed administrative complaint alleging  
6           that Respondent violated rules 7511.02518 and  
7           7511.02513A by failing to suspend play at a card  
8           table and failing to place a sign indicating that  
9           the card table was closed while surveillance  
10          systems were down.

11                      They also failed to notify the Division  
12          within 24 hours of the discovery of the  
13          surveillance malfunction.

14                      The Respondent has two prior violations of  
15          Rule 7511.02518 which resulted in administrative  
16          fines of 350 and then \$1,000.00 And then they had  
17          one prior violation of rule 7511.02513A which  
18          resulted in a fine of \$250.00.

19                      You were also provided with a signed  
20          settlement and consent order which had a fine of  
21          \$1750.00.

22                      The Division would ask that the Commission  
23          enter an order adopting the consent order in this  
24          case.

25                      VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

1 Commissioners, and the next two other items are  
2 also the same individual -- entities, sorry.

3 Are there any questions on this particular  
4 item?

5 If not, can we get a Motion to approve the  
6 consent order?

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a  
9 second?

10 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: (Indicating)

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
12 aye?

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes.  
15 Item 3.4.

16 MS. ALVARADO: 3.4 is 2023037283, also  
17 Tampa Bay Downs. In this case, you were provided a  
18 filed administrative complaint alleging that  
19 respondent violated Rule 7511.0128 and 7511.0205 by  
20 allowing employee that was not on the authorized  
21 list for the surveillance room to enter and  
22 observed the count and failing to document the  
23 required information when the key was assessed on a  
24 poker room control log sheet.

25 They have two prior violations of

1 7511.0128 which resulted in a \$250.00 fine, and  
2 then a \$500.00 fine.

3 They sent back a signed settlement and  
4 consent order in this case which had a fine of  
5 \$1,250.00.

6 Therefore, the Division would ask that we  
7 adopt the consent order in this case.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, if there  
9 are no questions, can we get a Motion to approve  
10 the consent order?

11 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to  
12 approve the consent order.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner  
14 D'Aquila. All those in favor say aye.

15 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Motion  
17 passes.

18 3.5, please.

19 MS. ALVARADO: 3.5 is 2023047573 also.  
20 Tampa Bay Downs. In this case, you were provided  
21 with a filed administrative complaint alleging that  
22 Respondent violated Rule 757.0211 by failing to  
23 have a visible number on a patron-operated terminal  
24 which was present on the card room.

25 There was four prior violations of this

1 rule. They resulted in fines of \$250.00, two  
2 fines of \$500.00. I'm sorry. And then three  
3 fines of \$500.00 following that.

4 They sent back a signed settlement and  
5 consent order in this case which had a thousand  
6 dollar fine.

7 Therefore, the Division would ask the  
8 Commission adopt a consent order in this case.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And there were four  
10 priors?

11 MS. ALVARADO: Four priors in this case.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Over a span of how many  
13 years, If you don't mind me asking for  
14 clarification?

15 MS ALVARADO: Yes, one second. So, it  
16 looks like from 2014 to 2019.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for that  
18 clarification.

19 Commissioners, any questions? Can I get a  
20 motion to approve? Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: (Indicating).

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second.

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
25 aye.

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The motion  
3 passes.

4 Now, we are on Items 4.1 through 4.3.

5 MS. ALVARADO: Item 4.1 is 2023008508  
6 Carlos Martinez. This case came -- comes before  
7 you following the recommended orders that was  
8 issued by the Hearing Officer.

9 And informal hearing was conducted on  
10 October 12 regarding a letter of license denial  
11 that was issued to Mr. Martinez seeking to deny his  
12 application for a PMW general individual  
13 occupational license due to his felony conviction.

14 The Hearing Officer issued a recommended  
15 order on January 9th recommending that the  
16 Commission deny his application.

17 Therefore, the Division would ask that they  
18 adopt the Hearing Officer's recommended order in  
19 this case.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.  
21 Commissioners, are there any questions? I don't  
22 have any on this item.

23 None. Can we get a motion to approve the  
24 recommended order on 4.1?

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
4 aye.

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. On to 4.2.

7 MS ALVARADO: Items 4.2 is 2023031192,  
8 Beatrice Gillespie. This case is coming before you  
9 following a recommended order that was issued by  
10 the Hearing Officer.

11 An informal hearing was conducted on  
12 October 12th, 2023, regarding an administrative  
13 complaint seeking to exclude Respondent from all  
14 Pari-Mutuel and slot machine facilities pursuant to  
15 Sections 550.02516 and 551.112 Florida Statutes.

16 The Hearing Officer issued a recommended  
17 order on January 9th recommending that the  
18 Respondent be added to the permanent exclusion list  
19 for all Pari-Mutuel and slot machine facilities.

20 Therefore, the Division would ask that you  
21 adopt the Hearing Officer's recommended order and  
22 add Respondent to the permanent exclusion list.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

24 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can we  
25 get a motion to approve the recommended order on

1 this Item 4.2.

2 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

3 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All this in favor say  
5 aye.

6 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. 4.2 passes.  
8 And the last one, 4.3.

9 MS. ALVARADO: 4.3 is 2023037698, Antwan  
10 Bradley. This case comes before you following a  
11 recommended order that was issued by the Hearing  
12 Officer.

13 An informal Hearing was conducted on  
14 October 12th, 2023, regarding an administrative  
15 complaint seeking to exclude the Respondent from  
16 all Pari-Mutuel and slot machine facilities  
17 pursuant to Sections 550.02516 and 551.112 Florida  
18 Statutes.

19 The Hearing Officer issued a recommended  
20 order on January 9th recommending that Respondent  
21 be added to the permanent exclusion list for all  
22 Pari-Mutuel and slot machines facilities.

23 Therefore, the Division would ask that you  
24 adopt the Hearing Officer's recommended order and  
25 add the Respondent to the exclusion list for all

1 Pari-Mutuel and slot machines facilities.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.

3 Commissioners, if there are no questions,

4 can we get a motion to approve the recommended

5 order on Item 4.3.

6 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to

7 approve the recommended order.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Second.

9 All those in favor say aye?

10 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Motion passes.

12 And we're going to be moving on to a

13 discussion of license denials Items 5.1 through

14 5.3.

15 MS. ALVARADO: Item 5.1 one is 202306272 --

16 062769 which is Sean Allister Fletcher. The

17 Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering received a license

18 application for Mr. Fletcher on November 1st, 2023.

19 The applicant was seeking a slot machine

20 card room Pari-Mutuel combination occupational

21 license. After review of the application, it was

22 discovered that he was convicted of driving with a

23 license revoked in 2004 and petty theft in 2008.

