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FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING/WORKSHOP HEARING

LOCATION

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

(Page Nos. 1 - 108)

Thursday, April 10, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 11:22 a.m.

BEFORE: Vice Chair Julie I. Brown  
Commissioner Chuck Drago  
Commissioner John D'Aquila  
Commissioner Tina Repp

Stenographically Reported By:  
I. Iris Cooper  
Stenographic Reporter

Job No.: 394843

1 APPEARANCES:

2

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

3

Vice Chair Julie I. Brown  
4 Commissioner Chuck Drago  
Commissioner John D'Aquila  
5 Commissioner Tina Repp

6

7 PARTICIPANTS:

8

- Emily Alvarado, Deputy Chief Attorney

9

- Joe Dillmore, Director of Pari-Mutuel Wagering

10

- Brandy Humphries, Administrative Assistant II

11

- Justin Hundersmarck, Senior Attorney

12

- Carl Herold, Director of Law Enforcement

13

- Ross Marshman, Acting Executive Director

14

- Lisa M. Mustain, Director Of Administration

15

- Dixie Parker, General and Operations Manager I

16

- Jamie Pouncey, Program Administrator

17

- Marc Taupier, Deputy General

18

- Elina Valentine, General Counsel

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21

OTHERS PRESENT:

22

- Various Members of the Public

23

- The Florida Channel

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1     Thereupon, the following proceeding began at 9:30 a.m.:

2             VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning. This is the  
3     Florida Gaming Control Commission's April meeting.  
4     And if you will, please stand for the pledge of  
5     allegiance, which will be led by Commissioner  
6     D'Aquila.

7             (Pledge of allegiance.)

8             VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you so much. Today  
9     we have a bunch of items, some of which we're going  
10    to take in a block. And when we get to that, I  
11    will mention that. We are also going to defer 4.1,  
12    but staff will get into that when we get to that  
13    item as well.

14            So we're going to begin this meeting. First,  
15    go Gators, for all you Seminoles out here. Pretty  
16    exciting last week. Very proud Gator here.

17            Commissioners, can we please get a motion to  
18    approve the meeting minutes from February 13, 2025.

19            COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make that motion.

20            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can I get a  
21    second?

22            COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

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

25            (Multiple ayes.)



1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We are moving  
2   on to 2.1 through 2.3, which is a discussion of the  
3   default final orders. We have Mr. Hundersmarck.

4           MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Good morning.

5           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning.

6           MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Justin Hundersmarck for the  
7   record. Item No. 2.1 is Jacauline Bennett, Case  
8   No. 2023-063772. The case materials include the  
9   administrative complaint alleging that respondent  
10   was working as a designated player for Knighted  
11   Gaming and that she was excluded on August 17, 2023  
12   from Orange City Racing & Card Club.

13          The facility observed her stealing \$2,400 in  
14   chips over two days. The administrative complaint  
15   seeks her permanent exclusion from all pari-mutuel  
16   facilities in Florida. The case materials also  
17   include the USPS certified mail tracking number and  
18   confirmation of delivery to respondent on February  
19   6, 2025.

20          They did not respond; therefore, the Division  
21   would ask the Commission to enter an order with the  
22   following findings, that the respondent was  
23   properly served with the administrative complaint,  
24   failed to respond within 21 days, and waived her  
25   right to a hearing, that the factual allegations of

1 the administrative complaint are accepted as the  
2 findings of fact in this case, and that respondent  
3 shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel  
4 facilities in Florida.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
6 Mr. Hundersmarck.

7 Commissioners, do you have any questions on  
8 this item?

9 I do, actually. Mr. Hundersmarck,  
10 Ms. Bennett, I don't have a problem with the staff  
11 recommendation. I'm just curious if Knighted  
12 Gaming, the designated employer, imposed any  
13 penalty to this individual? She was an employee of  
14 Knighted Gaming.

15 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes, she was. I'm not sure  
16 if she was terminated.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: If you could follow up and  
18 find out what their course of action was because  
19 this action, while this is not a licensee of the  
20 Commission in the regulatory market, she was an  
21 active member in the regulatory paradigm. And I  
22 would like to know what the recourse was against  
23 her.

24 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So she was terminated, and  
25 then a police report was filed against her.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

2 Commissioners, are there any other questions?

3 If not, can we get a motion to approve the staff  
4 recommendation.

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Make a motion to  
6 approve the staff recommendation.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

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

11 (Multiple ayes.)

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We are on to  
13 2.3, please.

14 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Are we skipping 2.2?

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Your mic, you need to speak  
16 closer. Mr. Hundersmarck, if you could speak out  
17 loud and a little closer.

18 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Sure. 2.2 is Tyler Levi  
19 Brown, Case No. 2023-067629. The case materials  
20 include the administrative complaint alleging that  
21 respondent was working at a chip runner at  
22 Pensacola Grayhound Racing and was observed  
23 falsifying payout documentation.

24 He was terminated on October 11, 2023. The  
25 administrative complaint seeks revocation of

1     respondent's cardroom employee occupational license  
2     and his permanent exclusion from all pari-mutuel  
3     facilities in Florida.

4             The case materials also include the USPS  
5     certified mail tracking number and confirmation of  
6     delivery to the respondent on February 13, 2025.

7             They did not respond; therefore, the Division  
8     would ask the Commission to enter an order with the  
9     following findings, that the respondent was  
10    properly served with the administrative complaint,  
11    failed to respond within 21 days, and waived his  
12    right to a hearing, that the factual allegations of  
13    the administrative complaint are accepted as the  
14    findings of fact in this case, that respondent  
15    shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel  
16    facilities in Florida, and that his cardroom  
17    employee occupational license shall be revoked.

18            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. If there are no  
19    questions, can we get a motion to permanently  
20    exclude the respondent, as well as revoke his  
21    occupational license.

22            COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to  
23    enter the final order permanently excluding him  
24    from all pari-mutuel facilities in the state of  
25    Florida and revoking his cardroom employee

1 occupational license.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
3 Commissioner Repp.

4 Is there a second?

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

8 (Multiple ayes.)

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We are on to  
10 2.3.

11 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 2.3 is Misael  
12 Orlando Marquez Fajardo, Case No. 2024-017221. The  
13 case materials include an administrative complaint  
14 alleging that the respondent was permanently  
15 excluded from Casino Miami on March 8, 2024.

16 He was observed by surveillance using an  
17 electronic device that read marked cards. The  
18 administrative complaint seeks his permanent  
19 exclusion from all pari-mutuel and slot machine  
20 facilities in Florida.

21 The case materials also include the USPS  
22 certified mail tracking number and confirmation of  
23 delivery to the respondent on February 3, 2025.

24 They did not respond; therefore, the Division  
25 would ask the Commission to enter an order with the

1 following findings, that the respondent was  
2 properly served with the administrative complaint,  
3 failed to respond within 21 days, and waived his  
4 right to a hearing, that the factual allegations of  
5 the administrative complaint are accepted as the  
6 findings of fact in this case, and that respondent  
7 shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel  
8 and slot machine facilities in Florida.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

10 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can  
11 we get a motion to approve the staff  
12 recommendation.

13 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

18 (Multiple ayes.)

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We are going on  
20 to consent orders 3.1 through 3.4.

21 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.1 is bestbet  
22 St. Augustine, Inc., Case No. 2024-045025. On  
23 September 20, 2024, a two-count administrative  
24 complaint was filed against respondent alleging  
25 firstly a violation of Rule 75-11.003(4) Florida

1 Administrative Code by failing to ensure the dealer  
2 button is moved around the card table in a  
3 clockwise fashion and, secondly, a violation of  
4 Rule 75-11.015(1) Florida Administrative Code by  
5 failing to lock all chips which were not in play or  
6 available for play in a secure location.

7 This facility did not have any prior  
8 violations of these rules. Bestbet St. Augustine,  
9 Inc. seeks the adoption of the proposed settlement  
10 and consent order to resolve this case. Pursuant  
11 to the terms of the proposed order, the respondent  
12 will agree to pay \$500 to the Florida Gaming  
13 Control Commission.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Hundersmarck.

16 Commissioners, are there any questions on this  
17 item?

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Hundersmarck, you  
19 mentioned that there are no priors. In the very  
20 next item that we're going to take up, they have a  
21 violation of one of the same rules and they have a  
22 prior.

23 However, it's the fine, and they have a  
24 two-count complaint as well. The fine is half of  
25 what the fine is in 3.1. I just wanted to get some

1 clarification and rationale for why bestbet is  
2 being assessed a \$500 fine for a similar, at least  
3 with regard to one count?

4 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: So the Division doesn't  
5 agree to this. We were offered the settlement, and  
6 we're obligated to present it for your  
7 consideration.

8 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: To clarify, the  
9 respondent offered that amount for settlement?

10 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Understood. Thank  
12 you.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: This may be a question more  
14 for Mr. Dillmore. In terms of what has been the  
15 norm trying to stay consistent as a regulatory body  
16 and what has been the norm for this type of  
17 complaint or amount being assessed by this body,  
18 particularly with regard to the count that is  
19 similar for both 3.1 and 3.2, it didn't lock all  
20 the chips in play?

21 MR. DILLMORE: I'm sorry. I really can't go  
22 back. It's not summarized over the many years like  
23 what those findings have been. We can certainly  
24 research that if given the opportunity, but I'm  
25 afraid I'm not going to have that information right



1 off the cuff.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: You know, I just don't want  
3 to get it wrong here when we're going to be taking  
4 up the next item with the reduced fee in half of  
5 that amount.

6 Commissioners, I don't know if you have any  
7 thoughts on this, having some consistency?

8 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I agree 100 percent that  
9 consistency is an important part of this. So I  
10 think maybe what we're looking for information of  
11 an understanding of what you're saying. Do we have  
12 time to be able to go and get some more information  
13 on this before we make a decision? Are there any  
14 time lines that we have to be concerned about?

15 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: No. I think we can present  
16 at the next meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I would like to see if we  
18 can get some more information on the priors so we  
19 can help make a decision to be sure they would be  
20 consistent with this in terms of the fine because  
21 they don't seem to be consistent at this point, to  
22 no fault of yours, of course.

23 But that's their offer, so I would like to get  
24 some more information on that background on those  
25 charges and see if we can get more information so

1 we can make a better decision. It's just my  
2 thoughts.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
4 Commissioner Drago. That would actually be great,  
5 especially since we're taking up very similar  
6 charges in the same meeting. So it would be nice  
7 to kind of get an overview of what we've done. We  
8 have the attorney representing bestbet.

9 If you could please state your name and your  
10 position.

11 MR. MORTON: TJ Morton on behalf of bestbet  
12 St. Augustine. Certainly happy to give some  
13 background on the charges. Certainly happy to  
14 entertain a lower fine. But, you know, available  
15 for any questions that you have regarding what  
16 happened. I can't speak to the next case and what  
17 their circumstances were, so I can't discuss why  
18 there may be --

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

20 Commissioners, do you have any questions?

21 I don't either. Just this one has no prior  
22 violations and the next one that does. So I just  
23 want to be consistent when we take this up.

24 We're going to go ahead and defer this item  
25 and direct staff to just look at what we have done,

1 the range of what we've done in similar charges  
2 prior to the next meeting.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. MORTON: Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: If that's okay with the  
6 Commissioners, we're moving on to 3.2.

7 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.2 is TBD  
8 Entertainment, L.L.C., doing business as TGT Poker  
9 and Race Book. Case No. 2024-058077. On January  
10 6, 2025, a two-count administrative complaint was  
11 filed against respondent alleging firstly a  
12 violation of Rule 75-11.015(1) Florida  
13 Administrative Code by failing to lock and secure  
14 chips which were not in play or available for use  
15 on that day.

16 Secondly, a violation of Rule 75-11.025(17)  
17 Florida Administrative Code by failing to maintain  
18 a log of all surveillance activities in the  
19 surveillance room.

