
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

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 - 75)

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

9:30 a.m. - 10:48 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.: 398415

1 APPEARANCES:

2

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

3

Vice Chair Julie I. Brown

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Commissioner Chuck Drago

Commissioner John D'Aquila

5

Commissioner Tina Repp

6

7 PARTICIPANTS:

8

- Emily Alvarado, Deputy Chief Attorney

9

- Justin Hundersmarck, Senior Attorney

10

- Henry Mahler, Director of Legislative Affairs

11

- Ross Marshman, Acting Executive Director

12

- Marc Taupier, Deputy General Counsel

13

- Lisa M. Mustain, Director Of Administration

14

- Dixie Parker, Business Manager I

15

- Jamie Pouncey, Program Administrator

16

- Carl Herold, Director of Gaming Enforcement

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Elina Valentine, General Counsel

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OTHERS PRESENT:

21

- Various Members of the Public

22

- The Florida Channel

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

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning, everyone.

3 Today is Tuesday, July 8th. This is the Florida
4 Gaming Control Commission's July meeting. Please
5 stand for the pledge of allegiance which will be
6 led by Commissioner Repp.

7 (Pledge of allegiance.)

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you so much. Good to
9 see you all here. I hope everyone had a great
10 Independence Day. And just a reminder as we're
11 entering or in hurricane season to be vigilant and
12 to remember to follow the EOC reminders that go
13 out.

14 With that, we're going to begin our meeting
15 today. It's a shorter meeting than usual, so we'll
16 start with the discussion of renewal of
17 applications of slot machine license, Item No. 1.1.

18 MS. POUNCEY: Item 1.1 is Gretna Racing,
19 L.L.C. doing business as Magic City Casino, Case
20 No. 2025-036283. This is their annual slot machine
21 renewal license. They have submitted the required
22 application and other requirements.

23 Their application will be deemed complete upon
24 receipt of their payment, and the Division is
25 recommending approval.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pouncey. So
2 they have not submitted the renewal payment?

3 MS. POUNCEY: Correct. They have until the
4 expiry, and they have indicated it will be
5 forthcoming. It's just not here yet. Thank you so
6 much.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any
8 questions? Seeing none, can we get a motion to
9 approve the application for renewal.

10 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Motion to approve the
11 application for renewal.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

13 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

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

16 (Multiple ayes.)

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. We're moving on
18 to Item No. 2.1, discussion of amended application
19 for pari-mutuel operating license.

20 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 2.1 is Gulfstream Park
21 Racing Association, Case No. 2025-046752. This is
22 an application to amend their operating license,
23 moving a thoroughbred performance from June 30th to
24 June 26th. They have submitted the required
25 documentation.

1 Their current license includes 160
2 performances and 155 matinee and 5 charities, and
3 all they're doing is moving from one date to the
4 other. The Division is recommending approval with
5 an effective date of June 25, 2025.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

7 Commissioners, seeing no questions, can I get
8 a motion on the item.

9 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to
10 approve the application to amend.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Repp.

13 Can I please get a second.

14 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

17 (Multiple ayes.)

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We're moving on to
19 discussion of default final orders.

20 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Good morning.

21 Good morning, Mr. Hundersmarck.

22 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.1 is Ryan Baron,
23 Case No. 2024-003123. The Division seeks the
24 revocation of respondent's slot
25 machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel combination

1 occupational license and his cardroom employee
2 occupational license, as well as his permanent
3 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
4 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.

5 Respondent was a poker dealer at Harrah's and
6 was permanently excluded for arranging a deck in a
7 way that greatly benefited one patron at the table.

8 The case materials include the USPS certified
9 mail tracking number and confirmation of delivery.
10 Respondent did not answer. Therefore, the
11 Commission should enter an order with the following
12 findings:

13 That the respondent was properly served the
14 administrative complaint, did not respond within
15 the deadline, and waive the right to request a
16 hearing;

17 That the factual allegations of the
18 administrative complaint are accepted as the
19 findings of fact in this case;

20 That respondent shall be permanently excluded
21 from all pari-mutuel facilities and any facility of
22 a slot machine licensee in Florida, and that both
23 his slot machine/cardroom/pari-mutuel combination
24 occupational license and his cardroom employee
25 occupational license are revoked.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
2 Mr. Hundersmarck.

3 Are there any questions on this item? If not,
4 can we get a motion to approve the staff
5 recommendation as presented.

6 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I make a motion to
7 approve the staff recommendation.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can I get a second, please.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second that motion.

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

12 (Multiple ayes.)

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We're moving on
14 to 3.2.

15 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.2 is Valdo
16 Torres, Case No. 2024-057776. The case materials
17 include the administrative complaint alleging that
18 respondent was a patron of and was excluded from
19 Hialeah Park Racing and Casino.

20 The administrative complaint seeks permanent
21 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
22 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.
23 The case materials include the USPS certified mail
24 tracking number and confirmation of delivery.

25 Respondent did not answer. Therefore, the

1 Commission should enter an order with the following
2 findings: That the respondent was properly served
3 the administrative complaint, did not respond
4 within the deadline, and waive the right to request
5 a hearing;

6 That the factual allegations of the
7 administrative complaint are accepted as the
8 findings of fact in this case;

9 And that respondent shall be permanently
10 excluded from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
11 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
13 Mr. Hundersmarck. This individual also is
14 undergoing criminal prosecution, too, for his
15 actions?

16 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Yes.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: With that, Commissioners,
18 can we get a motion to approve the staff
19 recommendation.

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Make a motion to
21 approve the staff recommendation as presented.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can we get a
23 second.

24 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say

1 aye.

2 (Multiple ayes.)

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Item No. 3.3.

4 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.3 is Rolando

5 Juan Sanabria, Case No. 2024-064237. The case

6 materials include the administrative complaint

7 alleging that respondent was a patron of and was

8 excluded from Magic City Casino.

9 The administrative complaint seeks permanent
10 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
11 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.

12 The case materials include an affidavit that
13 personal service was made on respondent.

14 Respondent did not answer.

15 Therefore, the Commission should enter an
16 order with the following findings: That the
17 respondent was properly served the administrative
18 complaint, did not respond within the deadline, and
19 waive the right to request a hearing;

20 That the factual allegations in the
21 administrative complaint are accepted as the
22 findings of fact in this case;

23 And that respondent shall be permanently
24 excluded from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
25 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
2 Mr. Hundersmarck.

3 If there are no questions, can we get a motion
4 on this item.

5 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to
6 accept the staff recommendation.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.
8 Commissioner D'Aquila.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will second that
10 motion.

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

13 (Multiple ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We're moving on
15 to 3.4.

16 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.4 is Leonardo
17 Rosado Muniz, Case No. 2024-069872. The case
18 materials include the administrative complaint
19 alleging that respondent was a patron of and was
20 excluded from Casino Miami.

21 The administrative complaint seeks permanent
22 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
23 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.
24 The case materials include the USPS certified mail
25 tracking number and confirmation of delivery.

1 Respondent did not answer. Therefore, the
2 Commission should enter an order with the following
3 findings: That the respondent was properly served
4 the administrative complaint, did not respond
5 within the deadline, and waive the right to request
6 a hearing;

7 That the factual allegations of the
8 administrative complaint are accepted as the
9 findings of fact in this case, and that respondent
10 shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel
11 facilities and any facility of a slot machine
12 licensee in Florida.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

14 If there are no questions, Commissioner Drago,
15 can we get a motion on this item.

16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I move to accept the
17 staff recommendation.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
19 second?

20 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

23 (Multiple ayes.)

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

25 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.5 is Jeremiah

1 Bryan Adam Cadevil, Case No. 2025-001448. The case
2 materials include the administrative complaint
3 alleging that respondent was a patron of and was
4 excluded from Harrah's.