24 He originally did not disclose this on the

25 application. Today, I was provided with a letter

1 that they were sent, and he did amend his  
2 application to include it after the fact.

3 It looks like he still owes about \$425.00  
4 in court costs. The Applicant could not apply for  
5 a waiver.

6 Therefore, the Division would ask the  
7 Commission to authorize a Notice of Intent to deny  
8 in this case.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila,  
10 looks like you're ready for a question.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: If I may. My  
12 understanding the violation was driving without a  
13 license; is that correct?

14 MS. ALVARADO: Driving with a license  
15 revoked.

16 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Revoked, okay. All  
17 right. And there haven't -- other than that series  
18 in that year what I saw, have there been any  
19 subsequent during the investigation discovered  
20 since 2005, I believe?

21 MS. ALVARADO: 2008, there was also a  
22 misdemeanor conviction for petty theft.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Okay.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And my understanding is  
25 again, because there was no waiver available to

1 him, we don't have necessarily more information  
2 about the misdemeanor but the petty theft or we  
3 just have the felony.

4 MS. ALVARADO: We don't have any more  
5 information than was provided to you guys. He  
6 could send in stuff when he received this letter.

7 The reason that he was sent this letter  
8 was to provide more information on the Broward  
9 County arrest, and he did not provide anything but  
10 an amended application.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Both charges, the Court  
12 found adjudication withheld. So, I know that can  
13 be confusing for folks that are filling out an  
14 application sometimes.

15 It can be confusing for lawyers as well  
16 who aren't criminal attorneys. But that being  
17 said, I mean, these offenses happen so long ago.  
18 The felony that is in question happened, you know,  
19 20 years ago, 2004.

20 So, I personally don't think that this is  
21 a concerned risk of the individual. He has  
22 temporary license.

23 I really struggled with this one because I  
24 don't like the misdemeanor charge particularly.

25 Summarily I understand is the facts that

1 were in the report, but I don't think this is -- I  
2 think this is someone that we should consider even  
3 if he made restitution of the \$425.00 for his prior  
4 criminal -- I think we should consider this again  
5 because I don't think that there is much risk. And  
6 also to point out, he is a Canadian citizen and  
7 still has his license or ability to be in the  
8 United States. And he has not committed any crimes  
9 since this time.

10 Commissioner Drago.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: You know, I just have  
12 one question. I guess, if that is probation, did I  
13 hear you say he's not completed his probation  
14 because he still owes court costs?

15 MS. ALVARADO: All I have is that he still  
16 owes \$425.00 in court costs for the 2006 case which  
17 is the 2008 conviction, the petty theft that he  
18 still owes \$425.00 for it.

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: It just seems odd  
20 that it's been allowed to go this long when they  
21 haven't issued some kind of a capias warrant or  
22 something over all that time if he hasn't completed  
23 that.

24 But I tend to agree with Vice Chair in  
25 terms of the severity of the crime or lack thereof

1 driving with a revoked license, not that it's  
2 something to sneeze at. But it certainly doesn't  
3 rank up in very serious felonies. And it was a  
4 long time ago, I think is the most important thing  
5 in my mind and he has had a clean record for so  
6 long. And from that, there's an appearance of  
7 being rehabilitated since that time. So, I also  
8 have struggled with denying the license on those  
9 grounds.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Drago. I  
11 agree with that comments.

12 Commissioner D'Aquila.

13 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Is one of the areas  
14 of possibility here to grant an approval of the  
15 license, but subject to the repayment of those fees  
16 that are outstanding? Is that within our  
17 jurisdiction, or range of possibilities?

18 MS. ALVARADO: We can grant a conditional  
19 license. I'm actually going to refer to Elina  
20 Valentine, the Deputy General Counsel on that one.

21 MS. VALENTINE: Good morning.

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Good morning.

23 MS. VALENTINE: I think one of the  
24 conditions that can be placed on a license is that  
25 he pay the outstanding fee within a certain time

1 period, six months, a year.

2 In addition, other conditions that the  
3 Commission may impose would be immediate or summary  
4 suspension or revocation of the license upon any  
5 conviction or any violation of Florida Law or the  
6 law of any state or in the US.

7 And then, you could also impose a  
8 requirement that he report any arrest or charge of  
9 any violation of Florida Law or the law of any  
10 other state or in the United States.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: A few options. Mr.  
12 D'Aquila any follow-up.

13 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: (Inaudible) excuse  
14 me. I'm going to suggest that we make a  
15 requirement -- a condition as you've outlined that  
16 they pay such within 30 or 60 days whichever is  
17 deemed in the circumstances.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

19 Commissioner D'Aquila.

20 Commissioner Repp.

21 COMMISSIONER REPP: I will agree with the  
22 Commissioner and the Vice Chair. My feelings also  
23 that I'm (inaudible) and I think allowing him to  
24 work will probably increase the change of being  
25 able to pay that fine. I think (inaudible) option.

1                   VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. So, it sounds  
2 like we are right probably gearing towards granting  
3 a conditional license upon with the condition being  
4 payment of the \$425.00 but it's the criminal case  
5 within 60 days of the final order granting his  
6 license; is that correct? That sounds good?

7                   COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Vice Chair and also  
8 that he's required to report any criminal  
9 violations that may occur after that as well.

10                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago,  
11 that sounds like a good motion make right there.

12                  COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I make a motion then  
13 we offer conditional license with the conditions  
14 that if -- that the Court costs are paid off within  
15 60 days, and that he's required to report any  
16 criminal arrest. We can arrest as opposed to  
17 convictions, any criminal arrest?

18                  MS. VALENTINE: Yes, we can do arrest.  
19 and we can also include that even if it's not a  
20 criminal matter, if it's violation like an  
21 administrative violation, we can includes that if  
22 you would like.

23                  COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Yes, I would like to  
24 include that in the motion if we could.

25                  VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, are we

1       okay with that motion as is.

2               COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Huh.

3               VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay, can we get a  
4       second?

5               COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll make a second  
6       motion.

7               VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion on the  
8       motion? Say none. All those in favor say aye.

9               BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10              VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes.  
11      Thank you very much.

12              5.2, please. And this one came to us if  
13      I'm correct, back in December.

14              MS. ALVARADO: It did, yes.

15              VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay.

16              MS. ALVARADO: This is 2023063904, Kevin  
17      Robinson. The Division received a license  
18      application from Kevin Robinson on November 1ST,  
19      2023. The applicant is seeking a slot machine card  
20      room Par-Mutuel combination occupational license.