20 TBD Entertainment, L.L.C., doing business as  
21 TGT Poker & Race Book seeks the adoption of the  
22 proposed settlement and consent orders to resolve  
23 this case.

24 Pursuant to the terms of the proposed order,  
25 respondent will be issued a written warning and

1 will agree to pay \$250 to the Florida Gaming  
2 Control Commission.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I see Mr. Rutledge. I  
4 don't know if you want to address the Commission or  
5 just here to answer questions?

6 MR. RUTLEDGE: First of all, Gary Rutledge on  
7 behalf of the respondent. In light of the comments  
8 from the previous case, which led to this and me  
9 being up here, the facts of the situation are what  
10 they were. The chips were stolen.

11 In terms of the past violations that you had  
12 inquired about, it was a verbal warning in a  
13 previous incident, so there was no case where it  
14 was presented to the Commission where the  
15 respondent had a chance to contest that. We're not  
16 suggesting that that was in error. But this  
17 situation, as I told counsel for the Commission is  
18 a little different because the respondent here, it  
19 cost them over approximately \$4,000.

20 So the fine of \$250 or zero or \$500 was on the  
21 secondary to them, I think from your perspective,  
22 learning a valuable lesson about keeping these  
23 chips secure because they were out about \$4,000.  
24 And so I just ask for your consideration of that.

25 I think that that got their attention more

1     than, with all due respect to the Commission, than  
2     a modest fine would be. So would we consider that,  
3     of course. But that's the exigent circumstances I  
4     just wanted to share with you about that.

5           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Rutledge,  
6     for context. That helps.

7           Commissioners, any thoughts or questions? I  
8     don't have a problem with a proposed stipulation  
9     and settlement given the facts.

10          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm sorry?

11          VICE CHAIR BROWN: I don't have a problem with  
12     the proposed stipulation and settlement, if you  
13     don't as well. We'll take a motion at this time on  
14     3.2.

15          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'll move to accept the  
16     staff recommendation.

17          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Which is to  
18     approve the --

19          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: The \$250 fine.

20          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a  
21     second?

22          COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll second that  
23     motion.

24          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those  
25     in favor, say aye.

1 (Multiple ayes.)

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We are on to  
3 3.3.

4 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.3 is Tampa Bay  
5 Downs, Inc. On January 6, 2025 an administrative  
6 complaint was filed against respondent alleging a  
7 violation of Rule 75-11.020(1) Florida  
8 Administrative Code by failing to have a drop box  
9 marked with a permanent number corresponding with  
10 the table number to which the drop box is assigned.

11 Respondent has no prior violations of this  
12 rule. Tampa Bay Downs, Inc. seeks the adoption of  
13 the proposed settlement and consent order to  
14 resolve this case. Pursuant to the terms of the  
15 proposed order, respondent will be issued a written  
16 warning by the Florida Gaming Control Commission.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

18 Commissioners any questions? If not, can we  
19 get a motion to adopt the proposed settlement or  
20 agreement and consent order.

21 COMMISSIONER REPP: Motion to adopt.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a  
23 second?

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will second that  
25 motion.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Any discussion?

2       All those in favor, say aye.

3           (Multiple ayes.)

4           VICE CHAIR BROWN: We are on to 3.4.

5           MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.4 is German  
6       Ernesto Bonesi, Case No. 2024-067393. On December  
7       11, 2024, an administrative complaint was filed  
8       against respondent alleging a violation of Rule  
9       75-11.011 Florida Administrative Code by failing to  
10      provide written notification to petitioner within  
11      the five days of respondent's November 15, 2024  
12      arrest for grand theft greater than \$100,000, an  
13      organized scheme to defraud over \$50,000.

14           German Ernesto Bonesi seeks the adoption of  
15      the proposed settlement and consent order to  
16      resolve this case. Pursuant to the terms of the  
17      proposed order, respondent will agree that the  
18      Commission is revoking respondent's license and  
19      declaring respondent ineligible for licensure under  
20      Chapters 550, 551, and section 849.086 Florida  
21      Statutes for a period of ten years on the date the  
22      final order is filed with the Clerk of the  
23      Commission.

24           The Commission has no obligation to approve an  
25      application from this person at the end of the ten

1     years. That will just be the end of his  
2     ineligibility to even apply.

3           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
4     Mr. Hundersmarck.

5           Commissioners, if you recall, this came before  
6     us last month. And we wanted staff to go back and  
7     address stiffer penalty of licensure. Are there  
8     any questions?

9           Yes, Commissioner D'Aquila.

10          COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'd like to make a  
11     motion to accept the proposal from staff.

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

14          COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

15          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those  
16     in favor, say aye.

17          (Multiple ayes.)

18          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We're moving on  
19     to discussion of final orders following untimely or  
20     defective petitions or requests for hearing.

21          Executive Director Marshman, do you want to  
22     address 4.1, please?

23          MR. MARSHMAN: Sure. Good morning. For the  
24     reasons that we discussed, I would recommend  
25     tabling this matter, which will allow the



1 Commission to file an amended administrative  
2 complaint to have a more perfect regulatory  
3 oversight of this issue. That's all.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We do have a  
5 speaker card here. We're not going to take up the  
6 matter. We are going to go ahead and table it.

7 But, Mr. Zachman, if you want to approach.

8 MR. ZACHMAN: I just wanted to say thank you  
9 to staff and to your legal team for working with us  
10 on this. We support tabling it, and we look  
11 forward to working out a good resolution that will  
12 hopefully before you all very soon.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. All right.  
14 Thank you. And I know staff has worked very hard  
15 on getting us something, so we appreciate it, but  
16 we will go ahead and table it.

17 We're moving on to 4.2.

18 MS. ALVARADO: Emily Alvarado, for the record.  
19 Item No. 4.2 is Nicky Choufany, 2024-062644. On  
20 December 6, 2024, the Commission issued a letter of  
21 license denial to the applicant for a slot  
22 machine -- she was applying for a slot  
23 machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel combination  
24 occupational license.

25 On December 26th, the applicant filed an

1 election of rights requesting a formal hearing  
2 pursuant to 120.57(1), but she failed to -- it list  
3 a material fact in the election of rights.

4 On January 6, 2025, the Clerk of the  
5 Commission issued an order of dismissal informing  
6 the applicant that her request is dismissed without  
7 prejudice because she had failed to list the  
8 material fact in dispute in the license denial.

9 And she was afforded 15 days from the date of  
10 the dismissal to cure the defect. The applicant  
11 did not respond to the order of dismissal.

12 Therefore, the Division recommends that the  
13 Florida Gaming Control Commission enters an order,  
14 a final order denying the applicant's for a hearing  
15 with prejudice, adopting the finding of facts and  
16 conclusions of law in the letter of license denial  
17 and denying the applicant's application for a slot  
18 machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel combination  
19 occupational license.

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

21 Commissioners, are there any questions?

22 Again, the respondent did not respond in the timely  
23 way. So with that, can we please get a motion to  
24 enter a final order denying applicant's request for  
25 a hearing with prejudice and adopting the findings

1 of fact and conclusion of law and denying the  
2 applicant's application for license?

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: So moved.

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

6 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

9 (Multiple ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We are moving  
11 on to discussion of the recommended orders 5.1  
12 through 5.6.

13 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 5.1 is Michael  
14 Anthony Mamanna, Case No. 2024-011344. The  
15 Division seeks the permanent exclusion of  
16 respondent from all pari-mutuel and slot machine  
17 facilities in the state of Florida.

18 Respondent was served with an administrative  
19 complaint, requested an informal hearing, which was  
20 held on March 18, 2025. On March 28, 2025, the  
21 hearing officer recommended permanent exclusion.  
22 The Division recommends the Commission adopt the  
23 hearing officer's recommended order and permanently  
24 exclude respondent from all pari-mutuel and slot  
25 machine facilities in the state of Florida.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And we have a  
2   few of these that are very similar, I think 5.1  
3   through 5.4. We'll just go ahead and go through  
4   them.

5           Commissioners, if there are no questions, can  
6   we get a motion to adopt the hearing officer's  
7   recommended order and enter a final order  
8   permanently excluding the respondent.

9           COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

10          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

11          COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

14          (Multiple ayes.)

15          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Again, Mr. Hundersmarck, if  
16   you want to take up 5.2 through 5.4, they're all  
17   very similar in nature. If not, feel free to go  
18   through each of them.

19          MR. HUNDERSMARCK: The summaries are really  
20   short. Item 5.2 is Marcos Luis Banos Gomez, Case  
21   No. 2024-015065. Division seeks the permanent  
22   exclusion of respondent from all pari-mutuel and  
23   slot machines facilities in the state of Florida.

24          Respondent was served with an administrative  
25   complaint, requested an informal hearing held on

1 March 18, 2025. On the 28th, hearing officer  
2 recommended permanent exclusion. The Division  
3 recommends the Commission adopt the hearing  
4 officer's recommended order and permanently exclude  
5 respondent from all pari-mutuel and slot machine  
6 facilities in the state of Florida.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Hundersmarck, and thanks to the hearing officer  
9 for taking the time to go through all of these as  
10 well.

11 If there are no questions, can we please get a  
12 motion to adopt the hearing officer's  
13 recommendation and the staff recommendation.

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Make that motion.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

19 (Multiple ayes.)

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We're on to  
21 5.3.

22 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 5.3 is Guillermo  
23 De La Torre, Case No. 2024-015082. The Division  
24 seeks the permanent exclusion of respondent from  
25 all pari-mutuel and slot machine facilities in the

1 state of Florida.

2 Respondent was served with an administrative  
3 complaint, requested an informal hearing which was  
4 held on March 18, 2025. On the 28th, the hearing  
5 officer recommended permanent exclusion. The  
6 Division recommends the Commission adopt hearing  
7 officer's recommended order and permanently exclude  
8 respondent from all pari-mutuel and slot machine  
9 facilities in the state of Florida.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,  
11 Mr. Hundersmarck.

12 If there are no questions, can we get a motion  
13 to approve the staff recommendation.

14 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Motion to approve the  
15 staff recommendation.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say  
19 aye.

20 (Multiple ayes.)

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And 5.4.

22 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 5.4 is Alans  
23 Geffrard, Case No. 2024-035752. The Division seeks  
24 the permanent exclusion of Alans Geffrard from all  
25 pari-mutuel and slot machine facilities in the

1 state of Florida.

2 Respondent was served with an administrative  
3 complaint requesting an informal hearing, which was  
4 held on February 26, 2025. On March 28, 2025, the  
5 hearing officer recommended permanent exclusion.  
6 The Division recommends the Commission adopt the  
7 hearing officer's recommended order and permanently  
8 exclude respondent from all pari-mutuel and slot  
9 machine facilities in the state of Florida.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Again, if there  
11 are no questions, can we please get a motion to  
12 approve the staff recommendation on 5.4.

13 COMMISSIONER REPP: Motion to approve staff  
14 recommendation.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

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

19 (Multiple ayes.)

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And on to 5.5.

21 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: 5.5 is Benjamin Joel  
22 Robbins, Case No. 2024-049266. Petitioner  
23 submitted an application for a slot  
24 machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel combination  
25 occupational license.

1           On review of the application submitted by  
2     petitioner, the commission issued a letter of  
3     license denial notifying petitioner of its intent  
4     to deny the application based on petitioner's  
5     felony conviction.

6           Petitioner requested an informal hearing,  
7     which was held on February 26, 2025. At the  
8     hearing, the Division recommended denial of  
9     petitioner's application. On April 1, 2025, the  
10    hearing officer recommended that the Commission  
11    grant petitioner's application.

12          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

13          Commissioners, just to note, this was a matter  
14    that I believe we took up. These were priors  
15    dating back to 2004. I believe there are ample  
16    support of reference letters, I think over five  
17    character witnesses and rehabilitation. I just  
18    want to refresh your memory on this.