5 The administrative complaint seeks permanent
6 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
7 facility of a slot machine licensee. The case
8 materials include the USPS certified mail tracking
9 number and confirmation of delivery.

10 Respondent did not answer. Therefore, the
11 Commission should enter an order with the following
12 findings: That the respondent was properly served
13 the administrative complaint, did not respond
14 within the deadline, and waive the right to request
15 a hearing;

16 That the factual allegations of the
17 administrative complaint are accepted as the
18 findings of fact in this case, and that respondent
19 shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel
20 facilities and any facility of a slot machine
21 licensee in Florida.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. If there are no
23 questions on this item, can we get a motion to
24 approve the staff recommendation.

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

2 Commissioner D'Aquila.

3 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

6 (Multiple ayes.)

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We are moving on to 3.6.

8 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: The Division asks that we
9 table 3.6 and 3.7.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We'll table those items.
11 We are moving on to 3.8.

12 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.8 is Luckner
13 Cesar, Case No. 2026-011649. The case materials
14 include the administrative complaint alleging that
15 respondent was a patron of and was permanently
16 excluded from The Big Easy Casino.

17 The administrative complaint seeks permanent
18 exclusion from all pari-mutuel facilities and any
19 facility of a slot machine licensee in Florida.
20 The case materials include the USPS certified mail
21 tracking number and confirmation of delivery.

22 Respondent did not answer. Therefore, the
23 Commission should enter an order with the following
24 findings: That the respondent was properly served
25 the administrative complaint, did not respond

1 within 21 days, and waived his right to a hearing;
2 That the factual allegations of the
3 administrative complaint are accepted as the
4 findings of fact in this case, and that respondent
5 shall be permanently excluded from all pari-mutuel
6 facilities and any facility of a slot machine
7 licensee in Florida.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. This
9 individual's behavior was completely aggressive and
10 very appropriate to exclude this individual. Can
11 we get a motion to approve the staff recommendation
12 on 3.8.

13 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to
14 approve the staff recommendation on 3.8.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

16 Commissioner Drago, is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

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

20 (Multiple ayes.)

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And Last, we're moving on
22 to 3.9.

23 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 3.9 is Alfred
24 Henry Cotten, V, Case No. 2025-014544. The
25 Division seeks the revocation of respondent's

1 cardroom and employee occupational license due to
2 his conviction for third-degree felony child abuse.

3 The Division filed a three-count
4 administrative complaint alleging that respondent
5 pled guilty to a felony, did not inform the
6 Commission within 48 hours of his conviction, and
7 did not inform the Commission within five days of
8 his arrest.

9 The case materials include a USPS certified
10 mail tracking number and confirmation of delivery.
11 Respondent did not answer. Therefore, the
12 Commission should enter an order with the following
13 findings:

14 That the respondent was properly served the
15 administrative complaint, did not respond within
16 the deadline, and waive the right to request a
17 hearing;

18 That the factual allegations in the
19 administrative complaint are accepted as the
20 findings of fact in this case, and that
21 respondent's cardroom employee occupational license
22 is revoked.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

24 Commissioners, any questions on this item?

25 Can we get a motion to enter a final order revoking

1 respondent's cardroom employee occupational
2 license.

3 COMMISSIONER REPP: I'll make a motion to
4 accept the staff recommendation.

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

7 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

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

10 (Multiple ayes.)

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Now we are
12 moving to discussion of recommended orders, 4.1
13 through 4.3.

14 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 4.1 is Christopher
15 Wu, Case No. 2024-039228. The Division seeks a
16 final order reflecting respondent's exclusion
17 solely from Hialeah Park Racing and Casino until
18 such time as Hialeah Park Racing and Casino removes
19 his name from the list of excluded persons.

20 Respondent was served an administrative
21 complaint, and an informal hearing was held on May
22 21, 2025. On June 27th, the hearing officer issued
23 a recommended order.

24 The Commission should adopt the hearing
25 officer's recommended order and enter a final order

1 reflecting respondent's exclusion solely from
2 Hialeah Park Racing and Casino until such time as
3 Hialeah Park Racing and Casino removes his name
4 from the list of excluded persons.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

6 Commissioners, this is a unique one in that
7 it's solely limited to the Hialeah Park and based
8 on the hearing officer's conclusions of law that
9 the individual, it would not be detrimental to the
10 public interest statewide. It would be just to
11 this entity. I think I would agree with the staff
12 recommendation to adopt the hearing officer.

13 COMMISSIONER REPP: Is this typical, or do we
14 have people excluded from singular casinos?

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman.

16 MR. MARSHMAN: Good morning. Backing up, I
17 think it's fair to say that there are, broadly
18 speaking, two categories of exclusion lists. There
19 are ones that are maintained by the facilities that
20 are only binding on that facility itself.

21 And then there is the statewide exclusion list
22 that is maintained by the Commission. All
23 facilities are bound by the statewide exclusion
24 list that is maintained by the Commission.

25 Until now, I'm only aware of limited instances

1 based on negotiations or settlements that are
2 specific to those cases where an individual was
3 added to the statewide exclusion list, the one
4 maintained by the Commission, but only as to
5 certain locations. So this is not common, but it
6 is not unheard of.

7 COMMISSIONER REPP: And I ask just if there's
8 a risk if this individual goes to another casino,
9 some sort of confusion that he is excluded from
10 there. Is there a way to kind of make this a
11 little cleaner as to not put him on the statewide
12 list or put him on the statewide list with an
13 asterisk next to it? Is this the best way to
14 handle it?

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman.

16 MR. MARSHMAN: Staff will take every effort to
17 make sure that this individual was not added to the
18 typical statewide exclusion list from all the other
19 facilities. If that's what the Commission asks us
20 to do, then that's what staff would figure out how
21 to do. We've done it in the past, so we can do it
22 again.

23 COMMISSIONER REPP: Okay. Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila.

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: No.

1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm just a little
2 confused why we're kind of carving this out
3 different from what we've done with so many others,
4 in terms of putting him on the permanent exclusion
5 list, the Commission's permanent exclusion list,
6 rather than trying to carve this out just for
7 Hialeah or not on the permanent exclusion list and
8 so forth. Can anybody explain to me why this seems
9 to be so distinct and different from the others?

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Valentine.

11 MS. VALENTINE: Based on the testimony
12 provided at the informal hearing just looking and
13 reading through the recommended order that the
14 informal hearing officer has filed, it appears that
15 the testimony provided by the respondent in this
16 case demonstrated to the hearing officer that his
17 presence in other facilities would not be adverse
18 to public interest.

19 And by law, the Commission may allow an
20 individual who was ejected from a facility to enter
21 other facilities if the Commission determined that
22 his presence at the other facilities would not be
23 adverse to public interest.

24 I can't speak for the hearing officer, but the
25 Commission can certainly look at the reason for the

1 ejection and weighing whether his presence at other
2 facilities would somehow interfere with public
3 interest or the integrity of gaming.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Mr. Marshman.

5 MR. MARSHMAN: And what I would add, too,
6 Commissioner Drago is that this is just a
7 recommendation from the hearing officer. The
8 Commission is free to make any of its own findings
9 after it reviews the record, as I know that you all
10 have based on our individual briefings.

11 So this is just the hearing officer's
12 recommendation. There are findings of fact and
13 conclusions of law. If the Commission votes today
14 to reach a different conclusion of law, that's
15 absolutely on all fours with what the Commission
16 can do.

17 So this recommendation may be atypical, but
18 that does not mean that you have to adopt it. You
19 can adopt part of it and modify it. It really is
20 up to you all. Just the hearing officer did their
21 duty, gave this man an opportunity to come and
22 speak, and she has given you her analysis of the
23 issue.

24 But that does not have to be the capital C
25 Commission's analysis of this. You still have

1 liberty to modify that recommended order into
2 whatever you all vote today to do.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you. I'm inclined
5 to treat this the same as we've treated others,
6 including this person on the exclusion list for the
7 Commission, rather than carving out some special
8 condition.