21              It was discovered that he has a -- he was  
22      convicted of grand theft in the third degree in  
23      2001.

24              The applicant did not apply for a waiver  
25      because waivers are not consequently under Chapter

1 551. This was presented at the December 6th  
2 meeting as we just discussed.

3 The Commission ask that we find additional  
4 information regarding the applicant's felony  
5 conviction.

6 Operations was able to get in contact with  
7 the applicant via telephone to request additional  
8 information. To this date, they did not send any  
9 additional information in.

10 I spoke with investigations further which  
11 shows that the applicant was placed on six months  
12 probation which he violated.

13 He was ordered to pay a fine of \$471.00 and  
14 he did pay that fine. The probation was modified  
15 after this violation although it wasn't clear what  
16 it was modified to after that.

17 The applicant had many unrelated arrests  
18 since 2001 including unrelated traffic and domestic  
19 family issues. None of these arrests are  
20 disqualifying convictions under either Chapter 550,  
21 551 or 849.086.

22 Therefore, the Division would ask that the  
23 Commission authorize the Notice of Intent to deny  
24 in this case.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. Commissioners,

1 are there questions on this one.

2 This was something that stems from a 2001  
3 infraction, grand theft third degree.

4 Appreciate staff following up getting more  
5 information on the charges and matters.

6 If there is no decision to grant the  
7 license, then we are right to approve the motion to  
8 issue an intent to deny.

9 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'll make the Motion  
10 with the intent to deny.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Who second.

12 COMMISSIONER REPP: I second.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
14 aye.

15 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes  
17 unanimously, thank you.

18 On to 5.3.

19 MS. ALVARADO: 5.3 is 2023064927, Daniel  
20 Rodriguez. We received a license application for  
21 Mr. Rodriguez on November 2nd, 2023. They're  
22 seeking a Pari-Mutuel Wagering in general  
23 individual occupational license.

24 After review of the application, it was  
25 discovered, they were convicted of reckless burning

1 or exploding in 2022, criminal attempt burglary in  
2 2022 and aggravated assault in 2022.

3 They did not disclose this on the original  
4 application. However, they did amend the  
5 application.

6 He was placed on probation for one year  
7 that started on March 8th, 2022. He did not apply  
8 for a waiver of his felony convictions in this case  
9 although he would have been permitted to do that.

10 The Division would ask the Commission  
11 authorizing Notice of Intent to deny in this case.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. So, all of  
13 these charges related to the same incident in  
14 Pennsylvania.

15 MS. ALVARO: Yes.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any  
17 questions? None. You get a motion of intent to  
18 deny.

19 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: (Indicating).

20 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor say  
22 aye.

23 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes  
25 unanimously. Thank you.

1           And our last legal matter is 6.1.

2           MS. ALVARADO: 6.1 is 2023039413 Rocco  
3 Cormier. The Division seeks to enter a final order  
4 revoking his card room employee occupational  
5 license.

6           He was served with an administrative  
7 complaint seeking revocation pursuant to 7511.0054  
8 for engaging in theft of various ships in the  
9 amount of \$650.00.

10           At this point, there was already a case  
11 that was presented to you guys where he was added  
12 to the permanent exclusion list.

13           Respondent e-mails the Commission stating  
14 that he doesn't dispute these allegations. And  
15 requesting that a final order be imposed in this  
16 case.

17           Therefore, the Division would ask that a  
18 final order be entered revoking his license.

19           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, if not,  
20 can we get a motion to approve the final order.

21           COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to  
22 approve the final order.

23           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second? All  
24 those in favor say aye.

25           BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: The motion passes  
2           unanimously.

3           I do want to note this may be Ms.  
4           Alvarado's last meeting for a few week, to maybe  
5           few months.

6           She's been very industrious over the  
7           holidays and this time. And I know you're going to  
8           be welcoming a new addition in a couple of days.

9           MS. ALVARADO: Yes, thank you.

10          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Our thoughts and prayers  
11          are with you. And thank you all for working so  
12          hard.

13          MS. ALVARADO: I appreciate it.

14          VICE CHAIR BROWN: We'll be sending  
15          blessings to you on Monday.

16          MS. ALVARADO: Thank you.

17          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you Emily. Good  
18          luck.

19          VICE CHAIR BROWN: It would be a lot. All  
20          right. Now, we are going to skip over Item 7 and  
21          go directly to the Executive Director for update.

22          MR. TROMBETTA: Thank you, Commissioner  
23          Brown. I have a few things on my list to cover.

24          The first one is -- was included in the  
25          meeting materials is the last document in the

1 meetings material, the one-page table.

2 The recommendation here is that we amend  
3 our budget request to match what's in the focus on  
4 Florida's future budget.

5 So, the table that you have in front of you  
6 shows a request that's just over \$3.67M. The  
7 number of positions this will touch on all the  
8 things that I think the Commission is critically in  
9 need of. But the big change from our initial  
10 review, our initial LBR was the licensing system.  
11 And we have a large ask there. And I think the  
12 plan is to try to find quotes that will be a little  
13 bit more reasonable for next year.

14 So, with -- with what I'm recommending that  
15 the Commission approve the amended LBR to match  
16 with what's on that table.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, are there  
18 any questions on this? I know we all had our own  
19 briefings over the last few weeks on these LBRs.  
20 With that, I guess, the motion will be to approve  
21 the amended Florida's future budget; is that  
22 correct.

23 MR. TROMBETTA: I prefer if it was worded  
24 in a way, it would be to amend our budget request  
25 that's provided in that table which matches what's

1 in the focus on Florida's future budget.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Sounds great,  
3 Commissioners, Can I get motion to that effect.

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I move to amend the  
5 LBR.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Second. Any  
7 discussion? All those in favor say aye.

8 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

10 MR. TROMBETTA: Where should I go to next?  
11 I have a few things. So let's start with the easy  
12 one.

13 Today in the Florida Administrative  
14 Register, we noticed a rule workshop for January  
15 25TH in South Florida. This is the second workshop  
16 as it relates to our cashless wagering initiative.

17 The plan is internally, we are going to put  
18 out an agenda that contains some of our analysis  
19 based on the feedback we receive after the first  
20 workshop. And then turn it over to the industry to  
21 hopefully respond to that analysis and keep moving  
22 forward.

23 So, that is new. That was again noticed  
24 today and it's set for two weeks from today,  
25 January 25th. So, we look forward to that.