19          Commissioner D'Aquila.

20          COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Just to clarify, this  
21    is for a food service manager position, and this  
22    goes back to 2005. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

23          MR. HUNDERSMARCK: The position he got an  
24    offer for was the director of food and beverage.

25          COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Food and beverage



1 director?

2 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: That was the original  
3 position with the application.

4 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And there have been no  
5 subsequent violations since the original instance,  
6 felony since 2005?

7 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: No felonies. There was a  
8 2006 reckless driving charge misdemeanor.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Is that reckless  
10 driving?

11 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Commissioners,  
13 any other questions?

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No questions.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: If not,  
16 Commissioner D'Aquila, are you ready to make the  
17 motion to adopt the hearing officer's  
18 recommendation?

19 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Yes, I'm going to make  
20 a motion to accept the hearing officer  
21 recommendation.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? I just  
25 want to note as part of that, we will be issuing

1     this individual an occupational license. So with  
2     that, all those in favor, say aye.

3             (Multiple ayes.)

4             VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Passes  
5     unanimously. On to 5.6.

6             MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 5.6 is Kenol  
7     Mercius, Case No. 2024-052492. The Division seeks  
8     the permanent exclusion of respondent from all  
9     pari-mutuel and slot machine facilities in the  
10    state of Florida.

11            The respondent was served with an  
12    administrative complaint, requested an informal  
13    hearing, which was held on February 26, 2025. On  
14    March 28, 2025, the hearing officer recommended  
15    permanent exclusion. The Division recommends the  
16    Commission adopt the hearing officer's recommended  
17    order and permanently exclude respondent from all  
18    pari-mutuel and slot machine facilities in the  
19    state of Florida.

20            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

21            Commissioners, can we please get a motion to  
22    approve the staff recommendation.

23            COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

24            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

25            COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say  
2     aye.

3           (Multiple ayes.)

4           VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We're moving on  
5     to a discussion of request for waivers, 6.1 through  
6     6.4.

7           MS. ALVARADO: 6.1 is Joseph Zerilli,  
8     2025-002407. Here the applicant applied for a  
9     pari-mutuel wagering general individual  
10    occupational license. Upon review of the  
11    application, it was discovered that he had two  
12    disqualifying offenses of burglary of occupied  
13    structure and grand theft in the third degree from  
14    2004.

15          The applicant answered yes to having been  
16    convicted of a disqualifying offense. He's  
17    applying to be a hot walker at Gulfstream Park. He  
18    does have an outstanding court cost of \$805, and he  
19    did violate his probation in 2005 and served six  
20    months in jail.

21          A waiver interview was conducted on January  
22    21st and is documented in the meeting materials.  
23    Here the Commission can decide to grant the waiver,  
24    issue the applicant a license. If not, we'd ask  
25    that you give us the authority to issue a letter of

1 license denial in this case.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, are there  
3 questions on 6.1?

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Just a couple questions,  
5 I guess. He still owes fines; right?

6 MS. ALVARADO: \$805.

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: \$805, is that from his  
8 probation, from his criminal charge probation, or  
9 is that from something else?

10 MS. ALVARADO: It 's for the court costs and  
11 the fines for that --

12 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: For that criminal charge.

13 MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Back in what year was  
15 that?

16 MS. ALVARADO: 2004.

17 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: 2004, and it still hasn't  
18 been paid yet?

19 MS. ALVARADO: Right.

20 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: All right. That's my  
21 only questions that I have.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And there are no other --  
23 obviously, it was a major felony of the crimes that  
24 he committed, but there are no other charges?

25 MS. ALVARADO: He had two misdemeanors from

1     2004 or 2005 for resisting an officer without  
2     violence. That was the violation of probation back  
3     then. But that's the only thing from 2005.

4           COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm sorry.

5           VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's all. Thank you.

6           COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Also I note here that he  
7     owes \$5,000 from a liability due to an accident or  
8     something?

9           MS. ALVARADO: I believe so, yes.

10          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So he's got that  
11     outstanding debt, and he's got the outstanding debt  
12     from his probation?

13          MS. ALVARADO: Right. He did mention that in  
14     his waiver interview that he does still owe \$5,000  
15     in damages.

16          VICE CHAIR BROWN: And procedurally if we go  
17     ahead and issue a license denial, can you just  
18     refresh what the applicant -- what their recourse  
19     could be.

20          MS. ALVARADO: If we issue a license now?

21          VICE CHAIR BROWN: No. Issue a letter of  
22     license denial.

23          MS. ALVARADO: Yes. So they would have 21  
24     days to respond. They can request an informal  
25     hearing if they'd like to provide mitigation if

1 they're disputing any material facts here such as  
2 they didn't commit this crime, they can request a  
3 formal hearing as well.

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

5 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So that would give him  
6 the opportunity to go pay off that probation fine  
7 from 2004 for \$800-something.

8 MS. ALVARADO: Yes. Have a hearing with us.  
9 He also could reapply, of course.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Repp.

11 COMMISSIONER REPP: Do we know if these are  
12 under any payment plan?

13 MS. ALVARADO: I don't have any information on  
14 if it was. I know he has paid more than half of it  
15 since then. The original cost was almost \$2,000.  
16 I'm not sure if it's on a payment plan.

17 COMMISSIONER REPP: Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And probably accruing  
19 interest. What is the position he's applying for  
20 again?

21 MS. ALVARADO: Hot walker.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Hot walker.

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Just for the sake of  
24 discussion, I would just suggest that we issue a  
25 letter to intent to deny in hopes that that gives

1 him a chance to understand he needs to pay off his  
2 debt in terms of his probationary obligation, and  
3 then we can reconsider it after he's made himself  
4 whole.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I would support that idea  
6 as well, especially since looking at history and  
7 totality of the individual. But having those  
8 outstanding court costs give me such pause.

9 Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those  
12 in favor, say aye.

13 (Multiple ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We are moving  
15 on to 6.2. We do have a speaker on this item who  
16 can come up after staff gives an overview.

17 MS. ALVARADO: 6.2 is Evan Vollerthum,  
18 2025-002667. The applicant applied for a PMW  
19 professional individual occupational license. Upon  
20 review of the application, it was discovered that  
21 he had a disqualifying offense of attempted  
22 commercial sexual exploitation of a child from  
23 2019.

24 He did disclose this on his original  
25 application. He's applying to be a jockey agent at

1 Tampa Bay Downs. He has paid all his court fines  
2 and completed probation. A waiver interview was  
3 conducted on January 13th and is documented in the  
4 meeting materials.

5 This was presented at the last meeting where  
6 the applicant was present and testified. You had  
7 asked that I get a little bit more information on  
8 the arrest report, which is included in the meeting  
9 materials and also to speak with the investigator  
10 who gave a little bit of a just little back story,  
11 and it's also included in there, in the email to me  
12 for your review.

13 So at this point, you can decide to grant the  
14 waiver in this case and issue a license. Or if  
15 not, we'd ask the Authority to issue a letter of  
16 license denial.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.  
18 And thank you for following up with Kansas and  
19 getting that information in the record. All right.  
20 We're going to call up -- unless there's any  
21 questions at this juncture for Ms. Alvarado, we're  
22 going to call up Mr. Vollerthum, who I understand  
23 drove six hours this morning.

24 MR. VOLLERTHUM: It's worth it. Vice Chair  
25 Brown, Commissioner Drago, Commissioner D'Aquila,



1 Commissioner Repp, good morning. I appreciate the  
2 opportunity to address the Florida Gaming Control  
3 Commission today in humbly asking for your  
4 consideration for its granting my waiver request.

5 I am working to achieve my career goal of  
6 becoming a jockey agent in the state of Florida.  
7 If successful, I commit to respecting the privilege  
8 of having a gaming license and always conducting  
9 myself in the utmost professional manner.

10 I believe I represent a citizen of good moral  
11 character who has worked daily to rehabilitate  
12 myself from the one charge that damages my record.  
13 I strive to spread positivity, act with kindness,  
14 share wisdom with people in need, and treat people  
15 with respect.

16 I adopted a rescue dog named Ellie in 2021 and  
17 nursed her back to health from a pre-existing  
18 heartworm condition. This past year, I opened up  
19 my house renting out an extra bedroom to a jockey  
20 and his wife who were in search of a last minute  
21 place to live.

22 Subsequently, that jockey was one of a few  
23 riders who asked me to represent them as their  
24 agent. They praised my well-liked positive  
25 presence with the horsemen and horsewomen at the

1 racetrack.

2 I have learned from my mistakes, grown closer  
3 to my faith, and take on life's challenges one day  
4 at a time. I understand it isn't necessarily easy  
5 to grant an application -- an applicant a second  
6 chance while also wanting to protect the people of  
7 Florida.

8 Without going in depth, I think it is  
9 important to state publicly that I have never  
10 harmed any individual, let alone a minor, despite  
11 the categorization of my offense. I allowed myself  
12 to be entangled in an undercover bait and switch  
13 scenario.

14 I followed up by displaying shameful moral  
15 character when I found reason to inappropriately  
16 justify continuing a text message conversation  
17 which led to my offense in Kansas. I took it upon  
18 myself to improve as a person afterwards while  
19 understanding the root causes for making the  
20 mistake I did.

21 My faith has helped guide me back, and I'm  
22 confident that I'm proving myself to be a good  
23 person of good moral character. There are multiple  
24 similarities in this process that can be comparable  
25 to when I was successfully reinstated as a caddy on

1 the PGA tour providing several letters of  
2 recommendation by respected men and women in the  
3 golf and horseracing industries providing details  
4 within my arrest report that add context to my  
5 underlying offense, highlighting the successful  
6 completion of my court-ordered 24-month probation  
7 ten months early, outlining my current working  
8 background as a caddy where I have a perfect track  
9 record of conduct both on and off the golf course  
10 stating remorse for my shameful moral behavior  
11 related to my offense while also illustrating the  
12 positive direction my life has consistently been  
13 headed in since.

14 Many people in important positions have taken  
15 time to look at my case individually and believed  
16 in me enough to give me a second chance. I am  
17 forever grateful for those opportunities, and it  
18 gives me immense pride in doing well by them.

19 I hope I can earn a second chance opportunity  
20 today from the Florida Gaming Commission board. I  
21 will gladly answer any questions you may have.  
22 Thank you very much for your time and deep  
23 consideration in my waiver request today.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Thank you for  
25 taking the time to come back up to Tallahassee,

1 too. And you do have a lot of letters of support  
2 from notable professionals and notable clubs as  
3 well. I just wanted to point that out.

4 Commissioners, are there questions of the  
5 applicant?

6 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I don't have any, no.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for your  
8 testimony. We're going to take discussion up here  
9 now.

10 Commissioners, now is the time to ask staff if  
11 you have any questions or if there's discussion  
12 among the group.

13 I do have one for our staff regarding this.  
14 As a jockey agent, this may be a question,  
15 Ms. Alvarado for Mr. Dillmore. As a jockey agent,  
16 would the applicant be around minors in that  
17 capacity typically?

18 MR. DILLMORE: So typically what the license  
19 will do for him is give access to the back side  
20 where the animals are in a restricted area. It is  
21 uncommon for minors to be back there or his  
22 licensees. It does happen, but it's not common.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. That was really  
24 my only question. The floor is open to the  
25 commissioners at this time.

1           COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I guess my comment is I  
2    appreciate very much, sir, coming up here and  
3    talking and fighting for yourself. I appreciate  
4    that. I understand it. I understand your  
5    disappointment if you weren't able to get licensed.

6           And I'm very happy that you're finding your  
7    way. You found your faith, and you're improving  
8    yourself. I think that great. I appreciate that,  
9    and I commend you for that.

10          My concern is I'm not sure that with your  
11    record that it would be suitable for a position  
12    licensed by the state of Florida. I think that  
13    we've wrestled with this all the time up here with  
14    trying to balance a person's history with the  
15    ability to be able to earn a living.