9 I don't see anything that warrants a special
10 condition that I've reviewed. Again, I feel more
11 comfortable being more consistent with the similar
12 facts of various cases, and this one seems to be
13 very similar to any other case.

14 I don't know whether the Commission would want
15 to hear more about this and talk about a settlement
16 with him or something along those lines, but I
17 don't feel comfortable accepting this staff
18 recommendation as it's written.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago, it was
20 one of the items that I delved into in my briefing,
21 specifically the finding of fact, the finding --
22 pardon me -- the conclusion of law, number 18.

23 The hearing officer found that given the
24 respondent's extensive and ongoing employment
25 within the gaming industry coupled with the lack of

1 any complaint about respondent's conduct, other
2 than peaceful behavior, it would not be against
3 public policy to limit their exclusion to just
4 Hialeah Park.

5 So I was inclined to support the hearing
6 officer's conclusion of law based on the record.
7 But if you all would like more information on it, I
8 respect the hearing officer's opinion and
9 information.

10 Commissioner Repp.

11 COMMISSIONER REPP: Like Commissioner Drago,
12 I'd like to see if maybe there's a settlement or
13 some alternate kind of differentiate this. And if
14 not, go ahead with a full exclusion. But I don't
15 know whether we can just make this an issue that
16 it's not exclusion activity or isn't (inaudible).

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila, do
18 you have any thoughts before we turn back to the
19 staff?

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: This is a matter of
21 security empress, correct? And be following proper
22 security protocol with multiple instances observed
23 on camera. Would we typically deny a license with
24 that kind of action?

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman.

1 MR. MARSHMAN: I think it's important to note
2 that the rules requirement is on the facility, not
3 on the individual. That's why the individual, I
4 think, was terminated from this location. I think
5 the facility also experienced discipline because of
6 this lapse in compliance with its own rules.

7 So I don't know if it's fair to say that if
8 Mr. Wu reapplied in the future, we would look at
9 this instance and use that as a basis to deny his
10 license.

11 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: So that begets the
12 question, it happened over multiple instances. He
13 was, from what I understand reading the case, the
14 behavior wasn't corrected, and he was terminated by
15 the facility.

16 So are we by not granting the exclusion from
17 working in -- I mean, it's a privilege to work in
18 this industry, as we've said before. Are we doing
19 a disservice for the rest of the industry, the fact
20 that he has a license and he's working at other
21 places with that track record?

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman.

23 MR. MARSHMAN: So we are not taking any action
24 against his license at this time. The only action
25 that the Commission would be doing would be

1 exclusion. Now, arguably, of course, if you're on
2 a statewide exclusion list and you have a license,
3 well, you don't really have anywhere to work
4 without suffering a consequence.

5 I'm not sure if this individual desires to
6 work within the state gaming system anymore. He
7 currently is a poker floor supervisor for the
8 Seminole Tribe of Florida. That means he's
9 licensed by the Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission.

10 We have attempted to settle this matter to the
11 larger Commission's point with this individual in
12 the past. The terms the individual was interested
13 in were beyond our control. It has more to do with
14 an employment dispute.

15 So however the Commission tells us to act
16 today, we can. I'm just not sure if there's much
17 usefulness in attempting to settle the matter,
18 given the communications we've had with this
19 individual in the past.

20 And as for gathering more information, this
21 individual has had his notice and opportunity to
22 speak. And I trust our hearing officer and our
23 attorneys present that they would have extended
24 every ounce of due process to this individual in
25 the most formal setting to make the most formal

1 record that you all have reviewed today.

2 I say all of that to note that I just don't
3 know if there's anything else we can go and get and
4 bring to you all to give you more information to
5 make the decision. I think that all of the facts
6 are before you today as far as we can extract them
7 from this matter.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman or
9 Ms. Valentine, is it appropriate to hear from the
10 hearing officer on the matter?

11 MS. VALENTINE: No.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: With that, Commissioners,
13 are there any other discussion or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We can take a motion, if
16 you would like. Or we could table it, but it
17 sounds like there's no additional information that
18 we will be getting.

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'll make a motion that
20 we don't accept the staff recommendation and rather
21 add Mr. Wu to the permanent exclusion list for all
22 casinos.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can we get a
24 second for discussion purposes?

25 COMMISSIONER REPP: We've tried the settlement

1 (inaudible), then I will second that.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there any other
3 discussion on this? All right. All those in
4 favor, say aye.

5 (Multiple ayes.)

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Passes
7 unanimously. Item 4.2.

8 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: Item No. 4.2 is Omar
9 Gutierrez, Case No. 2024-060053. The Division
10 seeks the permanent exclusion of respondent from
11 all pari-mutuel facilities in the state of Florida.

12 Respondent was served with an administrative
13 complaint and requested an informal hearing which
14 was held on May 21, 2025. On June 27th, the
15 hearing officer issued a corrected recommended
16 order, recommended permanent exclusion from all
17 pari-mutuel facilities in the state.

18 The Commission should adopt the hearing
19 officer's recommended order and permanently exclude
20 respondent from all pari-mutuel facilities in the
21 state of Florida.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. This one should
23 be much more straightforward. Commissioners, are
24 there any questions on this item? If not, can we
25 get a motion to adopt the hearing officer's

1 recommended order.

2 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I make a motion to
3 adopt the hearing officer's recommended order.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can we get a
5 second?

6 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

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

9 (Multiple ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. We're moving on
11 to 4.3.

12 MR. HUNDERSMARCK: For Item No. 4.3, the
13 Division also asks to table it.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We'll go ahead and table
15 Item No. 4.3. We're going to discussion of request
16 for waivers, Item Nos. 5.1 and 5.2.

17 MS. ALVARADO: Good morning. This is Emily
18 Alvarado, for the record. Item No. 5.1 is Hector
19 Manuel Arroyo Morales, Case No. 2025-041618. Here
20 the applicant applied for a pari-mutuel wagering
21 professional individual occupational license.

22 Upon review of the application, it was
23 discovered that he had the disqualifying offense of
24 shooting at, within, or into a building out of
25 Orange County, Florida from July 19, 2004. The

1 applicant originally answered no on his
2 application.

3 He has completed his probation and paid all of
4 his fines. He's applying to be an owner at Tampa
5 Bay Downs. He had a waiver interview that was
6 conducted on June 3, 2025 and was documented in the
7 meeting materials.

8 Here the Commission can decide to grant the
9 waiver and issue a license. If not, we'd ask that
10 you give us the authority to issue a letter of
11 license denial.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: This one is an interesting
13 fact pattern here. Commissioners, do you have any
14 questions or comments?

15 Commissioner D'Aquila.

16 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: In our review and work
17 on this file, nothing else -- the ARCI database,
18 did I say it correctly?

19 MS. ALVARADO: No, we didn't see anything
20 else. And no other future convictions, other than
21 traffic offenses after.

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And this is over 20
23 years ago, and he's applying to be an owner --

24 MS. ALVARADO: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: -- of a horse.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And probation has been
2 completed; correct?

3 MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And fines paid?

5 MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: And just, if I could, I
7 just want to verify that I have my facts straight.
8 According to the paperwork, he did three days in
9 jail for this and then probation?

10 MS. ALVARADO: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you. I just wanted
12 to double check that.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, are there
14 any other questions on this? Again, Exhibit 2 has
15 a lot of information that is relevant. If there
16 are no questions or comments, we are ready for a
17 motion. Commissioner Drago, you're the expert.

18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'll be honest, I'm
19 conflicted on this one. I'm struggling a bit with
20 it because, of course, it's a serious offense.
21 That's why I asked about the sentence that he
22 received.

23 I mean, shooting in a building or at someone,
24 or apparently he was in an OK Corral gunfight of
25 some type. You would expect a more serious

1 sentence out of it. So there's something here that
2 we're not really seeing, I think, in terms of that
3 offense.