1 Legislative session started this week.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Oh.

3 MR. TROMBETTA: I'm sorry.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes, just backup. And I  
5 appreciate you also your staff providing us with  
6 the comments or notations of summary OF the  
7 workshop.

8 For this particular one, are we going to  
9 get written comments? And if so, are they going to  
10 be made available on our website too, regarding the  
11 workshop and rule?

12 MR. TROMBETTA: Our plan to essentially do  
13 the same thing where we will have a period in which  
14 we keep the record open.

15 So, previous workshop, the record consisted  
16 of a transcript of the workshop that we have, plus  
17 we kept the record open for a period of time in  
18 which people could submit written comments to us.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Huh-uh.

20 MR. TROMBETTA: And we can gather that up  
21 and we reviewed all that.

22 We plan to do the same thing again. So,  
23 all of that will be available. It will all be  
24 provided after the fact to essentially anybody that  
25 wants it.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's great. And when  
2 we do -- when we do like solicit it, I guess,  
3 comments, are we going to also post that  
4 notification on the website so that folks across  
5 the industry can know that we are still accepting  
6 input.

7           MR. TROMBETTA: I understand that. We can.  
8 We can do that.

9           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay, thank you. I was  
10 going to -- thank you.

11           MR. TROMBETTA: Okay. So, legislatively,  
12 there are a number of bills that have been  
13 introduced so far that touch on the Gaming  
14 Commission.

15           Our staff has been doing analysis on a  
16 number of these bills. Some of them are -- yeah,  
17 some of them are our own; sorry.

18           We are pushing our own agency bill. We  
19 have good sponsors there. We are pushing a  
20 criminal bill that will raise penalties on a lot of  
21 illegal activity and we're also seeking a trust  
22 fund.

23           So, that many law enforcement agencies  
24 commonly have their own trust funds so that when  
25 they seize contraband or when they seize things,

1 they can essentially put the proceeds into a trust  
2 fund that can be used for good.

3 We do not that in our enacting bill so  
4 we're trying to get that as well. So far the  
5 conversations I'm having are pretty positive and  
6 you know, looking forward to how the session goes.

7 Just for purpose of just kind of making it  
8 known, there are some bills out there. There are  
9 some other bills touching the Gaming Commission. I  
10 have a list so I apologize for looking at my  
11 computer. I'm not going to go through the list but  
12 there's now fantasy bills. There is bills touching  
13 fancy sport that have been introduced both in the  
14 House and the Senate.

15 They are very different right now. So, I'm  
16 not sure where these will go, but we're kind of  
17 monitoring that and, you know, depending on what  
18 happens, we'll -- we will be providing updates to  
19 you all. Excuse me.

20 Our staff is doing the analysis and for  
21 some of them and you know, we're just going to  
22 monitor it.

23 Kind of an unrelated matter, Senator  
24 Gruters have asked us to kind of clarify our  
25 position on the fantasy sports and we are working

1 on a response to that and I imagine we'll probably  
2 have that out at some point.

3 There's other bills that have been  
4 introduced by the people also touching on some of  
5 the regulated areas in that the Gaming Commission  
6 covers. So, there's a bill right now that would,  
7 depending on some circumstance may allow some  
8 permits from around. We're doing the analysis on  
9 that one as well.

10 And again, we have a good staff right now,  
11 you know, to kind of what you started this meeting  
12 with this year is very different year than the  
13 last. We have much more staff. We have staff that  
14 are now in positions where they can much better  
15 support what we're trying to do.

16 And I'm very confident that we'll be able  
17 to kind of continue to get you guys information  
18 that you need and respond to all of these  
19 legislative bills and things that get introduced in  
20 a good way.

21 Really, you know, it's pretty -- you know,  
22 I've been in gaming in the State for over ten years  
23 now, and I don't remember this many bills at this  
24 point in time. So, it's kind of an exciting might  
25 be a generous word, but it's an exciting path to

1 see where we're going and all that.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Would you say that we're  
3 a gaming State.

4 MR. TROMBETTA: We're definitely. Florida  
5 is definitely a gaming State, yes, ma'am.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, do you  
7 have any questions on legislative front.

8 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

10 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I just have one  
11 question with regard to the senator's letter, just  
12 considering the amount of press that is occurring  
13 in our State, is there -- are we doing everything  
14 possible to reply to the senator in a timely  
15 fashion?

16 My concern, well, it's from both the State  
17 and national attention on this issue and the  
18 timeliness with which we respond. I know you said  
19 we'll get to it, but are we doing everything  
20 possible to respond in a timely fashion to the  
21 senator? Especially in light of the legislative  
22 session that is now taking place starting this  
23 week?

24 MR. TROMBETTA: Thank you, Commissioner  
25 D'Aquila, yes, we are. You know, obviously with

1 the holidays, we also have some key personnel that  
2 are out for one reason or another. So, we are  
3 doing everything we can to respond quickly.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And letting Senator  
5 Gruters know that we're working diligently.

6 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes, ma'am.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

8 Commissioners, have any other questions on the  
9 legislative front? All right.

10 MR. TROMBETTA: Just kind of for  
11 housekeeping. So, we have planned meeting dates  
12 for the next two months.

13 I am going to recommend that maybe we go  
14 out through May, Keeping in mind too that in March  
15 is our big period for responding to the  
16 applications for Pari-Mutuel operating licenses.  
17 So, by March 15th, the Commission by statute has to  
18 approve or deny all of the operating licenses we  
19 get.

20 You know, there is, I think 40 plus 27 last  
21 year. There's, you know, 40 licenses with 27 card  
22 rooms. My numbers are off but it's somewhere in  
23 that area. There's a lot of -- a lot of  
24 applications that we have to make a decision on.

25 In the, I think past year, we kind of, we

1 didn't like split them up entirely, but we find of  
2 group them into categories of ones that -- either  
3 way, my team's going to work on putting all that  
4 together.

5 But what I'm going at is I think it might  
6 be worth it to kind of start planning the calendar  
7 out through May, if you guys have time and, you  
8 know, would entertain that.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That sounds great. So,  
10 if we could get to a couple of suggested dates from  
11 you starting with, let's go right to March.

12 MR. TROMBETTA: Sure. So, March, the  
13 suggestion is that we meet either some day either  
14 the 5th, 6th, or 7th have a normal meeting with the  
15 idea that if something goes -- if we need to have  
16 an emergency meeting for one of these licenses, we  
17 have some time before the 15th to do that.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Certainly.  
19 Commissioners, either of those days work? Does  
20 anybody have a hard sell on any of those.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No, I just, if I could  
22 clarify to make sure we're still on same day for  
23 February, February.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: February 1st, yes.