16          But we have an obligation to protect the  
17    public and people of the state of Florida, and we  
18    have an obligation certainly for the public to get  
19    a sense that we are of the integrity of this  
20    Commission and this body and the staff of the  
21    Commission to do everything possible to make the  
22    people secure and to give at least the people a  
23    sense of safety that we are looking out for their  
24    safety and have a low tolerance for serious crimes  
25    even when the person may have -- may believe or

1 feel that they have found their way in other ways.

2 And we certainly have considered people who  
3 after committing certain crimes have been what we  
4 might consider rehabilitated. But this is the type  
5 of crime that's difficult to be able to confirm  
6 whether somebody is being rehabilitated or not.

7 Certainly having personal or professional  
8 history dealing with this, it's very difficult for  
9 anybody to be able to say that someone's  
10 rehabilitated from such a crime.

11 So I think what I'm trying to say in a  
12 nutshell is that I think in order to preserve the  
13 integrity of this Commission and the feelings by  
14 the public that we're concerned in making sure that  
15 we protect the public to the best of our ability --  
16 we're not certainly fortune tellers up here.

17 There's no Solomon sitting up here that can  
18 make these decisions without an error. But I think  
19 that we have to be extremely cautious so that the  
20 public understands that we take this job very  
21 seriously.

22 We take our positions very seriously, and we  
23 take the obligations put on us very seriously. I  
24 don't know if whether you want -- if others want to  
25 talk before we make a motion or how you want to go,

1 Madam Vice Chair.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner  
3 Drago, and explaining your rationale, especially as  
4 a former chief of police and prospective law  
5 enforcement professional.

6 Commissioner Repp.

7 COMMISSIONER REPP: I have a question I think  
8 for Mr. Dillmore, Director Dillmore. With the  
9 position of jockey agent, and I know we discussed  
10 this, but if you could maybe clarify. Is that  
11 necessarily a licensed position that you need to be  
12 licensed to be a jockey agent?

13 MR. DILLMORE: Thank you Commissioner Repp.  
14 So the license we provide is just access to a  
15 restricted area. It's my understanding he can be a  
16 jockey agent anywhere else, but he just can't  
17 access those areas.

18 I'm not familiar with what a jockey agent  
19 does, but he just wouldn't be able to go to the  
20 back side where typically you find a lot of  
21 jockeys. But he could probably contact them  
22 outside on their private or free time.

23 COMMISSIONER REPP: So to be clear, to put  
24 like on a business card that you're a jockey agent,  
25 coach jockeys, desirable to be their agent, it's

1 not necessary for them to be licensed?

2 MR. DILLMORE: That's my understanding. So  
3 like in other professions, you might be familiar  
4 with like CPAs. They have to actually pass an exam  
5 and get a license to actually conduct that job.  
6 That's not the license that we give. It's just  
7 access to restricted areas.

8 COMMISSIONER REPP: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I would surmise,  
10 though, that it would be helpful to say one is  
11 licensed in the pursuit of that profession. And  
12 while it's not necessary to have one, using the CPA  
13 as example, it's certainly a more -- it adds  
14 prestige and contributes to the potential success.

15 MR. DILLMORE: I would imagine so. And also  
16 being able to actually contact the jockeys in  
17 probably the area where they gather before and  
18 after races, so I think there would be a couple  
19 advantages to it.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I have a second  
21 question. Would this license in any way grant the  
22 ability to work in other capacities in gaming,  
23 other than be used in a jockey agent profession?  
24 In other words, with that license, would it enable  
25 respondent to be a dealer, per se or in any other



1 capacity?

2 MR. DILLMORE: Probably any capacity  
3 associated with pari-mutuel operations because it's  
4 a pari-mutuel license. A cardroom license would  
5 require its own. And likewise a slot occupational  
6 license would require a separate license or  
7 approval or a combination thereof. But this one  
8 would be just related to pari-mutuel activities.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Pari-mutuel only  
10 specifically?

11 MR. DILLMORE: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: If I could just point out  
15 one last thing, I guess, is that this offense was  
16 committed in 2019; right? This is not an ancient  
17 -- this is not an old, old case. This was  
18 committed in 2019, so we're only talking about five  
19 and a half years, six years, whatever it is since  
20 that occurred.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Good point to  
22 make.

23 Commissioner D'Aquila.

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'm clarifying there  
25 are no other offenses recorded since?

1 MS. ALVARADO: No.

2 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And I want to clarify  
3 on the information provided, the PGA has reinstated  
4 the individual?

5 MS. ALVARADO: Right.

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: The Professional  
7 Golfers Association to be on the grounds at  
8 tournaments and so forth?

9 MR. ALVARADO: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I'm very torn,  
12 Commissioners, by this. I spent a lot of time  
13 thinking about it. I've looked through the letters  
14 of reference. There are a lot attesting to his  
15 character, in fact, even during -- before the  
16 incident happened in 2018.

17 Although I do respect and defer greatly to our  
18 Commissioner Drago who has extensive background in  
19 law enforcement, so I'm just very torn by this.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I concur, Vice  
21 Chairman Brown. I think the nature and the  
22 subjectivity are what makes this difficult for this  
23 Commission to get our hands around, so I concur  
24 with that statement.

25 But I also don't want to lose sight of the

1 damages that occurred, the lack of any other  
2 violation, it's a very difficult balance.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Certainly. And I think  
4 also one of the points that Commissioner Drago  
5 brought up is the timing and the -- we may be in a  
6 different posture given the breadth.

7 Although rehabilitation is a difficult thing  
8 to grasp given the nature of this crime is  
9 subjective and individual mind.

10 That being said, we have to also consider  
11 where he's going to be in this if he gets a  
12 license. I also want to point out  
13 Commissioner Repp's point is that he could still be  
14 a jockey agent without having access to the back  
15 side.

16 So taking the totality of that, I'm inclined  
17 in looking at the police record with more detail.  
18 And I appreciate Ms. Alvarado getting that because  
19 that did put some context. I'm inclined to support  
20 Commissioner Drago, again, with his background in  
21 evaluating matters of this nature.

22 Are there any other comments? If not, we can  
23 take a motion at this time. If no one else is  
24 willing to make a motion, I'm going to defer to  
25 Commissioner Drago.

1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I would like to make a  
2 motion, I guess a letter to deny.

3 MS. ALVARADO: A letter of license denial.

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm sorry?

5 MS. ALVARADO: Issue a letter of license  
6 denial.

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Issue a letter of license  
8 denial, I make a motion.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll second.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there discussion?

12 Seeing none, all those in favor, say aye.

13 (Multiple ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any opposed? It passes  
15 unanimously. Thank you, sir, for coming up here.  
16 We're going to move on to 6.3.

17 MS. ALVARADO: 6.3 is Trevor Fisher,  
18 2025-003354. Here the applicant applied for a  
19 pari-mutuel wagering general individual  
20 occupational license. Upon review of the  
21 application, it was discovered that he had a  
22 disqualifying -- he had multiple disqualifying  
23 offenses of cocaine possession.

24 But here he's asking you to waive one from  
25 November 8, 2010. For clarification, there was a

1 final order issued in 2017 indicating that the  
2 Division had previously waived the four prior  
3 cocaine possessions from 2003, 2004, 2005, and  
4 2007.

5 The applicant was previously denied a license  
6 in that final order based on that one cocaine  
7 possession from November 8, 2010. He was licensed  
8 with us from 1998 until then. He was failing to  
9 indicate any of these felonies on those  
10 obligations, we were unaware that he had them at  
11 that point.

12 The applicant did answer yes on this  
13 application and did indicate all the cocaine  
14 possessions in his record. He does have  
15 outstanding costs of \$2,708 from all five cases.  
16 There are still court costs on all of them.

17 There was a waiver interview that was  
18 conducted. It was conducted on February 11th, and  
19 it is documented in the meeting materials. Here  
20 the Commission can decide to grant the waiver and  
21 issue the license or, if not, we ask that you give  
22 us the authority to issue a letter of license  
23 denial in this case.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.  
25 And the individual is applying to be a groomer?

1 MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can you just go over what a  
3 groomer's duties are with regard to --

4 MS. ALVARADO: I'm going to ask Director  
5 Dillmore to do that.

6 MR. DILLMORE: I'm sorry. It's much like it  
7 sounds. It's my understanding that you literally,  
8 you know, take animal, brush them, wash them down,  
9 things of that nature, attend to them in the barn.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

11 Commissioners, any questions or thoughts on  
12 this? Obviously extensive similar charges, but no  
13 other related charges or disqualifying offenses.

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: There's a pretty steady  
15 pattern of felony violations up to 2010 anyway and  
16 also still owes -- what was the \$2,000 for?

17 MS. ALVARADO: Those are all the court costs  
18 combined from all five cases. He owes from all of  
19 them different amounts, but that's just the  
20 combined amount.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any comments  
22 on this item? If not, we can take a motion on this  
23 item.

24 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I make a motion to issue  
25 a letter of license denial.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a  
2 second?

3           COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I second that motion.

4           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Given the pattern, I would  
5 support this as well and the nature of the job  
6 being around animals as well.

7           All those in favor, say aye.

8           (Multiple ayes.)

9           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any opposed? Passes  
10 unanimously. We are moving on to 6.4.

11          MS. ALVARADO: 6.4 is Allison Lombardi, Case  
12 No. 2025-011289. Here the applicant applied for a  
13 pari-mutuel wagering general individual  
14 occupational license. Upon review of the  
15 application, it was discovered that she had two  
16 disqualifying offenses, a felonous assault and a  
17 harassment by inmate with bodily fluid out of Ohio  
18 from 2013.

19          She did answer yes on the application and  
20 disclosed her convictions. She is applying to be a  
21 bartender at Melbourne Greyhound Park. She has  
22 outstanding debts of \$275. A waiver interview was  
23 conducted on February 25th and is documented in the  
24 meeting materials.

25          Here the Commission can decide to grant the

1 waiver and issue a license. Or, if not, we'd ask  
2 that you give us the authority to issue a letter of  
3 license denial in this case.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. This is a very  
5 unusual pattern of offense here. I actually don't  
6 have a problem with the -- I really don't  
7 understand the nature and the fact pattern. Even  
8 with the waiver interview, I still don't really  
9 understand it.

10 But I am curious about the misdemeanor theft  
11 that occurred. Is there any details on that?

12 MS. ALVARADO: From what we know, she was at a  
13 mall with two friends, and someone stole clothing  
14 and put it in their purse and walked out without  
15 paying for it. The offense that's actually  
16 disqualifying came from her time in jail actually  
17 after that.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Which is the original one  
19 was the assault?

20 MS. ALVARADO: Right.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes. Okay.

22 Commissioner Drago.

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: And the assault was on a  
24 corrections officer?

25 MS. ALVARADO: Right, when she was -- so the



1 petty theft was first. And then she was in jail,  
2 and it was on a corrections officer when she was in  
3 jail.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: The assault involved two  
5 officers; right?

6 MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: In the shower.

8 Commissioner D'Aquila.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: It seems we have like  
10 anger management issues here in this matter in  
11 reading the materials that were presented as well.  
12 And the person is applying for, as I understand  
13 correctly, a bartender position in a license  
14 facility where there is gambling and bartending  
15 employing alcohol?

16 MS. ALVARADO: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And I also got a little  
19 confused because in the notes, it says that she was  
20 ordered to attend a drug rehab program, but I  
21 didn't see any drug charges. And then there was  
22 also from 2014, she got negatively terminated from  
23 community control. Just a few confusing facts in  
24 this case.

25 MS. ALVARADO: Right.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. D'Aquila.

2 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'm just going to add,  
3 just based on all of this here as much as we try,  
4 I'm questioning whether this is the best career  
5 opportunity for this individual, not that it's for  
6 us to judge that, but just looking at the pattern  
7 of the facts here and considering the environment  
8 in which she is applying to work. That's where I'm  
9 having difficulty with this matter.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any other  
11 comments? If not, Commissioner D'Aquila, we are  
12 ripe for a motion.