4 But having said that, it was 22 years ago. No
5 other information that we have that he's committed
6 any crimes or anything along those lines. And no
7 arrests, right, Emily, as far as you know?

8 MS. ALVARADO: No.

9 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Again, I feel part of our
10 -- part of our -- the tough part of our job here I
11 think is trying to find that fine line between
12 making sure that we protect the public and that we
13 also allow people to work for a living.

14 And we look at their sense of rehabilitation
15 and whether or not we feel that he's been
16 rehabilitated since 2003. And the indications are
17 that he has, since we don't have any other
18 information of any other criminal offenses. And he
19 wants to be an animal owner; right?

20 MS. ALVARADO: A horse owner, yes.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Horse owner. So I think
22 that in terms of whether or not he's interacting a
23 lot with the public and so forth. So I'm just kind
24 of rambling on, talking out loud. But I would like
25 to hear what the rest of the Commission's thoughts.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I think the harm to the
2 industry would be very miniscule based on the time
3 that has elapsed and the rehabilitation of his
4 character. He has no other infractions of the law.
5 (Inaudible.)

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I concur. I'm looking
7 at the length of time, the clean record. I'll
8 leave it to the criminal courts to determine the
9 nature of the offense back then and so forth, but
10 I'm inclined to grant the license.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Repp, any
12 thoughts?

13 COMMISSIONER REPP: No. I concur.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago, can we
15 get a motion from you.

16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Make a motion to approve
17 the license.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I'll make a second.

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

22 (Multiple ayes.)

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And last, we
24 are moving on to 5.2.

25 MS. ALVARADO: 5.2 is Dustin Kyle Brown, Case

1 No. 2025-042628. Here the applicant is applying
2 for a cardroom employee occupational license. Upon
3 review of the application, it was discovered that
4 he had two disqualifying offenses, felony, battery,
5 and tempering with a witness, victim, or informant
6 out of St. Lucie County from November 17, 2017.

7 The applicant did answer yes on the
8 application. He has no offenses since then. He is
9 applying to be a cardroom dealer at Card House Port
10 St. Lucie. He has terminated his probation in
11 2020. He has paid all his fines and court costs in
12 full.

13 A waiver interview was held on June 12, 2025,
14 and it's documented in the meeting materials. Here
15 the Commission can decide to grant the waiver and
16 issue a license, or in turn we'd ask that you allow
17 us to issue a letter of license denial.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, are there
19 questions of Ms. Alvarado? If there are no
20 questions, can we get a motion on this item.
21 Commissioner D'Aquila.

22 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Make a motion to
23 accept the staff recommendation.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Can we get a
25 second?

1 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

2 MS. ALVARADO: If I could give some clarity,
3 there is no staff recommendation here. It's either
4 to grant the waiver or issue a letter of license
5 denial.

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: A letter of denial.
7 Excuse me. Make a motion to grant the denial.

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

10 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. All those in
12 favor, say aye.

13 (Multiple ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The individual
15 will be denied a license. All right. We are
16 moving on to 6.1, discussion of final order
17 pursuant to request from respondent.

18 MS. ALVARADO: Item 6.1 is Anthony Rito
19 Ruberto, Jr., Case No. 2025-003893. In the case
20 materials, here you were provided with a one-count
21 administrative complaint seeking the permanent
22 exclusion of respondent from all pari-mutuel and
23 slot machine facilities in the state of Florida
24 based on his exclusion from Harrah's Pompano Beach.
25 The respondent responded with an election of

1 rights form marking option three stating he didn't
2 dispute the allegations contained within the
3 administrative complaint waiving his right to any
4 form of hearing and requesting that the Commission
5 enter a final order opposing a penalty in this
6 case.

7 Therefore, the Commission should enter a final
8 order excluding respondent from all pari-mutuel and
9 slot machine facilities in the state of Florida.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. This one is
11 pretty straightforward. Commissioners, are there
12 any questions? If not, can we get a motion to
13 enter a final order permanently excluding the
14 respondent.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
17 second?

18 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

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

21 (Multiple ayes.)

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Those are all a
23 brief agenda today. We are moving into our
24 Executive Director report. Mr. Marshman.

25 MR. MARSHMAN: Good morning again. Just as a

1 roadmap for what I've got prepared today is, as
2 always, I'd like to ask Director Herold to update
3 the group on his team's activities in the past
4 month.

5 After that, I do have a short budget recap,
6 some employees of the month to highlight, and then
7 an update on rulemaking. So with that, with your
8 permission, Madam Vice Chair, I would like to turn
9 it over to Director Herold.

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Director Herold.

11 MR. HEROLD: Good morning, Commissioners.
12 Carl Herold, for the record. Thank you for having
13 me here this morning. I just wanted to talk about
14 the activity and the fantastic things that our
15 folks within Gaming Enforcement have done over this
16 past month ending in June.

17 And then I'd kind of like to give a brief
18 summary of all the work that these folks have done
19 for us over the last fiscal year since it kind of
20 ends with June, even though in my mind the year
21 doesn't end until December.

22 So this past month, our investigators touched
23 87 different investigations which shows, you know,
24 their continued dedication to trying to get these
25 investigations to a conclusion. Our folks were

1 involved in touching 15 different businesses.

2 Typically, I'll refer to this as closing
3 illegal casinos, but some of these this past month
4 were convenience stores and other types of
5 businesses where you don't close them down. You go
6 in and seize machines and try to educate the
7 individuals there.

8 So they did actually go into 15 different
9 businesses, and we seized 93 slot machines. From
10 those activities, 14 individuals were either
11 arrested or issued notice to appears. From those
12 14 individuals, there were a total of 52 criminal
13 charges levied against those persons.

14 And there was \$34,954 in money that was siezed
15 from those activities this past month. I'll take a
16 strategic pause right there for Commissioner Drago,
17 who usually has a question.

18 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Not yet.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: He's leaving his mic on,
20 though, so be prepared. Commissioners, any
21 questions?

22 MR. HEROLD: This past month, some of the
23 training that we had where we had wellness training
24 for analysts due to the stress associated with some
25 of the activities they're involved in, so they were

1 able to participate in that.

2 A training on how U.S. casinos facilitate
3 money laundering from fentanyl and narcotics
4 trafficking, which is a mouthful, and then one on
5 the association of certified anti-money laundering
6 specialists. That was a seminar that we
7 participated in.

8 Our analysts also did 11 background
9 investigations on either suspect or subject
10 individuals that were part of our investigations,
11 and then they did also 18 business backgrounds on
12 businesses that had been identified as potentially
13 involved in illegal activity.

14 They also attended six intel meetings. Again,
15 I'm very proud of the collaboration that our
16 analysts and intel folks are involved in. This is
17 an ever-evolving type of activity, and that
18 interaction between the other individuals in the
19 intel and analytical community is always
20 beneficial.

21 If it's not beneficial to us, it's beneficial
22 to the things that we know to those folks that
23 haven't seen some of the activities that we've seen
24 as far as criminal activities, so I'm very thankful
25 for that.

1 And then the intel folks assisted with nine
2 different operations. Again, typically what they
3 assist in is helping us with evidence,
4 identification, and cataloging and helping us get
5 that into our report management system, and they're
6 a vital tool for us in the things that we do.

7 I would like to talk about our investigative
8 leads that we get. This past month, it was 311
9 total investigative leads. And the thing that I
10 would like to bring to the attention of the
11 Commission is that with that 311 complaints that we
12 received this past month, that means for the fiscal
13 year we received 3,302 total complaints, and
14 they've remained relatively constant.

15 As far as the number, they're up around 300 or
16 a little over 300 each and every month. There was
17 a low of 207 in January, but they've remained
18 pretty constant. That just helps identify the
19 challenge that we have as far as an investigative
20 unit to try and service all these things.