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Right. So it's set

1 for that one, okay. No, I don't have a hard for  
2 March.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Everyone good with -- so  
4 is there a preference, Director Trombetta.

5 MR. TROMBETTA: I prefer March 5th.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay, yeah, that would  
7 be great. Let's go for that, March 5th. Thank  
8 you. And again, I know Ms. Parker, she's been  
9 really helpful in securing facilities and I know  
10 it's still session and so appreciate wherever we  
11 can get to, to these meetings.

12 So April, no, the 1st week in April? You  
13 have a problem with April 4th. Anybody, no? We  
14 have none. Director Trombetta, do you?

15 MR. TROMBETTA: Uhm.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is that May or April.

17 MR. TROMBETTA: You're the commissioners.  
18 I don't --

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Oh, okay.

20 MR. TROMBETTA: I can be here April 4th st.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: So, I think -- yeah. I  
22 think he may have a little bit of a conflict. Is  
23 there -- are we okay with April 3rd? April 3rd,  
24 okay, does that work?

25 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes, ma'am, sorry.

1 COMMISSIONER REPP: Yes, that work.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay, so we're going to  
3 do April 3rd.

4 All right. And then May, do you have  
5 suggestions for that?

6 MR. TROMBETTA: For May I -- just looking  
7 ahead, I put either the 8th or the 9th. 8th is the  
8 Wednesday, 9th is the Thursday.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Do you have a  
10 preference?

11 MR. TROMBETTA: I do not.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, do you  
13 have any conflict or preference?

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: 9th would.

15 COMMISSIONER REPP: Good day.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Same.

17 MR. TROMBETTA: I'm sorry. 9th would be  
18 better.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Let's go to the 9th.  
20 All right, so just to sum up. March 5th, is we've  
21 got February 1st is our next meeting, March 5th,  
22 April 3rd and then May 9th. And Ms. Parker will  
23 help coordinate, yes, Mr. D'Aquila.

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: After consideration  
25 that the Commission consider having maybe the May

1 or June meeting in South Florida considering where  
2 the majority of our licensees are located, and also  
3 the success that -- and attendance at meeting that  
4 occurred last year.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I think that's a really  
6 great suggestion if we can make logistics work out,  
7 administratively and financially. But you're  
8 right. The last meeting we had was very well  
9 attended and really in the market.

10 Commissioner Drago.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Yeah, I agree with  
12 that. I think we should definitely try to do that,  
13 whether it's May or June. I don't particularly  
14 have a preference, but one of those.

15 And before we get too far down the road in  
16 this year, and before you know it, the years's  
17 over, so, I think this is a very good suggestion.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's the truth.

19 Commissioner Repp, any?

20 COMMISSIONER REPP: No, I agree that would  
21 be (inaudible) schedule.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Sounds good. And we  
23 will, of course have a -- we can have additional  
24 meetings as well. But as long as the public knows  
25 that those are set meetings.

1 MR. TROMBETTA: Commissioner Brown, I just  
2 received a message. This room is not available  
3 March 5th so --

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay.

5 MR. TROMBETTA: -- sorry about that. So,  
6 if you are open to it, it looks like it is  
7 available for the 6th, March 6th. That will still  
8 give us time if we need to have an emergency  
9 meeting, that's fine.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That was quick. Thank  
11 you PSC. Thank you. Are we okay with March 6th?

12 BOARD MEMBERS: Yes.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Everyone is in occur --  
14 concurrence, thank you. All right, so, we are done  
15 with the schedule. We can move on.

16 MR. TROMBETTA: Thank you. Okay, I'm going  
17 to turn over now to Suzie. We are going to present  
18 to you our updated website. And I want to make  
19 Suzie available in case, just to kind of give an  
20 overview of what's going on with IT and if you have  
21 any questions.

22 So, this is for the audience. I mean, this  
23 is sort of an internal thing, but you're happy to  
24 see sort of the workings here.

25 We're working on -- background here. We're

1 working on updating our website. What you see on  
2 the screen behind you before I turn it over to  
3 Suzie --

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Oh, let the  
5 Commissioners know. There's a button right in  
6 front of you to you right. If you push it up where  
7 it says, program on, you could see it on the  
8 desktop right in front of you so you don't have to  
9 strain your neck. Move the mouse, and you can and  
10 there is a mouse underneath your desk.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Good critical  
12 need-to-know information.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Need to know. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes, ma'am. So, what you  
16 see in front you being displayed is essentially  
17 development. It's a proposal for our updated web  
18 page as it is being developed.

19 I wanted to put it up here because one of  
20 the things we've been working on internally was to  
21 kind of make our website a little more  
22 user-friendly. So, we've -- there is a few things.

23 One, the graphic is in a scrolling image or  
24 a scrolling slide, I guess, would be a better way  
25 to describe it of images submitted by permit

1 holders around the State.

2 So it shows off some of the regulated  
3 entities in the State, and helps kind of just  
4 identify who they are and what they do.

5 Secondly, we've tried to -- we've  
6 reorganized the buttons. Is that the correct word,  
7 Suzie, below. This is where you see sort of two  
8 columns, the consumer information, the regulatory  
9 information.

10 All of this can change and if you continue  
11 to scroll down on the web page, we've included our  
12 calendar for upcoming events. We've found a way to  
13 keep our Twitter right there. And it's just kind  
14 of like an updated version.

15 But with that, we're going to turn over to  
16 Commissioners, turn over to Suzie and I will stop  
17 talking.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: It's very modern.

19 MS. WHITMIRE: We're getting there, aren't  
20 we?

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yeah, Suzie, good job.

22 MS. WHITMIRE: You know, it's come along  
23 way since the first website we had which was  
24 pitiful. And we continue to work on modernization  
25 and to make it easier for our public to consume the

1 information.

2 I think the biggest thing that has really  
3 change is the amount of information that was  
4 available.

5 When I got here, there were three buttons.  
6 We now have lots of information. What was clear is  
7 that our information is really to two audience.  
8 It's those we regulate and those that want to know  
9 about our services or want to report its activity.

10 So, we kind of came up with a way for the  
11 -- to immediately say to consumers, here's where we  
12 think you'd want to go in here.

13 Then there's things like gambling  
14 addiction and publications and how to report a  
15 suspicious or illegal activity.

16 And then on the regulatory it's about our  
17 licensees want to do, check your licenses, apply,  
18 renew, but it's also about how to file a report  
19 against a licensed person.