13 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I make a motion to  
14 deny respondent's application.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can I please have a second.

16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those  
18 in favor, say aye.

19 (Multiple ayes.)

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Passes unanimously. We are  
21 moving on to 7.1, discussion of license denials.

22 MS. ALVARADO: 7.1 is Nicole Carson,  
23 2025-025422. Here the Division received a  
24 completed application, and the applicant is seeking  
25 a slot machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel combination

1 occupational license.

2 After review of the application, it was  
3 discovered that she had two felony offenses. One  
4 is resisting an officer with violence, and the  
5 other is battery on a law enforcement officer out  
6 of Broward County, Florida from 2023.

7 She did disclose on the original application.  
8 She is seeking to be a cocktail waitress out of  
9 Dania Entertainment Group. She owes \$1,294 in  
10 court costs, but did complete her probation in  
11 September of 2024. Here the Division would ask the  
12 Commission to authorize the issuance of a letter of  
13 license denial.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. This is  
15 straightforward. It's also very, very recent.  
16 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can we  
17 please approve the staff recommendation.

18 COMMISSIONER REPP: Motion to approve staff  
19 recommendation.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

24 (Multiple ayes.)

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Passes unanimously.

1           We are moving on to discussion of final orders  
2   pursuant to request from respondents 8.1 through  
3   8.3.

4           MS. ALVARADO: 8.1 is Mikhael Bailey,  
5   2024-047393. We'd ask that we can defer this to  
6   another meeting, if possible.

7           VICE CHAIR BROWN: This is the designated  
8   player?

9           MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

10          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. Looking forward to  
11   this one. We will go ahead -- if there are no  
12   objections, we're going to go ahead and defer it  
13   until the next meeting.

14          MS. ALVARADO: Possibly, yes. Hopefully.

15          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. 8.2.

16          MS. ALVARADO: 8.2 is Seymour Bennett,  
17   2024-064818. In the case materials, you were  
18   provided a one-count complaint seeking suspension  
19   of respondent's pari-mutuel wagering professional  
20   individual occupational license due to an  
21   outstanding debt related to horseracing in Florida  
22   pursuant to fact that D-1057 Florida Statutes.

23          The respondent responded to the complaint with  
24   an election of rights form marking option three  
25   stating that he did not dispute any of the

1     allegations contained within the administrative  
2     complaint waiving his right to any form of a  
3     hearing and requesting that the Commission enter a  
4     final order imposing a penalty and fine in this  
5     case.

6             Therefore, the Division would ask that the  
7     Commission would authorize us to enter a final  
8     order suspending his professional individual  
9     occupational license until such time that the  
10    Commission receives confirmation that the payment  
11    has been satisfied.

12            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Just to  
13    clarify, we're not imposing a fine. We're just  
14    making sure we're going to suspend his license  
15    until we get confirmation of the \$388.

16            MS. ALVARADO: Right.

17            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can we get a motion to  
18    approve the staff recommendation.

19            COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

20            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

21            COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

22            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion?

23            All those in favor, say aye.

24            (Multiple ayes.)

25            VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. We're on to 8.3.

1 MS. ALVARADO: 8.3 is Danielle Bewick,  
2 2024-068886. Here there was a two-count  
3 administrative complaint seeking the revocation of  
4 respondent's pari-mutuel wagering general  
5 individual occupational license due to respondent's  
6 failure to notify us of a felony conviction within  
7 48 hours and due to the felony conviction.

8 They were convicted of burglary of an  
9 unoccupied dwelling out of Volusia County in  
10 November of 2024. Here the respondent responded to  
11 the complaint with an election of rights marking  
12 option three.

13 The respondent did not dispute the allegations  
14 contained within the administrative complaint,  
15 waived her right to any form of hearing, and  
16 requested that the Commission enter a final order  
17 in this case. Therefore, the Division recommends  
18 that the Commission enter final order revoking the  
19 respondent's pari-mutuel wagering professional  
20 individual occupational license.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Any discussion  
22 on this item or questions?

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can we please get a motion  
25 to approve the staff recommendation.

1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second that motion.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. All those in  
5 favor, say aye.

6 (Multiple ayes.)

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We're moving on  
8 to a discussion of amended application for  
9 pari-mutuel operating license, 9.1 Tampa Bay Downs.

10 MS. POUNCEY: Good morning. Jane Pouncey, for  
11 the record. Item 9.1 is an application from Tampa  
12 Bay Downs for their current 2024/2025 operating  
13 license. They are requesting to add a single  
14 performance in May, and the recommendation is to  
15 approve it.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Anyone have  
17 questions of Ms. Pouncey? Seeing none, can we go  
18 ahead and get a motion to approve the staff  
19 recommendation.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I make a motion to  
21 approve the staff recommendation.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can I get a second.

23 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

1 (Multiple ayes.)

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We are going to be taking  
3 up license applications for Greyhound permits.

4 It's 10.1 through 10.19. Ms. Pouncey is going to  
5 summarize them, and she's going to go through the  
6 numbers 10.1, rather than reading the case numbers.

7 If there is any questions on any of those  
8 items, please feel free to let us know. But she's  
9 going to do this in a very effective, swift manner.  
10 Thank you.

11 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 10.1 is TBD  
12 Entertainment. They have applied for their  
13 operating license and cardroom license for 25  
14 tables.

15 Item No. 10.2 is 831 Federal Highway  
16 Acquisition Holding, L.L.C. applying for their  
17 operating license, cardroom license for 30 tables.

18 Item No. 10.3 is Bonita-Fort Myers Corporation  
19 applying for their operating license and cardroom  
20 license for 37 tables.

21 Item No. 10.4, Daytona Beach Kennel Club, Inc.  
22 applying for their operating license and cardroom  
23 license for 56 tables.

24 Item No. 10.5 is 831 Federal Highway  
25 Acquisition, L.L.C. applying for their operating



1 license and cardroom license for 30 tables.

2 Item No. 10.6 is bestbet Jacksonville, Inc.  
3 Applying for their operating license and cardroom  
4 license for 92 tables.

5 Item No. 10.7. is bestbet Orange Park, Inc.  
6 applying for their operating license, cardroom  
7 license for 37 tables.

8 Item No. 10.8 is bestbet St. Augustine, Inc.  
9 applying for their operating license, cardroom  
10 license for 49 tables.

11 Item No. 10.9, Investment Corporation of Palm  
12 Beach applying for their operating license,  
13 cardroom license for 65 tables.

14 Item No. 10.10, Pensacola Greyhound Racing,  
15 L.L.P. applying for their operating license,  
16 cardroom license of 20 tables.

17 Item No. 10.11, St. Petersburg Kennel Club,  
18 Inc. applying for their operating license, cardroom  
19 license for 53 tables.

20 Item No. 10.12, Sarasota Kennel Club, Inc.  
21 applying for their operating license, cardroom  
22 license for 32 tables.

23 Item No. 10.13, Washington County Kennel Club,  
24 Inc. applying for their operating license, cardroom  
25 license for 25 tables.

1           Item No. 10.14, Gretna Racing, L.L.C. applying  
2   for their operating license, cardroom license for 25  
3   tables.

4           Item No. 10.15, West Volusia Racing, Inc.  
5   applying for their operating license, cardroom  
6   license for 56 tables.

7           Item No. 10.16, Melbourne Greyhound Park,  
8   L.L.C. applying for their operating license,  
9   cardroom license for 38 tables.

10          Item No. 10.17, Penn Sanford, L.L.C. applying  
11   for their operating license.

12          Item No. 10.18, License Acquisitions, L.L.C.  
13   applying for their operating license.

14          Item No. 10.19, SOKC, L.L.C. applying for  
15   their operating license.

16          All these permitholders have submitted the  
17   required information and documentation, and the  
18   Division is recommending approval.

19          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pouncey.  
20   Supremely professional. You did a great job.  
21   Thank you.

22          Commissioners, any questions of these items?  
23   If not, can I please get a motion to approve the  
24   request to receive operating and cardroom licenses  
25   for fiscal year 2025 through 2026 for Item Nos.

1 10.1 through 10.19.

2 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can I get a  
4 second, please.

5 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

8 (Multiple ayes.)

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All of them have passed  
10 unanimously. We are moving on to license  
11 applications for Jai Alai permitholders 11.1  
12 through 11.10. And the same goes. Commissioners,  
13 if you have questions from any of the items, just  
14 let us know while Ms. Pouncey is going over them.

15 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 11.1, Casino Miami,  
16 L.L.C. applying for their operating license,  
17 cardroom license for 20 tables.

18 Item No. 11.2, OBS Real Estate Holdings,  
19 L.L.C. applying for their operating license and one  
20 cardroom table.

21 Item No. 11.3, Fronton Holdings, L.L.C.  
22 applying for their operating license, cardroom  
23 license for 24 tables.

24 Item No. 11.4 Dania Entertainment Center,  
25 L.L.C. (281) applying for their operating license,

1 cardroom license for 29 tables.

2 Item No. 11.5, Calder Race Course, Inc.  
3 applying for their operating license, cardroom  
4 license for eight tables.

5 Item No. 11.6, Dania Entertainment Center,  
6 L.L.C. (274) applying for their operating license  
7 with 92 performances, their cardroom license for 29  
8 tables.

9 Item No. 11.7 is RB Jai Alai, L.L.C. As note,  
10 the memo for that one erroneously indicated zero  
11 performances. In fact, they've applied for an  
12 operating license with 36 performances. That  
13 documentation is in the packet.

14 Item No. 11.8, West Flagler Associates, Ltd.  
15 (280) applying for an operating license with seven  
16 performances.

17 Item No. 11.9, West Flagler Associates, Ltd.  
18 (283) applying for an operating license with five  
19 performances.

20 Item No. 11.10, West Flagler Associates, Ltd.  
21 (286) applying for their operating license with  
22 seven performances.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pouncey.  
24 Are there any questions on any of Item Nos. 11.1  
25 through 11.10? Seeing none, can we please get a

1 motion to approve the request to receive operating  
2 and cardroom license for fiscal year 2025 through  
3 2026, noting 11.7's modification that was provided  
4 in the packet -- on Item Nos. 11.1 through 11.10.

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: So moved.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can I please  
7 have a second.

8 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

11 (Multiple ayes.)

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Those passed  
13 unanimously. And we are on to the Thoroughbred  
14 permitholders 12.1 through 12.2.

15 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 12.1, Tampa Bay Downs,  
16 Inc. applying for their operating license with 89  
17 performances, cardroom license for 25 tables.

18 Item No. 12.2, Gulfstream Park Racing  
19 Association, Inc. applying for their operating  
20 license with 159 performances, cardroom license for  
21 one table.

22 Item No. 12.3, Gulfstream Park Thoroughbred  
23 After Racing Program, Inc. applying for their  
24 licenses with 40 performances.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Are there any questions on

1     these items? Seeing none, can we please get a  
2     motion to approve the request for operating  
3     cardroom licenses for fiscal year 2025 through 2026  
4     for Item Nos. 12.1 through 12.3.

5           COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

6           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can I please have a second.

7           COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

10          (Multiple ayes.)

11          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Okay. Passes unanimously  
12     those three items. We're moving on to quarter  
13     horse permitholders 13.1 through 13.6. Again, same  
14     goes. If you have any questions, please feel free  
15     to speak up.

16          MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 13.1, Tampa Bay Downs,  
17     Inc. applying for their operating license.

18          Item No. 13.2, Gretna Racing, L.L.C. applying  
19     for their operating license, cardroom license for  
20     15 tables.

21          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Pouncey, can I mention.  
22     Somewhere I read in there that -- oh, it was 25  
23     tables. Thank you. I see it.

24          MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 13.3, South Florida  
25     Racing Association applying for their operating

1 license and 24 tables.

2 Item No. 13.4, South Marion Real Estate  
3 Holdings, L.L.C. applying for their operating  
4 license, cardroom license for 35 tables.