21 Back to what we received this past month. Of
22 those 311, 306 came in from citizens. Again, our
23 followup report portal up on the FGCC website is a
24 critical component for actionable information.
25 This last month, we got in two reports from other

1 law enforcement agencies and then three from other.

2 I can't tell you exactly what they are, but
3 typically that's other governmental agencies. It
4 could be an inspection like a building inspection
5 group in another city that said, hey, we went in to
6 inspect this things and saw these things, and they
7 report them to us. So that's how that typically
8 comes in.

9 Of that 311, 145 were transferred to local law
10 enforcement. 101 met the requirements for us to
11 accept those investigations and take some action,
12 but we didn't have the resources. And so we put
13 them into our pending file.

14 So they're pending additional resources or
15 additional information that would cause it to rise
16 to the level for us to take action on it. 16 of
17 them were insufficient information. 21 total
18 investigations out of the past month were assigned
19 to agents to take action on.

20 And then lastly, 27 of them did not meet the
21 thresholds of the types of activities that were
22 reported to us didn't necessarily fall into our
23 purview. Yes, Commissioner.

24 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm ready for your pause.
25 I want to just step back to the intel section for a

1 little bit because I think the intel is so
2 important with what you guys do over there and so
3 critical. So I guess my question is are we sharing
4 this intelligence with other law enforcement in the
5 state and federal government, for that matter?

6 And if so, do we have a mechanism set up for
7 that where we have regular intelligence meetings or
8 gatherings or sharings or whatever? Because I
9 think that's one of the more valuable things we
10 offer or can offer, especially when it pertains to
11 illegal gambling in associated illegal casinos.

12 So my question is are we doing that now? Are
13 we sharing that, and have we got a system set up
14 for doing that and working with or sharing that as
15 we work with these other agencies?

16 MR. HEROLD: Thank you. The question is, yes,
17 we, you know, attack this or, you know, work on
18 this type of disbursement of information in a
19 variety of fronts. And so the intel group and the
20 analysts, they attend our general law enforcement
21 meetings.

22 And those would be, you know, being here in
23 Tallahassee puts us at the hub of kind of statewide
24 information exchange, and so we're lucky to have
25 that. And so they attend a lot of those kind of

1 meetings where generalized information is
2 exchanged.

3 I will say that because of the uniqueness of
4 the law enforcement that we do, the other law
5 enforcement partners that we are with seem to be
6 very interested in what we do. It's interesting.
7 It's unique. It's different than what they've been
8 involved in up to this point.

9 And so they seem to be very interested in it,
10 and they have a great appetite for it. And then we
11 use that opportunity to kind of leverage the fact
12 that this type of activity on the illegal side, the
13 illegal gambling and the activities that go with
14 that are often intermingled and connected into some
15 of the other activities that they're doing so that
16 they're always very eager to hear how those types
17 of things may connect them with the activities that
18 they're working on.

19 So at the state level and kind of the local
20 disbursement here, I think we do an excellent job
21 with that. When you add on as it fragments into
22 more unique and specialized types of analytical and
23 intel groups, the national intel group within it,
24 they like to hear about this.

25 And so I encourage my folks to go to and

1 attend these all the time. We just had an analyst
2 supervisor that was in Vancouver where they had a
3 meeting up there. She was on a board that spoke to
4 the group and shared with a number of individuals
5 about the activities and the trends that we're
6 seeing and how they're interconnected to other
7 criminal activity.

8 And then within that larger analytical group,
9 they fragmented into a group that specializes just
10 in gaming intel type stuff. And if you will recall
11 several months back, I think it was probably in
12 October of last year, we had that gaming intel
13 group that came down and we sponsored that forum.

14 And we continue to be a partner with them
15 because they are such a great group and they're so
16 highly specialized within what we're doing. So if
17 I were to be candid about the work that we're
18 doing, I would say that we're trying to -- we've
19 done an excellent job at the state level.

20 We're doing a very, very good job at maybe the
21 national level. The only thing that we could
22 probably do that would be a little bit better would
23 be to find a mechanism for us to maybe the source
24 of distribution of information.

25 Even though we have that with the gaming intel

1 unit, we provide them with information, and they
2 disburse it. But I think if there were any, you
3 know, to be quite candid, you know, if there were
4 some area that maybe I would like to see us do a
5 little bit better is I would like for Florida to be
6 the pinnacle of information on gaming. I think we
7 have that opportunity. I certainly think we have
8 the expertise in that.

9 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: You took the words right
10 out of my mouth. I mean, that's how I hoped that's
11 where we will be in terms of intelligence, that
12 we're going to be the place to go to get
13 information on gambling and help anybody that needs
14 it throughout the state and throughout the country.

15 Just along those lines real quickly, if I can,
16 have we got all our analyst positions full at this
17 point?

18 MR. HEROLD: We have been fortunate to have
19 been given some additional analysts positions, so
20 we are going to be filling one there. We still
21 struggle with the cyber analyst positions. And we
22 decided to do a little bit different technique.

23 You know, off the record, I would be glad to
24 share with you what our philosophy is on how we're
25 trying to fill that. We're doing some unique

1 things that I hope will be productive for us. But
2 for the most part, we are full, and we're just
3 filling positions that have been given to us with
4 the upcoming legislative session.

5 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner D'Aquila has a
7 question.

8 MR. HEROLD: Yes, please.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: With regard to the --
10 very useful, by the way.

11 MR. HEROLD: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Complaints month by
13 month, do we keep track of how many of those are
14 casinos, illegal casinos? I'm talking not about
15 the single machine or two in the service station,
16 but actual physical storefront complaints.

17 And the second part of my question is are we
18 seeing those relatively stagnant? Is it growing?
19 Is it declining? Could you comment on that.

20 MR. HEROLD: Well, to your first question, do
21 we separate those out into subcategories? The
22 answer is yes. I don't know if we go right down to
23 the casino level. I think we talk about slot
24 machine complaints, poker complaints, bingo
25 complaints, those types of things.

1 I would have to double check, and I can get
2 back with you on whether we break it all the way
3 down to illegal casinos. What was your second
4 question? I'm sorry.

5 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Do you see a trend?
6 We've seen quite a bit in the last few years since
7 the Commission was formed. One of the most
8 challenging areas in these retail storefront,
9 albeit it hidden, illegal casinos that have --
10 let's just say for argument's sake -- more than 10,
11 20 machines and such.

12 MR. HEROLD: I'm sorry. Did you want to
13 finish that? Okay. I have to say that based upon
14 the complaints that we get, I don't think you can
15 draw any particular valid information from it. You
16 know, if you go back and you say three years ago or
17 two years ago how many complaints were we getting
18 as opposed to now, we're obviously getting far more
19 complaint.

20 But I think that's a result of the education
21 and the information that we're sharing not just
22 with law enforcement who they were quite eager for
23 information on these illegal casinos and the
24 devices that they're seeing in convenience stores,
25 but also from the public.

1 You know, as you see, almost every one of the
2 complaints are coming in from the public. And I
3 think that's a product of the fact that we're doing
4 a really good job of educating the public on this.
5 I wouldn't want to draw any trends.

6 I can tell you that there are still plenty of
7 illegal casinos out there, and we are always
8 exploring opportunities for trying to have some
9 impactful results and thinking of ways that we
10 might mitigate or abate the illegal activity that's
11 out there.

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And I think to
14 Commissioner D'Aquila's point, I would love to see
15 the breakdown of the complaints, too, and just more
16 detail.

17 MR. HEROLD: Sure.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: But I think having the new
19 communications director is going to be critical in
20 terms of visibility and expanding our footprint and
21 our awareness, so looking forward to that next
22 hire.

23 Commissioner Repp.

24 COMMISSIONER REPP: Good morning. I actually
25 would like to commend you on what I see in your

1 office has been balance. A lot of times when an
2 agency has more cases than it can literally
3 handle -- we've got 101 pending here -- something
4 suffers somewhere, and usually that's training.