20 And so, we have both the illegal and the  
21 licensed people represented in two separate  
22 buttons. It goes to the same place. And still the  
23 process hasn't changed, but at least as law  
24 enforcement goes in the background. But it kind of  
25 speaks more to the way a consumer thinks.

1 I'm not in a legal casino so I don't know  
2 what I'm supposed to do so we'll try to make it  
3 more clear for people to do.

4 This -- these buttons all go to subordinate  
5 pages so you'll be able to see and get the stuff.  
6 We have the branding. We have easy clicks through  
7 all doing the same kind of easy one-page  
8 information, not a whole lot scrolling. We just  
9 try and keep from scrolling a lot because it's  
10 mobile-friendly.

11 The carousel appear, it's a random  
12 carousel. The facilities all provided the images  
13 that they want to be a part of it. These are in no  
14 particular order. They go through. As we get new  
15 images, we'll add them.

16 But these continue to go through as --  
17 today I might start it. The first image may be this  
18 one. Tomorrow, it might be this one. So, it is  
19 random as to when you enter the carousel.

20 MR. TROMBETTA: And just to add a bit of  
21 background we send an e-mail to the permit holders  
22 saying we're redesigning our web page. If you  
23 would like to, we would like to show off some of  
24 the people we regulate. If you have an image that  
25 you would like us use, please give it to us.

1           We try and give everybody an opportunity to  
2 do that and it's looking at like Suzie just said if  
3 we get new ones we can continue to add them.

4           We ask them not to be too advertise-y. I  
5 didn't want it to be an ad. Like this is a good  
6 one for Ned Calder. You know, to me, that kind of  
7 what we're looking for. It's not -- nothing  
8 screams like an advertisement or anything like that  
9 but it shows off the building in Hialeah.

10           So, it was a good way to kind of showcase  
11 the Pari-Mutuels that we regulate and kind of give  
12 them a way to show off what they offer. Because,  
13 as you know, one of the things that I'm commonly  
14 asked or told, I didn't even know, Florida had,  
15 you know, casinos which, you know, like you said  
16 before we are a giving State. We have lots of  
17 them.

18           MS. WHITMIRE: And the movement in the  
19 website is also something that's kind of new and  
20 exciting and very modern to have the movement going  
21 on. It's not flat which is nice.

22           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Dynamic.

23           MS. WHITMIRE: And I get this question. I  
24 don't know if you do. And it's, what is the Gaming  
25 Commission doing as far as hunting and stuff like

1 that? They think that we are FWC a lot of times.  
2 Let's kind of put it out there this is who we are.  
3 We are completely open to whatever we want to do  
4 with it but we just figured we start showing some  
5 of our facilities there and total randomly.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. I think that  
7 the theme is very unique. It's definitely a unique  
8 approach to, you know, the status.

9 We're establishing who we are and who we  
10 regulate. I'm sure the Commissioners have  
11 questions since we are so passionate about the  
12 logo. So, I imagine all of us have. We were all  
13 very, very in to the logo. And I'm sure, but this  
14 is I mean, completely as you said it, completely  
15 modernize. And you have -- you want -- we want to  
16 be as transparent of an agency so that the public  
17 knows what we're doing and the stakeholders know  
18 what we're doing, and what our activities are going  
19 on. What rules are, you know, right now being  
20 considered for, what workshops are out there so, as  
21 well as what we're going in the media but are  
22 relevant articles out there.

23 MS. WHITMIRE: One of the cool things  
24 that's going on on the page also have to do with  
25 while we were here and hopefully, it's refreshed.

1 We were treated and we are there. So, it has a  
2 live feed. So the tweets will be automatically  
3 updated for you.

4 So, as we tweet during the day, they will  
5 have our most recent tweet. As you know, Eric does  
6 a great job of making sure that people shares those  
7 news articles when we do enforcement actions and  
8 stuff like that. So kind of a cool thing that we  
9 haven't had so...

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Very savvy.

11 MS. WHITMIRE: Getting there. And I can't  
12 promise you that this is the permanent long-term  
13 one. I'm sure we'll change it nine times. But  
14 that's great because we have people who can do that  
15 and it shows that we continue to change with your  
16 mission.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Incredible, Suzie.

18 Commissioners, do you have any comments or  
19 questions?

20 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I do think it looks  
21 great. And I love the movement. I think that  
22 really draws your attention to it.

23 But I have some concerns as well. In  
24 particular, the issues with the operators  
25 advertising I guess you could call it.

1           You, know our big -- I'll speak for myself.  
2   My biggest concern is, you know, that people  
3   believe in the integrity of this organization. And  
4   we know that integrity and/or lack thereof or  
5   people's perception of integrity can come from a  
6   lot of different things.

7           And sometimes it's actual things that occur  
8   that cause people to lose faith in a government  
9   organization. And then there's the perception that  
10  things don't seem right.

11          So, I always try to keep in mind the fact  
12  that even though it may be okay and everything  
13  looks -- is legal and legitimate, how does it look  
14  to the average person out there as they scroll  
15  through our material and so forth?

16          So, my concerns with the ads are that -- I  
17  guess, there is two concerns. One is, will  
18  operators feel like they're getting slighted  
19  because they don't have as much on here as we do,  
20  or they don't have something on here that we have?

21          Why wouldn't it be on there? I know we're  
22  opening up to everybody; I don't know. But my  
23  concern is that operators would feel like we're  
24  favoring certain operators and not them. And  
25  that's the concern from our licensees in terms of

1     them trusting out our agency and the integrity  
2     agency.

3             The other part is what the general public  
4     will perceive. And if they come to our site and we  
5     seem kind of chummy with the people we license by  
6     having their ads on our website, and the fact that  
7     maybe they won't stay long enough to look through  
8     the ads but only see one or two and say, "Oh,  
9     they're, you know, they're closer to Calder," or  
10    whatever cause they have their ads. They don't  
11    look to see how many ads are on there.

12            So, I have those concerns with putting the  
13    ads on there and while I'm conflicted because I  
14    love the way it looks and I think it's pretty cool  
15    to have those things on there, I try to look at it  
16    from the public's perspective. And I don't -- I  
17    don't want anything that will bring any kind of  
18    concern to the public as to our impartiality and  
19    our fairness and highest integrity for what we do.

20            So, those are my thoughts on that. I  
21    haven't gone through everything, of course, yet  
22    looking at it. But I love the way you've got it  
23    lined up with the buttons.

24            It's so easy. And the buttons are right  
25    there, kind of above the fold like they used to say

1 in the newspaper. You know, so as soon as you get  
2 to it, boom, boom, boom. There is the information  
3 you're looking for.