5 Item No. 13.5, Hamilton Downs Horsetrack,  
6 L.L.C. applying for their operating license,  
7 cardroom license for two tables.

8 Item No. 13.6, Ocala Breeders' Sales Company,  
9 Inc. applying for their operating license, cardroom  
10 license of 33 tables and their limited ITW license.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

12 Commissioners, can we please get a motion, if  
13 you have no questions on 13.1 through 13.5 to the  
14 effect of approving the operating cardroom license  
15 for fiscal year 2025 through 2026.

16 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make that motion.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll second that  
19 motion.

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

22 (Multiple ayes.)

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: 13.1 through 13.5 passed.  
24 And then on to 13.6. I'm just going to ask for a  
25 motion to approve staff recommendation on that

1 item. It's the same, just a little nuance on 13.6

2 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll make a motion to  
3 approve.

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

6 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

9 (Multiple ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Passes  
11 unanimously. And on to Harness permitholder 14.1.

12 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 14.1, PPI, Inc.  
13 applying for their operating license, cardroom  
14 license for 62 tables.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Are there any  
16 questions on this item? If not, can we please get  
17 a motion to approve 14.1 staff recommendation.

18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And can I have a second.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

23 (Multiple ayes.)

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Passes unanimously. And  
25 lastly on these permitholder license applications



1 15.1.

2 MS. POUNCEY: 15.1 Florida Standardbred  
3 Breeders' & Owners' Association applying for their  
4 operating license with seven performances.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

6 If there are no questions, can we get a motion  
7 to approve the staff recommendation.

8 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make that motion.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And may I have a second.

10 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll second that  
11 motion.

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

14 (Multiple ayes.)

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: It passes unanimously on  
16 15.1. Thank you, Ms. Pouncey for all your work and  
17 to Mr. Dillmore.

18 Mr. Dillmore.

19 MR. DILLMORE: Thank you, Vice Chair Brown. I  
20 just want to take the opportunity while Ms. Pouncey  
21 reads through these very efficiently. We go  
22 through this once a year. It's just a tremendous  
23 lift for not only her and her team and other  
24 sections who process the payments review.

25 Ms. Swain, Ms. Ricks, and all their staff all

1 pitch in during this 90 to 120 days trying to get  
2 all this done just for this moment. We say, well,  
3 she reads them quick. It's a lot of work, and I  
4 would like to extend my thanks to all of them.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

6 Commissioner D'Aquila.

7 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I would like to add to  
8 that. For anybody that doubts the thousands of  
9 pages, these applications serve to prove that  
10 point. Job well done, and thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Absolutely. Thank you.  
12 And you made it look very seamless, but there's a  
13 lot of work behind it. I thank you for recognizing  
14 them Director Dillmore. Thank you. And with that,  
15 we're going to move right into our Executive  
16 Director report.

17 MR. MARSHMAN: Good morning, again. On my  
18 list, I have an update from DGE from Director  
19 Herold. I have just a short update, since we're  
20 about halfway through the legislative session.

21 I have a short update about cashless  
22 rulemaking in the upcoming workshop in May,  
23 employees of the month could be recognized and then  
24 just going over some scheduling.

25 So with that, Madam Vice Chair, I would like

1 to ask Director Herold to provide his update.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Absolutely. Welcome,  
3 Director Herold. And thank you for providing the  
4 monthly activity report. It's fantastic. It  
5 summarizes so much. We would love for you to go  
6 over it in public.

7 MR. HEROLD: Good morning. Thank you, Vice  
8 Chair and Commissioners. Carl Herold, for the  
9 record. Thank you for this opportunity to talk  
10 about the fantastic work that our folks in the  
11 Gaming Enforcement Unit do. I'll just go over some  
12 of these.

13 This past month, the folks in our  
14 investigative unit touched 89 different  
15 investigations. Again, they're doing fantastic  
16 work in servicing all these investigations that  
17 they have that we continue to get.

18 This past month, we were actually able to  
19 close six illegal casinos around the state. We  
20 seized 416 machines. Again, lots of machines  
21 requiring of a lot of warehouse storage, and I'll  
22 speak to that in just one moment.

23 We were able to arrest nine individuals with a  
24 total charges of 12 charges. At this point, many  
25 of these cases are awaiting for additional

1 investigation, and there will be additional  
2 charges. But at this point, that's how many  
3 resulted from these investigations that we had.

4 The agency was able to seize \$112,455 and some  
5 cents from these investigations. And they're  
6 moving forward for any kind of forfeiture  
7 proceedings that may be warranted in that area.

8 As I spoke about the 416 machines, right now  
9 we have about 37,308 square feet of storage space,  
10 and we only have about 5,880 feet of storage space  
11 left, which is around 16 percent of our storage  
12 capacity.

13 And with that, we have 4,554 machines stored,  
14 plus additional items of evidence that I won't go  
15 over here. But I mean, again the biggest lift for  
16 us is storage space for us to continue our  
17 investigative operations.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Director Herold, would you  
19 mind if I just stop you for a moment?

20 MR. HEROLD: No.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And go over  
22 these cases. Obviously, they're throughout the  
23 state of Florida, and each of them cover various  
24 charges, some unrelated to the charges associated  
25 with us, some different charges that are felonies,

1 and they can take up to several years.

2 Have we been able to -- I know they're very  
3 timely. But I'm just trying to gauge with the  
4 amount of work and arrests that we're doing and the  
5 machines that we're seizing, every month we're  
6 seeing the space shrink even more because we have  
7 to store them during the prosecution in these  
8 matters.

9 Are we seeing any cases being adjudicated in a  
10 timely fashion to free up some of that space.

11 MR. HEROLD: Thank you for the question. So I  
12 believe that -- well, let me back up for a second.  
13 We are looking at our space and any opportunities  
14 that we may have to get rid of evidence that is no  
15 longer needed constantly.

16 We have our legal advisor that looks at that,  
17 and we do have a potential for some machines here  
18 hopefully within the next month or so that we can  
19 destroy, since they have to be destroyed by  
20 statutes since they are contraband, that we can  
21 destroy and free up additional space.

22 So we're not neglecting that little bit to try  
23 and find additional space. It's just that these  
24 cases truly do take a long time. The complexity  
25 and the number of parts that have to be identified.

1           And parts, I mean investigative parts, the  
2   things that you have to do from an investigative  
3   standpoint to justify a sound prosecutable case are  
4   very involved.

5           We also recognize that if we were to just go  
6   into one particular location and make a bunch of  
7   misdemeanor cases and take the machines, it often  
8   doesn't have the desired effect that we would like  
9   in that as they stand right now with the slot  
10   machine possession, there's simply misdemeanors,  
11   and there's just not enough deterrent effect.

12          At least in what we've seen, there's very  
13   little deterrent effect. So what we do with our  
14   partners is we attempt to investigate them a little  
15   bit further because every one of these locations is  
16   almost always money laundering.

17          And so that takes another level and a great  
18   deal more investigation to get to that next level  
19   where we finally do have a felony in this case.  
20   There's a lot of work.

21          Once the machines are taken, these cases do  
22   not find their way through the criminal justice  
23   system and the court system at nearly the case that  
24   we would like.

25          VICE CHAIR BROWN: No. I'm so happy that you

1 pointed all of that out and talked about working  
2 with our partners to really get them involved in  
3 getting additional charges that are felonies that  
4 will get the prosecutor to move forward in the  
5 amount of time.

6 And I think the public kind of needs to know  
7 how long it takes. And you're doing tremendous.  
8 Every month we're seeing that the cases just  
9 continue to grow.

10 MR. HEROLD: Yes. I can tell you that -- and  
11 I know Commissioner D'Aquila has a question, but  
12 I --

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I know that, too.

14 MR. HEROLD: He always has a question.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I see him. I see him.

16 MR. HEROLD: But, you know, there is a great  
17 deal of work that goes into these investigations,  
18 and the guys are doing great work. And it's just  
19 that some of these just drag on. But, I mean, I  
20 want to talk some more about partnerships a little  
21 bit later on, and I'll give you a little more about  
22 that.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: My question is do we  
25 know how many cases have actually been resolved

1 resulting in either the return of the machines or  
2 the destruction of the machines that we have taken  
3 into our storage warehouse?

4 MR. HEROLD: If you're speaking specifically  
5 to the cases that we either partnered with or have  
6 done, we have none yet that have finally resolved.  
7 There is one that I believe is going to be  
8 finished.

9 That's the one that we're hoping to be able to  
10 get some machines destroyed. You have to also  
11 recognize that in like the operation that we had  
12 recently with Jacksonville SO, there were seven or  
13 eight people that were prosecuted or purged in that  
14 case.

15 And the evidence has to stay around till the  
16 last one of them is resolved because it's evidence  
17 for all of those individuals that have been  
18 arrested. So seven of the eight might in any  
19 particular case might plea out or reach some sort  
20 of agreement and settle the criminal case.

21 But if there's one still left, the evidence is  
22 part of that individual's case as well. And so  
23 that could prolong the retention of those types of  
24 thing.

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: If I understand



1     correctly, we are on a trajectory of what is today  
2     37,308 square feet, one could infer based on the  
3     success of your division in this Commission that  
4     this number could easily double in the next few  
5     years.

6             When I look at the successful MOUs executed,  
7     the increased awareness, and the recent trim line  
8     in just the last 18 months and the numbers I run,  
9     we're looking at an incredible amount of  
10    climate-controlled space at an expensive imposed  
11    upon the Florida taxpayer to deal with these  
12    machines.

13            And we have zero cases at this point in the  
14    last few years that have been resolved for reasons  
15    earlier stated. I just want to make sure I  
16    understand that point.

17            MR. HEROLD: You are not incorrect.

18            COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And I want to know, I  
19    guess a question for the Executive Director, we're  
20    making our governor's office, our attorney  
21    general's office well aware of this information;  
22    correct?

23            MR. MARSHMAN: Yes, sir, as well as both  
24    chambers and the legislature as well.

25            COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: That's my next

1 question. Thank you for confirming that.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

3 Commissioner Drago, do you have any questions?

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Yes. I'm going to test  
5 Director Herold's math here for a minute. Just a  
6 guess, your best guess you can make. We have 5,800  
7 square feet available. When are we going to fill  
8 that up?

9 How long do you think before we fill that up?  
10 Is it six months from now? Is it a year from now?  
11 Is it tomorrow? Just to give you an educated  
12 guess, if you would, how long do you think before  
13 we use up all that space?

14 MR. HEROLD: A month.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: A month. Wow. Okay.  
16 Thank you.

17 MR. HEROLD: The folks and much to what  
18 Commissioner D'Aquila said, the trajectory of our  
19 investigations is ever increasing. I mean, there  
20 is a lot of interest in the work that we do. The  
21 folks out in Florida, the citizenry are reporting  
22 at a faster pace.

23 You'll see that this past month, we received  
24 256 reports from citizens and some governmental  
25 agencies. Every time we do -- you know, we're

1 involved in an investigation and that there's a  
2 news article or whatever, there's a clearer tick up  
3 in the number of reports.

4 And so it's not as though the reports are  
5 going down or the potential investigative and  
6 enforcement activities are going down. They're  
7 ramping up.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I have a general  
10 question, and this might be for counsel or for the  
11 Executive Director. These illegal casinos, for  
12 lack of a better term, plot operators are obviously  
13 baking the law if they're operating an illegal  
14 machine.

15 And whether or not the landlord or they own  
16 the facility or whatever are also in violation of  
17 local variance. Has it ever been discussed of  
18 locking those places and using them for storage  
19 while the case is mitigated?

20 In other words, to be more specific, if the  
21 raided location has 400 machines, could they be  
22 stored there and that placed locked until the  
23 matter is closed, considering those other facts.  
24 I'm just curious if it's been discussed versus all  
25 this new climate-controlled space that's putting a

1 financial burden on the Florida taxpayer?

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman.