5 And I'm really encouraged to see that the
6 training and the outreach and the development of
7 the intel and on the agent side has not suffered
8 with that load of casework that's there, especially
9 seeing that there's two trainings that were done in
10 money laundering.

11 And this is just something that's so prevalent
12 in not only illegal gaming but other illegal
13 activities that really opens the door to revealing
14 other illegal activities that are going on once you
15 look at records and you're looking at money and
16 where it goes and those sort of things.

17 From my experience, it just opens up a whole
18 criminal enterprise at times. So like I said,
19 sometimes those sort of training, that kind of
20 attention to those developmental activities that
21 are so important to keep current to be on top in
22 Florida in gaming, you'll see that suffer in some
23 smaller agencies.

24 And what I see here each month is just a
25 really wonderful balance of our enforcement and our

1 training, so I commend you on that. Very well
2 done. Thank you.

3 MR. HEROLD: Thank you, and thank you for the
4 kind words. I will say that I do understand the
5 importance. First off, I'm not going to accept all
6 the accolades. You know, it's the team that does
7 this.

8 But, you know, we're very keen on training and
9 understanding the full impact and all the
10 permutations that go with the criminal activity.
11 And we recently hired an agent six or seven months
12 ago.

13 And he told me not very long ago, he said,
14 I've received more training in the last three
15 months that I've been here that I got in five years
16 from where I came from. So I think that's a really
17 nice compliment for the importance we put on
18 training for our agents and our analysts.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

20 MR. HEROLD: Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And I know you didn't touch
22 on the warehouse inventory, but I really commend
23 you as well on this incredible work that is really
24 helpful. Need no questions because you put it all
25 in there. Thank you.

1 MR. HEROLD: Very good. Well, thank you for
2 your time.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Back to Mr. Marshman.

6 MR. MARSHMAN: Going to the budget, just some
7 highlights. I think Ms. Mustain has already
8 provided you more of a detailed breakdown. But for
9 those who may be interested, DGE does have \$2.1
10 million going into the next year for the warehouse
11 storage that, Commissioner Brown, you just
12 mentioned.

13 There's also an increase of \$10,000 in
14 operating capital outlay. Those are funds that
15 have to be spent for certain items that are over a
16 certain threshold amount. So Director Herold and
17 his team will have more money to purchase more
18 bigger ticket items.

19 There's also transfer of two positions to the
20 Division of Gaming Enforcement from Pari-Mutuel
21 Wagering. We'll touch on that in a moment. In the
22 IT sphere, there was \$130,000 for enterprise cyber
23 security resiliency.

24 In administration, there was \$398,000 for the
25 planning, accounting, and ledger management

1 program, aka, PALM. I know Ms. Mustain and her
2 team are on top of that, so that's good to see.

3 There's also \$50,000 in the tenant/broker
4 category because as we become leaseholders for a
5 lot of warehouse space, we do need their services.
6 Finally, there's pari-mutuel wagering and slots.

7 And as the Commission settles into its own
8 agency, it's just become more clear that certain
9 outlays of funds and certain positions are no
10 longer necessary. And each of the years the
11 Commission has been around, money has been sitting
12 unspent.

13 So the Commission suggested and the governor
14 signed the budget that brought those reductions
15 into the fold now. So none of these changes are
16 going to see any decrease in services that the
17 Commission has been providing.

18 It's just aligning the budget with our actual
19 expenses. And the people that are here, they do a
20 good job and we rely on them. But if a position
21 has been vacant for more than 1,000 days, it's kind
22 of hard to argue that it was a critical position.

23 So those are really the only reductions there
24 for pari-mutuel wagering and slots. Any questions
25 on those?

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners?

2 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

3 MR. MARSHMAN: Great. Next is the rule
4 update. So last time we were here, we talked about
5 some broad categories of rules that we then filed
6 at development and went to proposed rules.

7 And I mentioned last time that there are
8 certain waiting periods, for lack of a better term,
9 hard wired into the rulemaking process that no
10 matter how fast your staff goes, we can't avoid
11 those. So we are now in the sit around and wait
12 time for rules, but I have some dates for you.

13 We can file the notice of final adoption on
14 July 16th, which we have to wait 28 days after we
15 file the notice of proposed rules. So that 28 days
16 is July 16th, next week. And then assuming there
17 are no further issues, then those rules will go
18 into effect 20 days after that, which is August
19 5th.

20 So for anyone listening and for the sake of
21 the commissioners, just realize that even when we
22 go as fast as we can, there are at least almost 50
23 days that we have to wait by law. So staff is
24 trying to minimize the time by bringing you all
25 fully formed language that we can just move

1 forward.

2 And using that, we do have some additional
3 language I think we'll have for you next time.
4 And that language will have to do at least with
5 meter readings. The facility-based monitoring
6 system captures all of the same data that licensees
7 on the slot side are currently required to go and
8 physically look at the machines and capture.

9 That's probably not necessary any longer, so
10 we will have some language for you all to consider
11 next time. And there's also some work being done
12 on the key to credit meter of jackpots and self-pay
13 jackpots.

14 That full language may not be available to you
15 all next time. But even if it's not, I would
16 probably ask your permission to go into development
17 just so that we can start getting more formal
18 feedback from the industry.

19 We've got a lot of informal feedback, and I
20 think staff understands some of the different
21 options. But this is probably where a workshop
22 would be helpful to get some final round of
23 feedback before we propose some language.

24 So those are kind of the rules that we talked
25 about last month and the rules that I expect us to

1 talk about next month. Are there any questions
2 about any of that?

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, do you have
4 any questions on this?

5 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

6 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I have a questions, if
7 we can go back to the budget for a second.

8 MR. MARSHMAN: Sure.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: But I'll wait till
10 you're done with rulemaking.

11 MR. MARSHMAN: That's all I have on rules.

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: In your comment about
13 unused funds, I guess this question is really
14 directed at both yourself and Ms. Mustain. Are we
15 taking into consideration in future budgets and
16 planning maybe pari-mutuel wagering cost,
17 utilization of funds that was previously needed for
18 those funds is going down?

19 But with an eye on future budgets, are we
20 thinking about the other challenges facing our
21 industry, such as gaming, sports gambling,
22 international casinos coming onshore here and so
23 forth?

24 Are we starting to think about funds needed to
25 combat those things and maybe even similar to the

1 way law enforcement is doing the money laundering
2 training, which I would assume is now including
3 sections of crypto currency and other forms of
4 currency?

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Mr. Marshman.

6 MR. MARSHMAN: We are. You are right to note
7 the forecast of gaming and it being pretty busy.
8 That being said, until the Florida's laws
9 regulating that activity changes, it will be
10 difficult for me to make a pitch that all of the
11 activity that we currently don't regulate
12 necessitates additional staff.

13 Conversely, though, and I think you were
14 getting at this with Director Herald's team, if
15 there's additional work to be done there, then odds
16 are additional staff may be necessary for that. So
17 we are definitely keeping track of it on, let's
18 say, both sides of the house, the regulated and the
19 unregulated, the legal side.

20 So, no, it's not far from our planning.
21 Ms. Mustain's on top of that. Ms. Hutton is on top
22 of that as well. So I think they will keep us on
23 the straight and narrow towards that goal.

24 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I think the question
25 is more with an eye toward that?

1

2 The entire industry is looking at it, and
3 you've been around long enough to know the
4 political environment may change. It could be one
5 of those things where you'll get 30 days' notice
6 where we now want to look at this particular area.

7 And what I'm suggesting is that when we look
8 at funds being less used in areas such as racing
9 for obvious reasons that we're keeping an eye
10 toward when that time comes whether it be next week
11 or six months from now, but thinking about it. And
12 we won't be starting from scratch.