4 So, I think it looks easy to get through  
5 especially for someone like me who's challenged  
6 with these kinds of things.

7 But so, thank you for the work on it. It's  
8 looking really, really good in terms of the way  
9 you've decided to set this up.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I know Commissioner  
11 D'Aquila did have something. But I did want to put  
12 up though. I think the intent if I'm not mistaken  
13 is to kind of take out some of that advertisement  
14 component of those dynamic pictures too; is that  
15 right? Because Commissioner Drago is correct, I  
16 mean, 100%.

17 MR. TROMBETTA: I guess, the intent, there  
18 was an intent to further modify the pictures.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay, he's right. It  
20 does -- I mean, we're having the name of the  
21 facility. You did highlight the one, the Hialeah I  
22 think is the one that had the facility, didn't have  
23 any name. And it shows what they do, you know,  
24 without showing -- you know, outing it as possibly  
25 an advertisement. It's more perception than it is

1 a reality. I would agree with Mr. Drago but sorry.

2 Commissioner D'Aquila.

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yeah, I think we  
4 should take a more Switzerland approach as a  
5 Commission. The perception may be a new licensee  
6 or someone attempting to obtain a license, how do  
7 they get their sign on that site?

8 My opinion is that there should be no  
9 pictures of our, of the physical buildings and the  
10 signage and so forth. Let's like may be something  
11 equally creative. You know, we do regulate card  
12 games. We do regulate horse racing and we can go  
13 on and on, maybe put imagery of the various  
14 activities that we regulate. Or a map of a dot of  
15 our you know, licensing facility. I'll leave that  
16 to the creative people.

17 But I concur with Vice Chair Brown and  
18 Mr. Drago on this, take it a step further that the  
19 images should maybe not put on there.

20 My other question earlier when -- can one  
21 still submit a complaint anonymously?

22 MS. WHITMIRE: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: There's no risk?  
24 It's quite clear to them that their e-mail is not  
25 being recorded and they are safely submitting their

1 complaint, so to speak?

2 MS. WHITMIRE: So, if they wish to select a  
3 value and they want to do it anonymously, they  
4 select yes and we keep no information at that  
5 point.

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Okay. And I  
7 understand our past site had that and is it true  
8 that the majority of complaints still come through  
9 with anonymous or --

10 MS. WHITMIRE: I wouldn't --

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Is that not true?

12 MS. WHITMIRE: Joe might be able to answer  
13 that.

14 MR. DILLMORE: Not a majority but certainly  
15 a good share of them that come in.

16 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Good share?

17 MR. DILLMORE: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: My last question,  
19 is there any mention on there of the compact and or  
20 at the same time I want to pose a question should  
21 there be since it's a such a significant part of  
22 gaming industry in our State?

23 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes, that question did  
24 actually come up and we are -- I think there used  
25 to be a way to get like there was essentially copy

1 the compact the relevant statutes, rule so that  
2 will all be included.

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yeah I think,  
4 especially in light of December 7th, and so forth,  
5 it might be even be worthwhile to have its own  
6 button and the significance. And how you go about  
7 doing that executive summary that is approved by  
8 counsel, whatever it may be. But I think it should  
9 be an integral part of our site.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Repp.

11 COMMISSIONER REPP: Yeah, I'd like to  
12 concur that information regarding compact  
13 (inaudible) be make it a little more interesting.  
14 As to the website, which looks fantastic. Very  
15 professional.

16 I'm going to also concur that the pictures  
17 might be construed by the consumers as advertising.  
18 Sometimes, you know, six, eight inches away from a  
19 button that says, do you have a gambling problem.  
20 So that's where my concern is.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you very much.  
22 I'm sure we'll continue to provide feedback. It's  
23 fantastic and such I mean, huge strides. Thank you  
24 so much.

25 MS. WHITMIRE: Absolutely.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Executive director.

2 MR. TROMBETTA: Before I -- do you have  
3 anything else for Suzie? I did want to make her  
4 available, if you have any other questions or  
5 just --

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Oh, good job.

7 MR. TROMBETTA: -- get going or --

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Suzie.

9 MR. TROMBETTA: No, okay. No, I'd just  
10 like to end kind of briefly.

11 I wasn't expecting, you know, the -- what  
12 you guys said at the beginning. Thank you for all  
13 the kind words.

14 You know, like you said, this agency, you  
15 know, now that we are kind of moving, I think  
16 Commissioner Drago you said it that the wheels are  
17 in motion. And you know, it's all due to the  
18 staff.

19 I mean, we have people that put in a ton of  
20 effort, you know, working. They're building houses  
21 being done yesterday at midnight. You know, it's  
22 just a lot of things happening behind the scenes  
23 from a lot of people you know doing revenue  
24 estimating when there's a tornado coming through.

25 There is just a lot of stuff happening from

1 a lot of people that put in a lot of effort to make  
2 us all look good. And we rely on them on a lot of  
3 credit and the staff that isn't here. Cause there  
4 is a lot people you know, throughout the whole  
5 office in South Florida. There's a lot of people  
6 that watch, tune in, do a ton of work that I want  
7 to make sure they also get some credit just for  
8 being part of the team.

9 It's been -- it's an honor to lead it and  
10 you know, and to work with you all and, you know,  
11 your direction is means a lot to every. So thank  
12 you.

13 Looking forward to this year and to  
14 continuing momentum. So thanks.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

16 Commissioner D'Aquila.

17 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I inadvertently  
18 left out one comment earlier at the beginning of  
19 the meeting on that subject on a national level. I  
20 just want to add our Vice Chair Julie Brown was the  
21 Keynote speaker at the National Council of  
22 legislators and Regulators this year, and this took  
23 place last week.

24 A brilliant presentation. Was widely  
25 attended by almost 300 people across the nation.

1 Also, our executive director, served on a panel on  
2 illegal gambling. And I know in the part of the  
3 very large conference, well, facility that we were  
4 at, everyone's paying close attention. It was a  
5 brilliant presentation. So thank you to you both.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner  
7 D'Aquila. And that just underscores the  
8 congeniality that this leadership body has with  
9 each other, and of course, with our staff. And so,  
10 we echo the same sentiments to all the folks that  
11 are working behind the scenes and that are at in  
12 the front of the scenes.

13 It's just been tremendous and looking  
14 forward to our continued collaboration in 2024.

15 We do have a public comment if there  
16 are no other questions or report from executive  
17 director. All right, so with that we've got  
18 Mr. Marc Dunbar who is here from Jones Walker.