3 MR. MARSHMAN: Thank you. It has been  
4 discussed. But there is an argument to be made  
5 that Florida law, Florida's Constitution, maybe in  
6 the United States Constitution does not contemplate  
7 the immediate seizure and forfeiture of real  
8 property.

9 It doesn't contemplate it for contraband  
10 that's a slot machine, and it definitely doesn't do  
11 it for the building or the place itself.

12 To your point, though, about whether a  
13 landlord or the building owner faces criminal  
14 liability or an illegal slot machine business or  
15 casino inside of the property they own or manage,  
16 the answer is, yes, they do face liability if it's  
17 knowingly rent or knowing itself.

18 So there is a knowledge element there, I  
19 believe. Hopefully, that addresses your question.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. I know we cut  
21 you off a little bit.

22 MR. HEROLD: No.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I know Director Mustain has  
24 a lot of creative ideas, but there's only so far  
25 that you can go with regard to retaining additional

1 space within the budget that we have.

2 MR. HEROLD: Well, you know, it has to be  
3 balanced with what evidentiary rules are and, you  
4 know, the successful conclusion of any type of  
5 investigation and prosecution. So I'm not in a  
6 position to offer my thoughts on how to resolve  
7 this.

8 I just know that within the bounds of what we  
9 have right now as far as how we can handle this  
10 investigation, recognizing that -- and we are  
11 wholly unique as a law enforcement unit.

12 You know, any other law enforcement agency  
13 whenever they take evidence, they take three and  
14 four pieces of evidence that probably could fit  
15 within an envelope or a shoebox. We're taking 300,  
16 400 machines that are the size of refrigerators.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And our partners are  
18 grateful for it because otherwise they would have  
19 no place to store it.

20 MR. HEROLD: The fact of the matter is that  
21 their evidence rooms don't have that kind of  
22 capacity. And if they had to try and get those  
23 machines, recognizing that it's a misdemeanor  
24 offense, they might find a better way to use their  
25 resources.

1           VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Repp has a  
2 question.

3           MR. HEROLD: Yes.

4           COMMISSIONER REPP: Less of a question, more  
5 of a comment just on what you just said. I think  
6 what we see out there -- and you can agree or  
7 disagree -- is that law enforcement out there just  
8 does not work these cases because of this problem  
9 right here with storage.

10          And allocating resources is kind of the nice  
11 way of saying we just can't work these cases  
12 because we have nowhere to put the evidence. And  
13 we've solved that problem for a short time. We're  
14 getting these cases resolved.

15          So I do appreciate our staff coming up with  
16 the creative ideas in trying to find a way to make  
17 this happen because if we don't, the cases just  
18 won't work.

19          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

20          Director Herold.

21          MR. HEROLD: As I said earlier, we had 256  
22 total reports of illegal activity this past month.  
23 That continues to be for about the last three  
24 months very close to 250 reports.

25          Every month I can tell you that just to help

1 understand what we do with those, 99 of those  
2 didn't necessarily meet our -- or we transferred to  
3 local law enforcement.

4 They didn't necessarily meet the requirements  
5 that we have for broader and more expansive  
6 investigations, ones that have a significant impact  
7 on the folks in Florida, the citizenry and our  
8 visitors.

9 Twenty-six of those that we received this past  
10 month were actually assigned to our investigators  
11 for handing. The big number here, at least in  
12 significance for me is that 67 of those cases from  
13 those calls that we got were types of cases that  
14 justify us taking them.

15 They fall within our enforcement guidelines.  
16 However, I don't have the staff to purpose those.  
17 So we put 67 in our pending unassigned file so that  
18 if at some point we have the capacity to begin  
19 investigating those are somehow -- there's a nexus  
20 between one of those investigations and something  
21 else we can take of.

22 And then we have 49, like I say, that didn't  
23 meet our requirements or they were something that  
24 we could transfer to another agent.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And I appreciate you

1 pointing out that 26 percent, too. It's just how  
2 the needs are being met or lack thereof. Those  
3 MOUs executed for March, those are just growing.

4 MR. HEROLD: I was going to save that to the  
5 end, but I'm going to go ahead and talk about it  
6 now. You're messing up my vibe. You're throwing  
7 off my vibe.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All day.

9 MR. HEROLD: Yes. You're justifiable in kind  
10 of identifying that, and that's why I wanted to  
11 speak to it this month. We've talked about that on  
12 other occasions, but I don't think I've given you  
13 maybe the full benefit of understanding why those  
14 are so important.

15 To the layperson, they may say, well, you  
16 know, it's a memo of understanding, an MOU, and  
17 what's the significance of it. We were able to  
18 execute eight MOUs with other law enforcement  
19 agencies this past month.

20 That's a credit to our legal advisor. That's  
21 a credit to our office of general counsel. It's  
22 all credit to the Executive Director for getting  
23 those done.

24 But to help you understand the significance of  
25 those activities to us is that, you know, as the



1 Division of Gaming Enforcement, we know that we  
2 cannot take on this monumental task of gambling  
3 enforcement, illegal gambling enforcement in an  
4 isolated fashion. We can't do it by ourselves.

5 And so these MOUs allow us to partner with  
6 local agencies, whether they be cities, counties,  
7 or even federal agencies. And what it does for us  
8 as an investigative unit in a statewide  
9 investigative unit is it bring in some regional  
10 knowledge.

11 You know, these individuals in these cities or  
12 in these counties, they know their areas. They  
13 understand the connection between the bad actors  
14 potentially and those kind of things like that. It  
15 brings in additional operational resources.

16 The take down of a typical illegal casino  
17 requires an entry team to ensure that no law  
18 enforcement officers are jeopardized. Everybody --  
19 you know, they have the resources. You'll see  
20 them.

21 They're suited up. They bring armored  
22 vehicles, all those kind of things like that. and  
23 that's protection for law enforcement, and it's  
24 protection for the individuals inside these  
25 locations.

1           And we can't do that because we can't  
2   transition -- we being the gaming enforcement unit  
3   -- for stuff we don't have the resources to do it.  
4   But if we did, our guys have got to come in and  
5   then collect evidence and document evidence and  
6   interview individuals and those kind of things like  
7   that.

8           So our partnerships with these other law  
9   enforcement units is absolutely essential because  
10   they give us operational resources. They give us  
11   jurisdictional authority at times. We're fortunate  
12   we have statewide authority.

13          But what happens is that our work with these  
14   other laws enforcement agencies, we extend  
15   jurisdictional authority to them so that if they're  
16   going to help us, oftentimes these bad actors have  
17   got additional locations outside of that particular  
18   circuit, and we can bring them on board, and they  
19   can go outside of the circuit and help us.

20          The MOUs also allow us to kind of communicate,  
21   coordinate and cooperate with -- for the greater  
22   mission. Everybody understands where the  
23   boundaries are, who's going to do this, who's going  
24   to do that, and who do they look at to get this all  
25   moving forward so that we have a cohesive

1     investigative activity.

2             It helps proactive collaboration in that you  
3     can't just wait for these things to happen. You  
4     need to really get out there and take enforcement  
5     action. About an MOU specifically, I just want to  
6     say that, you know, MOUs have a value in their own  
7     self -- in their own right because it's about  
8     shared understanding of what everybody's  
9     responsibilities are, you know, how we work with  
10    other law enforcement.

11            It helps clarify the roles. It helps  
12    establish protocols as we reach problems. You  
13    know, within the investigation, you know based upon  
14    the MOU who has responsibility to solve that and  
15    who has responsibility to hand that off to somebody  
16    else.

17            It reduces ambiguity about who's responsible  
18    for tho se kind of things. One thing is does for  
19    us is it demonstrates a commitment that we're going  
20    to support our local law enforcement partners. It  
21    shows that we are committed to helping them and  
22    seeing this through in our investigation.

23            And it lays the groundwork for sustained  
24    collaboration. I'll bring up Palm Beach County.  
25    Palm Beach County was the very first law

1 enforcement unit that we operated with. And we  
2 continue to work with them because it laid that  
3 groundwork, and we understand the relationship and  
4 how we work with each other.

5 It's been fundamental, and that's what we hope  
6 to do, is to continue to lay that groundwork and  
7 continue to build that trust relationship. We're a  
8 very small law enforcement unit. This was a  
9 strategic opportunity for us to expand our  
10 enforcement network.

11 It gives us -- there's a phrase about you  
12 know, increasing your manpower, you know,  
13 multiplying your manpower. And this gives us an  
14 opportunity to do that. And lastly, you know, MOU  
15 in general speaking, it allows us to act in concert  
16 with our law enforcement partners to dismantle  
17 these illegal gambling operations.

18 We know that. And I think it demonstrates  
19 what I hope is the best part about the Gaming  
20 Control Commission, and that is our willing to work  
21 with other agencies to get the mission done for the  
22 citizens.

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: That's such a great  
24 explanation of the MOU, Carl. I really appreciate  
25 that. I think too many people just kind of bypass

1 it as just you signing a little agreement and it's  
2 not a big deal. I know that the lawyers put a lot  
3 of work into it.

4 These are very comprehensive, and it's so  
5 important in policing. Modern day policing, you're  
6 crossing over lines all the time and all the  
7 different benefits that you just cited to that most  
8 people don't even think about. So thank you for  
9 sharing that with us.

10 It's really important for all of us to  
11 remember and understand how important those MOUs  
12 are. You dove into those MOUs from day one. You  
13 were working on these MOUs with these agencies.  
14 And sometimes the other agencies I know are going  
15 to be a little hesitant to sign anything.

16 And they don't always have the lawyers  
17 available to be able to assist them with it, so  
18 it's great. I'm sure that they can use your MOUs  
19 now for go buys for the whole state, just make it a  
20 lot easier to get done. I appreciate that  
21 explanation.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll just add, judging  
24 by the number of machines, the number of MOUs, the  
25 number of cases, I'm not sure you're a small law

1 enforcement agency.

2 MR. HEROLD: We are having a big impact.

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you very much  
4 for your service.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Repp.

6 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'm looking at the MOUs  
7 and the growing number of agencies that we're  
8 working with.

9 And I really think it's a testament to the  
10 work that our agents are doing out there in the  
11 field and the positive reputation of our agents in  
12 the field, and I'd like to commend them for that  
13 and say that we are deeply grateful for the work  
14 they do and obviously doing a great job because  
15 there's a lot of people out there that want to work  
16 with us.

17 They're the face of the agency out there with  
18 other law enforcement. Thank you for that.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Commissioners,  
20 for all of your comments. I would be remiss if I  
21 didn't compliment your attorney as well for getting  
22 eight MOUs not only drafted and negotiated, but  
23 signed this month alone.

24 So it's just tremendous work, and it's great  
25 that you have a dedicated attorney for use, which

1 is very important for our agency.

2 MR. HEROLD: Well, thank you. And I will say  
3 that I sit here as the face, maybe not the best  
4 face, but the face of, you know, what we're doing.  
5 But I'm not the person that's doing all the work.

6 It's the investigators. It's the analysts.  
7 It's our general counsel's office. It's our legal  
8 advisor. It's our business manager. It's all  
9 those other people that are really doing all the  
10 work. And I would be remiss if I didn't recognize  
11 them.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

13 MR. HEROLD: I can talk about some more stuff,  
14 but that seems like a really good place to stop. I  
15 don't know.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And there are other things  
17 more in depth about analytical activity.

18 MR. HEROLD: But I want to be respectful of  
19 your time.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

21 Commissioners, would you like to hear a little  
22 bit more or you have the information?

23 Thank you, Director Herold.

24 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We're going to turn it back

1 to our Executive Director.

2 MR. MARSHMAN: Florida is about halfway  
3 through its current legislative session, so I  
4 wanted just to give a brief over of the bills that  
5 your staff has been spending a lot of time  
6 analyzing and working with stakeholders in both  
7 chambers of the legislature, but also with external  
8 folks as well, though this bill would impact -- or  
9 bills, rather.