13 MR. MARSHMAN: Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for your comment.
15 Commissioners, any other questions of Mr. Marshman?

16 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I have one more.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Please.

18 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: If I'm allowed one
19 more. You're not going to cut me off? It dawned
20 on me driving here this morning that we just -- our
21 state just completed one of the longest legislative
22 sessions has come to an end.

23 And I think it was subsequent to our last
24 commission meeting. I wonder if we might have an
25 update on that portion as well as to what

1 transpired because we did do quite a bit of work.
2 And while we all were not necessarily please with
3 the results, but a lot of work was done. And would
4 it be appropriate to ask our director of
5 legislative affairs to speak on the subject,
6 Henry Mahler.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That's a great point,
8 Commissioner D'Aquila. It was one of the longest
9 sessions that we've seen, and there was a lot of
10 activity. It would be great to have an update.

11 MR. MARSHMAN: Mr. Mahler is here today, and
12 I'm sure he's glad he wore a suit.

13 MR. MAHLER: Henry Mahler, for the
14 record. Yes, it was I think one of our longest
15 legislative sessions. I think this could be the
16 wrong number, but I believe it was something like
17 109 days.

18 First off, I want to thank Governor DeSantis
19 for all of his help and support throughout the
20 legislative session. And the budget he signed
21 obviously gave us that additional money for the
22 warehouse space, which was one of our big issues
23 that we were going after.

24 We did run a bill this year. We were trying
25 to increase the penalties associated with different

1 types of illegal gaming. Ultimately, we did come
2 up short, but it wasn't without a lack of effort.

3 I want to give thanks to our bill sponsors.
4 From our original form of the bill to where it got
5 towards the end of session, we did work with a lot
6 of stakeholders in changing language to help them
7 and us. So it was a work in progress.

8 But along with the bill, we did play a lot of
9 substantial amount of defense, too. So just
10 because, you know, bill crossed the finish line
11 doesn't mean that we didn't accomplish something.
12 There were other bills that were filed that
13 probably wouldn't have been the best for the
14 Commission if they did pass, so it was good.

15 And we would talk to stakeholders, committee
16 staff to make sure if, you know, something that we
17 did not like passed that it could be detrimental
18 for us. And we were able to straighten that all
19 out.

20 Me and Ross probably attended 50 plus meetings
21 with elected officials in the Senate and the House.
22 When I first got here about two years ago, we
23 started to attend meetings when we first got -- me,
24 as our first legislative affairs director.

25 Some of the reps didn't even know that we had

1 a gaming commission until they saw it on their
2 calendar. So just looking back from then to now, I
3 believe our name has gone out there. I received
4 calls from representatives and senators when they
5 have a problem.

6 And I believe that was one of the first big
7 steps is that they're no longer calling DBPR or
8 Lottery, that they're coming to us. And they're
9 starting to realize that illegal gaming in our
10 state is an issue.

11 I also want to give a thanks to like our legal
12 team and PMW. They were very helpful in bill
13 analyses and historical data coming in to our
14 bills. And Carl Herold, Director Herold helped a
15 lot with our law enforcement stakeholders getting
16 people to committee meetings from that sector.

17 We're also looking forward now talking about
18 the last session, moving this session. Since it
19 was such a long session, our first committee week
20 is going to be coming up October 6th, I believe.
21 Just a date for reference.

22 So that will be our committee week number one.
23 And session will start Tuesday, January 13th. Due
24 to election cycles, the sessions will start sooner
25 or later every other year. So we are coming up on

1 an early session this year, so the extended
2 session.

3 We're already really working on our
4 legislative proposals for next session. But, you
5 know, again, I want to thank everyone for helping,
6 you know, behind the scenes. I know I don't get to
7 come up here a lot and provide updates, but there
8 is a lot going on talking to senators, reps,
9 working with the governor's office.

10 And if you guys have any questions or anything
11 specific about this session or ideas, I'm happy to
12 hear.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Repp.

14 COMMISSIONER REPP: No. I just would like to
15 thank you for all the work you've done. I know
16 it's a long session, and they're not doing meetings
17 9:00 to 5:00 with an hour lunch or anything. Those
18 are long days.

19 And a lot I know from talking to Ross,
20 meetings that kind of just popped up at the last
21 minute where you were switching around your plans
22 and running around and making things happen and
23 really having to put everything you have on hold to
24 make this happens.

25 And like you said, the defense work, the

1 things that you do -- and I know in law enforcement
2 we can appreciate that. All the things you do to
3 defend or to ward off things are not always in
4 those things that are recognized or seen but are
5 certainly done behind the scenes. I really
6 appreciate it and the hours that you put in, so
7 thank you.

8 MR. MARSHMAN: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Director Mahler, would
10 you say there's an increased awareness on the part
11 of legislators both in the House and in the Senate
12 as it pertains to what Director Herold is going
13 through every day?

14 MR. MAHLER: Yes.

15 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And I know, you know,
16 we were obviously, you know, it's like a baseball
17 team. You don't win your first year, maybe not
18 your second year, maybe not your third. But do you
19 feel we're making progress with regard to
20 communicating the severity of the problem as it
21 pertains to illegal casinos and all the various
22 crimes attached to them?

23 MR. MAHLER: So I'll take the first one.
24 Director Herold's work, I believe, has helped
25 dramatically with our presence and how the

1 legislature views our work.

2 I believe every time that we have something
3 pop up in the news, I'll have people reaching out
4 and texting me or emailing me about it. And
5 before, that just wasn't a thing. Nobody really --
6 like I said, we're going on year three now, I
7 believe, being the Commission.

8 There are still some people that I'll talk to
9 that are outside the space that like don't know we
10 have a law enforcement team. But all the people
11 involved like in the legislature who we're dealing
12 with every day, I would say their awareness has
13 grown dramatically.

14 From the first time we ran a bill, I don't
15 even think that anyone really knew that it was as
16 big of a problem as what it was. And now this year
17 I know in the House and the Senate, they've both
18 requested us to do presentations on illegal gaming
19 which was a joy.

20 But like I said, they're requesting meetings,
21 information. I know the House scheduled and had
22 Executive Director Marshman come up and speak about
23 different things, so the awareness is definitely
24 helping.

25 And to the second part of your question about

1 your baseball team reference, yes, you know, the
2 first year we ran it, I believe it was slightly an
3 awareness issue. We got to this year. I think,
4 you know, it's bad to say that you couldn't have
5 done anything better.

6 But I do believe that the effort we put in and
7 where we got, I don't believe it was in our hands
8 on what ultimately happened. I think our team did
9 a very well job. But the awareness is there, and
10 we're talking to the senators and the
11 representatives in, you know, the Senate, the
12 House.

13 I know that hopefully the next time that that
14 bill is run that it will get across the finish line
15 because those increased penalties on the gaming
16 side I think is the most beneficial thing that
17 could happen to the Commission right now.

18 Director Herold's team I believe would be
19 ecstatic if a bill passed increasing criminal
20 penalties making their lives a little easier.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Wholeheartedly agree. And
22 I do think a revisit on the strategy for this
23 quickly upcoming session is warranted to get that
24 to the finish line next time.

25 Commissioner Drago.

1 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you. Thank you and
2 thank you Commissioner D'Aquila for suggesting that
3 Mr. Mahler come up and talk to us about this
4 because we don't hear enough about it.

5 And I know you're doing a lot of things and a
6 lot of work going on. So hopefully we can do more
7 routine type presentations from you like this to
8 kind of keep us up to speed with what's going on.
9 Because like you said, it's really important.

10 And the bill we had, especially the criminal
11 bill we're talking about now I think is really
12 critical to our mission here and really important,
13 and I know that we went after it that way. You
14 know, we all know sometimes you succeed and
15 sometimes you don't.