19 MR. DUNBAR: Thank you, Madam Chair.  
20 And sorry to stand in the meeting but couple of  
21 things.

22 The invite's really to your point and  
23 the whole world for the most part is looking at  
24 Florida. And along that line in April 10th through  
25 12th, The International Masters Gaming Law is

1 coming to Tampa to have their international gaming  
2 conference.

3 I'm sorry Ms. Nickel Geese switching  
4 firms at the first of the year required me to be up  
5 here doing IT setup and training and things like  
6 that. So, I heard fabulous things and I echo your  
7 sentiments to incredible staff, the job that  
8 they've done and you've done getting this up and  
9 running. And the nation's watching. The world's  
10 watching.

11 So, there will be on the Thursday which  
12 I believe is April 11th a regulators breakfast  
13 where if you all are available, there will be  
14 regulators coming in from all over the world.

15 I know that we have some coming in from  
16 the African states, from South America as well as  
17 Europe and Central America, and a couple, I think  
18 from the Caribbean. But if you wanted to interact  
19 with international colleagues, there will be a  
20 dedicated regulators breakfast that will be at  
21 that conference along with a regulator panel and  
22 Some other activities.

23 There are also going to be a tribal  
24 focus obviously, because of the Seminole Tribe  
25 decision. The importance of the compact on a

1 national level, there's going to be at least two  
2 sessions dedicated to what's going on in tribal.  
3 So, love for you and your staff, and we can get  
4 more formal materials to the directors.

5 Separate and apart, I'm teaching again  
6 At the law school, the gaming law class that I  
7 teach this spring. And I want to send an invite to  
8 your staff as well as you to come and participate  
9 in the class if you have the opportunity.

10 It will be on well, Thursdays from  
11 3:00 to 5:00; 3:15 to 5:15. I know the students  
12 would love to hear from you, if you had the  
13 opportunity.

14 I thought setting on Thursdays was a good  
15 idea until I heard the way the calendar got  
16 reshuffled. So, may be, may be not so good of an  
17 idea. So, I would love -- would love the students  
18 to have the benefit of your input.

19 The other thing is, I usually am  
20 approached and probably will be this afternoon at  
21 my first class. I've students that are interested  
22 in getting more involved in the industry.

23 I usually reach out to Lou and others.  
24 There have been a number of clerks that have come  
25 out of my classes that have moved on and help

1 negotiate tribal compacts and things like that.

2 And to the extent that any of you were  
3 interested in law clerks to assist you in your  
4 efforts or assist the Commission, seeing that you  
5 may be a little short handed it sounds like, I'd be  
6 happy to collect those resumes and pass them on to  
7 the directors if there was any interest. I just  
8 want to pass on those two invites.

9 One thing that just dawned on me when  
10 the website was being presented. It's been just  
11 general curiosity for me. When complaints are  
12 filed from -- and they're ultimately disposed of  
13 and the public records exemption expires and so  
14 that those complaints and investigative materials  
15 becomes public records, I never been able to find  
16 where the public is able to know what complaints  
17 have come in and how they've been handled.

18 And because it's helpful both as a  
19 practitioner and somebody that, you know, teaches  
20 in this, to be able to say well, you know, there  
21 were a series of complaints that were dedicated to  
22 that particular type of event that were handled in  
23 his fashion. And certainly, not trying to get to  
24 the complainant or something like that. But it  
25 helps us. It advised the public and certainly

1 helps me to teach students on where the boundaries  
2 are if you have moved forward and stopped an  
3 activity. Or you have, on the flip side, done an  
4 investigation and the activity proceeded forward.

5 So, as you're revising things, it may  
6 be helpful to have something. I know it's somewhat  
7 sanitized or whatever to say, you know, there were  
8 350 complaints came in last year. Three of them  
9 were dedicated to a particular thing that were  
10 being circulated in bars and restaurants around the  
11 State which is the usual call that I get. So, if  
12 you have the ability to do that after your staff  
13 has concluded investigations, that would be very  
14 helpful.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I think there was a  
16 Commissioner once that had a similar -- the guy's  
17 to my right; similar question as well. So, we'll  
18 definitely be looking into how we can get that  
19 transparent information in a way that doesn't  
20 compromise.

21 MR. DUNBAR: Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, do you  
23 have any questions for Mr. Dunbar?

24 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I don't have a  
25 question. I have a comment though because I think

1 that makes perfect sense what you're saying.  
2 because we've, in my mind, we've always thought  
3 about making sure that we got back to the person  
4 that filed the report if we could, if we knew who  
5 they were and responding.

6 But I don't think personally, I thought  
7 about the impact it has on other people that are  
8 not involved in the actual report but can gain a  
9 lot of information from knowing these are the  
10 things and posting their response some way.

11 So, personally, I appreciate you  
12 bringing that up because it makes perfect sense. I  
13 think that's something that we should be thinking  
14 about.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

16 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Unrelated question  
17 if we are -- would like to attend your class, would  
18 we ask you in advance and so forth or just go to  
19 the class?

20 MR. DUNBAR: You have an open  
21 invitation. I know the law school allows people to  
22 freely audit the classes you want, but yes,  
23 certainly let me know or you know let them know and  
24 he can let me know and I'll just make sure to  
25 adjust because one of the things I would want to

1 factor is, if you wanted to participate. I know  
2 that I would adjust the course materials for your  
3 attendance.

4 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And I have  
6 a separate comment too on the IMGL front in Tampa.  
7 that as you've mentioned it is an international  
8 conference. So it's such a great opportunity.  
9 Some of us have got to participate in these types  
10 of conferences before and it meet regulators that  
11 collaboration and being enable to talk to them  
12 about what's going on in their State country is  
13 just an incredible opportunity and I'm looking  
14 forward to going. So thank you for extending the  
15 invitation.

16 And I know we do have a smart sheet  
17 under public comment and that continues to get  
18 updated. So, we'll follow-up and see how we can  
19 get that more transparent to the public. Thank  
20 you.

21 Commissioners, are there any other  
22 matters to address before we adjourn? Or is there  
23 anybody pardon me, from the public that would like  
24 to address the Commission before we conclude?

25 Seeing none, this meeting is

1 adjourned. Thank you.

2 MR. DUNBAR: Thank you.

3 (Thereafter, the audio ended).

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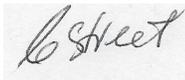
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Carmel M. Street, do hereby certify  
that I was authorized to and did stenographically  
transcribed the foregoing proceedings, and that the  
transcript, pages 1 through 87, is a true and complete  
record of my stenographic notes.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2024.



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CARMEL M. STREET