10 So the first pair is House Bill 1467 and  
11 Senate Bill 1404. The main crux of both of these  
12 bills is to increase certain penalties associated  
13 with criminal gaming offenses. So we obviously  
14 have a lot of interest in those.

15 And we've been continuing to work with the  
16 sponsors and different stakeholders that may be  
17 impacted by this bill, but both of them have made  
18 it through at least one committee stop in both  
19 chambers. And all signs point to them continuing,  
20 which is good news I think.

21 The next pair has to do with decoupling. And  
22 when I say decoupling, I mean allowing thoroughbred  
23 permitholders to cease live racing but continue to  
24 have either the cardrooms or their slot facilities  
25 or both.



1           So that is HB 105 and Senate Bill 408. Again,  
2 both of those bills have made it through at least  
3 one committee stop in both chambers. The final one  
4 that I was going to mention today has to do with  
5 Jai Alai permitholders being able to lease from  
6 other classes of permitholders, not just Jai Alai  
7 permitholders.

8           That's House Bill 709 and Senate Bill 622.  
9 Again, those bills have both made it through at  
10 least one committee stop in either chamber.

11          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Mr. Marshman, can you  
12 give me those numbers again?

13          MR. MARSHMAN: Sure. For all --

14          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No. Just for the last  
15 one, the Jai Alai.

16          MR. MARSHMAN: For Jai Alai leasing, it's HB  
17 709 and Senate Bill 622.

18          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

19          MR. MARSHMAN: Unless there's any other  
20 questions, I was just going to move on to kind of  
21 an update on the cashless rulemaking.

22          VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any  
23 questions? Before actually, I do want to say our  
24 legislative affairs director and you and staff has  
25 been providing so much work during session, a lot

1 of analysis.

2 You've been asked more than I've seen in years  
3 since we've been and inception. Actually, even at  
4 DBPR, there have been a lot of bills and a lot of  
5 work. It should not go without saying that I've  
6 never seen this much activity for our agency.

7 So I know it's not just you that's the face in  
8 front of committees. It's not just Henry. It's  
9 all of our staff to doing a great deal of work, in  
10 addition to the daily responsibilities of the job.  
11 So it's just thank you so much. It's a lot of work  
12 and a lot of activity.

13 MR. MARSHMAN: Thank you. Yesterday we handed  
14 you all individually copies of the working draft  
15 for the cashless rules. When I say cashless, I  
16 mean the cashless wagering system that could be  
17 employed by certain slot machine gaming facilities  
18 in the state.

19 I look forward to getting your individual  
20 feedback between now and the next time we speak.  
21 But for the larger audience that may be listening,  
22 we are still panning on having the workshop on May  
23 13th in Fort Lauderdale in the afternoon.

24 We will be publishing the formal notice as  
25 required in the Florida Administrative Register.

1 And after we finish polishing up the language and  
2 getting any feedback from you all individually,  
3 then we will make that language available as soon  
4 as we can so that anyone who wants to provide  
5 comments or direction or feedback about these  
6 rules, particularly in the industry, they will have  
7 as much time as possible to review it before that  
8 meeting on the 13th of May.

9 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman, can you just  
10 for the public give the location of where we're  
11 having the workshop or folks that are tuning in and  
12 the time, I think it's set for a time certain.

13 MR. MARSHMAN: It's in the Fort Lauderdale  
14 Marriott Airport or the Fort Lauderdale Airport  
15 Marriott, whichever way you say that. We met there  
16 last year at the same location.

17 And I don't know if we have an exact time yet  
18 published because I don't think the administrative  
19 notice has been published, but it will be after  
20 lunch just to give people a break if they do attend  
21 the meeting in the morning of the Commission and  
22 then have the workshop in the afternoon.

23 Next I did want to recognize the employees of  
24 the month. And just as a reminder, these have been  
25 nominated by other people in the Commission,

1 particularly their supervisors and co-workers. And  
2 these are the ones that have been for this month.

3 So the first one is from the Division of  
4 Administration. It's Rena Gilliam, the Chief of  
5 Human Resources. She is the Human Resources Bureau  
6 Chief and is the Administration's employee of the  
7 month for April.

8 As the manager of the FGCC human resources  
9 management section, Rena exemplifies outstanding  
10 leadership and dedication while fostering a  
11 positive and productive workplace environment. She  
12 has successfully led key HR initiatives, including  
13 representing FGCC in job fairs, creating and  
14 providing employee training programs, and creating  
15 and collaborating on HR policies.

16 Rena is competent and hard working, always  
17 going above and beyond to support employees, and we  
18 extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude  
19 to Rena for her hard work and dedication.

20 I should have said this in the beginning. I  
21 believe all the employees in Tallahassee are here  
22 today just to be recognized.

23 The next one should be no stranger to any of  
24 you is Ms. Emily Alvarado from the Executive  
25 Director and General Counsel's Office. You may

1 have heard of her.

2 Ms. Alvarado is the chief attorney in the  
3 litigation practice of the Office of General  
4 Counsel. And she's the Office of General Counsel's  
5 employee of the month.

6 Emily has served as legal counsel for the  
7 Commission and for its predecessor, the Division of  
8 Pari-Mutuel Wagering, Department of Business and  
9 Professional Regulation for almost five years.

10 During this time, Emily has represented the  
11 Commission in a significant number of  
12 administrative actions always in a professional and  
13 highly capable manner. Emily's strong work ethic,  
14 foundational knowledge, legal skills, and can-do  
15 attitude are an asset to the Commission.

16 Next is from the Division of Gaming  
17 Enforcement, Ms. Robin Ruby Edwards. Robin Ruby  
18 Edwards is the Government Operations Consultant to  
19 the Division of Gaming Enforcement's employee of  
20 the month for April.

21 Robin serves as the evidence and property  
22 manager for DGE. She works diligently to ensure  
23 that all evidence procedures are adhered to so that  
24 the integrity of our law enforcement investigations  
25 remains intact.

1           This often means traveling throughout our  
2   state to assist our special agents in operations in  
3   the raids of the legal casinos, usually working  
4   long days or even into the early hours of the  
5   morning until all evidentiary items are properly  
6   document and safely secured in storage.

7           She continuously audits evidence entries to  
8   make certain items are being entered correctly and  
9   consistently by other DGE members in the field and  
10   is also looking for ways to improve upon our  
11   current processes.

12          Robin truly is one of the unsung heroes of DGE  
13   and is deserving of recognition for the hard work  
14   she exhibits on a daily basis.

15          COMMISSIONER DRAGO: From a former police  
16   chief, let me just tell you how important evidence  
17   staff are to your organization and just definitely  
18   unsung heros. Let it get messed up and wrong and  
19   see what happens. Thank you.

20          MR. MARSHMAN: Next is from the Office of  
21   Information Technology. It's Mr. Justin Garcia  
22   Vargas. Justin Garcia Vargas, Systems Project  
23   Analyst, is the Office of Information Technology's  
24   employee of the month for April.

25          Justin joined our IT team nearly a year ago

1 following the completion of his bachelor's degree  
2 in information technology at FSU. From day one,  
3 Justin's zeal for knowledge and professional growth  
4 has been evident.

5 He embraces every opportunity to enhance his  
6 skills and has shown an exceptional ability to  
7 adapt and excel in diverse tasks. Over the past  
8 few months while acting as Tallahassee's sole help  
9 desk technician, Justin has displayed remarkable  
10 composure and resilience under pressure.

11 And as you all are probably aware, he plays a  
12 role in the Commission meetings that we have every  
13 month. He's here before I am making sure that all  
14 the technology is working for staff and for you all  
15 as well.

16 Justin's ability to manage multiple  
17 priorities, deliver efficient service and operate  
18 with significant autonomy makes him an invaluable  
19 asset to the FGCC team. His professional demeanor  
20 and relentless pursuit of excellence is truly  
21 commendable.

22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you so much,  
23 Justin.

24 MR. MARSHMAN: Next is from the Division of  
25 Pari-Mutuel Wagering in the northern region. It's

1 Mr. Jeff Lashley. Jeff Lashley, the Financial  
2 Examiner Analyst II is the Division of Pari-Mutuel  
3 Wagering's employee of the month for April.

4 Jeff is a Financial Examiner Analyst II in the  
5 Offices of Revenue and Auditing. He conducts  
6 financial reconciliations of monthly reports to  
7 ensure the accuracy of taxes and fees paid to the  
8 state completeness.

9 Appliance reviews of permitholder uniform  
10 annual reports, compiles monthly statistical data,  
11 and conducts quality reviews of on-base documents.  
12 Jeff arrives early and is ready to work with a  
13 positive attitude every day.

14 He takes pride and accountability for his work  
15 product, and he completes his assigned tasks well  
16 in advance of any deadlines, is eager to take on  
17 extra duties when his unit is short staffed, and is  
18 the first to volunteer if there is need within our  
19 unit or the Division as a whole.

20 The last highlight is actually a pair of  
21 employees, both from the Division of Pari-Mutuel  
22 Wagering again, but in the southern region. These  
23 are in the Slots and Pari-Mutuel Operations  
24 Specialist units.

25 The first one is Kereene Lewis, Slots



1 Operations Specialists Supervisor, and Jacqueline  
2 Rodriguez Pari-Mutual Operations Specialist for the  
3 Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering's southern office  
4 employees of the month for April.

5 During an extended vacancy at the Casino Miami  
6 facility, supervisor Kereene Lewis and slot  
7 specialist Jacqueline Rodriguez absorbed extra  
8 workload during a major renovation the casino had  
9 planned.

10 The facility created a new high limit area and  
11 installed 300 new games as part of a whole floor  
12 remodel requiring Kereene and Jacqueline to  
13 coordinate delivery, inspections, and software  
14 verifications.

15 Her flexibility and cooperation ensured the  
16 facility was able to timely complete its renovation  
17 plans. Kereene and Jacqueline have an exemplary in  
18 maintaining Division regulatory standards while  
19 working shorthanded to complete these projects  
20 along with their daily tasks.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Fantastic.

22 MR. MARSHMAN: The last item I had is  
23 scheduling. Just as a reminder, we already know  
24 that the next meeting of the Commission will be in  
25 Fort Lauderdale on May 13th, followed by the

1 workshop in the afternoon.

2 We have several other dates that Ms. Parker  
3 provided me this morning. June 12th was the date  
4 we previously agreed upon. Following that, July  
5 8th. And then I also have an August 6th date. I  
6 don't know if it's too soon to look at September.  
7 But since we're all here, I wanted to ask.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: September, is there a  
9 possibility that we could look at the week of  
10 September 8th? Any particular day, the 11th?

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: The 11th is fine.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman, how about  
13 September 11th?

14 MR. MARSHMAN: That works for us.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can we pause there until  
16 our next meeting?

17 MR. MARSHMAN: Works for us.

18 Mr. Dillmore, is there any issue on a slot  
19 machine gaming license renewal on that September  
20 date?

21 MR. DILLMORE: Not in September.

22 MR. MARSHMAN: Not in September. That's  
23 ominous.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Great. Thank you. Are  
25 there any other matters in the Executive Director

1 report?

2 MR. MARSHMAN: No, ma'am. Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Wonderful. Is there  
4 anybody from the public that would like to address  
5 us at this time? Anybody on the line that would  
6 like to address us at this time? Seeing none,  
7 going once, twice.

8 Thank you, Commissioners. Are there any other  
9 matters that need to be discussed here today? All  
10 right. We stand adjourned. Thank you. Safe  
11 travels, everyone.

12 (Proceedings concluded at 11:22 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF LEON

I, I. IRIS COOPER, do hereby certify that I  
was authorized to and did stenographically report  
the foregoing proceeding, and that the transcript  
is a true and complete record of my stenographic  
notes.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2025



I. Iris Cooper  
Stenographic Reporter  
Notary Public, State of Florida  
My Commission No. 1366674  
Expires: February 7, 2028

Job No.: 394843