16 So, you know, I'd like to hear more about, you
17 know, our plans for the next session wherever we
18 go, however we go, whatever the bills are and so
19 forth that we end up presenting we get -- I'd like
20 to personally -- I think the whole Commission would
21 probably agree we'd like to be more involved in
22 terms of what our strategies will be next time
23 around.

24 So give some thoughts in what we might want to
25 do differently, maybe what we should have done and

1 didn't do. And it just may be like you're saying,
2 it just may be an educational thing of letting
3 people know what we do so forth.

4 So I look forward. I'm looking forward to
5 this session and looking forward to wherever we go
6 with it and coming up with some ideas and
7 suggestions from you on, you know, where we can go
8 in terms of being more successful with this. So
9 thank you for being here today.

10 MR. MAHLER: Thank you. I'd love to get
11 up here and talk to you guys more. I kind of like
12 having the microphone in front of me. And to next
13 session, yes, looking forward to that. As well if
14 you guys have any input, I'd love to sit down with
15 you guys and discuss.

16 Hopefully, we can just stick to the 60 days
17 next year instead of the 100-plus. And tell the
18 stakeholders here listening, you know, for next
19 session, if you have anything you want to talk
20 about, my door is always open. Give me a call.
21 Shoot me an email. I'm happy to work with anyone.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

23 Commissioner Drago, I would agree, too. I
24 think having a more public open dialogue would be
25 helpful, especially with three months away, you're

1 already getting to work on some plans. So we'd
2 love to be more engaged as well with you. Thank
3 you.

4 Commissioners, any other questions?

5 Thanks for coming up here.

6 Mr. Marshman, does that conclude your
7 director's report? No. You have employees to
8 recognize.

9 MR. MARSHMAN: Arguably, the most important
10 part. So from the Division of Administration, we
11 have Mr. Jycee Gilbert. It is with great pleasure
12 that we recognize Jycee Gilbert as the
13 administration's employee of the month.

14 Jycee serves as the administrative assistant
15 at the front desk and also performs essential
16 duties as a mail processor and runner for the
17 Florida Gaming Control Commission.

18 At FGCC, we know that every position is
19 important to our overall success, and Jycee's
20 contributions clearly demonstrate the value of his
21 role in helping us achieve our mission. He
22 consistently approaches his responsibilities with a
23 positive attitude, professionalism and a strong
24 commitment to excellence.

25 Whether he's managing time-sensitive

1 deliveries, processing mail, or scanning agency
2 records for retention, Jycee performs every task
3 with efficiency, attention to detail, and a smile.
4 I can attest to all of that personally.

5 His upbeat demeanor and dependable work ethic
6 make a noticeable and positive impact on both team
7 morale and our daily operations. He is a shining
8 example of what it means to be a dedicated public
9 servant and a valued member of Team FGCC.

10 Congratulations, Jycee, and thank you for your
11 outstanding service.

12 Next is from the Information Technology,
13 Mr. Marcus Brooks. Marcus Brooks is the IT
14 employee of the month. Marcus joined FGCC
15 approximately a year ago and has consistently
16 demonstrated a strong commitment to the
17 Commission's mission of maintaining the integrity
18 and security of our information systems.

19 Since the departure of our CISO in February,
20 Marcus has stepped up without hesitation, assuming
21 additional responsibilities beyond his original
22 scope. Recognizing the operational gap, he
23 proactively began learning the agency's networking
24 infrastructure to ensure the continuity of daily
25 operations and support the progress of the ongoing

1 Azure networking project.

2 Marcus has approached these expanded
3 responsibilities with diligence and initiative.
4 And his eagerness to learn, adaptability in the
5 face of transition, and dedication to the agency's
6 security posture have not gone unnoticed.

7 He maintains open and timely communication
8 with leadership and staff, ensuring transparency
9 around technical issues or security concerns.
10 Marcus's willingness to go above and beyond in
11 support of the agency's IT and security needs
12 exemplifies FGCC's values.

13 His professionalism, growth mindset, and
14 steady leadership during a time of change make him
15 highly deserving of this recognition.

16 Next is from the Office of General Counsel,
17 Mr. Marc Taupier. As Deputy General Counsel and
18 Chief Gaming Enforcement Legal Advisor, Marc is
19 committed to providing exemplary service to the
20 Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering and to the
21 Division of Gaming Enforcement.

22 He demonstrates initiative in improving
23 internal processes and is a source of knowledge and
24 guidance for the OGC attorneys. As a supervisor,
25 Marc is dedicated to ensuring that OGC's work

1 product meets the gold standard for legal work.

2 His commitment, dedication, and quality legal
3 work of his own make Marc OGC's employee of the
4 month.

5 Next is the Division of Gaming Enforcement.
6 Senior Crime Intelligence Analyst Supervisor,
7 Amanda Wiggins, is DGE's Employee of the Month.
8 Amanda has been instrumental in building the law
9 enforcement division and was one of the first few
10 members brought into the unit from its inception.

11 Amanda consistently demonstrates teamwork,
12 leadership, and an unwavering work ethic. She
13 routinely takes initiative and looks for ways to
14 support her team and her co-workers and often
15 volunteers to assist in whatever way necessary to
16 complete a task or mission for DGE.

17 Furthermore, Amanda always exhibits a positive
18 attitude and fosters an inclusive environment to
19 encourage collaboration and cohesiveness within the
20 unit.

21 Additionally, Amanda frequently serves as an
22 ambassador for the FGCC. She maintains membership
23 and leadership positions in various professional
24 organizations, where she promotes the agency and
25 the work that we do to serve and protect the

1 citizens of Florida.

2 Most recently, she sat on a panel of the North
3 American Gaming Regulators Association conference
4 that Director Herald mentioned earlier to provide a
5 law enforcement perspective on the challenges we
6 are facing in Florida regarding illegal gambling.

7 Amanda's dedication to both the DGE and the
8 FGCC as a whole make her deserving of this
9 recognition.

10 Next from the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering
11 in the Ft. Lauderdale office is Velda Ganpat.
12 Velda is the PMW Slot Operations Supervisor at the
13 Gulfstream Park office.

14 In addition to her supervisory duties, Velda
15 assisted her staff and Gulfstream Park with a
16 remodel of both the first and second floor gaming
17 floors requiring the relocations, RAM clears, and
18 software reinstallations of over 600 slot machines
19 in a very short time frame helping ensure the slot
20 machine facility could maintain operations with the
21 least amount of down time.

22 She always leads by example and ensures clear
23 communication both internally and externally for
24 exceptional results. We have received kudos from
25 the facility regarding her Going above and beyond

1 when they needed it and how helpful she has been.

2 Velda is exemplary in maintaining Division
3 standards, ensuring the facility is in compliance
4 with Chapter 551 and Chapter 75-14 of our rules in
5 their daily operations. Velda is a true asset to
6 our team.

7 And last, but not least, is Ms. Stephanie Buse
8 from Pari-Mutuel Wagering Operations in
9 Tallahassee. Stephanie is a Government Operations
10 Consultant II in the Office of the Director where
11 she was promoted from AAIII.

12 Stephanie has demonstrated a strong desire to
13 learn and the ability adapt to a complex and
14 technical industry. She is detail oriented and a
15 methodical researcher. She is committed to the
16 mission of the Commission and the Division.

17 Stephanie seeks out additional work to assist
18 other work units and particularly the licensing
19 team during peak renewal periods. She voluntarily
20 maintained her previous administrative duties after
21 moving to her current position while we have
22 attempted to fill the vacancy.

23 She is an asset to the Commission, and we look
24 forward to her continued professional growth.

25 That's all I have. Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners -- actually,
2 public comment. Is there anybody from the public
3 who would like to speak? Going once, going twice.
4 Commissioners, are there any other matters to
5 discuss? If not, we are hereby adjourned. Thank
6 you.

7 (Proceedings concluded at 10:48 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 15th day of July, 2025



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

Job No.: 398415